

Colleges issued security alert  
F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa following directives from the Home Department has issued a high security alert to the educational institutions in Dera Ismail Khan and Waziristan. A notification on Saturday directed the educational institutions in these districts for ensuring extra security measures in the wake of possible security threats.



@thefrontierpost

First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI

No. 287

Regd. No. 241

JAMADI UL AWWAL 07 1446 -- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 2024

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

# 27 killed in Quetta railway station blast

## F.P. Report

QUETTA: At least 27 people were killed and 40 others were injured in a suicide explosion at Quetta's railway station, marking the latest incident of unrest in Balochistan. Preliminary reports indicate that the explosion took place at the railway station's booking office, which usually witnesses a significant number of people, resulting in the high death toll so far.

While police and rescue personnel reached the site of the blast, emergency was imposed in Quetta's Civil Hospital, with additional doctors and support staff called in. Meanwhile, Quetta Commissioner Hamza Shafqaat has confirmed that the explosion was suicidal in nature.

Revealing that the suicide bomber entered the station with luggage, the commissioner said that it was difficult to stop a person whose intention was to carry out a suicide attack. Talking to media, Shafqaat urged the people to donate blood due to blood shortage. The official further confirmed that law enforcement agencies' (LEAs) personnel were among those martyred in the attack for which a banned organisation has claimed responsibility. The Jaffer Express was scheduled to depart for Peshawar at 9am, according to railway officials. Officials informed media that with several of the injured in critical condition, the death toll from the blast may rise.

Talking to the media, Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Operations Quetta Muhammad Baloch earlier said that the explosion seemed to be a suicide blast. "The blast took place inside the railway station when the Peshawar-bound express was about to leave for its destination," said the police officer. The blast, which also damaged the platform's roof, was heard far and wide in

various areas of the city.

Talking to media, Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind had earlier revealed that nearly 40 people were injured in the blast — of which 10 were in critical condition. He further said that Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti has summoned an emergency meeting regarding the province's law and order situation and will shortly arrive back home after cancelling his foreign visit. Responding to a query whether there was any specific threat regarding today's blast, the government spokesperson responded in the negative. However, he acknowledged that a general security threat did exist in light of the prevailing law and order situation in the province.

The counter-terrorism department (CTD) issued a preliminary report of the incident, saying that the nature of the blast was suicide attack. "The suicide bomber blew himself while being among the passengers. The body parts of the bomber will be sent to the forensic lab for testing," said the officials.

They added that they will take help from the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) to identify the attacker. "The bomber had a bag which contained 8 to 10 kg of explosive materials," they said. Condemning the deadly incident, Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said terrorists were enemies of humanity who targeted innocent people.

Gillani reiterated the resolve to take all possible measures for the complete eradication of terrorism. Meanwhile, Balochistan CM Bugti has directed the relevant officials to investigate the fatal incident. The chief minister further reiterated the resolve to eradicate the scourge of terrorism from the province.

Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah also condemned the blast. Expressing sor-



row, he said: "I am deeply saddened by the loss of lives in this act of terrorism in Quetta." He added that anti-state elements are trying to create an atmosphere of fear. Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal condemned the Quetta blast and expressed sympathy with the victims. "These cowardly attacks cannot weaken our resolve," said Iqbal.

"We will bring the terrorists to justice," he added. Iqbal assured that the government would conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and affirmed that there would be no compromise in the commitment to progress and peace. Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui also condemned the blast, saying that the rising incidents of terrorism in the country are deeply concerning.

He urged the government to ensure better arrangements for the treatment of the injured.

"May Allah grant forgiveness to the deceased and patience to their



## Putin extends condolences to Pakistan

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday conveyed his condolences to President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif following a devastating terrorist attack at the Quetta Railway Station. In a letter, President Putin expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy, which claimed the lives of several civilians, including women and children, and left many others injured. He strongly condemned the "barbaric crime," calling for justice for those responsible. He underscored Russia's solidarity with Pakistan in the fight against terrorism, reaffirming Russia's commitment to close cooperation with Pakistani authorities in combating extremism and protecting citizens from violent acts. "We are determined to continue close cooperation with our Pakistani partners against all forms and manifestations of terrorism," Putin wrote. He expressed Russia's determination to assist in the fight against such heinous crimes and hoped that the masterminds behind the attack would be appropriately punished.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim conveyed his heartfelt condolence and sympathies over the incident. "On behalf of Malaysia, I extend our deepest condolences to the people of Pakistan, who mourn this senseless and devastating loss," the Malaysian PM wrote on X. He emphasized these acts of utter ruthlessness and violence, targeting both civilians and security personnel, were stark reminders of the relentless threats posed by extremism of the relentless threats posed by extremism and ideological rigidity-forces that undermine progress and peace in Muslim societies. "Malaysia stands firmly in solidarity with the government of Pakistan in its steadfast fight against terrorism," he added. The government of Turkiye, condemning the terrorist attack in strongest words, extended condolences to the people of Pakistan and wished a speedy recovery to those injured. "We will continue to support Pakistan in its fight against terrorism," the Turkish ministry of foreign minister said in a letter.

families," he added. Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman termed the incident "truly tragic" and added that repeated acts of terrorism in Balochistan are raising questions about the country's security. He expressed heartfelt condolences to the affected families and called on the government to ensure the restoration of peace in Balochistan through urgent and concrete measures.

## PM visits Cascade Police Service Center

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday visited the "Cascade" Police Service Center, which was established to facilitate the diplomatic community in the diplomatic enclave. During his visit, he commended the establishment of a modern service center equipped with advanced facilities for diplomats and foreign nationals.

The prime minister appreciated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's initiative for the establishment of the police service center. "Providing all possible facilities to the diplomatic community is our priority," the prime minister added. He also praised the establishment of the Cascade Service Center in Islamabad, designed to meet international standards and the demands of modern times.

At the service center, the diplomatic community and foreign nationals will have access to services such as issuance and renewal of driving licenses, character certificates, general police verification, reporting of lost items, tenant registration, foreigner registration, registration of domestic workers, volunteer registration, vehicle verification, and obtaining copies of FIRs. The Inspector General of Islamabad Police briefed the Prime Minister on the facilities being provided to the diplomatic community and foreign nationals. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, as well as Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, were also present.

**Shehbaz reaffirms govt's commitment to supporting state media apparatus:** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reiterated government's commitment to supporting the state media apparatus, underscoring its importance in promoting national unity and educating citizens on key government initiatives.

A batch of probationary officers of the 51st Common Training Programme from the Information Service of Pakistan, who recently completed their specialized training and were preparing to join their respective posts, met with the prime



minister at the Prime Minister's Office. The prime minister warmly welcomed the officers and acknowledged the critical role that information officers play in bridging the gap between the government and the public, ensuring transparency, and fostering trust.

He emphasized the importance of effective communication, particularly in today's rapidly evolving media landscape, and encouraged the officers to approach their responsibilities with integrity, professionalism, and a strong commitment to public welfare. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Amreen Jan were also present on the occasion, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister also encouraged the probationary officers to be proactive in harnessing modern communication tools to enhance meaningful engagement with the public. The officers shared insights into their training and experiences, expressing their eagerness to contribute to the nation's progress and development.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif honored Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal (RA) on his 147th birth anniversary, describing his poetry as a "timeless call for action and intro-

spection."

In a message issued here on this auspicious occasion, the prime minister paid heartfelt tribute to the poet-philosopher, acknowledging his profound influence on the course of Pakistan's history. "I extend my heartfelt tribute to Allama Iqbal, the visionary poet-philosopher and a towering figure whose thoughts and writings have deeply influenced the course of our nation," said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

He emphasized that Iqbal's philosophy was instrumental in igniting the dream of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent, ultimately leading to the creation of Pakistan. The PM further noted that Iqbal's teachings on self-reliance, self-awareness and unity continue to inspire Pakistanis to strive for progress and prosperity.

The premier also issued a call to the youth to rise above mediocrity and pursue greatness through unwavering faith and hard work. "As we celebrate this day, let us commit ourselves to imbibing his vision and building a nation that reflects his ideals of justice, equality and excellence," he urged. PM Shehbaz Sharif concluded with a message of hope and resolve: "Let us embody his teachings and move forward with renewed hope and determination."

homes. Women's voices have also been banned from television and radio broadcasts in some provinces.

The law codified many rules the Taliban government has imposed based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law since they came to power in 2021, with women bearing the brunt of restrictions the United Nations has called "gender apartheid". The Taliban authorities have banned education after secondary school for girls and women, also barring them from various jobs as well as parks and other public places. The Taliban government has said all Afghan citizens' rights are guaranteed under Islamic law.

## Birth anniversary of Dr. Iqbal observed

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The 147th birth anniversary of national poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal was observed with national fervor. The Philosopher poet known as Poet of the East, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal was born in Sialkot on November 9, 1877.

He awakened the Muslims of the Subcontinent through his universal poetry and political acumen by presenting idea of the creation of Pakistan through his historic address at Allahabad in 1930. Allama Iqbal's address gave a clear direction and separate identity to Muslims of the Subcontinent to achieve Pakistan. Radio Pakistan is presenting special programmes in connection with Iqbal Day to highlight poetry and thoughts of Allama Iqbal. It was public holiday on Saturday.

## Sit-in called off after Jirga

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A jirga between the participants of a long march on main Parachinar-Peshawar highway and district administration on Saturday proved fruitful as the protestors called off their sit-in and cleared the road.

Tribal elder Jalal Bangash on the occasion told media persons that both the sides have agreed to make the highway safer for road users adding that a sit-in at Samir point has been called off. He said in the first phase, the movement of vehicles on the highway will only be allowed in a caravan position adding that the highway will reopen from next week.

Bangash said the Jirga members also agreed upon installation of CCTV cameras and additional check posts on the highway to ensure security of the road users. It merits a mention here that the highway was closed by the Deputy Commissioner on 12th October, last after multiple incidents of firing on the passenger and private vehicles.

The main highway closure had badly affected the life routine in Kurram and adjacent areas where people remained confined to their homes and faced an acute shortage of daily use items including petroleum products.

## Imran to give final call this month: Gandapur

### F.P. Report

SWABI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said that PTI founder Imran Khan would give a final call this month and party workers should be prepared for it. He was addressing a public rally in Swabi on Saturday.

"We will not return without securing the release of our leader," said Gandapur, while addressing the charged crowd at Swabi. He lauded the party workers and said that they are the real strength of Imran Khan. He added that the freedom cannot be achieved without sacrifice and we all should be ready for it. Ali Amin Gandapur asked the party workers to start preparations for the final battle.

**KG govt initiates two mega projects of solarization:** The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has initiated the execution of two mega projects worth around 55 billion rupees for solarization of all public buildings and provision of solar units to households having low income, with the aim to overcome the electricity crisis and make the province load shedding free.

Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) were signed between Bank of Khyber (BOK) and Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) for the implementation of Solarization projects, at a ceremony held here at Chief Minister's House with Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur as the chief guest.

Besides newly appointed Special Assistant to CM for Energy and Power Tariq Sadozai, higher authorities of Energy and Power, Finance departments and PEDO also attended the MOUs signing ceremony. As per MOUs, under solarization of public buildings across the province project, all public buildings including hospitals, universities, colleges,

schools, police stations, prisons, tube wells, street lights and other government offices will be solarized. The estimated cost of the overall project is Rs 20 billion. Initially, 13000 public buildings have been identified for conversion to solar energy and their solarization will be carried out at an estimated cost of Rs 15 billion.

Moreover, under solarization of houses project, a total of 130,000 households having low income will be provided with solar units. Out of total, 65000 households will be provided solar units free of cost whereas as remaining 65000 houses will be provided solar units at 50 percent contribution by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 50 percent by the beneficiaries. The overall estimated cost of the project is around 35 billion rupees. Under the project, Some 100,000 houses of settled districts and 30,000 houses of merged districts will be converted to solar energy.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the incumbent provincial government was making huge investment in energy sector aimed at ensuring availability of load shedding free electricity to citizens alongside enhancing the revenue for the province. He added that, in solarization, those areas would be prioritized where load shedding and losses are comparatively high. The Chief Minister noted that providing solar units would alleviate the heavy burden of electricity bills on citizens and ensure power supply without load shedding. He added that solarization of government buildings would result in significant savings on account of electricity bills.

"This year's budget has been named as Green Budget, newly initiated solarization schemes are of national importance, and their implementation would reduce the burden on the national grid as well," he concluded.

## Qatar decided to suspend mediation efforts on Gaza

GAZA STRIP (AP): Qatar has decided to suspend its key mediation efforts between Hamas and Israel, officials said Saturday. However, Qatar is highly likely to return to the efforts if both sides show "serious political willingness" to reach a deal on the war in Gaza, according to one official with Egypt, the other key mediator.

A diplomatic source briefed on the matter said Israel and Hamas, along with the United States, were informed after the decision was made. The source added that "as a consequence, the Hamas political office no longer serves its purpose" in Qatar. A senior Hamas official said they were aware of Qatar's decision to suspend mediation efforts, "but no one told us to leave."

Qatar's announcement comes after growing frustration with the lack of progress on a ceasefire deal. "After

rejecting repeated proposals to release hostages, (Hamas) leaders should no longer be welcome in the capitals of any American partner. We made that clear to Qatar following Hamas' rejection weeks ago of another hostage release proposal," a US senior administration official said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. The Israeli prime minister's office had no comment.

Meanwhile, three separate Israeli strikes killed at least 16 people, including women and children, in Gaza on Saturday, Palestinian medical officials said, and Israel announced the first delivery of humanitarian aid in weeks to hungry, devastated northern Gaza. There continued to be no end in sight to Israel's campaigns against Hamas militants in Gaza or Hezbollah in Lebanon,

where Israel's military said that it struck command centers and other militant infrastructure overnight in Beirut's southern suburbs. An Israeli airstrike on the southern port city of Tyre late Friday left at least seven dead, officials and a resident said.

One of the strikes in Gaza hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City's eastern Tufah neighborhood, killing at least six people, the territory's Health Ministry said. Two local journalists, a pregnant woman and a child were among the dead, it said. The Israeli army said the strike targeted a militant belonging to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, offering no evidence or details. Seven people were killed when an Israeli strike hit a tent in the southern city of Khan Younis where displaced people were sheltering, according to Nasser Hospital.





## Azma accuses PTI of seeking 'NRO', misusing public funds

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of organising protests and rallies with the sole aim of securing an 'NRO' (reprieve) for their leader, currently imprisoned in Adiala Jail.

In a statement issued on Saturday, she asserted, "The purpose of PTI's protests and rallies is only to get an NRO for the prisoner in Adiala Jail, which will never be granted." Criticising PTI's tactics, she remarked, "Those who once sought freedom from America are now dying for 'Trump's slavery'."

She alleged that the

imprisoned PTI leader "is always ready to beg from anyone for personal gains".

The minister went on to dismiss the impact of PTI's recent rallies, claiming that the gathering of crowds in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would not affect the government.

"Whether they hold a rally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or bring thousands of people for one or five thousand rupees, it makes no difference to us," she stated.

Azma further alleged that the Swabi rally was attended only by municipal staff, rescue workers, and police personnel in plainclothes, with atten-

dance marked for all government employees at the rally site.

She also accused the PTI of misusing federal funds intended for welfare of KP people, claiming the funds were diverted to support protests and rallies instead. She mentioned that KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Ghandapur distributed thousand-rupee notes among recently released party workers, sparking dissatisfaction over the allegedly low payments.

"Those who have developed a habit to get five thousand rupees will naturally complain about receiving just one thousand rupees," she concluded.

## Sharjeel offers condolences following Quetta explosion

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of precious lives in the Quetta bomb blast and strongly condemned the act of terrorism.

In a statement, Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, expressed heartfelt condolences to the families of those killed in the bomb blast and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the terrorist incident.

He stated that the nation's resolve for peace

cannot be shaken by cowardly acts of terrorism. The eradication of terrorism is essential to ensure lasting peace in the country.

**Sharjeel pays tribute to Allama Iqbal on his 147th birthday:** Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon paid tribute to poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 147th birth anniversary. In his message, he stated that Allama Iqbal's thoughts and philosophy serve as a guiding light for building a prosperous and just society.

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that Allama Iqbal

ignited the flame of freedom and unity for the Muslims of the subcontinent through his philosophical poetry.

He said that the entire nation honors Allama Iqbal's wisdom, vision, and revolutionary spirit, rooted in awareness, courage, and purposefulness. The essence of Allama Iqbal's envisions a Pakistan founded on justice, equality, and progress.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that Iqbal Day is an occasion to renew the commitment to work tirelessly for national development, to overcome all divisions, and to build a prosperous and united Pakistan.

## Meeting of steering committee on 'Dhee Rani' programme held

LAHORE (APP): The first meeting of the steering committee, formed under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the 'Dhee Rani' program was held on Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Sohail Shaukat Butt, via Zoom link.

Political Advisor to the Chief Minister Zeeshan Malik, attended the meeting as a special participant. Secretary of Social Welfare Javed Mehmood Akhtar and Social Welfare Director General Sikandar Zeeshan were also present. Commissioners from various divisions joined the meeting through zoom.

The Social Welfare DG provided a detailed briefing on the 'Dhee Rani' program to the members and updated Provincial Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt and Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik on the

progress of the programme.

It was stated in the meeting that the programme was open to underprivileged, orphaned, and physically disabled women, whose parents are also disabled and who are between the ages of 18 and 40. Additionally, the web portal for the 'Dhee Rani' project has been developed and is now operational, allowing applicants to submit their applications online.

Sohail Shaukat announced that in the first phase of the programme, collective weddings for 1,500 deserving couples will be arranged across all districts of the province. He also mentioned that the deadline for submitting applications had been extended from November 5 to November 15.

He emphasised that this initiative by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was a significant step towards creating a true welfare Islamic state.

He added that each couple will be given a monetary gift of Rs 100,000 during the collective weddings. Furthermore, the purchase of gifts will be conducted through the Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) to ensure transparency in the project.

He also mentioned that due to the current smog situation, the collective weddings will be organised considering the prevailing conditions. There will be 50 weddings at divisional headquarters and 25 weddings at the district level.

Applicants can submit their applications online through the portal at [cmp.punjab.gov.pk] (http://cmp.punjab.gov.pk) or at the respective district's Social Welfare Deputy Director's office.

For further information and guidance, the helpline number 1312 is available for assistance.

## Minister highlights completion of Planning Support System in 10 districts

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Local Governments Zeeshan Rafiq announced on Saturday that the Project Management Unit (PMU) had successfully completed the Planning Support System (PSS) in 10 districts, with plans to extend the project to 32 districts in near future.

Speaking at an event at Royal Palm Club on World Town Planning Day on Saturday, he explained that the PSS project enables effective monitoring of development and planning across districts through GPS technology, enhancing transparency and efficiency in public projects.

The minister praised Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for her role in initiating efforts to improve urban and rural facilities, noting that this was the first time serious efforts were being made to strengthen the local government system. "For the first time under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz,

steps are being taken to provide facilities in cities and villages," he said. He added that the PSS project was crucial for managing urban planning effectively, addressing issues like unregulated housing developments.

The minister also shared that a new enforcement authority is being created under an act recently passed by the Punjab Assembly.

This authority will focus on improving the enforcement of town planning regulations without relying solely on police intervention.

Additionally, the provincial government is considering establishing a Spatial Authority to monitor housing schemes at the provincial level to improve town planning practices.

He emphasised the need for digitalization in government processes to ensure transparency, saying, "Digitizing and digitalizing all matters is essential for transparency." He added that under the PSS initiative, technol-

ogy will play a vital role in improving urban development across Punjab.

He highlighted the government's commitment to practical measures under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's leadership. He cited the upcoming uniform solid waste management programme, set to launch this month, as an example.

This program, according to the minister, will not only improve cleanliness but also generate thousands of job opportunities by outsourcing services, making it both effective and long-lasting.

Concluding his address, the minister praised the Chief Minister's vision for a cleaner Punjab, proudly declaring, "Alhamdulillah, the slogan of 'Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's Punjab' has become a reality."

He called on citizens to support the new sanitation system, emphasizing that collective efforts are essential to building a better Pakistan for future generations.



LAHORE: Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives for Pakistan, Ahsan Iqbal addresses a seminar on Iqbal Day at Raazi Hall New Campus Punjab University. —APP Photo

## Electric buses in five major cities soon

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has decided to run electric buses in five major cities including Lahore soon.

The purchase of electric buses in five cities of Punjab, including Lahore, has entered the final stages. Provincial metropolis will become the first and largest state-of-the-art green bus depot in history.

Preparations for the establishment of a state-of-the-art "Vehicle Testing Laboratory" in Punjab, is also in the final stages. Officials sources told APP that citizens using this service would be able to call 15 and extension number 6 on their phones to report complaints about traffic and transport.

## Certificates given to students

LAHORE (APP): The 8th batch of the Punjab Police Student Internship Programme has been completed, with the closing ceremony held at the Central Police Office. Vice-Chancellor of Lahore Garrison University Major General (retd) Muhammad Khalil Dar, faculty members Dr. Kausar Parveen, and Muhammad Shehroze Malik attended the event.

Additional IG Operations Punjab Shehzada Sultan distributed certificates to the students who completed the internship. In the 8th batch of Punjab Police, 34 students from the BS Digital Forensics and Cyber Security program of Lahore Garrison University completed their internship. The students participating in the internship were attached to various field formations in groups for a duration of 5 weeks, where they were informed about practical policing matters in IT, CTD, Special Branch, Safe City Authority, and Investigation Branch.

Students were given insights into field policing, crime prevention, and public service delivery projects. The students who completed the internship presented their observations and provided various suggestions in presentations.

In his address, Additional IG Operations Punjab Shehzada Sultan said in line with the vision of IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, the Punjab Police is promoting effective coordination with the youth through its youth engagement program.

## Ahsan Iqbal urges nation to embrace Iqbal's vision for progress

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has called upon the nation to follow the teachings of philosopher-poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal (RA) by actively incorporating his vision into Pakistan's development agenda.

Speaking at an Iqbal Day seminar titled "The Journey of National Development: In the Light of Iqbal's Vision", organised by the Punjab University's Department of Urdu Language and Literature here on Saturday, Ahsan stressed that observing Iqbal Day with holidays alone is not sufficient. Instead, he urged educational institutions to conduct regular discussions on Iqbal's ideology to inspire progress and strengthen Pakistan's independence.

Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the current challenges facing the Muslim world and questioned why two billion Muslims worldwide appear less influential than smaller nations. He attributed this disparity to a lack of advancement in science and technology, stressing that Iqbal's vision champions education and intellectual pursuit as cornerstones of societal progress.

Recalling his studies at a prominent U.S. universi-

ty, Ahsan noted that America's status as a 'superpower' stems from its dedication to knowledge and innovation, with research facilities open 24/7. Calling upon the authorities concerned to adopt a similar approach, investing in education and research to build a robust intellectual foundation.

Reflecting on Iqbal's teachings, he stressed the concept of 'Khudi' (self-belief) and a sense of purpose as fundamental principles for Pakistan's youth, noting that "self-belief is our starting point" for progress. He challenged the youth to think beyond basic survival and to aspire toward national development goals. The minister also warned of a "civilisational crisis" facing the Muslim world, calling for character-building, integrity, and unity to meet these challenges head-on.

He stressed that Pakistan's journey to economic empowerment is essential for achieving a prominent international status. "Today, economy is the primary source of a nation's strength. A strong economy means a strong nation," he remarked, underlining the need for unity to strengthen Pakistan against internal and external adversities.

Pointing out societal divisions, the minister urged Pakistanis to rise above hatred and differences, referencing his own experience as a victim of violence fueled by societal discord. He emphasised that Pakistanis should view one another as equal members of a single national family, unified by shared goals and respect for diversity.

Reflecting on missed economic opportunities, Ahsan Iqbal expressed regret over the setbacks to CPEC investments in recent years, urging a renewed focus on Pakistan's economic development.

He also announced plans to collaborate with the Iqbal Academy and the Department of Iqbalayat to create a roadmap for spreading Iqbal's philosophy in educational institutions across the country and internationally, establishing Iqbal centres to promote intellectual and cultural heritage.

Concluding his speech, the federal minister urged Pakistanis to unite in honoring Iqbal's vision as a catalyst for development, reminding the nation that achieving greatness is possible through commitment to Iqbal's ideals of unity, resilience, and progress.

## 126 new dengue cases reported

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Health Department announced on Saturday that 126 new cases of dengue fever were reported across the province.

The majority of the new infections were recorded in Rawalpindi, with 104 cases, followed by Lahore with eight cases, Faisalabad with two, and Chakwal, Attock and Sargodha each reporting three cases. Single cases were also identified in Mandi Bahauddin, Sahiwal and Gujranwala.

As many as 737 cases were reported in the current week, bringing the cumulative count of dengue cases across Punjab in 2024 to 6,759.

The Health Department reassured the public that hospitals across the province were well-stocked with essential medications and prepared to accommodate the rising number of patients.

The Health Department also set up a helpline 1033 for individuals seeking information or wishing to report dengue-related concerns.

## 11 arrests made in smog crackdown

LAHORE (APP): The police registered 43 cases, arrested 11 individuals, and imposed Rs. 8 lakh fine on 423 individuals during a crackdown on those causing pollution in the last 24 hours.

Additionally, 32 individuals were issued warnings. According to the Punjab Police spokesperson, 17 cases of crop residue burning, 336 cases of high-emission vehicles, 13 industrial violations, 23 cases of brick kilns, and 13 other violations were reported, and legal action was taken.

Punjab Police spokesperson further said that during the current year's anti-smog crackdown, a total of 2025 individuals were arrested, 2248 cases were registered, and over 49.1 million rupees in fines were imposed on 21,042 individuals, with 1310 warnings issued.

A total of 1414 cases of crop residue burning, 18,095 cases of high-emission vehicles, 309 industrial violations, 837 brick kiln violations, and 247 other violations were reported.

The spokesperson added that in the last 24 hours, 5092 vehicles emitting excess smoke were fined, 398 were impounded, and 2 had their fitness certificates cancelled.

This year, a total of 7,30,390 vehicles emitting excess smoke have been fined, 1,56,858 vehicles impounded, and fitness certificates of 10,016 vehicles have been cancelled.

## CM lists science, technology as pillars of progress

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif highlighted the role of science and technology as the foundation of a peaceful and prosperous society in her message for the International Week of Science and Peace, on Saturday.

Emphasizing that "the secret of development lies in science and technology," she underscored the government's commitment to advancing Punjab through digital innovation.

CM Maryam Nawaz introduced the upcoming Nawaz Sharif IT City as a transformative hub for youth development, noting that the project will host international IT institutions and campuses from renowned universities, providing unprecedented opportunities for young Pakistanis. "Nawaz Sharif IT City will be a land of opportunities for the development of

youth," she said, adding that this initiative will bridge the gap between local talent and the global job market.

To further enhance employability, the chief minister announced that modern IT training, aligned with global job market requirements, is being provided to equip young people for successful self-employment.

Additionally, freelancers will receive international certifications to increase their professional competitiveness and potential. Maryam Nawaz Sharif also emphasized that IT-driven reforms are being implemented across various sectors in Punjab, including education, health, and agriculture, with a vision to digitize every sector within five years. "We are committed to making every sector digital," she concluded, underscoring the gov-

ernment's resolve to build a tech-savvy, progressive Punjab.

**KARACHI SHIPYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS LTD.**  
**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works Limited is looking for suitable candidates for appointment against following position on contract:

S. No.	Post / Position (Nos.)	Minimum Qualification, Experience / Age limit
1.	<b>X-Ray Grade Plate Welders (50)</b>  (Experience in all types of joints in all positions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum academic qualification; middle.</li> <li>Minimum 05 years' proven experience of X-Ray welding.</li> <li>Certified X-Ray &amp; UT Qualified welders will be preferred.</li> <li>Age limit 25-40 years (Relaxed in case of verified welding job continuity in last 05 years).</li> </ul>

1. Interested candidates may apply online through KS&EW official website [www.karachishipyard.com.pk/page/careers](http://www.karachishipyard.com.pk/page/careers) or send their application/CV along-with 02 Passport size photographs, attested copies of CNIC, domicile/ PRC, educational certificates/ diploma/ degree to the office of Deputy General Manager (Admin & Support) MBU-570 on the following address within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this advertisement, mentioning the name of post on envelope.
2. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview and practical skill test in Karachi, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Lahore and Multan.
3. Performance based pay package will be offered.
4. No TA / DA will be admissible, qualified candidates may claim TA/ DA against valid documents.

**Website: [www.karachishipyard.com.pk](http://www.karachishipyard.com.pk)**  
**DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER**  
**(ADMIN & SUPPORT) MBU-570**  
**Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works**  
**West Wharf, Dockyard Road, Karachi – 74000**  
**(Tel: 021 99214045-64 Ext 506 & 491,**  
**Mob: 0345-2312839)**



KARACHI: A family enjoying camel ride at Seaview Clifton. —APP Photo



# Iqbal’s poetry rich with insight: Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday paid tribute to national poet Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and said that his poetry, rich with insight and wisdom.

At the eve of Iqbal’s Day, according to Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, “It is with deep reverence and profound respect that we commemorate the life and legacy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the visionary poet, and philosopher, whose intellectual brilliance continues to inspire millions of people across the world. On this significant occasion, I feel privileged to reflect on his monumental contributions and the indelible impact he has had on the spiritual, intellectual, and political awakening of the Muslim world.”

He said that Allama Iqbal’s poetry, rich with insight and wisdom, transcended the boundaries of language and culture, reaching the very hearts and souls of his people. Through his verse, he awakened a sense of self-awareness, national pride,

and unity in the Muslims of the subcontinent, urging them to rise above their limitations and embrace their true potential.

His message was not confined to mere rhetoric, but was a call to action a call for self-determination, empowerment, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Iqbal’s vision of a united, progressive, and dynamic Muslim world was embodied, said Kundi, adding he envisioned an empowered individual, one who could rise above the mundane and contribute meaningfully to the betterment of society. His poetry was not just a reflection of his thoughts, but a guiding light for future generations, illuminating the path to moral and intellectual revival, said Kundi.

His monumental work, especially his famous poetry collection Bang-i-Dra and Payam-i-Mashriq, as well as his philosophical writings, have become fundamental texts for understanding the cultural and intellectual heritage of the Muslim world.

Iqbal’s unwavering

belief in the power of education, creativity, and inner strength continues to resonate with the youth of Pakistan, where his ideas serve as a beacon for those striving to build a prosperous future.

Kundi said Iqbal was not just a poet; he was a man of action. His role in the creation of Pakistan, especially his vision for a separate homeland for Muslims, will forever remain etched in the annals of history.

His contributions to the political and philosophical spheres of our country were profound, and his vision for Pakistan as a beacon of intellectual and spiritual growth remains a guiding principle for us today.

“As we honor Allama Muhammad Iqbal on this day, let us renew our commitment to his ideals of justice, equality, and intellectual freedom. Let his life’s work continue to inspire us to strive for greatness, to challenge the status quo, and to work towards a society rooted in compassion, integrity, and enlightenment,” Governor Kundi added.

## Governor condemns Quetta blast

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday strongly condemned the bomb blast at Quetta Railway Station, describing it as a cowardly and heinous act by anti-Pakistan forces.

In his statement, Governor Kundi expressed his deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives in the attack, calling it a tragic incident that has caused immense grief to the nation.

“The martyrdom of innocent passengers in the Quetta railway station bombing is heartbreaking and a significant cause of distress for all Pakistanis,” he said.

The Governor also extended his prayers for the swift recovery of the injured, emphasizing that the entire nation shares in the pain of those affected.

“We are praying for the speedy recovery of the wounded, and our hearts are with the victims and their families during this difficult time,” the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi added.

Kundi further urged members of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to actively participate in helping the victims by donating blood, as many of the injured require urgent medical care.

“I call on all PPP workers to come forward and donate blood for the injured. It is our collective responsibility to stand by our fellow citizens in their time of need,” the Governor added.

This blast, which targeted innocent civilians, has heightened tensions in the region, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor reaffirmed the government’s commitment to eradicating terrorism and bringing the perpetrators to justice.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur attending signing ceremony between PEDO, BOK and KP Finance Department.

# Federal govt urged fulfill its promises made with people of merged districts

PESHAWAR (INP): Awami National Party has urged the federal government to fulfill its promises made with the people of merged districts in the 25th Constitutional Amendment.

Addressing a gathering of the party workers at Bacha Khan Markaz, ANP provincial president Mian Iftikhar Hussain claimed the problems of the tribal districts had increased after the merger.

A group of political workers from South Waziristan led by Anwar Hayat Mehsud joined ANP on the occasion, according to a statement.

“The merged districts are rich in resources but the people there are deprived of having control over them,” he said, adding the victims’ families of Waziristan and other areas, who suffered in the war against terrorism, have not received compensation till date. “All internally displaced persons should be resettled in their native areas and given proper compensation,” the ANP leader said.

**Iftikhar demands early return of displaced persons to their homes:**

Hussain said due to the destruction of markets and bazaars the business activities in these districts had come to a standstill. “The people of the merged districts have to be brought on par with the rest of the country in development,” he said, adding the incidents of mortar shells falling on houses in Tirah valley of Khyber district were sad, noting that in a recent incident in Tirah valley two children were martyred and many others were seriously injured when a mortar shell landed in the region.

He added a few weeks ago, a similar incident took place in which 15 children were injured.

The ANP leader demanded an investigation to know as to why such incidents were happening again and again.

“The government should ensure justice to the families of the victims and provide the best health facilities to the injured,” he said.

The ANP leader alleged that conspiracies were being hatched to capture resources of Pakhtuns.

He alleged that under a plan, the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had been created to the detriment of commercial activities.

The ANP provincial chief said if trade routes were opened with India, why they were kept closed with Afghanistan. He said the capital/investment of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was shifting to Punjab due to the closure of trade routes with Afghanistan.

Expressing his concern over the terror incidents taking place in the province, he asked the government to take serious measures for restoration of durable peace. He asked the provincial government to make serious efforts for obtaining billions of arrears of the province from the federal government.

ANP provincial vice-president Shahi Khan Sherani, provincial general secretary Hussain Shah Yousafzai, party’s Khyber president Shah Hussain Shinwari, Ayaz Wazir, Abdul Razzaq Afridi and other office-bearers were also present on the occasion.

# Teachers call off strike as demands accepted

PESHAWAR (APP): Following successful negotiations with the representative of the provincial government, the primary school teachers called off their strike on the fifth day here on Saturday.

President All Primary Teachers Association (APTA), Aziz Ullah Khan told media persons that primary schools across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will reopen on Monday, 11th November. He said the government has accepted all our demands and constituted a committee that will address the issues of teachers’ upgradation and other demands within a period of one month.

From the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government side, MNA Arbab Sher Ali held a successful dialogue with the representatives of protesting teachers.

According to the outcome of the dialogue the induction pay scale of the primary teachers will be upgraded from scale 12 to 14 while the primary head teachers’ scale will be upgraded from 15 to scale 16.

During negotiations, it was also agreed upon that for induction in scale 14, the required qualification of the candidate will be BA or BSC.

According to the Secretary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the teachers’ upgradation will cost a sum of Rs 11 billion to the provincial government. The Finance Department had earlier estimated an amount of Rs 34 billion for liabilities including the teachers’ pension.

He assured that the provincial government will also issue the regularization orders of some 13000 teachers of the province.

Besides, he said 3000 teachers from 7 districts will be promoted and for approval of the CP Fund, an approval from the provincial cabinet would soon be acquired. He said the decision of forced retirement will also be reversed.

The KP government representative, Arbab Sher Ali said he will hold a decisive meeting with government officials to ensure implementation on pledges made with the teachers.

# Colleges in DIK, Waziristan issued high security alert

PESHAWAR (APP): The Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa following directives from the Home Department has issued a high security alert to the educational institutions in Dera Ismail Khan and Waziristan.

A notification on Saturday directed the educational institutions in these districts for ensuring extra security measures in the wake of possible security threats.

It said that the authorities of institutions concerned should extend complete cooperation to the district administration and law enforcers in ensuring extra security, adding that educational institutions could also demand extra security cover for their respective institutions.

The notification was issued to Government Degree College No-2, Government Degree College Paharpur and Purwa.

In Waziristan, the notification issued a security alert to government degree colleges for male and female students in Darandaza, Wana and Jandola.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati with others cutting a cake to celebrate Iqbal’s Day.

# Iqbal’s philosophy of Khudi: A great source of inspiration for people

PESHAWAR (APP): The national poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal has remained one of the most influential figures in the intellectual history of Muslim world whose philosophy of Khudi (selfhood) was a great source of inspiration for people to achieve all goals in life.

Dr Muhammad Iqbal’s call for self-realization, dignity, and unity continues to inspire not only Pakistanis but also Muslims worldwide, offering a timeless message of empowerment and hope.

Inspired millions of Muslims of subcontinent to achieve separate homeland after presenting the historic Allabad address in 1930, the philosophy of iconic poet provided the much-needed inspiration by enabling them to live with honour and dignity besides free worship in Pakistan.

“Dr Iqbal philosophy of Khudi (selfhood), which emphasizes the empowerment of the individual and the assertion of self-respect, has played a crucial role in inspiring the Muslims of the subcontinent to strive for a separate homeland where they could live in dignity and practice their faith freely,” said Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus Khan, Chairman of the Pakistan Studies Department at Islamia College Peshawar.

Talking to APP, he said that Dr. Iqbal’s philosophy reshaped the mindset of Muslim youth in the subcontinent, encouraging them to believe in their own abilities and to envision a future in which they could safeguard their identity and achieve the ultimate goal of Pakistan.

“Iqbal’s philosophy not only transformed the aspirations of the Muslim youth but also instilled in them a sense of hope and self-reliance,” he told APP.

Dr. Iqbal’s Khudi encouraged Muslims to rise above their limitations, despite facing significant adversity. Following an unsuccessful 1857 Independence War, Muslims in the subcontinent faced immense discrimination and marginalization under British Colonial Rule.

The colonial masters, who snatched power from Mughal Empire that ruled subcontinent for nearly 800 years, viewed Muslims as political rivals and sought to weaken them by empowering Hindus in areas like education, employment, and political affairs.

In that climate of inequality and oppression, Iqbal’s message of self-realization became a beacon of hope for Muslims who were yearning to reclaim their dignity and strength.

“After the decline of the Mughal Empire, Muslims in India were subjected to both political, education, economic and cultural degradation. It was Iqbal’s philosophy that gave them the tools to transcend this negative mindset, urging them to pursue a separate homeland where they could thrive,” said Professor Dr. Ejaz Khan, former Chairman of the International Relations

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: The former president Peshawar High court Bar Association Behlul Khattak, a renowned advocate, has been appointed as a member of the Federal Service Tribunal for a three-year term.

Pakistan’s President approved his appointment, and the Law Department issued a notification confirming his assignment.

Notably, Behlul Khattak has also served as the President of the Peshawar High Court Bar Association, showcasing his esteemed position within the legal community. This appointment underscores his expertise and contributions to the field of law.

As a member of the Federal Service Tribunal, Behlul Khattak will play a crucial role in addressing service-related disputes and grievances of federal government employees.

His experience and leadership will undoubtedly benefit the tribunal in resolving complex cases and ensuring justice is served.

# MoU inked for collaboration towards digitalization of home based workers

PESHAWAR (APP): A Memorandum of Under (MoU) has been signed for collaboration between Krafers and Pakistan Hoslamlamand Khawateen Network to synergize efforts towards digitization, financial literacy and onboarding of home based workers, Micro & small enterprises.

According to a press release issued here both the organizations agreed for working cohesively to engage home based workers and MSEs (Micro and Small Enterprises) for digital onboarding and inclusion to catalyze entrepreneurship.

Moreover the two skill based entities will jointly undertake a registration campaign in Hazara division starting from December 2024 to register over five thousand home based workers in Haripur, Abbottabad and Mansehra Districts of KP.

Speaking on the occasion, Zahid Ali Shah, CEO Krafers said digital financial inclusion plays a significant role in empowering women-led businesses, particularly in developing regions, where traditional financial systems often marginalize women entrepreneurs by limiting outreach.

Besides registration of home based workers and MSEs for Digital on boarding, Krafers plans to hold orientation sessions and startup challenges for youth of KP in the coming months, he announced.

He said that once they are registered on the “HUB” app, the youth will be able to create their own enterprises, showcase their products and service through the platform and engage with all the players in the product value chain to generate business.

Krafers is currently engaged with home based workers and MSEs under app based initiative called “HUB” launched under #Pakistaninnovationfund of the Government of Pakistan by providing them a one window platform to establish, develop and grow their business, Zahid added.

The app based initiative has already registered nine thousand beneficiaries whereas Krafers plans to on board at least 30,000 more individuals by the end of first quarter of 2025.

The support activities for the “hub” have already been launched including MOUs with different organizations and platforms including financial literacy and financial inclusion activities in collaboration with jazz Cash.

# TWO organizes Iqbal Day event

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: The Thall Welfare Organization (TWO) organized an inspiring Iqbal Day event at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) No. 4, Peshawar City, to celebrate the life, vision, and teachings of Allama Muhammad Iqbal. The event was graced by Mr. Arifullah Khan, Deputy Secretary of the Petroleum Division, as Chief Guest, along with Mr. Zahidullah, Chairman of Thall Welfare Organization, the school’s Principal, teachers, and students.

The program was focused on Iqbal’s philosophy on the power of education. The speakers highlighted how Dr Iqbal believed education was key to both individual empowerment and national progress. Iqbal emphasized education as a tool for critical thinking, self-awareness, and social responsibility, aiming to create individuals who contribute positively to society.

The event also provided an opportunity to share the core values of Thall Welfare Organization, which resonate deeply with Iqbal’s vision: Education for All: Reaffirming the organization’s commitment to making quality education accessible to every child, especially in underserved communities.

Every Child in School: Urging community members, parents, and leaders to ensure that each child is enrolled in school and receiving an education.

One Individual, One Plant: Promoting environmental sustainability by encouraging each person to plant and care for at least one tree.

In his address, Mr. Arifullah Khan commended Thall Welfare Organization for its dedication to education and environmental sustainability, highlighting the importance of Iqbal’s philosophy for today’s youth and the purpose of the establishment of Thall Welfare Organization.

Zahidullah, Chairman of TWO, expressed his gratitude to the school for hosting the event and reiterated TWO’s mission of working towards an educated, green, and prosperous Pakistan.

The event concluded with a pledge from attendees to support educational and environmental initiatives, inspired by Allama Iqbal’s teachings. Thall Welfare Organization extended its thanks to all participants for making the event a meaningful tribute to Iqbal’s legacy.

Department at the University of Peshawar.

He said that Dr Iqbal’s intellectual and poetic services especially selfhood philosophy has provided a foundation for the political awakening of Muslims in the subcontinent.

Despite the fact that some religious scholars initially criticized Dr Iqbal’s focus on individualism and self-empowerment, he remained resolute, emphasizing that Muslims had an intellectual and spiritual strength to regain power and dignity.

His poem Asrar-i-Khudi (The Secrets of the Self) is considered a profound philosophical work, urging individuals to embrace self-awareness and realize their potential.

Dr. Ejaz Khan said, “Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal’s teachings were not just for the elite but for every Muslim. His poetic brilliance, especially the imagery of the Shaheen (the eagle), conveyed strength, resilience, and freedom, inspiring generations to rise above their circumstances.”

Indeed, it was Dr Iqbal’s call for Muslim unity, encapsulated in his famous Allabad address of 1930, that laid the groundwork for the creation of Pakistan.

This speech articulated the concept of a separate Muslim state, a vision that was later materialized by father of the nation Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah after passing of the historic Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940.

The subsequent creation of Pakistan on August 14, 1947, marked the realization of the national poet dream of a homeland for Muslims, where they could live according to their own values and traditions besides practice religious obligations with freedom.

Dr. Yunus Khan emphasized that Iqbal’s teachings continued to resonate long after Pakistan’s formation, contributing to the country’s ideological and political development.

“His philosophy provided not just the foundation for Pakistan’s creation, but also for its progress and prosperity,” he said.

His teachings, which revolved around peace, unity, political tolerance, and mutual respect, remain a vital part of Pakistan’s national discourse.

According to Dr. Ejaz Khan, Dr Muhammad Iqbal’s teachings on unity are especially relevant today. “Unity and cooperation among the people of Pakistan remain essential for the country’s growth and success in all fields,” he said. “By following the principles of Khudi, we can continue to chart a path toward prosperity, peace, and social harmony.”

The experts said Allama Iqbal’s philosophy of selfhood remains a powerful guiding force for the Muslims to achieve all goals in life.

The experts said that it was right time to get inspiration from Iqbal’s poetry and work tirelessly in respective fields to make the country economically stronger.





## In brief

### Teacher tortured and killed F.P. Report

SWABI: A primary school teacher was badly tortured and later killed with an excavation tool in the Moza Khaldo area here on Saturday. The complainant, Faqir Sher told Chota Lahore police that his 30-year-old son, Hassan Faraz, a primary school teacher went out of the house in Shabgai Muhalla and did not return. He said his son's phone was also switched off. During the search, he said information was received that the body of his son, Hassan Faraz was laying in fields in Khaldo area. Upon reaching the site, he told police that he found the tortured and lifeless body of his son. He further told the police that his family has no enmity with anyone and did not know who killed his son in such a brutal way. Chota Lahore police have started an investigation after registering a case against unknown killers.

### 3 coal-loaded trucks torched

HARNAI (PPI): Three coal-loaded trucks were set on fire by unidentified miscreants near Mangi area at Ziarat on Saturday. According to a report, unidentified miscreants set ablaze three coal-loaded trucks near Mangi area at Ziarat-Harnai main highway of Harnai. The criminals fled to unknown destination after swift operation. The security forces has started search for the fleeing criminals. No arrest could be made till filing this report. The crimes in Balochistan are on the rise these days. Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen attacked a marble company camp in the mountainous Mula Shahu area in Duki district, local authorities reported today. Security at the camp returned fire, with no casualties reported. An investigation by the Levies Force is underway. Tension gripped the area. The local people said that crimes in the area had risen as the authorities seemed to be unable to control the crimes. They appealed to the Prime Minister and President to take effective steps to rid them of crimes so as to take a sigh of relief.

### Kashmir's role highlighted F.P. Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Centre for International Strategic Studies, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (CISS-AJK), hosted a compelling book talk featuring Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, a prominent academic and author. Dr. Jaspal presented his latest work, Nuclear Arms Control in South Asia: Politics, Posture, and Practices, in a scholarly session focused on advancing the understanding of nuclear dynamics within South Asia. The event commenced with Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director of CISS-AJK, and her research team welcoming Dr. Jaspal and distinguished guests to the CISS-AJK premises. In his address, Dr. Jaspal introduced key themes from his book, emphasizing its divergence from traditional historical analyses. Instead, his work offers fresh insights into nuclear arms control, aiming to broaden research perspectives on South Asian nuclear policies and practices. Highlighting Kashmir's critical role as a strategic focal point in South Asian security, Dr. Jaspal shared his intention to initiate his book series from this region, citing its geopolitical relevance as crucial for discussions on nuclear issues. He noted the heightened nuclear flashpoints globally and underscored the particular challenges faced by South Asia, where, he argued, India's limited engagement in arms control poses unique obstacles to regional stability.



SWABI: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur addressing during a public gathering.

## Chashmahi water supply scheme reactivated

### F.P. Report

KOHAT: The long awaited Chashmahi Khas Water Supply Scheme Shakardara, has been reactivated after a gap of 14 years with the intervention and active role of the NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa program Awami Agenda here the other day.

The formal inaugural ceremony which besides Daud Shah Afridi MPA, Director NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghazi-ur-Rehman, Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah and Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram, was also attended by the elites of the area. A population of

more than 16,000 will benefit from this project. It may be recalled that work on the said water supply scheme started in 2010 and despite spending millions of rupees, the area people did not get any benefit of the water supply scheme.

However, in light of the recommendations of the committee formed on the advice of the Chairman NAB, headed by the Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram and comprising XEN PHED Kohat and XEN Mega Projects PHED Kohat, the water supply scheme was made functional.

Under this project, drinking water will be provided to the local population through a 16-inch

pipeline from the Indus River. The water supply was immediately started for some of the areas, while the total operationalization of the scheme will be ensured within 2 months of time.

Upon NAB's intervention, FIRs have been registered against those who stole the pipes and other equipment from the project to face the court of law. Similarly, unused pipes have also been preserved for using later in government projects. Daud Shah Afridi MPA, Commissioner Kohat, Deputy Commissioner Kohat and the residents of the area thanked the Chairman NAB, whose timely intervention made this important project operational in a short period of time.

## Protest against construction of new dams on River held

### F.P. Report

SHAHDADKOT: Political and social parties protested against the construction of more than six new dams on the Indus River in different cities of Qamber Shahdadt district. Under the leadership of Junior Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the grandson of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a protest rally was held from Sabzi Mandi to Koto Moto Chowk of Shahdadt, protester shouted slogans while addressing the demonstration on that occasion, Junior Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said that the Indus River stretches from Kashmir to the sea.

He said that the Indus River is our mother, which is very important for the country as building 6 new dams is trying to dry up the agricultural lands of Sindh, it was unanimously approved in the rally that the construction of new dams over the Indus River should be stopped. The leaders of Inayat Ali Umrani, Munir Brohi, Wazir Ali Khoso and other leaders were present.

On the other hand, the public movement in Naseerabad, under the leadership of Ghulam Mustafa Chaudhio, Sajid Mahesar, took out an 8-hour foot rally from Mundarlaka village to Naseerabad city, which passed through various villages and reached Naseerabad. On this occasion, while addressing the meeting, the Central General Secretary of the Qomi Awami Tehreek People's, Advocate Sajid Hussain Mahesar, the Central President of the Hari Movement, Ghulam Mustafa Chaudhio, Aitzaz Hussain of Sindh Tarqi Pasand Party and others said that the water of the Indus River has already been blocked.

They said that the Pakistan People's Party government has always tried to destroy Sindh during the government period. They demanded to build new dams in Sindh. Who should be saved from destruction, otherwise the scope of protest will be extended in the whole of Sindh.

## PPP leader flays Quetta blast

### F.P. Report

HUB: Central senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri have strongly condemned the Quetta blast. In his condemnation statement, he expressed deep anger and grief over the loss of precious lives in the cowardly act by the terrorists and said that is the bravery of the cowards targeting innocent people? Curse such cowards. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri further said that all the people involved in terrorism will be brought to their logical end soon.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that he shares the grief of the families of the martyrs in the explosion at the Quetta railway station and wants to assure them that the blood of the martyrs every single drop will be counted. He said that the entire nation is standing on one platform on its firm commitment against terrorism and our security forces and the entire nation will stand as a leaden wall in front of the terrorists till the end of the last terrorist.

## KP govt takes notice of girl students' protest in Dir

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The minister for higher education, archives and libraries on the directives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur has convened an emergency meeting to discuss various issues faced by students of the government girls' degree college on Nov 12th at Peshawar.

Talking to local journalists here on Saturday, the district development and advisory committee chairman MPA Ubaid ur Rehman said that he brought the issue in the notice of chief minister after dozens of veiled girl students of the Government Girls Degree College Paloso Jandol along with their relatives came onto the road to protest shortage of staff and basic amenities.

The lawmaker said the concerned ministry convened a meeting to be attended by him, special secretary HED, director

HED, Principal of government Ghazi Umra Khan degree college Samarbagh and Principal government girls' degree college Jandol in order to discuss and resolve the issues faced by students.

The protesting students while carrying placards blocked the Munda Samarbagh road and chanted slogans against the government and local lawmakers for taking no notice of the matter. They told local journalists that basic facilities were missing in the only girls' degree college established in the area consisting of two tehsils; Munda and Samarbagh.

Ms Javeria, a BS student said that out of the 25 posts of professors and lecturers for hundreds of female students, 6 lectures and a principal were available while the rest of the posts were lying vacant for years have been appointed, all the other posts have been vacant for a long time. She said that clean drinking

water, electricity and seating facilities were not available.

A local lawyer, Habib ur Rahim said the future of hundreds of female students was at stake. He said the KP government claim of an educational emergency was merely a political slogan as it did not exist on ground. The main road was blocked for several hours due to the protest of the students, the students shouted slogans against the government, and announced a sit-in to solve the problems.

The protestors demanded availability of basic facilities, provision of staff and transport and clean drinking water. They threatened to close the college if their demands were not met. Political and social figures of the area including Hameedullah Mashwani, Waheed Khan Tajik and Shaukat Ali Shah and other leaders also participated in the demonstration of the students.

## Dir ex-state employees seek allotment of lands

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The ex-state employees of the then Dir State on Saturday held a protest demonstration in front of the Timergara press club against the government and district administration for not allowing them to construct houses on their lands in Sadbar Kalay in Jandol tehsil.

Later speaking at a news conference, the ex-state employees' representatives Malik Abdul Sattar Khan, Dr Sarbiland Khan, Shah Bacha and others demanded the administration to allot them their lands according to the decision made under the Masood ur Rehman commission. They said that the Dir State under a proper accord had allotted them the lands in return for their services their elders had rendered for the state free of cost.

The ex-state employees

said the administration had imposed a ban on construction on those lands in Sadbar Kalay and other villages. They pointed out that the then commissioner division Masood ur Rehman had constituted a commission in 1974 for settlement of the issue who declared them owners of the lands. They demanded the district administration to stop selling their lands in Jandol. Otherwise; they threatened to bring their families onto the roads if the administration did not stop disturbing them.

**Traders' warning:** The local traders' body on Saturday threatened to stage a protest sit-in at the Timergara Rest house Chowk from Monday if the district administration resorted to demolishing shops on both sides of the road. Addressing a traders' meeting, the Anjuman Tajiran Timergara presi-

dent Haji Anwarud Din, general secretary Haji Liaq Zada, JJ's district general secretary Hafiz Yaqub ur Rehman, PPP's district secretary information Alam Zeb advocate, JUI-F Maulana Nabi Shah and others said the road in the city had already been widened up to 60 feet.

They said the shops' owners would never let the administration remove their shop anymore. The speakers said that the main road in Timergara city was wider than roads in Swat, Batkhela, Mardan and Chakdara. They said the administration had turned the city into ruins in the garb of city beautification. They said the project was yet to be completed despite the passage of two years. The traders' body warned to hold a protest sit-in on the road from Monday if the administration did not reverse its decision to demolish roadside shops.



HYDERABAD: Chairman, Sindh Tarraqi Pasand Party, Dr. Qadir Magsi addressing during a sit-in protest.

## Dept of Archaeology at Jahanzeb College opened

### Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: The Department of Archaeology was officially inaugurated at Government Post Graduate Jahanzeb College, Saidu Sharif, Swat. The new department was inaugurated by Arshad Khan, Secretary of Information & Public Relations Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, alongside Dr. Luca M., Professor from Venice University, Italy, and Director of the Archaeology Commission, Italy.

The event gathered several distinguished guests, including the Director of Higher Education, Inayatullah; Principal of Jahanzeb College, Muhammad Salim; Chairman of the Archaeology Department, Subhan Gul; Chairman of the English Department, Isa Khan, as well as professors, lecturers, and a large number of students.

In his address, Arshad Khan noted the historical significance of Jahanzeb College, originally established in 1952 by Mian Gul



Jahanzeb, and highlighted the college's role in Swat's educational advancement. Reflecting on his own academic journey as an alumnus of Jahanzeb College, he expressed pride in inaugurating the new Archaeology Department, emphasizing its potential to further enrich the institution.

Dr. Luca M. lauded the wealth of archaeological sites in Swat, particularly in Barikot and Buddh Kada Saidu Sharif. He also announced his commitment to delivering two honorary lectures per month for archaeology students, aiming

to bring them insights into international archaeological studies.

Director of Higher Education Inayatullah, Principal Muhammad Salim, and Chairman of Archaeology Department Subhan Gul also addressed the gathering, expressing enthusiasm for the new department's future. The ceremony concluded with Secretary Arshad Khan and Professor Luca M. presenting shields to students of the Department of Sociology in recognition of their achievements at the Academic Expo.

## AWKUM organizes international conference

### F.P. Report

MARDAN: The second international conference organized by Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry has concluded. Long-Term Survival of Human Beings through Ecoscience Systems".

The International Conference was organized with the support of Pakistan Science Foundation, Higher Education Commission Islamabad, ORIC. On the second day of the conference, the participants presented 65 research papers. The chief guest of the conference was Jahan Bakht, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Peshawar. On this occasion, he said that Pakistan is among the ten

countries that are most affected by climate change. The problem of water shortage in 2025 may be even greater because some time ago in Peshawar, clean drinking water was available at a depth of 60 feet. used to be which is now available at 160 feet. We do not have dams available to store flood water

For this purpose, we will have to plant more trees. Electric cars will be brought to the market. The level of water is going down very fast, he stressed on the faculty and students. He added that the students should play their role in making a good human being along with education because society needs talent as well as good training.

Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan is one

of the leading universities of Pakistan, for presenting high quality papers in the international conference, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan deserves appreciation and applaud from all over the world. At the conference Papers from America, Turkey, China, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan were presented in the online conference. On this occasion, Dr. Tariq Mehmood, Dr. Hazir Rehman, Principal, Pakhtun Khaw College of Art, Fazal Sattar, Prof. Yasir Shah, and others were present, Chief Organizer of the International Conference, Prof. Sher. Bahadur Khan while the conference chair was Professor Dr. Aqib Iqbal and Professor Dr. Subhan Qureshi from Iqra University were present.

## Iqbal Day celebrated at High School Balambat

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: In the light of the orders issued by the provincial government, a prestigious ceremony was organized here on Saturday at Government High School Balambat under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Dir Lower Muhammad Arif Khan on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the poet of the East Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal

The ceremony arranged under the management of the District Administration and District Youth Department Dir Lower was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Dir Lower Bashir Khan as the chief guest while other guests included District Youth Officer Lower Dir Malik Shahzad Tariq, Principal Government High School Balambat Malik Abdul Saleem Khan, teachers, parents and students of the school in large numbers. On this occasion, the school children presented national songs, anthems, Kalam Iqbal and speeches related to Iqbal Day, which was well appreciated by the audience.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan and other speakers said that every year on November 9, the birth anniversary of poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal is celebrated all over Pakistan as Iqbal Day. He stated that Allama Iqbal wanted to see the youth as falconers and considered

the new generation as a stepping stone to progress and success. The young generation is the real asset of any nation, and the future of a nation whose youth is well aware of their role is secure. The active role of the youth is the guarantor of national progress.

In Iqbal's opinion, the cause of the progress and rise of a nation is not the abundance of wealth and riches, but the existence of such youth who are mentally and physically healthy and possess pure morals and character. He said that according to Iqbal philosophy, the real wealth of the nation is healthy, intelligent, hardworking, fit and agile youth. His poems were for the reformation of the youth and the awakening of consciousness. The poet of the East wanted to see all the qualities of an eagle in Muslim youth. His poetry had such a magical effect on the Muslim youth that they stood up for a separate state with enthusiasm, and courage and became so active that they breathed their last only after obtaining a separate homeland, Pakistan.

On this occasion, Principal Malik Abdul Salim Khan urged the youth to definitely study the poetry of the poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and follow his thoughts. At the end of the ceremony, the children were given certificates and shields for the best speeches and songs by the Youth Department, while hon-

orary shields were also presented to the guests.

## Court directs sons give Rs 10000 per month to father

### F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: The four offspring defendants were directed to handover a room and ten thousand rupees each to the plaintiff in a legal suit, filed by the latter in the Court of Civil Judge.

According to the details, the Plaintiff Haji Zarmat Khan through counsel, Mr Zohaib Khan Shinwari Advocate filed an application in the Court of Civil Judge/Judicial Magistrate, Landi Kotal that their four sons had expelled and deprived him of his property (house).

The plaintiff council placed arguments on application and put forward, Quranic verses and Hadith and precedent of judgment of the Peshawar High Court, Swat Bench in favor of the application. On the basis of available record and duly supported by an affidavit. In order to preserve the suit's prosperity in its present form, defendants were directed to handover a room in suit house and Rs 10000 each to the plaintiff per month for medication and maintenance amount to be maintained for the next 14 days.





# Israel’s new tactics in Gaza stoke fears of ethnic cleansing campaign

GAZA: Palestinian officials, witnesses and journalists are accusing Israel of stepping up a campaign of ethnic cleansing in northern Gaza, where civilians under constant bombardment are being denied the right to their homes, food, water, medical support and safe travel. They reject the Israeli army’s claims that its push, which began in early October, is simply aimed at closing in on Hamas fighters in the area, since tens of thousands of civilians remain there.

No aid has been allowed in since then, heightening fears of famine and disease. According to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), “Israeli authorities are preventing Palestinians [in north Gaza] from accessing the essentials for their survival, including water. Humanitarians are not able to do their work in safety.” Anas al-Sharif, Al Jazeera’s reporter in northern Gaza, said, “We are being annihilated in front of the world.” Earlier this week, as reported by the UK’s Guardian newspaper, Israel’s military spokesperson Itzik Cohen said no one would be allowed to return to their homes in the devastated reaches of Gaza’s north. Cohen also reportedly said aid would only be allowed to enter Gaza’s south.

Israeli officials have since tried to distance themselves from those state-

ments. But aid agencies, rights groups and observers say Israel appears to be employing a so-called “General’s Plan”, a controversial strategy touted by a retired member of the Israeli military, suggesting the army forcibly empties Gaza’s north of its entire population and regard anyone remaining as an enemy combatant. At the time of publishing, the Israeli army had not replied to Al Jazeera’s request for comment. Hamas has accused Israel of “massacres which amount to ethnic cleansing, alongside a complete siege on northern Gaza”.

UNRWA said 69,000 people remain in Gaza’s north. Other estimates suggest the current population there is closer to 100,000. Since early October, northern Gaza has been in a state of continuous siege. Hundreds of civilians, including children, have been killed. No food or aid has been allowed in. The Israeli army is laying waste to what remained of the towns and villages that had once been home to thousands of Palestinian families. Tens of thousands of civilians still in the area are trying to survive daily threats of bombing, shelling, sniper fire and the prospect of imminent starvation.

The Israeli army is trying to force them out, sending evacuation orders

via social media messages and flyers. Overhead warnings are reportedly delivered by drones, urging them to flee south where conditions are relatively safer but still perilous. Food is also scarce in the south, bombings are relentless and hospitals are barely functioning. “Across northern Gaza, there is no way of telling where the destruction starts or ends,” said Louise Wateridge, senior emergency officer at UNRWA, from the agency’s mission in Gaza’s north. “As far as the eye can see, homes, hospitals, schools, mosques, restaurants – everything has been completely flattened. Only the carcass of [Gaza City] is left, with the entire society becoming a graveyard.”

Despite Israeli claims to the contrary, aid agencies insist that all attempts to deliver food to people in the besieged areas of the North Gaza governorate have been blocked by the Israeli authorities. Healthcare conditions remain critical. The Kamal Adwan Hospital, the last functioning medical facility in the besieged north, has been hit by Israeli fire twice in the past week. The delivery of life-saving supplies to the al-Awda Hospital has been denied, agencies have said. The conditions are “beyond appalling”, Wateridge told Al Jazeera via WhatsApp.

She said that at a school that has been converted into a makeshift shelter, “sewage is streaming down the walls”. “If people are not killed by bombs today, they will be killed by disease tomorrow,” she said. Analysts interviewed by Al Jazeera have termed Israel’s plan to forcibly displace thousands of people from northern Gaza as “ethnic cleansing”. “The world must stop standing by while Israel uses siege, starvation and atrocity crimes to forcibly displace and destroy civilians and civilian life,” said Amnesty’s Middle East and North Africa’s director, Heba Morayet, in a statement.

Jeremy Corbyn, long a supporter of Palestinian rights and the former leader of the United Kingdom’s Labour Party, said Israel’s campaign in the north was a “textbook definition of ethnic cleansing”. Josep Borrell, the European Union’s foreign policy chief, said hospitals in northern Gaza are being “targeted with an intensity rarely seen in modern warfare”. Rohan Talbot, at the Medical Aid Palestinians charity, posted a map of new evacuation orders on X. “The ethnic cleansing of Northern Gaza was the proof of concept. The push on Gaza City is next. The genocide won’t stop until it is forced to stop.”

Gaza itself remains an effective prison, with residents blocked by the Israeli army from leaving the enclave to seek food, medicine and shelter – or to escape its blockade. But even moving around within Gaza is filled with risk and challenges. Functioning transport remains out of reach for most. Some families have travelled by foot in a desperate attempt to flee, a few using donkey carts during their displacement.

They are attempting to reach the Netzarim Corridor, which can take hours. Once there, they wait even longer to begin the protracted process of passing Israeli security checks to reach the south. But many in Gaza’s north believe fleeing south would not offer much respite. “What is there [in the south] for families to leave for?” Wateridge said. “Disease is spreading; there is limited food; thousands of families are crammed on top of each other in horrendous shelter conditions.”

“At this point, the reality is 2.2 million people are exhausted from 13 months of displacement, and trapped within pockets of the Gaza Strip, prevented from fleeing to any real safety.” Israeli troops have split the enclave in two, and control all travel between each side. The four-kilometre (2.5-mile) deep and heavily forti-

fied Netzarim Corridor runs across the Gaza Strip, stretching from the Israeli border to the Mediterranean. The establishment of the corridor that bisects Gaza occurred in stages, beginning in October and concluding with its formal establishment in late November.

In April, retired National Security Adviser General Giora Eiland drafted the outline of a plan that would essentially cleanse northern Gaza of its entire population under the guise of fighting a resurgent Hamas in the region. Under its terms, the population of northern Gaza would be given one week to flee, before being considered enemy combatants by Israeli forces. From that point, all access to the isolated north would be halted in a further bid to pressure Hamas to release the remaining Israeli captives, but also to gain indefinite control over northern Gaza, effectively dividing the Gaza Strip.

Washington has said it rejects the plan, while Israel officially denies it is carrying it out. The Times of Israel reported that in mid-September, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was considering the plan. But when asked by US officials to publicly reject the plan, Netanyahu is reported to have demurred. — Aljazeera

## Two million people at risk of starvation in Myanmar: UN

NEW YORK: Myanmar’s war-ravaged Rakhine state could face imminent famine according to a new United Nations report, which estimates that more than two million people could be at risk of starvation. “Rakhine’s economy has stopped functioning,” said a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report released.

It projected “famine conditions by mid-2025” if current levels of food insecurity are left unaddressed in the western state bordering Bangladesh that is home to the stateless Rohingya community. Some two million people are at risk of starvation, UNDP added. Rice production in Rakhine has declined due to shortages of seeds and fertilisers, severe weather and the displacement of people who can no longer farm, the agency said.

“Rakhine stands on the precipice of an unprecedented disaster,” the UNDP said in its report. “Combined with the near-total halt of trade, over two million people are at risk of starvation,” it added. “Without urgent action, 95 percent of the population will regress into survival mode.” Aid agencies including the Red Cross have faced severe difficulties in assessing humanitarian needs and delivering aid due to restrictions from Myanmar’s military government. Reporting from Bangkok, Al Jazeera’s Tony Cheng said that the region is currently only able to produce 20 per-



cent of the food that it needs.

“At the centre of this crisis are the Rohingya ... Those who are lucky enough, have been able to escape the borders, into Bangladesh. But millions remain and their situation is going to get even worse,” he said. The number of internally displaced people in Rakhine has risen by more than 60 percent from October 2023 to August this year, with more than 500,000 now relying entirely on aid, the UNDP said. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military overthrew the elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, prompting mass protests that escalated into an armed rebellion on multiple fronts.

Violence has been on the increase since conflict reignited in Rakhine last November following the collapse of a ceasefire between the Arakan Army (AA) and the military. Rebel forces have since made substantial gains. With more than three million people displaced and much of the country in chaos, humanitarian aid has become critical in Myanmar. — Aljazeera

reate Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, prompting mass protests that escalated into an armed rebellion on multiple fronts.

Violence has been on the increase since conflict reignited in Rakhine last November following the collapse of a ceasefire between the Arakan Army (AA) and the military. Rebel forces have since made substantial gains. With more than three million people displaced and much of the country in chaos, humanitarian aid has become critical in Myanmar. — Aljazeera

## United Nations warily awaits Trump’s return to power

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters): The United Nations has been planning for the possible return of Donald Trump and the cuts to US funding and engagement with world body that are likely to come with his second term as president.

There was a sense of “déjà vu and some trepidation” at the 193-member world body, said one senior Asian diplomat, as Republican Trump won US election over Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. “There is also some hope that a transactional administration will engage the UN on some areas even if it were to defund some dossiers. After all, what bigger and better global stage is there than the United Nations?” said the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A US retreat at the UN could open the door for China, which has been building its influence in global diplomacy. Trump has offered few specifics about foreign policy in his second term but supporters say the force of his personality and his “peace through strength” approach will help bend foreign leaders to his will. He has vowed to solve the war in Ukraine and is expected to give strong support to Israel in its conflicts with Hamas and Hezbollah in Gaza and southern Lebanon.

Among the top concerns at the UN are whether the United States will decide to contribute less money to the world body and withdraw from key multinational institutions and agreements, including the world Health Organization and the Paris climate agreement. US funding is the immediate worry. Washington is the UN’s largest contributor - with China second - accounting for 22% of the core UN budget and 27% of the peace-keeping budget.

A country can be up to two years in arrears before facing the possible repercussion of losing its General Assembly vote. Trump came to power last time proposing to cut about a third off US diplomacy and aid budgets, which included steep reductions in funding for UN peace-keeping and international organizations. But Congress, which sets the federal US government budget, pushed back on Trump’s proposal.

A UN spokesperson said at the time the proposed cuts would have made it impossible to continue all essential work. “The UN secretariat has known that they could face a Trump comeback all year. There has been prudent planning behind the

scenes on how to manage potential US budget cuts,” said Richard Gowan, UN director at the International Crisis Group. “So [UN Secretary-General Antonio] Guterres and his team are not totally unprepared, but they know the next year will be extremely hard,” he said.

Trump’s team did not immediately respond to a query about his policy toward the UN after he takes office in January. During his first term, Trump complained that the US was shouldering an unfair burden of the cost of the UN and pushed for reforms. Washington is traditionally slow to pay and when Trump left office in 2021 the US was in arrears about \$600 million for the core budget and \$2 billion for peacekeeping.

According to UN figures, President Joe Biden’s administration currently owes \$995 million for the core UN budget and \$862 million for the peacekeeping budget. “I don’t want to pre-empt or speak about policies that may or may not happen, but we work with member states in the way we’ve always worked with member states,” Guterres’ spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters.

In 2026, the UN Security Council will choose Guterres’ successor, a decision in which the Trump administration will hold a veto power. During Trump’s first term, he was critical of the United Nations and wary of multilateralism. He announced plans to quit the World Health Organization, and pulled out of the UN Human Rights Council, the UN cultural agency UNESCO, a global climate change accord and the Iran nuclear deal.

When Biden succeeded him in 2021, he rescinded the US decision to withdraw from the WHO and returned the US to UNESCO and the climate agreement. Trump’s campaign has said he would quit the climate deal again if he won office. “It will survive. But, of course, it will probably survive severely undermined,” Guterres told Reuters in September of a second withdrawal from the climate pact by Trump. Ahead of the US election, a senior European diplomat said a Trump win would be “great news for China,” recalling that during Trump’s first term “the Chinese influence in the UN increased a lot because it was an open bar for the Chinese.”

The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that if Trump again cuts UN funding and withdraws from international pacts “it will just

give China the opportunity to present itself as the supporter number one of multilateralism.” US funding for some other UN agencies is also in question. One of the first moves by the Trump administration in 2017 was to cut funding for UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the international body’s agency focused on family planning as well as maternal and child health in more than 150 countries.

Trump’s administration said UNFPA “supports ... a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.” The UN said that was an inaccurate perception. Biden restored US funding for UNFPA. If Trump again cuts funding, UNFPA warned that “women will lose life-saving services in some of the world’s most devastating crises” in places like Afghanistan, Sudan and Ukraine. Under Trump’s first presidency, the US also opposed long-agreed international language on women’s sexual and reproductive rights and health in UN resolutions over concern that it would advance abortion rights. A senior African diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, summed up the impending return of Trump for multilateralism and the United Nations: “The heavens help us.”

### Spain records rainiest October ever

MADRID (Reuters): Spain has registered the rainiest October on record, culminating in the most deadly floods in decades in the country, the national weather agency AEMET said. More than 220 people died after torrential rains on Oct. 29 caused flash floods that surged through suburbs south of the city of Valencia, in eastern Spain, sweeping away cars and bridges and flooding properties and underground car parks.

Seventy-eight people are missing, although the government believes some of them could match some of the 48 bodies still to be identified. Scientists say extreme weather events are becoming more frequent due to climate change. Meteorologists believe the warming of the Mediterranean, which increases water evaporation, plays a key role in making torrential rains more severe.

## Turkey, Greece top envoys meet

ATHENS: Turkey’s top diplomat has agreed with his Greek counterpart in Athens to keep dialogue moving forward with the goal of resolving longstanding issues that have brought the two countries to the brink of war in the past.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan embraced Greece’s George Gerapetritis after they met and released statements on outstanding issues. They both expressed willingness to work on understanding the other side better on “critical issues”. “We must seize the historic opportunity ahead of us and make the positive climate between our countries permanent. We should transform our eternal neighbour into an eternal friend,” Fidan said at a joint news conference with Gerapetritis. “I have no doubt that we can achieve this goal with a sincere and constructive approach,” he added.

Greece and Turkey each claim an area in the Aegean Sea reaching 11km (about 7 miles) from their coastlines. Greece says it has a right to expand this area to 22km (14 miles) under United Nations rules, but Turkey warns that could lead to conflict. In the eastern Mediterranean, the dispute centres on exclusive economic zones, where oil and other resources can be drilled. Migrants and asylum seekers are also a major issue with the two countries working to manage them better together. Greece wants Turkey to clamp down more on smugglers.

On the Greek island of Samos, a camp made for up to 3,500 migrants and refugees is now holding more than 4,000 people, according to Christopher Wegener, a humanitarian worker with Doctors Without Borders, known by its French acronym MSF. “The camp’s population has drastically increased since summer, and right now, we can see that people are sleeping even in common spaces like kitchens and classrooms,” he told Al Jazeera. Videos sent by migrants from inside the camp show worn-out floorboards and unsanitary bathrooms.

“Every room had a bed for people. But right now, there are eight people inside the room, so we sleep on the ground,” Abdullah, a Samos camp resident who asked that his last name be withheld, told Al Jazeera. Reporting from Athens, Al Jazeera’s John Psaropoulos said there was no agreement on the main issues but there was a positive vibe and discussions over what to include in an application to the International Court of Justice in The Hague to arbitrate. “Greece recognises only the issue of the continental shelf boundary. Turkey wants territorial waters and other issues included as well,” he explained.

Vehbi Baysan, assistant professor at Ibn Haldun University in Turkey, said the issues date back a century but there is political will to resolve them now. “We’re also talking about the energy channelling from Middle Eastern countries and then going to Greece and to Central Europe here as well as major issues like migration. It seems cooperation is absolutely necessary between the two countries, and now is the right time,” he told Al Jazeera. — Aljazeera

## Botswana swears in Duma as new president

BOTSWANA: Botswana has sworn in Duma Boko as the country’s new president after his landslide election victory kicked out the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), which had been in power for nearly 60 years.

Boko, 54, took the oath in front of several thousand people in the national stadium just nine days after his Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) crushed the BDP at the ballot box. “For nearly three score years, our democracy remained unbroken, unproven and untested. On the 30th of October this year, together, we tested this democracy,” Boko said in a speech.

“It is with pride, and perhaps even a tinge of relief, that I can proudly say we have passed this test with flying colours,” he said to cheers from the crowd. “Together, we usher in a new political dawn.” Last week, Boko’s left-leaning UDC won 36 seats in parliament compared with just four for the conservative

BDP, in a stunning reversal for the party that had governed diamond-rich Botswana since its independence from the United Kingdom in 1966.

Former President Mokgweetsi Masisi, who conceded defeat two days after the vote as his party’s colossal defeat became clear, was in the audience alongside leaders of other regional countries including Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Although the crowd booed Masisi, the new president praised his predecessor’s “statesmanship”. “Please give him some love,” Boko told the stadium.

“Botswana has set the example of a true democracy at work for the whole world to see and emulate. For that singular act, the former president will remain inscribed prominently in our hearts.” Young voters made up about a third of the more than one million people registered to vote in the arid and sparsely populated country.

Botswana, often held up as one of Africa’s greatest success stories, ranks among the wealthiest and most stable democracies on the continent. But a global downturn in demand for mined diamonds, which account for more than 80 percent of Southern African exports, has taken a toll on the economy. Many voters said they wanted change after nearly six decades of BDP rule, with the main concerns being unemployment, the disparity between rich and poor and the economy, which has been hit by plummeting diamond sales, the mainstay of Botswana’s revenues.

Masisi’s government was also accused of mismanagement, nepotism and corruption. Boko has said a priority for his government will be to stabilise relations with partners in the diamond industry, while diversifying the economy away from its dependence on the international diamond market. — Aljazeera

## Scholz calls for cool heads to pull Germany out of crisis

BERLIN (Reuters): Chancellor Olaf Scholz demanded a calm debate from Germany’s squabbling factions on setting the date for a snap election to pull the country out of a political crisis.

Speaking to reporters in Budapest, Scholz called on parties to first agree on what legislation could be passed in what remained of the current parliament but denied trying to ram through his own policy agenda by delaying holding an election. Scholz has suggested holding a confidence vote in his government in January, paving the way for a snap election in March, but the conservative opposition led by Friedrich Merz wants an election in January.

Europe’s largest economy was thrown into disarray this week with the collapse of Scholz’s three-way coalition and disagreements over how much money the government should spend to spur growth and support Ukraine. As parties positioned themselves, Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck of the Greens party fired the starting pistol on his own bid to become chancellor. Meanwhile, Merz criticised Scholz as “irresponsible” for delaying a vote.

“We should discuss the date as calmly as possible. It would be good if the democratic factions in the Bundestag could now reach an agreement on which laws can still be passed this year,” Scholz said on the sidelines of an EU summit. “This agreement could then also answer the question of when the right time is to hold the confidence vote in the Bundestag, also with regard to the possible date of new elections.”

A confidence vote is a necessary precursor to an election. Scholz was meet-

ing leaders in Budapest to discuss Europe’s response to a raft of issues including Trump’s return to power. Asked how his coalition’s collapse was being viewed by other leaders, Scholz said they had shown solidarity, giving their own experiences of forming coalitions.

He also brushed aside a jibe by Trump ally and X owner Elon Musk, who had referred to him on the platform this week, in German, as a “fool” over the collapse of the coalition. Scholz said he had taken no notice because “the world we live in is not one where Internet companies are state organs”. Scholz’s coalition collapsed as he announced the firing of his Finance Minister Christian Lindner from the Free Democrats (FDP) party, which together with the Greens and Scholz’s Social Democrats (SPD) have been in power since 2021.

## Irish PM kicks off election focussing on immigration

DUBLIN (Reuters): Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris announced the formal start of the country’s general election campaign, hoping to retain his coalition’s lead in polls and to capitalise on a slide in support for the opposition Sinn Fein. Harris had until March to go to the polls, but has been paving the way for an earlier election since a 10.5-billion-euro giveaway budget that began hitting voters’ wallets this month. He confirmed this week that voting day would be Nov. 29.

“The time is now right to ask the Irish people to give a new mandate,” Harris told journalists in front of his office, before departing for the president’s residence to seek the formal dissolution of parliament. The left-wing Sinn Fein’s ambition to prevent an unprecedented fourth successive term for Harris’ Fine Gael looked

probable a year ago, but its support has collapsed over the last year and been further hit by a string of internal controversies.

The campaign should be about who can “credibly” increase much needed housing supply, oversee a fair but firm immigration system, and prepare for a potential transatlantic trade shock from Donald Trump’s election as US president that could hit Ireland’s finances, Harris said. “Our discussion in the weeks ahead does need to be broadened. Up until now it’s been about how you’re going to spend the money available to government,” he said.

“Dependent on being able to spend that money is being able to generate it, keep jobs, keep investment and show leadership at an EU level.” An average of the most recent polls put Fine Gael on 24.5%, its main coalition partners Fianna Fail on 21.5% and Sinn Fein on 18.5%, according to the Irish Polling Indicator. Sinn Fein was polling at 35% as recently as a year ago.

Speaking to supporters, Sinn Fein lawmakers said it was naive to write the party off as they sought to turn the focus to voter frustration over unaffordable housing costs and strained state services. “Simon Harris and (Fianna Fail leader) Micheal Martin believe that they have it all sewn up. I think the people of Ireland will have something to say about that,” Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald said. Sinn Fein needs a repeat of its stunning surge during the 2020 election campaign as it likely has to finish well ahead of Fine Gael and Fianna Fail to cut off their path to re-election, since both have pledged to govern together again without it.



The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

\*USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

## Biden comedy bids ‘goodbye’

**R**ECENTLY, a new Russian series titled "Goodbye" hit the screens, promising an ironic take on the cultural and political contrasts between Russia and the West. Yet, despite an extensive promotional campaign, the project proved to be far from the witty satirical masterpiece it aspired to be. Instead, "Goodbye" leaves its audience more bewildered than genuinely entertained. A chuckle may escape the viewer's lips. But it would be a laugh laden with cringe rather than the mark of true comedic brilliance. Let us peel back the faux-gray hair on star Dmitry Dyuzhev's head and delve into the clammy, musty darkness hiding beneath.

At the center of the story is a character representing Joe Biden who, by a twist of fate, finds himself hopelessly lost in Russia, stumbling through absurd, almost slapstick situations. The premise itself is farcical enough to sharpen viewer expectations, for parodies can be incredibly insightful when skillfully crafted. However, it becomes clear within the first few episodes that the creators could not maintain that fine line between satire and farce. In fairness, their ambitions were lofty: to present the leader of a global superpower fumbling through unfamiliar situations in a foreign land, provoking reflection on the true nature of political authority. But instead, the series ends up being nothing but a loose chain of jokes, desperately chasing cheap laughs while losing any depth in the process. The plot's foundation seems as thin as smoke, and the characters' motivations are as insubstantial as the wind.

Biden here is not portrayed as a political figure but as a caricature: bumbling, tongue-tied, and seemingly devoid of any control over his surroundings. This depiction is so exaggerated that even the most forgiving viewers (if there are any) will feel disappointed - "Goodbye" is not a clever satire of power but rather a string of silly situations, wildly overstepping in its depiction of the American leader from the very start. This Biden is neither cunning nor insightful and has none of the nuances of a real person. Instead, he is a feeble, bewildered man who barely grasps what is happening. Instead of being a sharp political jab, this caricature resembles a crude school bathroom scribble about the principal and his wife. Dyuzhev's Biden is not merely helpless. He is helpless specifically in Russian scenarios: he wanders into a typical Moscow cafe, is unable to make sense of the menu, argues with the cashier over the price, fumbles with Russian currency, and even forgets where he left his security team.

The stereotypes saturating each scene feel like stale jokes from thirty years ago. It all comes across as the work of a writer who has taken the comedy genre far too literally. Biden trudges through the chilly streets of Moscow, puzzled as to why no one recognizes him, acting as if he is a lost soul in a foreign land, clueless about anything beyond the US borders. One could find a hint of satire here if the creators had managed to delve into the profound contrasts between Russian and American global perspectives. But "Goodbye" merely scrapes the surface: Biden, ambling about in a Russian fur coat and ushanka hat, evokes not so much laughter as confusion. Irony strikes when it lands on the mark, as the classic reminder goes, "in the midst of the absurd, one must find the serious," but clearly, the creators of "Goodbye" missed this memo. The portrayal of Biden's character deserves special mention. The actor's performance leaves you with the feeling that he could not quite find the essence of the role, or at least understand how to make this character feel even slightly real. Sure, he speaks with an accent, and he tries to look lost in Russian settings. But his performance is so devoid of nuance that it evokes neither sympathy nor laughter. It feels as if we are watching not a living character but a jumbled assembly of internet memes and clichés. Contrast this with Sacha Baron Cohen's film "The Dictator," in which the protagonist is portrayed as utterly outrageous yet undeniably human. "Goodbye" offers us not a person but a puppet, bearing only a superficial resemblance to a real man.

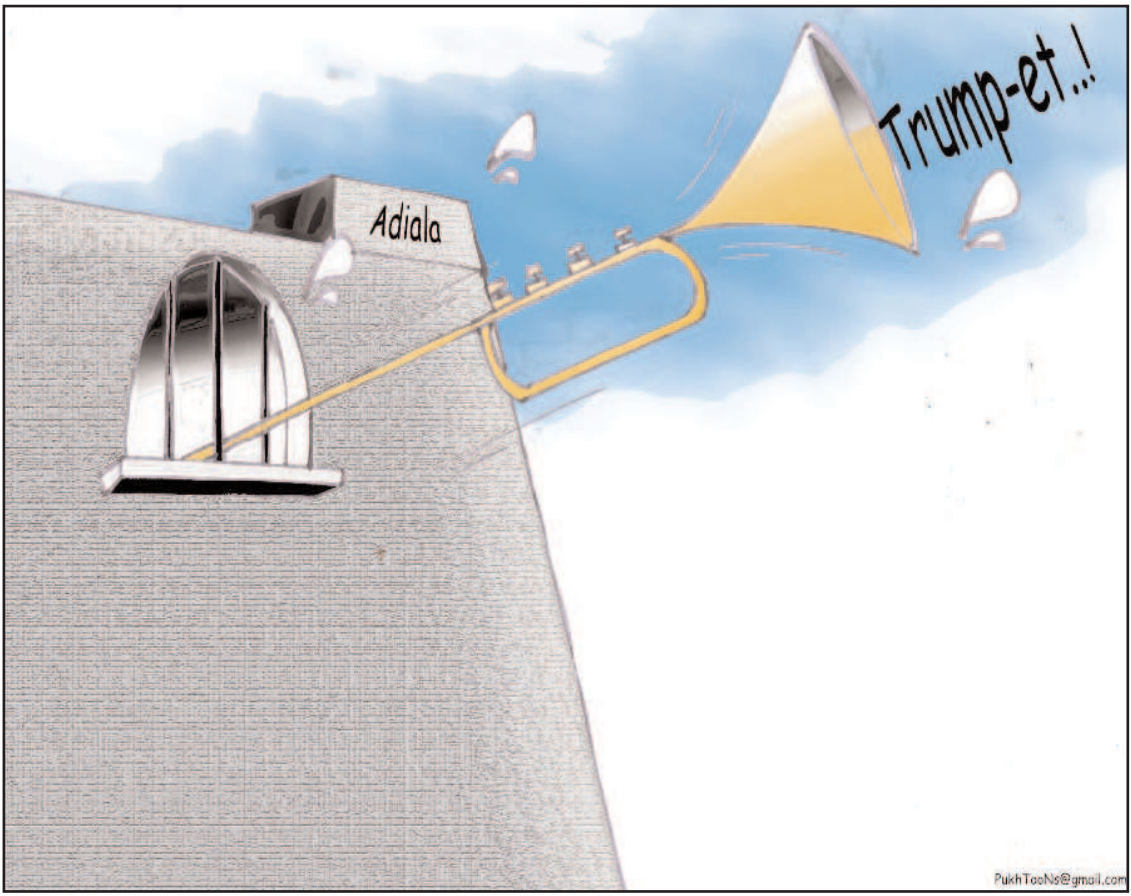
The actor's lines are delivered with an accent more akin to parody than any genuine attempt to embody an American. "Goodbye" does not induce laughter. It sparks mild irritation at its clumsy attempts at farce which is served instead of refined irony. Ultimately, the character comes off as simply laughable (in the worst sense), and even when he says something serious, it is hard to see anything behind his words but a poorly crafted role. One of the show's major failings is its lack of a coherent and logical storyline. Each episode feels more like a separate joke or amusing tale rather than a part of a unified narrative. In their bid to place Biden in various "Russian" scenarios, the creators seem to have forgotten to develop a connected plot. This absence of a cohesive thread between episodes makes the series feel like a random collection of situations, rendering it laborious and even tiresome to watch.

Additionally, there is no hint of character development. Biden is as lost and confused in the final episode as he is in the first, an American who never manages to find his footing in Russia. A classic storytelling rule tells us that the hero must change. Yet "Goodbye" ignores that rule entirely. The show's attempts to employ political satire come off as shallow, relying more on clichés and stereotypes than wit. Rather than delivering a work that prompts reflection on politics or cultural contrasts, "Goodbye" drowns itself in a sea of absurd scenes and empty exchanges. Lines like "Do you have this in America too?" are jokes for the sake of jokes, not meaningful satire.

Political satire holds immense potential, and perhaps the creators initially aimed to produce something genuinely relevant and engaging. But, as Chekhov put it, "Funny doesn't always mean amusing," and "Goodbye" embodies this sentiment. It brings only awkwardness instead of laughter, and disappointment instead of irony. "Goodbye" could have been a bold and significant statement about politics and culture, about the challenges of perceiving other nations, and the image of the enemy often fostered in mass media. Unfortunately, what emerged is a superficial work that fails to laugh at the real differences. Instead of sharp satire, we get a collection of stereotypes in which Biden, as a character, serves merely to reinforce outdated notions of "American simplicity" and "Russian mystery." Viewers are left only to shrug: there is no real comedy here, nor drama and irony. The literary greats would agree in unison that such satire lacks catharsis and merely distorts our understanding of thoughtful, intelligent comedy. And so, "Goodbye" is less a comedic triumph than a farewell to quality satire on Russian television.

### Important Notice

The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.



## Ukraine is forced to confront a brutal Trump reality that it hoped would never happen

**B**ETS were hedged, upside conjured and insurance policies crafted. But ultimately, most hoped it would not happen. Ukraine and its NATO allies have had for months to entertain the idea of a Trump victory, juggling conceits of a strongman US president who might be a yet tougher ally, a dealmaker who might bring a favorable peace, or fresh eyes who might see a new end to a fatiguing war.

This was but a comforting fiction: The road ahead for Kyiv is extremely stark. There should be no enduring mystery about what a Trump presidency means for Ukraine. Donald Trump has said he would end the war "in 24 hours," but not how. He also said that "Zelensky should never have let that war start," and dubbed him "one of the greatest salesmen I have ever seen" who gets \$100 billion on every visit to Congress. As of this morning, the fact these statements are wild exaggerations ceased to really matter. They became the warped lens through which the president-elect of the United States will perceive the largest conflict in Europe since the Nazis. Trump may appoint a cabinet that mildly adjusts the pace or tone of his instincts, but in the end he wants out. It doesn't matter that strategically Ukraine's war has so far provided the Pentagon with a comparatively cheap means of degrading its second greatest adversary at no cost to American life. It is an anathema to two of Trump's first term dislikes: costly US military engagement abroad, and upsetting Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Kremlin's initial response - that US-Russia relations could not get any worse than they are now under President Joe Biden - surely belies glee. The year ahead was for Russia, according to most analysis, a careful gamble. Moscow has been positioning forces on the hilltops around Ukraine's military hubs in the Donbas - near Pokrovsk, Kurakhove, Chasiv Yar - to enable this winter the punishing

squeeze of Kyiv out of the Donetsk region. Success in Donetsk could leave the path to major cities like Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia wide open, making the Ukrainian capital suddenly very vulnerable, and likely tipping the scales of the war. Yet the clock has been ticking on Russia's efforts. Western officials have suggested that its casualty rate - of perhaps 1,200 dead or injured a day - is unsustainable without another major, unpopular Russian mobilization, and that next year Moscow could see a genuine crunch in armor production and ammunition.

Putin played these recent cards hoping Trump would win, on the sure bet he would remain a man of instinct - isolationist and distrustful of America's long-term alliances. Trump is erratic and unpredictable, especially with complex and time-consuming matters like foreign conflicts. He prefers the fast fix of just leaving Afghanistan to the Taliban, or a Singapore face-to-face with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, or a drone strike on Iranian Revolutionary Guard commander Qasem Soleimani. We may never learn if he really studied the direction he imposes on Ukraine, or if he just never again wants to talk about the war, or spend money on it.

Whatever the speed or detail of the Trump approach, the damage will still be palpable in the weeks ahead. I recall in December of last year the massive blow to morale among Ukrainian troops when Congress stalled US military aid for around six months. Frontline troops told me they would have to flee their positions without that help, even if they knew the Biden administration still wanted - in principle - to have their back.

Now they must deal with the tables turned: the possibility that some aid still drips through from the Pentagon and European NATO allies, but that the Trump administration has instead taken a hostile posture at Kyiv's spine. Furthermore, Trump enters

the White House at perhaps the most perilous time for Kyiv since the start of the war. Several analyses of the front line show Ukraine has lost ground at an almost unparalleled pace in October: losing small villages that are inconsequential by themselves, yet in the round amount to a strategic setback that leaves the east acutely vulnerable.

There has long been a policy flaw in NATO's approach; the Biden administration did not want to arm Ukraine forcefully enough that Russia might be militarily defeated, as it feared wider escalation. But Biden also could also not countenance letting Russia prevail. Instead the alliance sked Ukraine to endure, in the hope eventually Putin would crumble. It was the messy contradiction at the heart of the support for Kyiv, yet better than asking Ukraine to surrender. Without the will to fight - the belief that the battle is winnable - it is near impossible to ask Ukrainians to sit under shellfire in a trench, or drive their armor at the deadly fire of enemy positions. Nobody wants to be the last soldier to die in a war; nobody wants to lose their life fighting to protect a family who will likely live under Russian occupation anyway.

Trump's victory may also complicate the very position of Zelensky. For years Zelensky has - to paraphrase Trump - been foremost an outstanding salesman of Ukraine's cause.

Now he is weighed down with immense baggage from Trump's first term when he was emboldened in Trump's requests to investigate the Biden family. Can Zelensky still be that salesman? Is a fresh face in Bankova more likely to garner military aid, or strike a viable peace deal? Those tired of the Ukraine war - be they Kyiv ally or frontline soldier - should still not embrace the idea of a Trump-backed deal. Moscow has proven, in Syria in 2013 and Ukraine in 2015, that it negotiates to buy time to prepare for,

or fulfill, its military goals. Putin will accept whatever territorial gains he can concretize - he already has the gains at the negotiating table. But he will then regroup, and not stop. He has sold the war domestically as Russia facing the massed ranks of the entire NATO alliance. An overheated Russian economy, astronomical death toll and retooling of Russia's industrial base, all in service of that supposed fight, cannot simply be undone. Putin is increasingly needy of the war to retain his grip on power.

This is apparent in his maximalist behavior towards Russia's neighbors in the last month. The recent turmoil in Georgia and Moldova, where pro-Russian forces have challenged pro-European movements with limited success, may see yet greater intervention from Russia in the months ahead. Putin is unlikely to suddenly abandon his hunger for greater regional influence. Remember his original motivation: This war began because he wanted to occupy Ukraine, and keep it out of NATO and the European Union. The Russian blood expended over nearly three years likely demands a greater victory than simply keeping the territorial gains it already has. One vital lesson of the war will meanwhile face a grave assault. For the past two years, Putin's fiercest opponents have pushed the key idea that we need no longer fear Russia; that the Kremlin fanned the fear of its hulking Bear as a psychological weapon to make up for its military decrepitude. Ukraine's unexpected resistance showed that fear was misplaced, and that Moscow had struggled to defeat a neighbor it once scorned as unable to fight.

Now a Trump White House may ask the world to quickly swallow an apparently similar contention that is terrifyingly different: that the West should not be afraid of Russia as it does not really mean much harm. That would be Putin's greatest victory, and the West's sordest weakness.

CNN

## Mad Vlad's 'Red Dawn'

Mark Toth & Jonathan Sweet

**U**s officials are investigating whether the Kremlin is behind a series of attempts to place incendiary devices aboard DHL cargo planes this summer in Germany, England and Poland. Multiple devices were detonated at DHL logistic hubs in Leipzig, Birmingham and Warsaw.

Lithuanian officials on Monday claimed that the explosions "were part of a test run for a Russian plot to trigger explosions on cargo flights to the United States [and Canada]" Targeting civilian aircraft is beneath the pale. Yet Russia has a long history of downing airliners - and it has become part of the Kremlin's playbook. In 1983, Korean Airlines Flight 007 was flying from Anchorage to Seoul when it was shot down by an air-to-air missile launched by a Soviet Sukhoi Su-15 fighter jet. The Boeing 747 airliner had deviated from its route and flown into restricted air space over the Kamchatka Peninsula.

Sadly, 269 people were killed, including US Congressman Larry McDonald. Then-Soviet leader Yuri Andropov quickly blamed the US, claiming the civilian jet had been on a spy mission. Intentional or not, the Russians learned the consequences of targeting civilians. The Cold War was reaching new heights. President Ronald Reagan had labeled the Soviet Union the "Evil Empire" and Americans increasingly were swamped with movies and TV series such as "The Day After" and "Red Dawn." Serendipity or not, the Kremlin had learned how to bring the Cold War into American movie theaters and living rooms, underscoring for all American citizens that they were potentially in Moscow's crosshairs.

Fast forward to 2014. Russian President Vladimir Putin clearly has not forgotten this Soviet era lesson. Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down by a Russian-made BUK surface-to-air missile over airspace controlled by Russian and pro-Kremlin military forces in eastern Ukraine. Two hundred and ninety-eight civilians were killed, including 80 children. Predictably, Putin blamed Ukraine. One day later, Putin disingenuously said, "I would like to note that this tragedy would not have occurred if there were peace in that country, or in any case, if hostilities had not resumed in southeast Ukraine." Putin, of course, ignored that Russia had just forcibly annexed Crimea from Ukraine.

As we first wrote in July, "although Putin's generals are failing on the battlefields of Ukraine, Russia's [intelligence service] is succeeding, conducting espionage, disinformation, sabotage and assassinations. And with Putin at the helm, they may have become the main effort." If Putin is targeting civilian jets, it is not happening in a vacuum. The Kremlin is also waging an espionage and sabotage war against the West - especially in Europe. Now, it seems, Putin is prepared to bring this kind of asymmetrical war to the shores and airspace of America. Notably, a warehouse fire on a US Army supply base in Busan, South Korea

occurred on October 24 - just as reports of North Korean troops in Russia were being verified.

Mad Vlad's overarching calculus is likely intended to create another 9/11-like effect to the US economy. Paralyzing transatlantic air cargo and airline travel not only would be highly disruptive, but economically damaging. In the aftermath of 9/11, real GDP fell by 0.5 percent and 598,000 jobs were lost. His hope? That by kinetically bringing the war in Ukraine home to the American people or at least appearing to do so, Putin is trying to foster the same kind of reactionary Hollywood hysteria that it did in the 1980s. Significantly, six polling stations in Georgia on Tuesday were threatened by what were deemed by the FBI as non-credible threats from Russian actors. The FBI's spokesperson indicated there were similar threats to polling precincts in multiple states - "many of which appear to originate from Russian email domains."

The groundwork for this new Russian "Red Dawn" is already being laid in Europe. Mark Rutte, NATO's new secretary-general, said on Monday that, "Russia is conducting...an intensifying campaign of hybrid attacks across our allied territories, interfering directly in our democracies, sabotaging industry and committing violence."

Rutte continued saying, "This shows that the shift of the frontline in this war is no longer solely in Ukraine. Increasingly, the frontline is moving beyond borders to the Baltic region, to Western Europe and even to the high north." But calling it out is not enough - where is the response? Where is the line in the sand? Especially as it is also spreading globally to the Americas and arguably in the Indo-Pacific, including the two Koreas. Putin's emerging "Red Dawn" is global in construct, reach and aim. He desperately needs to broaden the battlefield beyond Ukraine to win his ever-growing kinetic war against Washington and Brussels. This fight is not going away. Putin is determined to completely destroy the post-World War II global order.

Going forward, it is critical that the West understand that it is in an existential war with Putin and increasingly with Chinese President Xi Jinping. And just as they are relying on their Axis of Evil partners - Iran and North Korea - it is vital that NATO understands that its response to stop this growing "Red Dawn" hinges on two things. One, Ukraine must become part of NATO. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, his generals and the AFU have already earned that right.

Two, Brussels must recognize that its role is now global in nature - and that it must partner with its Asian allies to create a two-ocean defense against Russia and China. NATO in that regard can no longer simply be an Atlantic centric organization. It also must be able to defend European and North American interests in the Pacific. Putin's "Red Dawn" can and should be his end. His targeting of civilian jetliners is a red line that the Biden White House, NATO and the incoming Trump administration must not leave unaddressed.

The Hill

## China trying to fix its economy. Trump could derail those plans

**C**HINA is expected to unveil new measures to boost its flagging economy, as it braces for a second Donald Trump presidency. Trump won the election on a platform that promised steep import taxes, including tariffs as high as 60% on Chinese-made goods. His victory is now likely to hinder Xi Jinping's plans to transform the country into a technology powerhouse - and further strain relations between the world's two biggest economies.

A property slump, rising government debt and unemployment, and low consumption have slowed down Chinese growth since the pandemic. So the stakes are higher than ever for the latest announcement from the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), the executive body of China's legislature. During his first term in office Trump hit Chinese goods with tariffs of as much as 25%.

China analyst Bill Bishop says Trump should be taken at his word about his new tariff plans. "I think we should believe that he means it when [he] talks about tariffs, that he sees China as having reneged on his trade deal, that he thinks China and Covid cost him the 2020 election". The pressure from Washington did not ease after Trump left the White House in 2021. The Biden administration kept the measures in place and in some cases widened them. While the first wave of Trump tariffs were painful for China, the country is now in a much more vulnerable position.

The economy has been struggling to return to pre-pandemic levels of growth since abruptly abandoning its tight Covid restrictions two years ago. Instead of delivering a widely expected fast-paced recovery, China became a regular source of disappointing economic news. Even before Trump's

election victory and after China began rolling out measures to support its economy in September, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered its annual growth target for the country.

The IMF now expects the Chinese economy to expand by 4.8% in 2024, at the lower end of Beijing's "about 5%" target. Next year, it projects China's annual growth rate will drop further to 4.5%. But the country's leaders were not caught entirely off guard by the end to decades of super-fast growth. Speaking in 2017, President Xi said his country planned to transition from "rapid growth to a stage of high-quality development." The term has since been used repeatedly by Chinese officials to describe a shift to an economy driven by advanced manufacturing and green industries.

But some economists say China cannot simply export

João da Silva

itself out of trouble. China risks falling into the type of decades-long stagnation that Japan endured after a stock and property bubble burst in the 1990s, Morgan Stanley Asia's former chairman, Stephen Roach, says. To avoid that fate, he says China should draw "on untapped consumer demand" and move away from "export and investment-led growth". That would not only encourage more sustainable growth but also lower "trade tensions and [China's] vulnerability to external shocks," he says. This more robust economic model could help China fend off the kind of threats posed by Trump's return to power.

But China, which has long been the world's factory for low-cost goods, is trying to replicate that success with high-tech exports. It is already a world leader in solar panels, electric vehicles (EVs) and lithium ion batter-

ies. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) China now accounts for at least 80% of solar panel production. It is also the biggest maker of EVs and the batteries that power them. The IEA said last year that China's investments in clean energy accounted for a third of the world's total, as the country continued to show "remarkable progress in adding renewable capacity." "For sure there is an overall effort to support high-tech manufacturing in China," says David Lubin, a senior research fellow at London based-think tank, Chatham House. "This has been very successful", he adds.

Exports of electric vehicles, lithium ion batteries and solar panels jumped 30% in 2023, surpassing one trillion yuan (\$139bn; £108bn) for the first time as China continued to strengthen its global dominance in each of those industries. That export growth has helped soften the

blow to China's economy of the ongoing property crisis. "China's overcapacity will increase, there is no doubt about it. They have no other source of growth," said Alicia Garcia-Herrero, chief economist for the Asia Pacific region at investment bank Natixis. But along with those increased exports, there has been a rise in resistance from Western countries, and not just the US. Just last month, the European Union increased tariffs on Chinese-built EVs to as much as 45%. "The problem right now is that large recipients of those goods including Europe and the US are increasingly reluctant to receive them," said Katrina Ell, research director at Moody's Analytics. Today, as Trump is set to head back to the Oval Office with a pledge to hammer Chinese imports, Beijing will have to ask itself whether its latest measures to boost its slowing economy will be enough.

BBC



# Trump’s triumph is a disaster for Starmer and self-regarding, virtue-signalling elites

AMERICA is now Trump country, at war with progressivism, open borders, international bureaucracies, net zero, Jihadism, military adventurism and the Left-wing media. The old order is dead, never to be resuscitated; for better or for worse, American politics has finally caught up with globalisation, deindustrialisation, the resurrection of history (contra Francis Fukuyama) and the internet's explosive rise.

Donald Trump is 78, but he is a very modern politician with an intuitive grasp of how social fragmentation and the rise and fall of institutions can work for him. He has learnt to bypass network news and The New York Times. His brand of populist, multi-racial, working-class, highly online, Right-wing politics has captured the new centre-ground. It now looks as if 2016 was a mere dry run, derailed by Covid; 2024 is the real deal, a revolutionary moment, a reconstitution and realignment of American and Western politics around fresh principles, many excellent but some much more malign. Trump thus appears to have clinched the majority of the US popular vote, the first time for Republicans since George W Bush in 2004 in the wake of 9/11. The party previously won an overall majority in 1988, when George H W Bush triumphed on Ronald Reagan's coat-tails. The Republicans have also recaptured the Senate, and may well have retained the House. Trump's vote in New York state, a Leftist bastion, was higher, at over 44 per cent, than the Tory high points in Britain in 1979 or 2019.

Demographics isn't destiny. The exit polls suggest a 3-point swing away from Trump for whites, more than cancelled out by a 13-point

swing to Republicans by Hispanics, a 6-point swing by Asians and a 12-point shift among "others", all of whom increasingly vote according to their conservative values and economic self-interest. Trump made massive gains among non-white voters with or without a degree, while Harris won over male and female white voters with a degree. Zapata County, Texas, which is 94 per cent Hispanic, voted 61 per cent for Trump. Osceola, the most Puerto Rican county in Florida, fell to Trump on a 14-point swing.

Voters are crying out for a crack-down on crime. They don't want mass illegal immigration, even if they are immigrants themselves. They hate inflation. They want higher wages. They believe in the American dream, and are sick of the Democratic party's anti-Western self-loathing, its unwillingness to properly fight Islamism and absurd campus extremism, its hateful normalisation of anti-Semitism, its anti-meritocratic wokery, its rejection of biological reality when it comes to sex. They are tired of wars, which is fair enough; sadly, Trump's tragically misguided lack of support for Ukraine is also popular.

For Keir Starmer, the EU and the West's Left-wing elites more generally, the scale of Trump's triumph, and the fact that his team is much more professional this time around, is an existential disaster, the greatest blow since Brexit. Trump will rightly want Britain and the rest of Europe to spend more on defence: this will ruin Rachel Reeves' fiscal plans. If he imposes a 3 per cent of GDP military spending target for Nato, where will she find another 0.7 per cent of GDP? Will Britain allocate more resources to Ukraine if

Allister Heath

Trump cuts Volodymyr Zelensky off, or will Starmer, humiliatingly, sign up to whatever deal Trump forces upon Kyiv? As to the EU, it will prove itself irretrievably split.

Trump could veto the Chagos deal. He looks set to tackle the Iranian regime, especially given intelligence concerning a plot to assassinate him: what will his reaction be when he realises that Britain refuses to ban the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps ? His administration will have no truck with Britain's role in the persecution of Israel. The International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice could easily be sanctioned by the US. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees will be defunded, and an assertive US administration will begin to treat those nations that don't toe the line as hostile.

Gilt yields had already shot up as a result of Reeves' extra borrowing; the prospect of a higher deficit in the US has sent global bond yields even higher, which will cost Reeves even more in interest payments. Trump will torpedo The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's corporate tax harmonisation scheme, exposing Britain's lack of competitiveness. Lower taxes and deregulation in the US will accelerate the exodus of talent and capital from Britain. The Trump administration will react with fury (and potential sanctions) if British competition authorities crack down on US tech firms, or if regulators attack Elon Musk's X social network. Any decision by Trump to slap massive tariffs on US imports would be a grave error, and push the UK into recession.

With Joe Biden gone, Starmer has

lost his biggest environmental ally: Trump wants to frack, and to cancel the Democratic green deal. He wants to quit the Paris Agreement, exposing the net zero project as a sham, ignored by emerging markets and the world's largest economy alike. Britain will be pursuing higher prices and extensive rationing just as America opts for cheap energy, and it will be a calamity. Musk, one of Trump's key advisers, supports decarbonisation, but via technological innovations that protect consumers. That is the right way to create sustainable environmental improvements, but is anathema to Ed Miliband and Starmer's command-and-control approach.

Starmer will need to make up with the world's most brilliant industrialist, who keeps tweeting insults at him and dismissing him as "two-tier Keir". The trouble is that Musk and many of Trump's other aides now have a dark, dystopian, often exaggerated view of Britain's problems that could further toxify US-UK relations and destroy what is left of the special relationship. I miss no opportunity to decry the UK's numerous pathologies, our lack of robustness towards extremists, our rampant crime and our insufficient protections for free speech. But many Republicans believe in a caricature of Britain and London, and often fail to understand UK law on contempt or incitement. Their critique goes too far, and they regularly retweet nonsense. Donald Trump is a natural Britophile; his mother was Scottish-born and he loved meeting the Queen. Starmer needs to unleash a charm offensive before it is too late, but the reality is that Trump's triumph is likely to be fatal for Starmer's socialistic vision of Britain.

The Telegraph

## A major Russian terrorist attack is now only a matter of time

RUSSIA'S shadow war against the West continues to intensify rapidly. On Monday, Poland exposed the Kremlin's plans to export camouflaged explosives to Britain and the EU. Once these parcels landed on European soil, they would transit by air to the US and Canada, triggering a mass casualty event mid-flight. Russia has furiously denied Poland's allegations, but the scheme outlined by Polish officials may already have taken root. On 22 July, a device mysteriously exploded at a DHL warehouse in Minworth near Birmingham. This incident followed a similar detonation at a DHL depot in Leipzig, Germany. Both incidents are being investigated as Russia sponsored arson attacks.

Why is Russia allegedly using arson attacks as a tool of hybrid warfare? The story begins with the breakdown in Russia-West relations that followed Putin's 2014

annexation of Crimea and invasion of Donbas. In October 2014, an explosion at a warehouse in the Czech Republic destroyed 50 tonnes of ammunition and killed two bystanders. In December, a second explosion occurred in the same facility and detonated 50 tons of ammunition. GRU agents were eventually implicated in these attacks. The story then moves forward to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, when more than 600 Russian diplomats were expelled from European embassies. Many of them were intelligence officers using diplomatic cover.

These expulsions restricted Russia's ability to carry out traditional espionage and forced it to rely more heavily on criminal networks and lone-wolf assets. In June, Germany's BfV domestic intelligence agency unmasked this tactic. To partially compensate for the loss of its undercover spies,

Samuel Ramani

Russia paid two German nationals 400,000 euros apiece to commit acts of high treason. Ukraine's acquisition of F-16 fighter jets, use of Nato-class weaponry against Russian targets and incursion into western Russia's Kursk region added kerosene to the flames.

As empty threats of nuclear Armageddon and strikes on Nato weapons supply routes to Ukraine lose their potency, Russia is using terrorism as a tool of deterrence. One of its first acts was hiring a 20-year-old Leicestershire man Dylan Earl to carry out an arson attack against a Ukrainian-owned warehouse in east London in March. It was only a similar attack on an Ikea store in Vilnius, Lithuania in May and Polish prime minister Donald Tusk's subsequent warnings of foreign instigation that caused Europe to take notice. While the demolition of Russian spy networks through periodic arrests and public warn-

ings of Russia's malign activities are positive steps, so much more needs to be done. In April 2021, former MI6 chief John Sawers estimated that only 10 per cent of Russia's espionage operations in Britain had been uncovered. Belgian and Latvian officials have issued similar warnings in recent months.

Accused Russian spies still operate in European embassies. One example is Russian chargé d'affaires in Brussels Kirill Logvinov, who engages with European officials in plain sight. Due to its reliance on Russian nuclear energy, Hungary has streamlined the arrival of Russian nationals into its territory. This exposes the entire Schengen zone to espionage and sabotage. The West needs to call out Russia's hybrid warfare for what it is: state-sponsored terrorism. Unity and urgency must define the West's response to this threat. Yet still we bury our heads in the sand. What will wake us up?

## Americans rejected false media narratives

FORMER President Donald Trump's dominant victory on Tuesday night over Vice President Kamala Harris will be dissected and micro-analyzed. Dozens of arguments will be made for why it happened. Whatever you believe, you have options. You can make a case about policy or personalities, or you can drape yourself in sanctimony and blame America.

So with that caveat, let's attempt to locate some objective reality about the circumstances of what has truly been the most bizarre election year in recent memory - and particularly the chaotic, almost incomprehensible final four months.

It's fair to assess that most Americans fully rejected the framing employed by large portions of the mainstream media about the stakes in the election. They didn't buy that Trump is "the tyrant George Washington feared," as The Atlantic screamed. They don't believe that Trump represents "American fascism," as the New Republic tried to argue. The core thesis from the Trump-addicted Acela media was that Trump was a threat to "democracy," and that Harris was positioned as the "unity" candidate. These were the narrative throughlines presented.

And yet there is good reason to see them as antithetical to how the average American views these issues. This fundamental disconnect is why

the press failed to convince the country to rebuff Trump on Tuesday. The "democracy" framing predated Trump's November 2022 announcement that he was running for reelection. It was central to the Jan. 6 committee's theatrics, which had zero effect in moving the needle for the American public on the issue.

Then the Democrats went and replaced their nominee, the current president, without a democratic process. They just swapped him out - not without good reason, but still - and installed a new candidate no one had voted for, relying on the input of a few thousand delegates rather than voters. While the media initially showed real interest in doing journalism about the Democratic nominee after the Biden-Trump presidential debate, journalists abandoned that mission as soon as Harris was installed as nominee. There was no attempt to contextualize or explore the discomfort of eschewing "democracy" to try to win the election, thus softening the talking point.

Then there's the issue of "unity." The Democrats made former Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) a centerpiece of their campaign. She appeared at rallies and town halls under the "country above party" framing. The media gleefully played along, proping Cheney up as a representative of

Steve Krakauer

the right to support that narrative. But the reality is that Cheney had been thoroughly rejected by the right in recent years - including by her own constituents - and she and her father have been historically, passionately rejected by the left for decades. On the other side, Trump built an actual "unity" coalition with former Democrat Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who laid out his clear and concise mission with expertly executed stagecraft in his perfectly timed endorsement rally with Trump the day after the Democratic National Convention. Free speech, ending foreign wars, "Make America Healthy Again" - these are liberal or even legitimately progressive ideas. The movement spread, bringing in Elon Musk's libertarian "government efficiency" plans. The mainstream press either ignored this entirely or scoffed at it, making it a massively under-covered story of this cycle.

The narrative was that "unity" was on the left, but in fact such unity was more objectively forming on the right. Meanwhile, Trump gained steam while largely ignoring the traditional press, using a unique media strategy that included long-form interviews with comedian podcasters Theo Von and Andrew Schulz, golfing with Bryson DeChambeau and eventually doing a sit-down with the podcaster-in-chief, Joe Rogan (who

would endorse Trump on the eve of the election). These interviewers let their intellectual honesty and curiosity reveal Trump in a different light - not one spun by years of negative narrative construction, but one that was obviously authentic and un-fakeable.

There were many mini-hoaxes pushed by the press during 2024, most recently with the lie last week that Trump wanted to assassinate Liz Cheney. The press practically spent more time covering that non-story than the actual assassination attempt of Trump - another clear reality vs. narrative moment that exposed the facade. How is the Butler assassination attempt not a dominant story, except to push a narrative that is at odds with reality? The 2024 election results are the triumph of reality over narrative - the public understanding, and rejecting, the media's premise entirely.

And this realization extends beyond just the media. The establishment consensus-pushers across politics, science, academia, tech and more have been thoroughly exposed, and recognized as "Zombie Elites" by a wide and diverse coalition of Americans. But beware of what comes next as we enter the Trump Era sequel - there will be hysterical flailing over the loss of power and influence by the establishment, which will not go down without a fight.

Jeff Hoopes

## Trump needs to tackle national debt

THE 2024 presidential race is over, and Donald Trump is back in the White House. The Dow and S&P are celebrating, suggesting investors are optimistic about Trump's effect on Wall Street. But, for all the fanfare, we still face an ominous challenge: The nation's unsustainable debt and deficit. Regardless of who won, with the path we are on, we are all in trouble, unless some-thing changes.

America's debt recently surpassed \$35.88 trillion, a sum so large it's almost incomprehensible. That is a stack of hundred dollar bills about the same size as the Earth's circumference - over 24 thousand miles tall. The federal deficit alone for 2024 topped \$1.83 trillion. Year after year, we've operated on what feels like a limitless credit card, passing the bill onto future generations, spending like

drunken sailors with limitless credit lines leaving future generations to wake up to the hangover of our reckless binge.

Oddly enough, back in 1999, it was Donald Trump who talked about solving this very problem. In his book "The America We Deserve," Trump offered ideas for putting the US on a more sustainable path. Granted, his proposals weren't great (they were actually kind of bad, in my opinion). But Trump's message then was a rare acknowledgment from a public figure that our fiscal policy was reckless and needed reform. And, to be clear, that was back when the national debt was less than \$6 trillion and we were headed into a couple years of deficit surpluses.

Now, he has a unique opportunity to confront the debt crisis head-on.

Trump's second term frees him from the usual political pressures. He doesn't personally have to worry about re-election, pleasing donors, or maneuvering through the usual political calculus. This means he can make the hard choices that others might shy away from. Trump can do what he claims he excels at - taking actions that those raised in the swamp refuse to. If he steps up, he could genuinely save America from what may be one of its most severe long-term threats.

This will require sacrifices. He can help push Congress toward making changes that will put the nation on more secure fiscal footing. This will require changing the tax code, cutting spending in ways that will be painful, reforming entitlement programs, etc. - everything should be on the table. Many of these changes will

be unpopular. In today's polarized political environment, these actions are so divisive that they're rarely even discussed by politicians. But this is precisely why Trump might be able to pull them off. He has never shied away from controversy or backlash. If ever we needed someone who is divisive and willing to break golden calves, it's now. Trump might be exactly the kind of person willing the slaughter the cows sacred to both sides and put the nation on a more sustainable path.

Trump's electoral victory will be much less meaningful if he leaves office in four years without addressing our debt and deficit problems. Without bold action now, we're on a path toward economic instability. Trump has the opportunity - and the responsibility - to help us pivot away from this cliff. Here's hoping he's willing to take the leap.

The Hill

# Cutting waste would help us cut carbon emissions

WE are living in a moment of profound global disorder, more and more painfully visible every day. Humans have become a danger to each other, to the planet, and to themselves. Our attention is ruled so intensely by the conflicts raging in Gaza, in Lebanon, in Ukraine, between Israel and Iran, between China and Taiwan, that the subject of the ongoing destruction of our environment has almost disappeared.

Instead, we hear talk of investing further in weaponry and more sophisticated destruction. The crucial objective of deeply cutting carbon emissions hardly registers anymore on our radar. But all around the world we are witnessing heavy climate disturbance and extreme weather phenomena. We have recently seen yet more hurricanes rip through the US.

Climatologist Michael Mann says hurricanes have become 40 percent more deadly in recent years due to climate change, while a recent report shows that rain events have become 20-30 percent stronger and winds 10 percent stronger. We do not need to be told this, as we have all experienced disturbed weather and climate wherever we live. After a historic drought in North Africa, the largest hot desert in the world, the Sahara Desert, experienced record rainfall, forming large lakes in the middle of the desert.

This unpredictability is a very ominous sign of what is to come. Noble intentions to reduce carbon emissions, enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement, lie almost null and void, considering that our burning of fossil fuels has increased in recent years. We would have to cut our carbon emissions by around 50 percent if we were to have a chance of reaching our objectives of limiting average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, but right now we are on track for a devastating 3 C increase.

If you can imagine living with a 40 C fever every day, that is essentially what our planet would experience, regularly unleashing deadly and devastating climate phenomena. The concept of cutting emissions may be too abstract for our simple brains to understand, so let us focus on cutting waste instead. Waste has become a major part of our way of life and global economy. We waste so much plastic (only 10 percent is recycled) that our oceans will soon contain more plastic by weight than fish.

Hassan Bin Youssef Yassin

One-third of all food we produce goes to waste, representing almost 10 percent of global carbon emissions. It is estimated that 10 percent of global energy production and 30 percent of water is wasted through inefficiencies in transmission. Almost 30 percent of energy used in homes in the developed world is wasted, and, on average, 60 percent of water used for agriculture is wasted.

While humans only

sions, but also in the rising inequalities around the world and our need for constant growth, new gadgets and never-ending consumption. By reducing both waste and consumption, essentially moving towards a circular economy that is able to reuse and recycle the materials we use, the

MacArthur Foundation estimates we could reduce carbon emissions by almost 40 percent by 2050, while generating major economic benefits through greater efficiency

Waste has become a major part of our way of life and global economy. We waste so much plastic (only 10 percent is recycled) that our oceans will soon contain more plastic by weight than fish. One-third of all food we produce goes to waste, representing almost 10 percent of global carbon emissions. It is estimated that 10 percent of global energy production and 30 percent of water is wasted through inefficiencies in transmission.

require 15-20 liters of water a day to meet their basic needs, the average American uses 8,300 liters (or 2,200 gallons) per day through various forms of consumption. Just nine percent of the almost 100 billion tons of minerals, fossil fuels, metals, and biomass that enter the economy every year are recycled, while 62 percent of global carbon emissions are created during the extraction, processing, and manufacturing of goods. Clearly, just reducing waste — a simple enough concept for all to understand — would allow us to cut a sizable proportion of global carbon emissions.

We must rethink not only our daily way of life but also the very underpinnings of our global economy, which encourages overproduction, overconsumption and tremendous amounts of waste at every turn. For us to make any difference, we need the participation of everyone, from kindergartens to old people's homes. It is essential that we educate a new generation to be fully aware of our actions and their direct consequences on our environment. This is a multi-generational battle, but one in which we can make a difference quite quickly.

Our capitalist system has hit a wall, not only in terms of waste and carbon emis-

and lower material costs. According to the UN Development Program, we could lift almost one billion people out of hunger by tackling food waste and loss. Meanwhile, the International Resource Panel says improved waste management could save up to 40 percent in global energy demand by 2050. These are all changes well within our reach, and easily understood by all.

We are all participants in the journey that humanity and our planet are on. We can either choose to close our eyes to the waste and pollution which are threatening the lives of future generations, or we can do our part. Simply paying attention to the food, water, and energy we use and what we actually need every day can make a tremendous difference on a large scale. Our governments will also be called upon to assist us by putting in place the necessary infrastructure to recycle more, to redistribute food, and to reduce overconsumption.

This may require some initial economic discomfort for our system. But as we learn to live better lives, we will also begin to enjoy its benefits both in our individual lives and in a more efficient and less wasteful global economy. As the saying goes: "Don't be useless. Use less."

## Britain must now roll out red carpet for Trump

Nigel Farage

THEY still don't get it! Perhaps the most enjoyable part of being witness to Donald Trump's victory - easily the greatest comeback in modern political history - has been watching the reaction of liberal commentators, both in the United Kingdom and in the USA. In their eyes, it is 2016 all over again, as though a dark cloud has descended over the Western world.

This attitude also extends to the Democratic Party, whose chief protagonists are, as I write this from a hotel room in West Palm Beach, giving a press conference in New York. They're talking about gender alignment and immigrant rights. What none of them can or will see is that Trump has put together a new electoral coalition of the most remarkable breadth.

This is the first time for 20 years that the Republican Party has won a majority of the vote in a US presidential election. Trump managed to do this by getting a record number of black and Hispanic voters to come the Republicans' way. These communities care about the family, they deeply resent illegal immigrants coming into their country, and they are looking for robust leadership. The same goes for the under-30s, especially young men who look up to Trump as a figure of strength. Above all else, most Americans wanted an economy that fires on all cylinders. Trump will give that to them.

It is fair to argue that Trump's victory is bringing American society together in a quite remarkable way, rather than dividing it as

liberal commentators choose to think. That principle of coalition applies to the leadership of the campaign itself. While Trump, by necessity, remained the dominant figure, it was the additions of Elon Musk and Robert Kennedy Jr. that offered the American public the chance to consider what is now a much more extensive Republican Party.

Vice presidential candidate J. D. Vance spoke of aspiration, of the American dream, and of the idea that anyone can succeed regardless of the circumstances from which they come. It is no wonder people found this inspirational. Trump's victory will have profound consequences for politics across the Western world, including in the United Kingdom. At the moment, Britain's energy costs are among the most expensive globally, thanks partly to our socialist government's green policies. Might Trump's cheaper energy policies now influence our own?

There are also parallels on the thorny topic of immigration. Legal immigration has been running at record levels in Britain but it is illegal immigration that has really outraged the British public, just as voters in America have become furious by the huge numbers crossing the Rio Grande.

The sense of disconnect between our political class and the people who live outside the M25 is as wide as it is in the USA. Ditto in Europe. Americans have had enough and are looking to Trump to solve the problem. You can bet Britons feel similar impatience.

Those from younger

generations with no traditional tie to any political party are beginning to shape a very different future. The vast majority look up to Trump and will, in their way, seek to emulate him. Be in no doubt, politics, including our own, is moving rightwards.

All of this will put pressure on a Labour Party that has been deeply dislodging about Trump. Perhaps the biggest worry that Sir Keir Starmer faces in policy terms is that Trump has announced a big tariff regime. Britain is, potentially, in a fortunate position. Such tariffs might be avoided - but only by direct negotiations with Team Trump, something of which Starmer's friends in the European Union would not approve. Which way will Starmer jump?

On defence, I see deep tensions over the surrender of the Chagos Islands, in particular America's long-term use of the base at Diego Garcia. Britain is really going to have to roll out the red carpet for Trump very quickly. If we don't, a great opportunity will be squandered. I'm overjoyed that this process has already begun, with our very sensible Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, making clear that Trump will be able to address Parliament during his State visit next year. However, there is no time to waste. If I can be helpful in any way when it comes to bridging the divide that exists between Starmer's Government and Trump, I will be glad to assist. I might not agree with almost anything that Starmer and his Cabinet stand for, but I do believe in something called the national interest.





# Food Authority ’s 8-day campaign against sale of substandard meat continues

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority has commenced an eight-day crackdown on the sale of substandard meat across the province.

Under the directive of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur and Food Minister Zahir Shah Toru, the campaign which started on November 8, will continue until November 15, targeting meat shops and slaughterhouses in multiple cities.

Giving details, the spokesperson for the Food Authority said that special inspection teams, led by Assistant Directors of Food, have been formed to inspect meat quality, halal certification, and storage standards adding that inspections are underway at various districts in KP.

Teams are conducting inspections along key routes to verify compliance with food safety SOPs and to prevent the sale of harmful or low-quality meat.

On the first day of the campaign, the spokesper-

son informed that food safety teams confiscated a significant quantity of substandard meat, including 800 kg in Peshawar, 40 kg in Mardan, 8 kg in Haripur, and 50 kg in Hangu. Heavy fines were imposed on several violators, and one shop was sealed. Follow-up inspections are also planned to reinforce the campaign's impact.

Director General of the Food Authority Wasif Saeed, reiterated the authority's commitment to ensuring safe food for the public, emphasizing that

similar initiatives will continue in the future.

Secretary for Food Department, Saqib Raza Aslam, added that these efforts aim to raise food quality standards and eliminate substandard products from the market.

Meanwhile, Food Minister Zahir Shah Toru has lauded the campaign and issued a stern warning to those involved in the sale of unsafe meat, stating, "Strict action will be taken against anyone found violating health standards and no leniency will be shown."



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority teams conducting inspections to verify compliance with food safety SOPs and to prevent sale of harmful or low-quality meat.

# FRIA asks govt to raise tax base to strengthen tax-to-GDP ratio

## F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Ferozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has advocated the need for raising the country's tax base so that tax-to-GDP ratio improves from current poor level.

FRIA senior vice chairman Shehbaz Aslam urged the trade officers to explore opportunities to diversify exports of goods and services in their respective areas, asking them to meet the challenges faced by Pakistan in European markets.

In this regard, the bank has introduced refinancing schemes specifically for renewable energy projects, under which financing of PKR 94.7 billion has been provided as of June 2024.

These schemes have supported over 4,500 renewable energy projects with a total production capacity of approximately 2,061 MW.

Additionally, the State Bank, in collaboration with the World Bank, is working on developing a comprehensive green taxonomy to establish a standardized framework for classifying environmentally friendly activities.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Shahbaz Aslam said that Pakistan's exports to the US and the UK, two high-priced markets, have seen substantial growth in the first quarter of the current financial year. However, exports to China have sharply declined during the same period, according to country-specific data released by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

The UK has overtaken China to become the second-largest export market for Pakistani products. The US remains the top export market for Pakistan, with exports to the country crossing the \$1 billion mark in the first quarter. Exports stood at \$1,454 billion, compared to \$1,309 billion in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year, registering an 11 per cent increase.

The UK ranked second, importing \$580 million worth of Pakistani goods, reflecting a 14 per cent growth compared to \$509 million last year. Exports to China, however, saw a decline of 23 per cent, falling to \$559 million from \$730 million in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.

In addition to the US and UK, Germany, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Netherlands, Spain, Afghanistan, and Italy were also major export markets, with exports to each of these countries surpassing or nearing the \$300 million mark.

Exports during the July-September period of FY25 were recorded at \$7.875 billion, compared to \$6.901 billion in the same period

last year. Textile exports were the largest contributor, totalling \$4.786 billion in the first three months of the current fiscal year.

The FRIA SVC pointed out that administrative measures to curb imports, leading to raw material shortage for the industry and resultantly lower production, were the main reason for the plunge while the slowdown in global demand amid monetary tightening was another reason, he said.

He said that Pakistan has remained a potential market for foreign investors, who still have plans to make fresh investment in the country, but they have continued to wait for the return of economic stability. He highlighted uncertainty in the rupee-dollar parity as one of the major concerns of foreign investors.

# S&P 500 breaks 6,000 level as Trump, Fed-fueled rally advances

NEW YORK (Reuters): The S&P 500 briefly surpassed the 6,000 mark and closed with its biggest weekly percentage gain in a year, as Donald Trump's election victory and a possible Republican Party sweep in Congress fueled expectations for favorable business policies.

Also supporting stocks this week was a widely expected interest rate cut of 25 basis points by the Federal Reserve on Thursday.

The S&P 500 and the Dow Industrials (.DJI) opens new tab registered their best weekly percentage jump since early November 2023, while the Nasdaq (.IXIC), opens new tab notched its best week in two months and second-best week of 2024.

Investors were also monitoring for a likely "Red Sweep" as Republicans were set to keep their narrow lead in the House of Representatives after winning control of the Senate. That would make it easier for Trump to enact his legislative plans.

Expectations for lower corporate taxes and deregulation lifted the Nasdaq to record closing highs for three straight sessions. The S&P secured its 50th record close of the year.

"It is a psychologically important number but with all the developments this week, I don't think it's terribly important if we close at 6,005 or if we close at 5,995. The market is way up this week," said Mike Dickson, head of research and quantitative strategies at Horizon Investments in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"There's been so many things, so much good news for the market this week as evidenced by the prices. All of that far outweighs whether or not we're on the right or left hand side of that 6,000 number when the close happens."

The Dow Jones Industrial Average (.DJI), opens new tab rose 259.65 points, or 0.59%, to 43,988.99, the S&P 500 (.SPX), opens new tab gained 22.44 points, or 0.38%, to 5,995.54 and the Nasdaq Composite (.IXIC), opens new tab gained 17.32 points, or 0.09%, to 19,286.78.

For the week, the S&P 500 gained 4.66%, the Nasdaq rose 5.74%, and the Dow climbed 4.61%.

The Dow rose above 44,000 for the first time, in part due to a late boost from Salesforce (CRM.N), opens new tab, which climbed 3.59% after Bloomberg reported the software company will hire 1,000

employees to promote its artificial intelligence Agentforce Tool.

The S&P 500 and Nasdaq secured their fourth straight session of gains.

Rate-sensitive sectors such as real estate (.SPLR-CR), opens new tab and utilities (.SPLRCU), opens new tab were the best performing of the 11 major S&P 500 groups as Treasury yields fell for a second straight session after a sharp jump following the election.

But the benchmark 10-year US Treasury note yield (.YS10YT=RR), opens new tab remained near a four-month high, and markets have scaled back expectations for the pace of Fed rate cuts in 2025 as concerns remain over the incoming administration's proposed tariffs which are likely to rekindle inflation.

The small cap Russell 2000 (.RUT), opens new tab also advanced and was up 8.51% for the week, registering its largest weekly percentage gain since April 2020, as domestically concentrated stocks are seen as likely to benefit from easier regulations, lower taxes and less exposure to import tariffs.

US consumer sentiment rose to a seven-month high in early November, with a

measure of households' expectations for the future climbing to the highest in more than three years, led by brightening outlooks among Republicans, the University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment Index showed.

Airbnb (ABNB.O), opens new tab shares dropped 8.66% after the homestay company missed third-quarter profit estimates, while social media company Pinterest (PINS.N), opens new tab tumbled 14% after a disappointing revenue forecast.

US-listings of Chinese companies lost ground as the government's latest fiscal support measures once again failed to impress investors. JD.com fell 6.99% and Alibaba lost 5.94%.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 1.7-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and by a 1.21-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

The S&P 500 posted 88 new 52-week highs and 10 new lows while the Nasdaq Composite recorded 211 new highs and 108 new lows.

Volume on US exchanges was 15.46 billion shares, compared with the 12.74 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days.

# KP's struggle for justice: KP's unyielding fight for Net Hydel Profit

## Sahibzada Umair Ahmad

For decades, the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have borne witness to a relentless struggle—a fight not just for resources, but for justice, dignity, and the rights enshrined in the Constitution. In the face of systemic neglect and bureaucratic manoeuvring by the Federal Government and the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), KP's government has stood as a bulwark of resilience and heroism. With courage and determination, the province has fought valiantly for its rightful share of Net Hydel Profit (NHP), despite every effort to undermine and delay its claims. This is not just a financial battle; it is a fight for the very future of KP and its people. While the Federal Government and WAPDA continue to entangle KP's NHP claim in a web of red tape, the provincial leadership has remained steadfast, refusing to be silenced or sidelined. With every setback, KP has only grown stronger, evolving its strategies, and confronting the powerful forces working against it. The province's struggle is a testament to its unwavering commitment to securing what is rightfully its own—funds that could transform the lives of millions, fuel development, and bring prosperity to a region that has long been denied its due.

## Way Forward:

The time has come to confront a harsh truth: the Net Hydel Profit (NHP) calculated through the Kazi Committee Methodology (KCM) is no longer valid. The records and documents lay bare a reality we can no longer ignore. The echoes of political slogans must now fade, for the hour demands action—bold, decisive action—to secure what remains of the NHP claim for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and chart a course for the future.

Six paths lie before us, each fraught with its own challenges, yet each offering a way forward.

Option 1: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa must strive to compel Federal Government to increase the rate from 1.1/kWh to Rs 3/kWh. This will make a claim of Rs 58 billion per annum for KP.

Option 2: Imagine the power coursing through KP, generated by 12 mighty stations with a combined force of 5,626 MW. These are not just numbers; they are the lifeblood of the province. With a Net Book Value of Rs 138 billion, these hydropower stations hold the key to reducing our NHP liabilities. Should we dare to acquire them all, the remaining burden would shrink to Rs 513 billion—a colossal sum, but one

that could be managed without pushing the Federal Budget to the brink.

Option 3: Yet, there is another way—one that beckons with promises of rapid transformation but at a cost. The Federal Government could wield its financial might, raising debt to fuel KP's development. Picture it: a subordinated loan of Rs 110 billion for the DI Khan-Peshawar Motorway, a Rs 200 billion infusion into the KP Infrastructure Fund, and Rs 180 billion channelled into the Chashma Right Bank Canal. The impact would be immediate, the benefits tangible. But the price? The NHP liabilities would be slashed to a mere Rs 23 billion.

Option 4: Subsidizing grid prices for KP's industry and business sectors through PESCO/TESCO will attract investment, boosting KP's GDP and federal tax revenues. This subsidy, estimated at PKR 14.5 billion annually, will be funded by the federal budget and reduce the annual NHP flow to GoKP. The subsidy is expected to double in the next five years.

Option 5: Leveraging KP's gas resources as a competitive advantage, any future gas price increases may be adjusted against KP's NHP flow. The federal budget will fund this subsidy, estimated at PKR 13.2 billion annually, with the potential to multiply 2-3 times over five years.

Option 6: Subsidizing wheeling charges for KP's hydropower projects will attract private investment and boost underserved areas. The federal budget will fund this, adjusting PKR 2.6 billion against the annual NHP flow. If Malakand-III exits its PPA, an additional PKR 2.9 billion upfront payment could be adjusted against the NHP stock.

The choices are stark, the consequences profound. As the clock ticks down, we stand at a crossroads, with the future of KP hanging in the balance. Will we seize control of our destiny, or let this opportunity slip through our fingers? The answer lies in the path we choose to tread.

## Conclusion:

The saga of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's quest for its rightful share of Net Hydel Profit (NHP) has reached a sobering juncture. Once anchored in the Kazi Committee Methodology (KCM), KP's claim has been steadily whittled down, morphing from a constitutional demand into nothing more than a hollow political slogan. The relentless march of bureaucratic manoeuvres and the calculated delays by federal authorities have led to an undeniable conclusion: KP has, for all intents and purposes, lost its claim to NHP under KCM. What was once a rallying cry for provincial rights has been reduced to a rhetorical tool wielded by a select few, more for political mileage than for genuine redressal.

In the end, the choice before KP is stark: continue to chase the shadows of a lost claim or embrace a new approach that promises real, tangible gains. The time for political posturing has passed; now is the moment for decisive action. By adopting these forward-looking options, KP can secure its rightful dues, not through outdated rhetoric, but through strategic, calculated moves that align with the current economic landscape. The future of KP's NHP claim hangs in the balance—will the province seize the opportunity, or let it slip away? The answer lies in the choices made today.

sahibz\_umair@hotmail.com

# Refinancing schemes introduced

KARACHI (PPI): The Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad, attended a seminar on promoting green bonds and green financing at the State Bank in Karachi.

According to a statement, he emphasized that the State Bank is working proactively to create a favorable environment for the financial industry and businesses to thrive in the green economy.

In this regard, the bank has introduced refinancing schemes specifically for renewable energy projects, under which financing of PKR 94.7 billion has been provided as of June 2024.

These schemes have supported over 4,500 renewable energy projects with a total production capacity of approximately 2,061 MW.

Additionally, the State Bank, in collaboration with the World Bank, is working on developing a comprehensive green taxonomy to establish a standardized framework for classifying environmentally friendly activities.

# Consumer prices increased

SHANGHAI (AFP/APP): China's consumer inflation rate slowed in October, official data showed Saturday, in a sign that demand remains sluggish in the world's number two economy.

The slowdown comes as authorities have been seeking to boost domestic activity as a property crisis weighs on confidence.

The consumer price index (CPI), a key measure of inflation, rose 0.3 percent year-on-year in October, down from 0.4 percent in September, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.

The latest figure came in below the 0.4 percent forecast in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

The data was released after Chinese lawmakers on Friday unveiled a sweeping plan to lift local government debt and boost spending.

While many major Western economies have been grappling with the threat of high inflation, China has instead been battling low or negative prices.

# Transforming governance: The role of RTPS Commission

## Sajid Anwar Wardag

No matter how different the system of government and governance in different countries of the world but they all have one value in common and that is to declare the people as the main center of power. Democracy started to get more importance in modern governance, the main reason is to give more importance to the opinions of the people, as a result of which some basic responsibilities were determined between the people and the government. The provision of fundamental rights was made mandatory on the state's side. In the constitutions of all the countries of the world, some basic rights of the citizens were set, in return of which the people were obliged to pay taxes to the states. After getting

health, education, freedom of speech and other basic rights, the Citizen Charter movement spread from Great Britain to different countries. In the context of this movement, countries began to adopt an approach based on access to public services at the stipulated time. The Indian state of Madhya Pradesh was the first state in South Asia to make various public service delivery departments bound by this law in 1997. After that, about 19 states of India have successively enacted legislation under which various public services listed for efficient and timely delivery. At present, there are about 200 such basic services in India which are provided to the people at their doorsteps.

In the general elections of 2013, a big change was heard in the election slogans in Pakistan, where

transparency, accountability and good governance were declared as the axis of welfare of the common people. The Right to Public Services Act was passed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in January 2014, which provides the residents of the province with the legal right to access public services on time and also imposes liability for non-delivery or neglect of services on time, makes government officials accountable. Services means all the basic services that are provided by the government entities to the public with charge or free of charge. Such as different types of certificates, licenses, registries and other facilities.

A commission called the Right to Public Services Commission was formed to achieve this goal. This commission sets the time and fees for public services

and holds government officials accountable for providing quality services. A chief commissioner and two commissioners are included in the commission, while district monitoring officers have been appointed in all the districts of the province, who are responsible for implementing this law and collecting data related to public services delivery. The commission is currently monitoring 80 services of 14 government departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The primary mandate of the commission includes three things, to determine the timeliness, transparency and quality of services delivery. Before the commission came into being, there was no fixed time frame for the services nor were the basic principles of quality defined, it introduced a proper grievances

redressal mechanism. Under this mandate, the relevant institutions are obliged to provide the required services to the public in a transparent manner within the stipulated time and in case of negligence, the relevant government officials are held accountable, and if the negligence is proven, departmental action and fines are imposed. The main feature of this law is that 70% of the fine imposed on government officials is paid to the citizens as compensation. As a secondary mandate, the commission publishes its annual report in which suggestions are given to the relevant government institutions for better delivery of services. Apart from this, various types of awareness programs are organized to create awareness among the people.

Under this law, the com-

mission has the powers of a civil court under CPC 1908. In which summons are issued to government officials. Both the government official and the complainant appear before the commission. Departmental action and fines are imposed if there is a lack of timely access to services. It is also possible to take action against citizens for making frivolous complaints against government officials. The commission also has the power to freeze the salaries of government officials, which remain frozen until the citizen tells the commission that his problem has been resolved and he is satisfied. The commission has so far received 782 complaints while dealing with them, action has been taken against 77 officers, fines have been imposed on 13, 2 have been suspended, 40 have been given show-cause

notices, salaries of 18 officials have been attached, 3 have been transferred, while 1 citizen has also been fined for making a frivolous complaint. Most of the complaints are received concerning the Revenue Department and the Police.

Campaigns were launched through seminars and conferences at schools, colleges, universities, union council level, bar association and district level to create awareness among the people regarding their fundamental rights. District Monitoring Officers visit the concerned places every month and inform the public about the commission and the law. Access forums are organized at the district level in which the government officials are seated in front of the public and grievances are redressed on the spot. Apart from this, awareness campaigns are

being conducted on TV programs, radio shows, newspaper advertisements and social media.

If citizens are facing difficulties in getting basic services, they can file their complaints with the commission. The complainant can write the application on plain paper and submit it in the office of the District Monitoring Officer or in the head office at Chinar Road University Town Peshawar. Citizens can also submit their complaints online on the commission's website or send them to the commission through e-mail. The list of all District Monitoring Officers' names, phone numbers, e-mails and notified services are available on the Commission's websites.

(The writer is Communication Officer at Right to Public Services Commission)





## In brief

## Pakistan team reaches Dubai

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan U-19 cricket has reached Dubai to feature in the Tri-Nation Series and Asia Cup. According to details, led by Saad Baig, the Pakistan team will participate in the Tri-Nation series to be played from November 13 to 26, and the eight-nation Asia Cup from November 29 to December 8. The Pakistan U-19 cricket team players will take part in a training session at the ICC Cricket Academy, Dubai on Sunday from 2pm to 1:30pm local time. The Pakistan U-19 cricket team will play their first match in the tri-nation series against the host team UAE on November 13 at the ICC Academy.

## Ding secures spot in final

NANJING (Agencies): Ding Junhui beat Xu Si 9-6 to set up a final against Chris Wakelin at the International Championship in Nanjing. Xu had knocked in breaks of 137 and 113 on the way to a 5-3 lead at the end of the first session in which Ding's highest break was a 119. The three-time UK Championship winner took the first three frames of the evening's play against his Chinese compatriot to move 6-5 in front before Xu levelled at 6-6. In the final stretch, amid growing tension, Ding took the next two frames, which included a battling 66 in the 14th frame. The 37-year-old, who has not won a ranking title since his 2019 UK Championship triumph, then made a 58 to secure victory and a place in the final.

## Mourinho fined and banned

LONDON (Agencies): Jose Mourinho has received a one-match ban and fine of about £15,000 for his actions and comments at the end of Fenerbahce's dramatic win over Trabzonspor. The former Chelsea and Manchester United manager sprinted on to the pitch and attempted a knee slide after Sofyan Amrabat's stoppage-time goal earned his Fenerbahce team a 3-2 victory in an incident-packed encounter. However, he then launched into an angry post-match tirade that condemned refereeing standards in Turkey and appeared to question the impartiality of match officials. In a statement, external the Turkish Football Federation said Mourinho's comments were "contrary to sportsmanship, sports ethics or the concept of fair play" and "were diminishing the value" of football in the country. They added that the one-time Real Madrid and Inter Milan boss' remarks "were aimed at casting a shadow over or discrediting the impartiality of the referees and other match officials". In a match filled with controversy, Mourinho was unhappy with home team Trabzonspor being awarded two penalties - both after video assistant referee (VAR) consultations. He also thought his side should have been awarded a spot-kick before Amrabat's late winner.

## Haris celebrates 31st birthday

ADELAIDE (Web Desk): Hero of 2nd one-day international cricket match played between Pakistan and Australia in Adelaide Haris Rauf celebrated his 31st birthday in a local hotel on Friday night after Pakistan's thumping victory. Pakistan won the one-day match by nine wickets with pacer Haris Rauf bamboozling the Aussie batters with his raw pace taking five wickets.

## Faisalabad D captures Sui Northern Sports Gala 2024 title



## F.P. Report

LAHORE: The four-day-long Sui Northern Annual Sports Gala 2024, held at Punjab Stadium, concluded with a spectacular victory for Faisalabad D. A total of 368 players from 23 teams representing all regions enthusiastically participated in this annual event.

In the decisive matches held on the final day of the Sports Gala, which ran from November 6 to 9, Faisalabad D secured the top position with 51 points. Mardan D claimed second place with 49 points, while Multan T secured third place with 35 points. The award for the Best Player of the event was presented to Ashfaq Ali from the Mardan region, who delivered an outstanding performance.

During the closing ceremony, Chairman of the Sui Northern Gas Board of Directors, Muhammad Ismail Qureshi, and Managing Director Sui Northern, Amir Tufail, distributed prizes and shields among the winning players. The Chairman appreciated the efforts and dedication of all participants and emphasized the importance of such events in promoting healthy activities among the company's employees.

## Cavendish announces retirement

PARIS (AFP): Cycling great Mark Cavendish announced his retirement from the sport on Saturday, writing on social media that his final race will be Sunday's Tour de France Singapore Criterium.



"Sunday will be the final race of my professional cycling career," wrote the 39-year-old British sprint legend, the record stage winner on the Tour de France with 35, in a post on Instagram. "Cycling has given me so much and I love the sport. I've always wanted to make a difference in it and now I am ready to see what the next chapter has in store for me."

Cavendish made Tour de France history last July when he eclipsed Eddy Merckx's record which had stood since 1975, having matched the Belgian's mark in 2021. "I am lucky enough to have done what I love for almost 20 years and I can now say that I have achieved everything that I can on the bike," the rider from the Isle of Man said.

"I love this sport I always have loved this sport I want to make a difference on the bike I always have wanted to make a difference in it that will not change whether I'm on the bike or not." Cavendish made his Tour de France debut in 2008 before becoming world road race champion three years later. He won an omnium silver medal at the 2016 Olympics. Since turning professional in 2005 he had won 165 races, including 17 stages in the Giro d'Italia and three in the Vuelta a Espana.

Last month, he had said that he "will see" about racing in next year's Tour de France, explaining that he "saw things a bit differently" despite previously vowing not to compete in it again. He refused to discuss his retirement after finishing third at the Saitama Criterium in Japan last weekend. "I'd rather not talk about my future," he told reporters, shortly after defending Singapore Criterium race champion Jasper Philipsen suggested that the Manxman would be calling it quits after the race.

Cavendish finished second behind Philipsen in last year's race and the Belgian said the Briton would pose the biggest challenge to his title defence in Singapore. "It's always difficult to repeat and definitely with this being Mark's last race, I think he's very motivated as well to show off his amazing career that he had for the last time here in Singapore," said the 26-year-old, ahead of Cavendish's own announcement.

## India will not travel to Pakistan for 2025 Champions Trophy

DUBAI (Agencies): The BCCI has informed the ICC that India will not travel to Pakistan to participate in the 2025 Champions Trophy. ESPNcricinfo understands that the BCCI told the ICC it had been advised by the Indian government not to send the team to Pakistan.

The eight-team Champions Trophy is scheduled to be played at three venues in Pakistan between February 19 and March 9 but this development means the ICC and the PCB will need to activate a contingency plan, likely involving a hybrid model where teams will shuttle between Pakistan and a second venue.

That will not be straightforward as on Friday, the PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi had ruled out using a hybrid model - or even that any discussion of it had taken place. But ESPNcricinfo understands that various contingency plans had been chalked out some months ago in case the hybrid model was adopted. While there are a few countries shortlisted, it is understood the UAE, due to its proximity to Pakistan, is likely to be the frontrunner. Sri Lanka, too, is on the shortlist.

The ICC was informed of the BCCI stance earlier this week, though it could not be confirmed whether the BCCI had orally com-

municated its decision. It is possible the ICC is looking for written communication before it can relay that to the PCB. Naqvi had insisted on Friday that the PCB would need "in writing" any objections the BCCI had and if so, then he would need to discuss it with his government before any final decision was taken.

ESPNcricinfo has sought responses from the ICC, the PCB and the BCCI on the developments.

Naqvi's stance on Friday was notably more unequivocal than it has been on the issue, insisting the PCB was not "prepared to accept" the hybrid model.

He referred to "great gestures" the PCB had

made previously, in the team travelling to India to play in the ODI World Cup in 2023, despite India refusing to travel to Pakistan for the preceding Asia Cup.

That tournament eventually adopted a hybrid model, with the latter stages played in Sri Lanka. He also made clear that any future travel to India by Pakistan would not be a given and would be a government decision.

The Champions Trophy will feature eight teams, with two groups of four followed by semi-finals and a final. The competing teams are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand,

Pakistan and South Africa. Monday, November 11, will mark 100 days until the start of the event, although the schedule and ticketing details are yet to be announced. ESPNcricinfo has also been told that a schedule-announcement event in Lahore next week is likely to be postponed because of these developments.

As a result of fraught political ties between the two countries, India have not travelled to Pakistan since the 2008 Asia Cup despite the latter playing several ICC events in India including the 2023 World Cup. The sides have played just one bilateral series since then, a white-ball tour Pakistan made in 2012-13.

## BoG approves appointment of Sumair Ahmad as PCB COO

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is pleased to announce the appointment of Sumair Ahmad Syed as the new Chief Operating Officer (COO) following approval by the Board of Governors in its 75th meeting, chaired by Mohsin Naqvi at the National Cricket Academy on Saturday afternoon.

Sumair Ahmad, a seasoned civil servant with an extensive administrative experience, most recently served as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. He assumes the Chief Operating Officer's role from Salman Naseer, who has been appointed as Advisor to the PCB Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) department. Salman began his tenure as the Chief Operating Officer and had previously indicated he would not seek a contract renewal in a similar role upon the completion of his five-year term in February 2025. Welcoming Sumair Ahmad and expressing gratitude for Salman Naseer's years of service, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said:

"Sumair is an outstanding professional with proven administrative skills and deep industry knowledge. We are delighted to welcome him to the PCB family and are confident that under his leadership,



we will continue to strengthen and improve our administrative structures, moving closer to our goal of becoming a model, high-performing organisation.

"Salman has been an exemplary leader at the Pakistan Cricket Board, making invaluable contributions during his tenure as the Chief Operating Officer. His experience and insights have made him an asset to the PCB. Given our plans to establish PSL as an independent entity and to expand the league with two additional teams in 2026, we have appointed him as PSL's Chief Executive Officer. He will also serve as Advisor to the PCB Chairman, ensuring his expertise continues to guide our strategic goals."

On his appointment, Sumair Ahmad said:

"As a lifelong follower and supporter of Pakistan cricket, it is a profound

honour for me to join this dynamic organisation as its Chief Operating Officer during these exciting and pivotal times. I am deeply grateful to the PCB Chairman and the Board of Governors for their trust and support. With the collaboration of my colleagues, I am eager to play a meaningful role here at PCB.

"This organisation holds tremendous potential and cricket serves as a unifying force for the people of Pakistan. During my tenure as Chief Operating Officer, I am committed to helping the Chairman bring his vision for Pakistan cricket to life. This vision centers on achieving success with our national teams, enhancing infrastructure, expanding opportunities for aspiring cricketers and ensuring good governance. I am excited to contribute to this journey and work towards making a

lasting impact on the game that we all cherish."

Salman Naseer expressed gratitude and support for Sumair Ahmad: "It has been an honour and a privilege to lead the PCB's management team as Chief Operating Officer. This journey has been deeply rewarding, as we collectively made significant progress and overcame various challenges.

"I am grateful to the PCB Chairman for his trust and to my colleagues for their support, without which our successes would not have been possible.

"I would also like to thank the Board of Governors for their guidance and look forward to contributing to Sumair's success at the PCB. With the experience and commitment he brings, I am confident that the PCB will continue to grow stronger and reach new heights."

## ITF Pakistan J30 Ali Embroidery World Jr Tennis C'ship kicks off

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ITF Pakistan J30 Ali Embroidery World Junior Tennis Championships 2024 commenced on Saturday at Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Tennis Complex Islamabad.

The event brings together 47 junior players from around the globe, including 28 boys and 19 girls from countries such as Hong Kong, Japan, China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Canada, Korea, Germany, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Maldives, and Singapore.

The tournament also features 28 Pakistani players, with 22 boys and 6 girls.

Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the PTF welcomed all international participants, expressing his pleasure at hosting talented young athletes from across the world.



He extended his best wishes to all competitors, reiterating Pakistan's commitment to promoting tennis development at the junior level and strengthening international sports relations. Col.zia ud din Tufail Secretary General PTF also welcomed all the players and wished them good luck for the

competition.

The results of qualifying 1st round are as under:

**Boys Singles Qualifying 1st Round:** Tetatada Kondo (JPN) bt Nabeel Ali Qayum(PAK) 7-5,6-4;

Yota Nishikori (JPN) bt Hamza Rehmat (PAK) 6-0,6-0;

Seung Woo Han (KOR) bt Rayan Ahmad (PAK) 6-0,6-0;

Yeonmu Jung(KOR) bt M.Yahya (PAK) 6-1,6-1;

Nevean Kannangara (SRI) 6-0,6-2;

Zain Saeed Khalid(PAK) bt Bills Awais Janjua (PAK) 6-2,6-3

Jung (KOR) bt Inam Qadir 6-1,6-0;

**Boys Singles Qualifying 2nd Round:** Park Dohyun (KOR) bt Syed Mahd (PAK) 6-0,6-2;

Seung woo Han (KOR) Andrew Kaavinda (SRI) 6-0,6-2;

Yota Nishikori (JPN) bt Gwanmu Kim(KOR) 6-4,6-1;

Youngechae Oh (KOR) bt Chanapat (THA) 6-4,6-3;

Minwoo Kim (KOR) bt Taimur Ansari (PAK) 6-4,6-1;

Patcharaphol Leekul (THA) bt Tetsutada Kondo (JPN) 6-1,6-4;

Youngechae Oh (KOR) bt M.Yahya (PAK) 6-1, 6-1;

Yeonmu Jung(KOR) bt Nevean Kannangara (SRI) 6-0,6-2;

Zain Saeed Khalid(PAK) bt Bills Awais Janjua (PAK) 6-2,6-3

The third and final round of the qualifying matches will start on Sunday at 10:00am

The main draw will be played on Monday.

## Vinicius treble helps Real Madrid crush Osasuna



MADRID (AFP): Vinicius Jr. scored a hat-trick to help Real Madrid bounce back from two consecutive home defeats with a 4-0 win over Osasuna in La Liga on Saturday.

Hammered by Barcelona in a league Clasico and then outplayed by AC Milan in the Champions League, Carlo

Ancelotti's side badly needed this confidence-boosting victory. The Spanish and European champions thrashed Osasuna thanks to Vinicius' treble, while Jude Bellingham scored his first goal of the season for Los Blancos.

However Madrid's superstar striker Kylian Mbappe failed to find the net again and has scored one goal in his last seven matches, while Brazilian duo Eder Militao and Rodrygo were taken off injured along with Lucas Vazquez. Second-placed Madrid reigned in Barcelona's lead at the top of La Liga to six points before the Catalans visit Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Ancelotti brought Rodrygo into the line-up after the Milan defeat, reverting to a 4-3-3 formation. The Brazilian winger drew a save from Sergio Herrera but was forced off with a knee problem during an intense start

to the match. Militao was taken off on a stretcher before the half-hour mark holding the back of his right knee, after going to ground in Osasuna's area.

The defender missed most of last season with a severe knee injury and with David Alaba, Aurelien Tchouameni and Dani Carvajal out hurt already, his departure was particularly bad news for Madrid. Ancelotti replaced Militao with 21-year-old defender Raul Asencio, making his debut after progressing through the youth academy.

Despite the setbacks, Madrid took the lead in the 34th minute when Bellingham teed up Vinicius, who whipped home at the near post. England international Bellingham, whose goals were vital for Madrid last season, broke his duck this campaign with a fine lob after Asencio played a fine

long ball to send him running through on goal.

Vinicius netted his second after Real Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin, in for the injured Thibaut Courtois, found the forward with a long ball and he rounded the goalkeeper to finish.

The Brazilian finished second in the Ballon d'Or voting despite being favourite to win the award at the end of October, losing out to Manchester City midfielder Rodri, but soon completed his second hat-trick in four games.

Brahim Diaz won the ball back deep in Osasuna territory and teed up Vinicius for a simple finish to complete the rout. After Vinicius was replaced in the final stages Mbappe could play in his preferred position on the left flank but was unable to find the net as his personal travails continued, even as Madrid's abated.

A clever short ball from Gauff resulted in a Sabalenka mistake and the set fittingly went to a tiebreak. The American raced to a 6-1 lead in the breaker and finally clinched the 59-minute set on her fourth opportunity.

The second set was a different story, with Gauff taking the helm and breaking twice to build a 4-1 gap. In a marathon sixth game, Sabalenka needed eight break points to get one of the breaks back but her effort was nullified by Gauff, who took four points in a row on her opponent's serve to surge ahead 5-2.

The Floridian couldn't serve out the win but kept up the pressure on Sabalenka's serve to reach the final after one hour and 49 minutes of sheer battle.

Earlier in the day, 22-year-old Zheng needed one hour and 40 minutes to overcome Krejickova in their semi-final encounter, firing nine aces along the way.





## In brief

### Nine outlaws arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended nine outlaws involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons recovered drugs and weapons from their possession on Saturday. A public relation officer told APP that the, ICT Police Aabpara, Industrial Area, Shams Colony, Noon and Koral police stations teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons. The police teams also arrested six accused namely Zeeshan, Yousaf, Aamir Khan, Ander Gul, Muhammad Ishaq and Said Nawaz and recovered four liquor bottles, 420 gram hashish and four pistols with ammunition from their possession, he added. DIG Ali Raza said that the Islamabad Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizen's lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace. Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is the Islamabad Police's top priority. Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, emergency helpline "Pukar-15" to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public.

### Police arrest four car lifters

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have successfully arrested four members of a gang involved in motorcycle theft and recovered eight stolen motorcycles during a crackdown conducted on Saturday. The operation also led to the seizure of a weapon used in committing the crime. According to a police spokesman, the Dhamyal police apprehended four individuals identified as Imran, Zaib, Babar, and Ali, who were part of a bike-lifting gang. Separate cases have been registered against each suspect, and further investigation is currently underway to gather more details regarding their criminal activities. SP Saddar Muhammad Nabil Khokhar praised the efforts of the police team and emphasized that the accused would be brought to court with solid evidence. "Those who threaten the safety and property of citizens will not escape the grip of the law," he added.

### More than 4 kg drugs recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested four drug dealers and recovered more than 4 kilogram from their possession during operation on Saturday. According to a police spokesman, the Gujjar Khan police apprehended Farooq Ahmad and confiscated 1.2 kg drugs from his possession. Similarly, Saddar Barooni police held Umeer and recovered 1.6 kg drugs from his custody. Additionally, R.A Bazaar police nabbed Asif, recovering 650 grams of hashish, while Atif was apprehended with 680 grams of hashish. Separate cases have been registered against each of the accused. City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmoed Hamdani appreciated the performance of police team stated that the accused would be presented in court with solid evidence and will face punishment according to the law. He emphasized that efforts to dismantle drug networks and hold offenders accountable are ongoing, reinforcing the police's commitment to combating drug-related crimes in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Traditional hand-made caps of GB attracts the visitors at Behbud Art and Craft Bazar 9-10 November at PAK CHINA Friendship center. —APP Photo

## Naqvi calls for national unity, revival of Iqbal's vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a commemorative message on the birth anniversary of the renowned poet and philosopher, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi emphasized the enduring relevance of Iqbal's philosophy for Pakistan's progress and unity.

Highlighting Iqbal's significant role in inspiring a vision for an independent homeland, Naqvi underscored how this idea was ultimately brought to fruition under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

"Allama Iqbal presented the idea of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent, and Quaid-e-Azam transformed this vision into reality," Naqvi remarked, noting the profound impact of Iqbal's poetry in mobilizing Muslims for independence. Naqvi paid tribute to Iqbal's work, which he said awakened a sense of unity, self-respect, and resilience among Muslims of the time. Iqbal's emphasis on "Khudi" (selfhood), Naqvi explained, was a philosophy

that empowered individuals to shape their own destinies, a principle that he urged Pakistanis to embrace today.

In his message, Naqvi called upon the nation to revisit Iqbal's teachings to tackle modern challenges with a renewed sense of collective strength. "No one else will shape our destiny; we must do it ourselves, as this is the path to success," he stressed.

Drawing from Iqbal's ideas, Naqvi emphasized that every challenge Pakistan faces can be met with unity and resolve. He reiterated Iqbal's vision for a self-sufficient, unified Muslim community and urged Pakistanis to draw inspiration from this in overcoming national issues.

Naqvi also highlighted the philosopher's influence on the youth, recognizing him as a mentor whose ideas could guide and empower future generations. "Allama Iqbal holds the status of a spiritual guide and mentor for the youth," he stated, emphasizing the potential of Iqbal's message to

inspire young Pakistanis to contribute toward national progress.

Concluding his message, Naqvi called for a national commitment to Iqbal's philosophy of "Khudi" as a foundation for a prosperous Pakistan. He noted that there has never been a greater need to understand and apply Iqbal's ideas, urging the nation to set aside differences and work toward a unified and prosperous future. He called upon Pakistanis to "make Iqbal's teachings our guiding light" and to use this occasion to recommit to the values that Iqbal championed.

The interior minister's message has resonated widely as people across Pakistan remember Iqbal's legacy on this national holiday, known as Iqbal Day. Events, seminars, and poetry recitations are being held in various cities to honor Iqbal's contributions to the nation, with officials, scholars, and citizens reflecting on how Iqbal's vision continues to inspire Pakistan's journey.

## "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" brings hope to Punjab's homeless

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Talal Chaudhry Saturday lauded Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's pioneering initiatives, particularly the groundbreaking 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar' ambitious project which aims to provide affordable housing to low-income families, exemplifying Maryam Nawaz Sharif's dedication to addressing Punjab's homeless population.

In an interview with PTV news channel, Senator

Talal Chaudhry has expressed his admiration for the "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" program.

This project aims to transform the lives of low-income families, offering them a chance to own their own homes and improve their living standards, he added.

The Apni Chhat Apna Ghar project is a testament to her dedication to improving the lives of low-income families and empowering them to become homeowners, he added.

The Apni Chhat Apna

Ghar project is designed to be transparent and free from political affiliations, he mentioned.

The project operates through three distinct models, including state land utilization, low-cost housing development and interest-free loans for house construction, he added.

The loan application process has been simplified, requiring applicants to submit only their CNIC and property documents, with loans disbursed purely on merit, he highlighted.

## Pakistan, Korea to begin joint excavation of Mankiala Stupa

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Korea have begun a joint excavation of the Mankiala Stupa in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Islamabad and Korean Official Development Assistance (ODA).

According to the PTV News, joint team of experts from Pakistan and Korea has started the three-month long excavation of the Mankiala Stupa.

A team comprising two specialists from the Korean Heritage Association (KHA) and six Archaeology students from Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) is actively involved, with the students expected to become key figures in Pakistan's archaeological future.

This pilot project, based on an agreement between Pakistan and Korea, emphasizes capacity-building and aims to unearth the hidden lower structures of the Stupa.

The data gathered will support the preservation of the site, while new technology like drones, GNSS, and Total Station tools will strengthen Pakistan's expertise in heritage conservation.

## Ashrafi demands swift action against perpetrators of Quetta blast

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi vehemently denounced the devastating terrorist attack in Quetta, which claimed multiple lives and left many injured.

He pledged his council's unwavering support and full coordination with the government to tackle the crisis.

In an exclusive interview with PTV News, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi has unequivocally condemned

the Quetta blast, extending his wholehearted support to the government and offering prayers for the victims.

He urged the state to take decisive action against elements spreading unrest in the region and urge all able-bodied Ulama and Madaris students to come forward and donate blood to save precious lives.

Ashrafi alleged that an external agenda is behind the recent incidents, highlighting

the need for a comprehensive response to address the root causes of the issue. He highlighted the importance of revising policies to prevent the exploitation of Pakistan's goodwill and ensure the country's efforts to support Afghanistan are not misused. He reaffirmed the Pakistani nation's unwavering support for its army in the fight against terrorism. "The Pakistani Ulama Council stands shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistani Army to combat these terrorists and we will emerge victorious soon," he declared.

He underscored the unity and determination with Pakistan's religious leaders and military in countering terrorism and promoting regional stability. He deemed such attacks shameless and inhuman, emphasizing the need for swift action against those responsible.

Ashrafi requested donors to visit nearby hospitals in Quetta and blood banks to contribute to the emergency blood drive.

## Mushaal concerned over Yasin's deteriorating health

ISLAMABAD (INP): Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the wife of illegally detained Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, has expressed grave concern over her husband's deteriorating health due to his ongoing hunger strike in Delhi's notorious Tihar Jail.

Mushaal Mullick in a statement in Islamabad appealed to global leaders and human rights organizations to intervene and take action to save Yasin Malik's life.

She stated India is attempting to silence Yasin Malik through deceitful tactics. She emphasized that the prolonged hunger strike could be life-threatening for him, and the lack of medical treatment has severely worsened his health.

While warning the RSS-backed BJP-led Indian government, Mushaal said that if anything untoward were to happen to Yasin Malik, the Indian government would be directly responsible.

She called on the international community and human rights organizations to stop their double standards and take notice of the unjust treatment being meted out to her husband in jail. She urged them to take immediate action for his release.

It is pertinent to mention that Mohammad Yasin Malik has been on a hunger strike since November 01, protesting the lack of medical facilities provided by the jail authorities.

## Rubina honors Iqbal's legacy on 147th birth anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Saturday said that the solution to the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah lies in Allama Iqbal's thoughts.

In her special message on Iqbal Day, the chairperson BISP said that the youth should take the country to new heights of progress with a constructive mindset.

Rubina Khalid paid tribute to the Poet of East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 147th birth anniversary. She stated, "Through

his inspiring poetry, Allama Iqbal awakened the Muslim Ummah from a deep slumber".

"Iqbal's dream was of a Pakistan that would be a cradle of peace, political tolerance, and brotherhood," she added.

"Allama Iqbal played a vital role in introducing the Muslim youth to the sacrifices, greatness, and legacy of their ancestors," Senator Rubina Khalid noted.

"The dream of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-

Azam was nothing less than a blessing," she remarked.

She highlighted that Iqbal urged the youth to learn from the glorious past of Muslims and to achieve new milestones in knowledge and research.

"Allama Iqbal always emphasized unity among Muslims," she stated.

"There was no place for prejudice or extremism in Allama Iqbal's poetry and thoughts," she noted.

"On this day, let us pledge to work tirelessly towards achieving Iqbal's vision for Pakistan," Senator Rubina Khalid said.

## Pakistan's rich cultural heritage on display at Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan National Museum Director and Focal Person, Anwaar ul Haq Saturday said that this year's Lok Mela has brought together over 500 skilled artisans from every corner of Pakistan, where talented individuals are mesmerizing visitors with their exceptional craftsmanship, preserving the country's traditional arts and crafts.

While sharing exciting details about Lok Mela, the Director in an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan said that annual Mela has taken on a global dimension, with several diplomatic missions participating in the International Culture Pavilion.

The food and provincial cultural dances at Lok Mela 2024 are truly captivating the attention of citizens and visitors alike, he added.

The rich flavors and aromas of traditional Pakistani cuisine, including popular dishes from various regions are a testament to the country's diverse cultural heritage, he mentioned.

This unique platform showcases the diverse cultural heritage of various nations, fostering cross-cultural understanding and exchange, he added.

He further said that many diplomatic missions, including those from Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Turkiye and Indonesia are

also presenting their cultures and arts through the International Culture Pavili on, which is part of Lok Mela.

Through stunning displays of art, music and craftsmanship, the International Culture Pavilion celebrates the unity in diversity that defines our global community, he added.

This cultural extravaganza promises to be an unforgettable experience for visitors from Pakistan and beyond, he expressed confident.

He recognized the media's vital role in fostering a positive national image, promoting cultural awareness and preserving traditional heritage.

## Motorway Authorities urge caution for all motorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): A travel advisory has been issued by motorway authorities on Saturday, urging drivers to exercise extreme caution due to hazardous conditions where citizens are advised to postpone non-essential travel until further notice as the situation continues to unfold.

The spokesperson of motorway police talking to a private news channel advised citizens to check traffic updates before embarking on their journey and to follow official social media channels for real-time information, adding, our emergency services are on high alert and we are working closely with law enforcement

agencies to ensure a safe and smooth flow of traffic.

Motorway authorities have also set up emergency response teams at strategic locations to provide assistance to travelers, he added.

The spokesperson appealed to citizens to cooperate with authorities and report any suspicious activity or incidents to the Motorway Police helpline.

In addition to the travel advisory, motorway authorities have also increased patrolling and surveillance on major routes to prevent any potential disruptions, he mentioned, adding, spokesperson reassured citizens that all necessary measures are being taken

to ensure their safety and security.

Citizens can contact the Motorway Police helpline or follow official social media channels for updates on traffic and travel advisories, he added.

He said that people should travel during day time to avoid any inconvenience due to fog and smog. He said that 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. is the best time for traveling on the motorways and highways.

He said that people traveling by motorways and highways should keep fog lights on during their journey. He said that people should call the helpline 130 in case of any emergency.



ISLAMABAD: Adventure lovers participating in rock climbing at Jasmeen Corner Pir Sohawa, organised by Athletics Ascend, a US NGO. —APP Photo



Many Afghans move to urban

KABUL (Amu TV): A significant number of Afghans are relocating to urban areas in search of improved livelihood opportunities and education for boys. However, she described the situation for Afghan women and girls as “dire,” posing a significant challenge to ongoing efforts. Loose noted that the Taliban’s policies have systematically excluded women from public life, complicating initiatives aimed at supporting them.

1,200 families repatriated

KABUL (Amu TV): At least 1,239 Afghan migrant families returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran over the past week, according to figures released by the Taliban-run Bakhtar News Agency. The families were either forcibly deported or chose to return voluntarily, the agency reported. The data indicates that 129 families crossed back into Afghanistan through the Torkham border, while 168 families returned via the Spin Boldak crossing.

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

Minister attends meeting of CIS rail transport council



KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Mohammad Ishaq Sahibzada, Deputy Minister for Railways at the Ministry of Public Works, participated in the 81st session of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Rail Transport Council, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

According to the Ministry’s Media Office, discussions centered on fos-

tering international cooperation in Afghanistan’s rail sector and promoting fundamental advancements in rail infrastructure and technology.

The meeting aimed to attract international support and collaboration to enhance Afghanistan’s rail transport capabilities.

On the sidelines of the conference, Deputy

Minister Sahibzada held separate meetings with railway officials from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

These discussions focused on implementing joint railway projects and increasing the volume of trade and goods transit through expanded rail networks in the region.

The Rail Transport

Council, established in 1992, is an international organization dedicated to promoting cooperation and coordination among its member states in the field of rail transport.

Afghanistan recently achieved observer status within the council, marking a step towards deeper involvement in regional railway initiatives.

Better healthcare services demanded

URUZGAN (TOLONews): Residents of Khas Uruzgan District in Uruzgan province expressed concerns about the lack of healthcare services and female doctors in their district and are calling for an expansion of these services.

They said that the 110-kilometer road in Khas Uruzgan District, extending east from Tirin Kot, the provincial capital of Uruzgan, is mostly unpaved and rough, making transportation difficult for residents.

“There is no hospital here; all the hospitals have been destroyed. There are no doctors, and where there is a doctor, there is no medicine,” said, Abdul Wahid, a resident of Khas Uruzgan District. “Another problem with the hospital is that we brought a child here. He has been under treatment for a month, but there is no specialist to treat him,” said Abdul Bari, another resident of Khas Uruzgan District.

“People in need are now forced to transport their patients to the center by car, but I cannot afford to take my patient to the central hospital at my own expense,” said Abdul Hamid, a resident of Uruzgan.

However, local authorities assure residents of this district that their demands will be addressed.

“Many clinics are active in Khas Uruzgan District, and numerous experienced doctors are working there. Nevertheless, we are working to raise the issues faced by the district residents with higher officials,” said Agha Wali Qureshi, head of the Information and Culture of Uruzgan.

Previously, local officials reported the construction of 16 healthcare centers in the past three years in Tirin Kot and several districts in the province.

Nomani engages with Iranian engineers

KABUL (BNA): Sheikh Hamdullah Nomani, Acting Minister of Urban Development and Housing, held a meeting at his office with a group of Iranian engineers and their Afghan colleagues.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, during the meeting, engineers Ali Arbab, Mustafa Pakdaman, and Abdulrazak Ghafoori from Iran, along with their Afghan partner Engineer Nasir Ahmad Sultanzada, presented housing and construction plans using the BMI system.

The engineers also stated that, if provided with the necessary facilities, they are prepared to invest in Afghanistan. They introduced a new system for the implementation of construction projects, which allows for troubleshooting in case any issues arise, based on the original designs.

The proposal from the Iranian engineers for cooperation in construction projects and investment in Afghanistan was well received by the Acting Minister, Sheikh Hamdullah Nomani.

Nuristan leaders pledge support for IE — call for infrastructure, community uplift

NURISTAN (BNA): The Nuristan Department of Borders and Tribal Affairs organized a gathering in Parun, the provincial capital, to discuss the stability of the Islamic system, unity, and coordination among the people of Nuristan.

During the event, Mawlawi Mohammad Ali Jan Ahmad, Deputy Minister for Jirgas and Coordination at the Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs, emphasized that unity, prosperity, progress, and conflict resolution among the people remain top priorities.

He assured attendees that the needs and concerns of the Nuristan community would be conveyed to the

leadership of the Islamic Emirate, and that several development projects would soon commence in border districts to address local needs, with plans to extend attention to other areas in subsequent phases.

The Deputy Minister called on the people to remain united and to fully support the Islamic Emirate’s governance for continued progress. Mawlawi Mohammad Nader Mohammad, Head of the Nuristan Department of Tribal Affairs, urged tribal leaders to share their insights and suggestions for strengthening the Islamic system’s stability.

Additionally, Nuristani

tribal elders expressed their firm support for the Islamic Emirate, emphasizing the importance of unity and outlining their key needs. They requested focused attention on road infrastructure, healthcare, and education, as well as prioritized efforts toward local conflict resolution.

Mawlawi Faisal Mukhtar, Deputy Governor of Nuristan, and Mufti Mohammad Yousuf Jamalzi, the provincial police chief, commended the people of Nuristan for their steadfast support of the Islamic Emirate, while noting that the province still faces significant challenges requiring immediate attention.

Hanafi stresses efforts for country’s stability



KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs, recently met with several prominent leaders from the Shia community.

According to a statement from ARG, Asadullah Saadati, representing the attendees, expressed appreciation for the establishment of nationwide security and highlighted the importance of citizen efforts to

reinforce peace and stability across the country.

He noted that Afghanistan’s infrastructure has suffered severe damage due to years of conflict, causing significant hardship for the Afghan people. Saadati emphasized that the current phase calls for service delivery and national reconstruction, underscoring the need for lasting unity and cohesion to rebuild the nation.

Deputy Prime Minister

Hanafi reiterated that Afghanistan is a shared home for all, and the Islamic Emirate, as a responsible government, is committed to serving the Afghan people. He stated that the country’s progress and development depend on the collective efforts of all citizens and urged the public to unite in defending Afghanistan’s territorial integrity and supporting the Islamic system.

1000s of temporary permits issued to Afghan and Pakistani drivers

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation said that since the beginning of the temporary entry permit distribution process, nearly seven thousand Pakistani drivers have received this permit.

Inamuddin Ahmadi, spokesperson for the ministry, added that during this period, around six and a half to seven thousand Afghan drivers have also obtained this permit from the Pakistani embassy in Kabul and the Pakistani consulate in Kandahar.

The spokesperson said:

“So far, we have issued around 7,000 permits to Pakistani drivers, and approximately the same number of permits have been issued by the Pakistani embassy and consulate in Kandahar to Afghan drivers, providing ease for both parties.”

The TAD permit is a temporary entry authorization that allows Afghan and Pakistani drivers to travel to all cities and crossing areas of both countries without a visa for a period of six months.

This permit has been effective since May 1,

2024, to facilitate imports and exports between Kabul and Islamabad.

However, some Afghan drivers are requesting more visa facilities and an extension of the TAD permit’s validity period.

“Six months pass quickly; I used this period for two round trips. The validity of this permit should be extended,” said Hokmrani, an Afghan driver.

“Out of the total time, we spend two months in Afghanistan and another two months in Pakistan; the validity of this permit needs to be extended,”

Another driver, Tor Khan, added.

“We ask the government to extend the TAD permit period; the four-month season passes quickly, and part of it is spent obtaining this permit,” said Sayed Rasul, another driver.

Previously, Pakistan’s Ministry of Commerce announced in a statement that from August 1 of this year, no Afghan vehicle would be allowed entry into Pakistan without a temporary permit, although vehicles carrying transit goods are exempt from this restriction.

Coordination meeting held in Balkh to address media problems



BALKH (Ariana News): Officials from the Ministry of Information and Culture emphasized solving the financial problems of the media outlets in a coordination meeting held in the northern zone of the country.

Acting director of publi-

cations at the Ministry of Information and Culture Zia-ul-Haq Haqmal in his trip to Balkh province, said the ministry strives to make a plan to resolve the challenges of journalists.

“Such programs are to support and strengthen the media. Many problems

have been solved in the financial sector,” said Haqmal.

“We pledged to cooperate more with the media and provide a good environment for the media outlets. Over the past three years, we have not had any incident where any of our

reporters were under pressure,” said Zabiullah Noorani, head of Information and Culture in Balkh province.

In this meeting, the journalists of the northern provinces called on the Islamic Emirate to ratify the media law as soon as possible and easy access to information.

We request the Ministry of Information and Culture to consider seminars and short-term and long-term training for the state spokesmen so that they know the principles of journalism in providing information,” said a journalist.

Meanwhile, Zia-ul-Haq Haqmal also announced the establishment of a support fund for journalists in the near future.

Earlier, the coordinating meetings between the media and provincial spokespersons were also held in some provinces.

SIGAR: Taliban’s new ‘morality law’ curtails human rights and freedoms

KABUL (Amu TV): The US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has reported that the Taliban’s new “morality law” significantly expands on existing decrees, curbing the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Afghans in both public and private spheres.

The report highlights that the law grants broad authority to Taliban inspectors to enforce these strict measures.

According to SIGAR, the new legislation effectively nullifies the few remaining liberties for women and disregards recent appeals from the international community

for adherence to international human rights standards.

“The law also formally revokes the few freedoms left to women and appears to directly reject recent enticements from the international community to advance engagement in return for respecting international human rights standards,” the report noted.

Sima Bahous, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, warned the UN Security Council of the law’s potential repercussions, including a projected increase in maternal mortality by up to 50%, higher rates of suicidality, and significant economic damage. “Afghan

women in and out of Afghanistan have been protesting the morality law, especially its ban on women’s voices, by posting videos of themselves singing online,” US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction cited.

The report included a statement from Fatima Etimadi, as reported by National Public Radio (NPR): “Every day the Taliban seeks new ways to restrict women. They’re making women die while they’re alive.”

The US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)’s analysis pointed out that the law is predicated on the belief that

women’s voices are inherently alluring or immodest. Although women bear the harshest restrictions, men are not exempt from the impact.

“Afghan men interviewed by The Washington Post described their fear of being questioned and humiliated by ministry enforcers,” the report noted.

Since the law’s implementation, enforcers have begun knocking on the doors of men who fail to attend mosque services. Men who repeatedly neglect to pray at the mosque can be taken to court and sentenced under sharia law. For offenses like adultery, punishments can range

from flogging to execution, depending on the decision of ministry enforcers.

The report also referenced an analysis by the US Institute of Peace, which indicated that the Taliban’s interpretation of Islamic law is contributing to internal tensions within the group.

The US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) underscored that many of the edicts imposed over the past three years mirror those enforced during the Taliban’s 1996–2001 regime, despite earlier promises suggesting a moderation of their policies before their 2021 return to power.

Minister meets AKF’s Regional Director — housing, capacity building help discussed



KABUL (BNA): Sheikh Hamdullah Nomani, Acting Minister of Urban Development and Housing, met with Shadman Haji Bekov, Asia Regional Director of the Aga Khan Emergency Management Foundation.

According to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Sheikh Nomani acknowl-

edged the valuable and significant contributions of the Aga Khan Foundation in various sectors, particularly in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Development.

During the meeting, Shadman Haji Bekov reiterated the Foundation’s readiness to assist in building suitable housing for victims of natural disasters

in Afghanistan, should the Ministry require such support. He also expressed willingness to provide future cooperation in capacity-building programs for the Ministry’s engineers.

Bekov invited the Acting Minister to visit Badakhshan Province to observe the Foundation’s activities in the region.





**LAHORE:** Commander Central Punjab Pakistan Navy, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood offering fatiha during Change of Guard ceremony at Mausoleum of Allama Iqbal.

## US announces charges in alleged Iranian plot to assassinate Trump

WASHINGTON (AFP): US prosecutors announced charges in an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate former president Donald Trump and a prominent dissident Iranian-American journalist.

The foiled assassination plot on Trump was allegedly directed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to avenge the death of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in 2020 in a US strike ordered by then-president Trump, the Justice Department said. Farhad Shakeri, 51, an Afghan national who is believed to be in Iran, was "tasked" by the IRGC with providing a plan to kill Trump, the department said in a statement.

Iran's foreign ministry on Saturday called the allegations that Tehran was behind a plot against Trump "totally unfounded". The foreign ministry "rejects allegations that Iran is implicated in an assassination attempt targeting former or current American officials," spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said in a statement.

Shakeri and two other men, Carlisle Rivera, 49, and Jonathon Loadholt, 36, both of New York, were charged separately with plotting to kill an Iranian-American dissident in New York. Rivera and Loadholt are both in US custody and made a court appearance in New York on Thursday.

"The charges announced today expose Iran's continued brazen attempts to target US citizens, including President-elect Donald Trump,

other government leaders and dissidents who criticise the regime in Tehran," FBI Director Christopher Wray said. Trump, who defeated Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday's US presidential election, faced two other separate assassination attempts this year, including a shooting at a campaign rally when a bullet grazed his ear.

The US Justice Department described suspect Shakeri as an "IRGC asset residing in Tehran". It said he immigrated to the United States as a child and was deported around 2008 after serving 14 years in prison for robbery. "In recent months, Shakeri has used a network of criminal associates he met in prison in the United States to supply the IRGC with operatives to conduct surveillance and assassinations of IRGC targets," the Justice Department said.

It said Loadholt and Rivera, at Shakeri's direction, spent months conducting surveillance of a US citizen of Iranian origin who is an outspoken critic of the Iranian government and has been the target of multiple prior kidnapping and murder plots. She was not identified in court documents but appears to be dissident journalist Masih Alinejad.

A general in the Revolutionary Guards was charged by US prosecutors in late October in connection with a separate plot to assassinate Alinejad, who lives in New York. According to the criminal complaint against Shakeri, he allegedly dis-

closed the plot to assassinate Trump in telephone conversations with FBI agents in recent months.

Shakeri held the conversations with FBI agents because he was hoping to obtain a sentence reduction for a person who is imprisoned in the United States, it said. Shakeri told the FBI he was approached by an IRGC official in September about organising the assassination of Trump, the complaint added.

He allegedly told the IRGC official it would cost a "huge" amount of money, to which the official responded: "Money's not an issue." On October 7, Shakeri said he was asked to come up with a plan to kill Trump within seven days. The IRGC official allegedly said that if Shakeri was unable to come up with a plan in that timeframe, the IRGC would seek to kill Trump after the election because it assessed he would lose and it would be easier to assassinate him after the vote.

The United States has repeatedly accused Iran of seeking to assassinate US officials in retaliation for the killing of Soleimani. Tehran has rejected the accusations. A Pakistani man with alleged ties to Iran pleaded not guilty in New York earlier this year to charges he tried to hire a hitman to kill a US politician or official. The State Department has also announced a \$20 million reward for information leading to the arrest of the alleged Iranian mastermind behind a plot to assassinate former White House official John Bolton.

## Navy assumes guard duties at Mausoleum of Dr. Iqbal

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: An impressive Change of Guard Ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal as the nation celebrated the 147th birth anniversary of Mufakkir-e-Pakistan, the visionary behind the ideology of an independent Muslim state in the subcontinent.

A smartly attired contingent of the Pakistan Navy took over guard duties from the Pakistan Rangers (Punjab). Commander Central Punjab, Pakistan Navy, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and paid homage to the National Poet.

Commander Central Punjab laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum on behalf of the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, as well as Officers, Sailors, and Navy Civilians of the Pakistan Navy, and offered Fateha. The Chief Guest also recorded his remarks in the visitor's book, paying rich tribute to the great poet and philosopher. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, members of the media, and a large number of the general public.

## Attack on ex-CJP Isa: 23 placed on PCL

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The names of 23 Pakistanis have been included in the Passport Control List for their involvement in the attack on former chief justice Qazi Faez Isa.

According to the list, they would liable to be arrested upon their arrival in Pakistan. Shayan Ali - who rose to prominence for leading protests outside the residence of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and Maleeka Bukhari - who went to London to look after her sister who is a cancer patient - have also been named in the PCL. Other names include Sadia Faheem, Faheem Gulzar, Maheen Faisal, Sidra Tariq and Haba Abdul Majeed, Waqas Chauhan, Mohsin Haider, Zameer Akram, Sardar Taimur, Parvez Ali and Rukhsana Kausar. The government has written a letter to the British authorities for their extradition.

## PHC seeks response from NA Speaker

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed extended the stay order against the disqualification proceedings of MNA Sohail Sultan elected from NA-4 Swat. The court also sought a response from the Speaker National Assembly.

Barrister Mudassar Amir and Barrister Yasin Raza, argued that the complaint was politically motivated, emphasizing that similar concerns weren't raised during the nomination process. They claimed that the petitioner wasn't given a fair chance to clarify the allegations and that the Speaker's referral to the Election Commission was premature.

The complaint against the petitioner alleged that he held an Assistant Advocate General position from 2019 to 2023, which raised questions about his eligibility to contest elections. The counsel countered that the Speaker's move was an attempt to disqualify him for political gain. However, ECP Lawyer Mohsin Kamran Sadiq argued that the Election Commission proceedings follows constitutional and legal jurisdiction.

## Fawad to face contempt charges

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Saturday has issued its provisional cause list for November 20, which includes several high-profile cases, including contempt proceedings against former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry.

According to the provisional cause list, Fawad Chaudhry is scheduled to be indicted on charges of disrespecting the Election Commission and its chief.

# Republicans on brink of clinching US House control

WASHINGTON (Reuters): Republicans on Saturday appeared close to clinching control of the US House of Representatives, a critical element for President-elect Donald Trump to advance his agenda when he returns to the White House in January.

With votes still being counted from the Nov. 5 general election, Republicans had won 212 seats in the 435-member House, according to projections by Edison Research, which projected on Friday night that Republican Jeff Hurd had enough votes to keep Republican control of Colorado's 3rd congressional district. Republicans now need to win six more seats to keep control of the House and they already have enough victories to wrest control of the US Senate from Democrats, though Edison Research projected late on Friday that Democratic US Senator Jacky Rosen won reelection in Nevada.

With Trump's victory in the presidential election and Republican control of the Senate already decided, keeping hold of the House would give Republicans sweeping powers to potentially ram through a broad agenda of tax and spending cuts, energy deregulation and border security controls. Results of 19 House races remain unclear, mostly in competitive districts in Western states where the pace of vote counting is typically slower than in the rest of the country.

Ten of the seats are currently held by Republicans and nine by Democrats. Fourteen of seats were widely seen as competitive ahead of the election. US President Joe Biden and President-elect Donald Trump will meet on Wednesday at the White House on Biden's invitation, a White House spokesperson said on Saturday.

Trump will take office on Jan. 20 after defeating current Vice President Kamala Harris in the Nov. 5 presidential election. "At President Biden's invitation, President Biden and President-elect Trump will meet in the Oval Office on Wednesday," Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement. Biden had initially sought reelection but dropped out of the race in July after a disastrous debate against

Trump.

Donald Trump's Republicans held on to a narrow edge on Friday as election officials tallied the final votes that will determine control of the US House of Representatives, though Democrats succeeded in flipping a pair of New York state seats. Republicans have secured at least 211 seats, seven short of the majority in the 435-member chamber, with 24 races left to be called, according to projections by Edison Research. Republicans are set to hold a majority of at least 53 seats in the Senate.

Full congressional control by Republicans would give Trump great leeway to pursue policies including sweeping tax cuts, energy deregulation and border security controls. Should Democrats succeed in capturing a majority, which would require them to win 18 of the 24 as-yet uncalled seats, it would give them a bulwark to push back against him. Democrats' hopes of capturing the House run through parts of California and New York, where challengers overnight succeeded in flipping two Republican seats. Laura Gillen unseated Republican US Representative Anthony D'Esposito to represent a section of New York City's Long Island suburbs and Josh Riley beat Republican US Representative Marc Molinaro in the state's Catskills region.

In Nebraska, centrist Republican US Representative Don Bacon held off a challenge by Democrat Tony Vargas in a liberal-leaning Omaha-area district. Republicans' majority in the Senate will allow them to confirm Trump's appointments of cabinet members, judges and other personnel, though they will not have the 60 votes needed to quickly pass most legislation. The other uncalled competitive Senate races are in Nevada, where incumbent Democrat Jacky Rosen led Republican challenger Sam Brown by 1.3 percentage points with 96% of the expected vote counted, and in Arizona, where Democrat Ruben Gallego was leading Republican Kari Lake by 1.7 percentage points with 74% of the expected vote counted.

## North Korea jams GPS signals in South

SEOUL (AFP): North Korea

staged GPS jamming attacks on Saturday, an operation that was affecting several ships and dozens of civilian aircraft in South Korea, Seoul's military said.

The jamming allegations come about a week after the North test-fired what it said was its most advanced and powerful solid-fuel ICBM missile, its first such launch since being accused of sending soldiers to help Russia fight Ukraine.

The South fired its own ballistic missile into the sea on Friday in a show of force aimed at demonstrating its resolve to respond to "any North Korean provocations".

"North Korea conducted GPS jamming provocations in Haeje and Kaesong yesterday and today," Seoul's joint chiefs of staff said in a statement on Saturday, adding several vessels and dozens of civilian aircraft were experiencing "some operational disruptions". The military warned ships and aircraft operating in the Yellow Sea to beware of such attacks.

"We strongly urge North Korea to immediately cease its GPS provocations and warn that it will be held responsible for any subsequent issues arising from this," they said in the state-

ment. Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years, with the North launching a flurry of ballistic missiles in violation of UN sanctions.

It also has been bombarding the South with trash-carrying balloons since May, in what it says is retaliation for anti-Pyongyang propaganda missives sent North by activists.

The South Korean military said Pyongyang also attempted to jam GPS signals in May, but added at the time that it did not hinder any military operations in the South. In Friday's drill, South Korea fired a Hyunmoo surface-to-surface short-range missile into the West Sea, which the military said was to show Seoul's "strong resolve to firmly respond" to any North Korean threats.

The Hyunmoo missiles are key to the country's so-called "Kill Chain" preemptive strike system, which allows Seoul to launch an attack if there are signs of an imminent North Korean attack. Experts say such jamming attacks can lead to other incidents that could escalate tensions on the Korean peninsula.

"It remains unclear whether there is an intention to divert the world's

attention from troop deployments, instil psychological insecurity among residents in the South, or respond to Friday's drills," Yang Moo-jin, president of the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, told AFP. "However, GPS jamming attacks pose a real risk of serious incidents, including potential aircraft accidents in the worst-case scenario."

Ahn Chan-il, a defector-turned-researcher who runs the World Institute for North Korea Studies, told AFP the North's jamming could be "to shield their own communications and intelligence exchanges during critical military operations" both at home and abroad. North Korea has become one of the most vocal and important backers of Russia's offensive in Ukraine.

Seoul and the West have long accused Pyongyang of supplying artillery shells and missiles to Moscow for use in Ukraine. The latest accusations, based on intelligence reports, indicate the North has deployed around 10,000 troops to Russia, suggesting even deeper involvement in the conflict and triggering outcry in Seoul, Kyiv and Western capitals.

## PTI set to form grand Opp alliance: Asad Qaiser

F.P. Report

SWABI: A few hours before the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) public rally in one of its strongholds Swabi, former NA speaker Asad Qaiser said the PTI would hold a huge gathering and form a grand alliance with the opposition.

Speaking to media at the venue of rally, the former NA speaker said that Swabi's rally would be the first public reaction against recent legislation, adding that the government had turned the parliament into a rubber stamp. "Vandalism and arrests in the PTI's Quetta rally are really condemnable. Ours is a registered party with a strong opposition in three provincial assemblies.

We will never accept this fascist government as 250 million people of Pakistan are the ones who will decide the future of this country," he emphasized. Speaking about recent victory of Donald Trump in the US presidential election, Qaiser said that Trump won election through a democratic process unlike Pakistan where an unabated series of human rights violation had been going on for a long time. "We are about to form a grand opposition alliance for which we are in contact with all opposition parties.

## EU pledges 'unwavering support' to Ukraine

BRUSSELS: The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has pledged "unwavering" support for Ukraine, on his first visit to Kyiv after Donald Trump's US presidential win. Trump's victory in the United States election has caused concern in Ukraine and Europe that the volatile Republican could end Washington's support for Kyiv's fight against Russia's invasion.

"The clear purpose of this visit is to express European Union support to Ukraine - this support remains unwavering," Borrell, who is set to leave office next month, told journalists in Kyiv on Saturday. "This support is absolutely needed for you to continue defending yourself against Russian aggression," he added.

During his presidential campaign, Trump suggested that Ukraine might have to cede territory to Russia to reach a peace deal, something Ukraine has rejected and US President Joe Biden has never suggested. Speaking to European leaders at a summit in Hungary on Thursday, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Europe and the US not to loosen ties following the election of Trump.

"There has been much talk about the need to yield to Putin, to back down, to make some concessions ... It's unacceptable for Ukraine and unacceptable for all Europe," Zelenskyy said. "We need sufficient weapons, not support in talks. Hugs with Putin won't help. Some of you have been hugging him for 20 years, and things are only getting worse," he added.

On the campaign trail, Trump had also cast doubt on maintaining the vast US military and financial aid to Ukraine and said he could cut a quick deal to end the war. "Nobody knows exactly what the new administration is going to do," Borrell said on Saturday, pointing out that Biden still has two months in power to make decisions. "We have to do more and faster, more

military support, more training capacities, more money, faster supplies, and also the permission to strike the enemy on its military targets on its territory," Borrell said. The EU foreign policy chief also noted that Russian President Vladimir Putin "doesn't want to negotiate and will not negotiate unless he is forced to do it".

On Thursday, Putin congratulated Trump on his presidential victory and said that Trump's comments on restoring "relations with Russia" and helping "end the Ukrainian crisis", in his opinion, "deserves attention at least". So far, Europe has spent about \$125bn on supporting Ukraine since Russia's 2022 invasion, while the United States alone has spent more than \$90bn, according to a tracker from the Germany-based Kiel Institute. Keeping Washington, Ukraine's single biggest donor, onboard is seen by most as key to ensuring Kyiv can fight back, especially during political uncertainty in major European powers, such as Germany and France.

With countries such as Hungary, which oppose military support for Ukraine, emboldened after Trump's win, getting consensus within the EU to do more could prove difficult. Meanwhile, on the battlefield, Ukraine's fatigued soldiers are struggling to stave off Russia's advances as they approach three years of full-scale combat. At least one person was killed in the Black Sea port city of Odesa, and more than 30 were injured across the country after Russia launched a barrage of drones and missiles into Ukraine overnight, Ukrainian officials said on Saturday.

Russian drones also struck Kharkiv in the northeast, wounding at least 25 people. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba reiterated Kyiv's insistence that it should not be forced to make concessions to Russia. "Everyone needs to realise that appeasement of the aggressor will not work," he said. "We need real peace, not appeasement that will bring more war." — Aljazeera

## Pentagon allows US mly contractors to fix weapons in Ukraine

WASHINGTON: The United States is allowing a small number of American defence contractors to work inside Ukraine to maintain and repair Pentagon-provided weaponry, according to US officials.

The US has been a key military backer of Ukraine, committing more than \$60bn in security aid since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. But it has not permitted US military contractors to work in Ukraine, wary that it could be drawn into a direct conflict with Russia. US President Joe Biden made the deci-

sion in a significant policy shift before he leaves office in January, US media reported on Friday, before the November 5 presidential election, won by Donald Trump.

Biden also plans to rush billions of dollars in security assistance to Ukraine before his term ends. Trump has criticised the scale of US military and financial support for Ukraine and has pledged to end the war with Russia quickly - without saying how. For the past two years, US and allied forces have been providing real-time maintenance advice using phones and

tablets to communicate in encrypted chatrooms with Ukrainian forces.

Officials said the Pentagon is allowing the contractors to go because some equipment - including F-16 fighter jets and Patriot air defence systems - require high-tech expertise to repair. Using the contractors, they said, will ensure the weapons are fixed quickly so Ukrainian forces can continue to use them in combat. The number of contractors would be small and located far from the front lines. — Aljazeera

گیس کے استعمال میں کفایت شعاری  
پروٹیکٹڈ کیٹگری میں رہنے میں بے سمجھداری

گیزر کی مکمل سروس آپ کے بل کو پروٹیکٹڈ بنا سکتی ہے  
- سبزیوں کے چارہ (نومبر تا فروری)

0.9Hm<sup>3</sup> سے کم گیس استعمال کریں  
اوپر پروٹیکٹڈ صارف نہیں

گیزر کی باتقاعدہ جانچ پڑتال یقینی بنائیں  
استعمال سے صرف 30 منٹ پہلے آن کریں  
اور استعمال کے فوراً بعد بند کریں

گیس سیڑیوں کے استعمال  
گیزر کا انتخاب کریں

نگاہ گیزر کی ناقص فٹنس  
کی وجہ سے بدلیں

گیزر کے ساتھ مددگار  
پانچ استعمال کریں

گھاس پھوس والے علاقوں  
میں گیزر کی بدلتی صورت بدلیں

گیس سپورکون کی تنصیب کے لیے ہیلپ لائن 1199 پر کال کریں

PRD/1308-D