

Security forces kills 10 militants in Waziristan operation



F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: In a significant blow to militant activities in the region, Pakistani security forces conducted a successful intelligence-based operation in Spinwam, North Waziristan District.

In two separate operations around 10 terrorists were killed and were eight injured.

The operations were carried out in response to confirmed intelligence reports regarding the presence of militants, in the area.

According to official sources, security forces swiftly engaged the militants' position upon arrival, resulting in an intense fire-fight.

In the first incident in the exchange, six militants were killed, while six others sustained injuries.

"Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District on reported presence of khwarij. During conduct of the operation, own troops effectively

engaged khwarij's location, as a result of which, six khwarij were sent to hell, while six khwarij got injured," said an ISPR press release. Meanwhile, four terrorists were killed in two separate engagements in North Waziristan District.

An intelligence based operation was conducted by the Security Forces in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District.

During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarij's location and after intense

fire exchange, two Khwarij were sent to hell.

In another incident, movement of a group of khwarij, who were trying to infiltrate through Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was picked up by the security forces in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District.

Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to infiltrate. Resultantly, two khwarij were sent to hell, while two khwarij got injured.

PM pays tribute to security forces

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday paid tribute to the security forces for killing four Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists in Spinwam area of North Waziristan and injuring two others who were subsequently arrested. The prime minister praised the officers and personnel of security forces for their successful operation against Fitna-al-Khawarij in Spinwam, North Waziristan.



QUETTA: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi along with Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti chairing an emergency meeting on law and order situation in the province.

Trump wouldn't be be dictator 'except for Day 1'

WASHINGTON (AP): Donald Trump has said he wouldn't be a dictator — "except for Day 1." According to his own statements, he's got a lot to do on that first day in the White House.

His list includes starting up the mass deportation of migrants, rolling back Biden administration policies on education, reshaping the federal government by firing potentially thousands of federal employees he believes are secretly working against him, and pardoning people who were arrested for their role in the riot at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

"I want to close the border, and I want to drill, drill, drill," he said of his Day 1 plans.

When he took office in 2017, he had a long list, too, including immediately renegotiating trade deals, deporting migrants and putting in place measures to root out government corruption.

Those things didn't happen all at once.

Here's a look at what Trump has said he will do in his second term and whether he can do it the moment he steps into the White House:

Make most of his criminal cases go away, at least the federal ones

Trump has said that "within two seconds" of taking office that he would fire Jack Smith, the special counsel who has been prosecuting two federal cases against him. Smith is already evaluating how to wind down the cases because of long-standing Justice Department policy that says sitting presidents cannot be prosecuted.

Smith charged Trump last year with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

Trump cannot pardon himself when it comes to his state conviction in New York in a hush money case, but he could seek to leverage his status as president-elect in an effort to set aside or expunge his felony conviction and stave off a potential prison sentence.

A case in Georgia, where Trump was charged with election interference, will likely be the only criminal case left standing. It would probably be put on hold until at least 2029, at the end of his presidential term. The Georgia prosecutor on the case just won reelection.

Pardon supporters who attacked the Capitol

More than 1,500 people have been charged since a mob of Trump supporters spun up by the outgoing president attacked the Capitol almost nearly four years ago.

Trump launched his general election campaign in March by not merely trying to rewrite the history of that riot, but positioning the violent siege and failed attempt to overturn the 2020 election as a cornerstone of his bid to return to the White House. As part of that, he called the rioters "unbelievable patriots" and promised to help them "the first day we get into office."

As president, Trump can pardon anyone convicted in federal court, District of Columbia Superior Court or in a military court-martial. He can stop the continued prosecution of rioters by telling his attorney general to stand down.

"I am inclined to pardon many of them," Trump said on his social media platform in March when announcing the promise. "I can't say for every single one, because a couple of them, probably they got out of control."

Dismantle the 'deep state' of government workers

Trump could begin the process of stripping tens of thousands of career employees of their civil service protections, so they could be more easily fired.

He wants to do two things: drastically reduce the federal workforce, which he has long said is an unnecessary drain, and to "totally obliterate the deep state" — perceived enemies who, he believes, are hiding in government jobs.

Within the government, there are hundreds of politically appointed professionals who come and go with administrations. There also are tens of thousands of "career" officials, who work under Democratic and Republican presidents. They are considered apolitical workers whose expertise and experience help keep the government functioning, particularly through transitions.

Trump wants the ability to convert some of those career people into political jobs, making them easier to dismiss and replace with loyalists. He would try to accomplish that by reviving a 2020 executive order known as "Schedule F."

Naqvi, Bugti review security situation

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti and Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting on Sunday reviewed the situation created after the suicide attack on railway station Quetta, discussed the measures taken for maintaining peace and the security of the public and protection of their properties in Balochistan.

Both leaders paid homage to the martyrs and offered prayers for the elevation of their ranks. The Interior Minister and Balochistan Chief Minister expressed complete solidarity with the families of the martyrs and said that the war against terrorism is the war of every Pakistani and defeat of enemies in this war is the first and last option.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi while talking to the chief minister said that the federal government will provide all-out support for maintaining peace and the complete eradication of terrorism from the province.

Speaking on this occasion, the chief minister said that more efforts are being taken to ensure law and order situation, and reiterated that a handful of elements are involved in terrorist activities in Balochistan which would be rooted out in every way.

Later, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi were presided over a high-level meeting on the law and order situation in Balochistan here at Chief Minister's Secretariat. The preliminary report of the suicide blast at Quetta railway station was presented in the meeting.

In the meeting, prayers were also offered for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs and expressed solidarity with bereaved families. It was decided in the meeting that decisive steps would be taken with full force to crush the terrorists and intelligence-based operations would be expanded to thwart the nefarious designs of anti-state elements.

Addressing the meeting, Mohsin Naqvi said that the federal government would provide all possible support to the Balochistan government to deal with the menace of terrorism. He also announced to provide resources to Balochistan on a priority basis.

He said that measures would be taken to provide trainings and strengthen the professional capabilities of Police, CTD, Levies and other forces of Balochistan to effectively deal with the menace of terrorism.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the professional capabilities of Levies, Police and CTD would be strengthened and developed them on modern lines with the support of the federal government. He expressed the government's resolve to defeat enemies who want to weaken Pakistan by furthering their nefarious designs.

Sarfraz Bugti vowed to root out the menace of terrorism and ensure peace in the province.

Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Ali Shah, IG Police Balochistan, Moazzam Jah Ansari and other high officials including Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqat were attended the meeting.

Bilawal commends security forces

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has commended the security forces for their successful operation in North Waziristan, which resulted in the elimination of six terrorists.

According to a press release issued by the Media Cell of Bilawal House, the PPP Chairman highlighted that neutralizing six terrorists and injuring six others marked a significant achievement by the security forces.

He emphasized that the ongoing intelligence-based operations against terrorists also reflected the nation's steadfast commitment to eradicating terrorism.

Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reiterated the Pakistan People's Party's unwavering support for the security forces in their fight against terrorism. Security forces has been on the front against the militants in the restive region regularly targeting the hideouts of the Khawarijs.

IAEA chief to visit Iran on Wednesday

DUBAI (Reuters): U.N. nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi will visit Iran next Wednesday and start consultations with Iranian officials the following day, state media reported on Sunday.

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Wednesday he might head to Iran in the coming days to discuss its disputed nuclear programme and that he expected to work cooperatively with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

Long-standing issues between Iran, the IAEA, and Western powers include Tehran barring uranium-enrichment experts from IAEA inspection teams in the country and its failure for years to explain uranium traces found at undeclared sites.

Iran has also stepped up nuclear activity since 2019, after then-President Trump abandoned a 2015 deal Iran reached with world powers under which it curbed enrichment - seen by the West as a disguised effort to develop nuclear weapons capability - and restored tough U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Tehran is now enriching uranium to up to 60% fissile purity, close to the roughly 90% required for an atom bomb. It has enough higher-enriched uranium to produce about four nuclear bombs, if refined further, according to an IAEA yardstick.

Iran has long denied any nuclear bomb ambitions, saying it is enriching uranium for civilian energy uses only.

Breaking the Myths

Know the Facts about Islamic Banking

It's time to separate fact from fiction. Discover how Islamic Banking is different - ethical, transparent & rooted in Shariah principles.

Myth ❌

Islamic and Conventional Banking both appear similar

Fact ✅

If a transaction follows Islamic Shariah principles, it is halal, even if the end result appears similar to Conventional Banking

Myth ❌

Any return on deposit is Riba

Fact ✅

No, returns received through Shariah-compliant business activities do not constitute Riba

Myth ❌

Banking cannot be Islamic

Fact ✅

If a banking transaction is based on Shariah principles, it qualifies as Islamic Banking

For further details about Islamic Banking, please visit our website: www.ib.com.pk

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اسلامی بینکنگ انٹرنیٹ آف پاکستان
مستقلہ و کرام کی زیر نگرانی



KARACHI: A craftsman is busy creating traditional wooden chick curtains, a sustainable and effective solution to filter out dust and pollutants from homes in Karachi. —INP Photo

530 surgeries done under CM surgery programme

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Children's Heart Surgery programme has successfully completed surgeries on 530 children to date, with a notable reduction in the waiting list for children's heart surgeries, which had been a longstanding issue.

These details were revealed during a briefing about the programme here on Sunday. The programme is being monitored through a dedicated dashboard.

The authorities concerned briefed the CM that 530 patients are being treated in six government and eight private hospitals. Registration and entry of details in central database

is ensured for timely surgery of patients coming for treatment. About 4500 sick children have been referred for treatment in Punjab. Surgery and interventional cardiology procedure under the programme has been successfully completed, patients on track to recovery.

The briefing added that children's cardiac surgery is being done at Children's Hospital and Cardiology Institutes of Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi, besides four private hospitals in Lahore, three in Multan and one in Islamabad.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that the health of

every child is important. "We will try hard to save their lives," she added. In the Children's Heart Surgery Programme, not only Punjab, but also children from other provinces including KP will be treated, she informed. It was extremely painful for young children suffering from heart diseases to go through the agony of waiting for a year for surgery, she said.

The CM said the lack of special heart surgeons and trained allied staff would be fixed to increase capacity of children's hospitals. She added, "We are trying to ensure treatment of every child suffering from cardiovascular diseases."

Punjab reports 79 new dengue infections

LAHORE (APP): A slight decline in dengue cases was observed, with the Punjab Health Department reporting 79 new cases of dengue fever across the province on Sunday.

The majority of the new cases were recorded in Rawalpindi, with 65 cases, followed by four cases in Chakwal, and two in Sialkot. Single cases were also reported in Lahore, Attock, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Kasur, Chiniot, Gujrat, and Okara.

So far in 2024, a total of 6,838 dengue cases have been recorded across Punjab. The Health Department officials said hospitals were fully stocked with essential medicines and ready to manage the growing number of patients.

Health officials urged residents to maintain cleanliness and eliminate stagnant water around their homes to help curb the spread of dengue. Emphasizing the importance of preventive measures, they are seeking public cooperation with health teams working in high-risk areas.

To assist the public, the Health Department has established a helpline at 1033 for inquiries and reports regarding dengue-related issues. The department is stressing the need for heightened public awareness and strict adherence to preventive practices to control the spread of dengue in Punjab.

Funds released for treatment of police employees

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has issued Rs. 1.8 million additional funds for treatment of police employees and their families, serving in Lahore and other districts.

According to details, Sub-Inspector Najam-ul-Sattar Akhtar of Lahore was allocated Rs. 500,000 for cancer treatment; ASI Muzammil Hussain received Rs. 250,000 for his wife's treatment; ASI Amir Bilal and Head Constable Muhammad Adil each received Rs. 150,000 for their wives' tumour treatments; Constable Zafar Khan was given Rs. 125,000 for his wife's treatment; ASI Taqeer-ul-Hassan from Rawalpindi received Rs. 100,000 for minor surgery; ASI Muhammad Irfan from Multan was allocated Rs. 100,000 for heart disease treatment.

Constable Waris Ali received Rs. 100,000 for kidney treatment; driver constable Mirza Akhtar Rafiq was given Rs. 100,000 for kidney stone treatment, Sub-Inspector Hamad-ul-Hasan Zafar received Rs. 100,000 for blood cancer treatment; ASI Shahid Manzoor received Rs. 75,000 for his son's treatment.

The IGP approved disbursement of the funds following the scrutiny of the Medical Financial Assistance Committee. He also mentioned that through memorandums of understanding with various institutions, modern medical facilities were being provided to employees.

Tahir Ashrafi stresses joint efforts to restore peace

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has stressed the need for joint efforts to restore peace and harmony in the country.

At a joint press conference, along with religious scholars and leaders from various schools of thought, here on Sunday, he said all religious leaders issued a unanimous fatwa, declaring the perpetrators as terrorists and condemning their act of killing innocent civilians.

He called on the government to take decisive action at all levels against such elements. He pointed out that the roots of terrorism in Pakistan were linked to Afghan soil and urged Afghanistan to become a good neighbour, eliminating terrorist hideouts within its borders.

He emphasised that the state,

government, military, and people of Pakistan were united in the fight against terrorism, just as they were in the year 2000, and that terrorists and their facilitators would be defeated again.

Addressing the situation in Parachinar, he urged the local population to maintain peace, respect, and brotherhood, and to not let violence divide them. They stressed that mutual respect and tolerance were essential for a prosperous future.

Regarding the recent tragedy in Quetta, the PUC chairman expressed deep sorrow over the killing of 27 innocent people by terrorists. They also affirmed that the entire nation was united in the fight against terrorism and its facilitators.

He also expressed concern over the role of certain individuals who attempt

to portray terrorists as missing persons while later being involved in suicide bombings. They called for these facilitators to be held accountable.

Ashrafi urged Afghanistan to take responsibility for its role in curbing terrorism and to eliminate terrorist safe havens within its borders.

He also called for mutual peace and cooperation between the two nations. He reminded Afghanistan that peace in Pakistan is integral to peace in Afghanistan, stressing that terrorism is a shared enemy and no country should support terrorists.

Maulana Maqbool Ahmad, Asadullah Farooq, Muhammad Aslam Siddiqi, Qari Abdul Hakim Athar, Mubashir Rahimi, Mufti Naseem-ul-Islam, Qari Hafeezullah, Ibrahim Hanafi, Muhammad Ahmed Maavia, and others were present.

Turkish Scholarship program providing opportunity to students

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye in Karachi Cemal Sangu said that Turkish Scholarship program is a State initiative that provide opportunity to thousands international students including Pakistanis, for pursuing higher education in Türkiye.

Addressing a dinner reception to celebrate study in Türkiye, organized by Tri-Star Education at Turkish Consulate, Türkiye's top diplomat said education is one of the important ways and pillars to development and achievement, no country can progress, develop and prosper unless it keeps providing quality education to its youth and keep promotion of science and technology on its top priorities.

He disclosed Türkiye scholarships for Pakistani students is for all levels and comprehensive, with travel expenses, boarding, pocket money and many more. He announced that at the end of December scholarship application starts and they would like as many as students from Pakistan to

take benefit of this program. Sangu said that education teaches values and helps in the development of the society as a whole. He quoted Nelson Mandela who once said "Education is the most powerful weapon in the World", and stated that in the field of education in Pakistan 28 Pak - Turk Maarif Schools all around Pakistan having 13 thousands students from pre-school to A level colleges, Pakistani and Cambridge Curriculum, three in Karachi and five in other parts of the Sindh province.

Türkiye Diyanet Foundation in cooperation with different Pakistani NGO's is running girls schools, and they have 1500 students, they are providing solar energy system, WC, drinking water, school uniforms, bags, books, school equipment, teachers salaries etc. Diyanet foundation is providing training and certificate to 800 teachers, he stated.

Türkiye envoy said that Turkish Red Crescent Society with NGO's are running Star Schools in Karachi

Korangi and Orangi areas, he added that Turkish Coordination and Development Agency (TIKA) supporting many education projects currently, in Sindh nine schools energy system, nine computer labs in different schools, with recently refurbishing 3 public schools, one customize school bus for special children, three libraries, three music rooms, three science labs, school education equipment, play grounds, auditoriums, and special customize gardens for special children.

The dinner reception was attended by present and former education ministers, educationist's visiting from Türkiye, prominent reductionists of the Country and elite of the town.

The event brought together representatives from several prestigious Turkish universities, over 25 student counselors from prominent schools, and the esteemed Consul General of Turkey, Cemal Sangu, as well as Tri-Star Education's CEO and Founder, Danish Ahmed.

ICS emphasizes quality education and awareness



Sajjad Muhammad Khan

PESHAWAR: The Head of Elementary section Iftikhar Khattak at Islamia Collegiate School Peshawar expressed the view that prioritizing the education of children alongside raising their awareness and introducing them to recreational activities is of utmost importance.

While presenting the Chief Proctor Sash to Muhammad Umar Sultan from the KG class, he emphasized that Islamia Collegiate School holds a significant position in the field of education, serving as a cornerstone in this domain. He further stated that the services rendered by this institution are well-

known and do not require any introduction. We aim to provide quality education to cope with the future challenges. Meanwhile Sana Ullah sports teacher

added that we are working on students physical grooming. Advance Learning techniques enabling the students for public presentations and leadership



Mayor orders adding new animals to Karachi Zoo

KARACHI (PPI): A high-level meeting on Karachi Zoo and Safari Park was held under the chairmanship of Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

According to a KMC statement on Sunday, the meeting was attended by Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi, Financial Advisor Gulzar Ali Abro, Senior Director Coordination Ikhlaz Ahmed Yousafzai, Senior Director Recreation Imran Rajput, and other relevant department officials.

During the meeting, the mayor discussed details with officials regarding the zoo and safari park and instructed that new animals be added to Karachi Zoo.

He also directed that an audio-visual library for children be established, pet shows be held, and CCTV cameras be installed at all four entrances to ensure security for visitors.

Mayor Karachi noted that Wednesdays are dedicated to women at Karachi Zoo, making it the only recreational space in

Karachi with an entire day reserved for women to freely enjoy the facilities.

He suggested inviting students from various schools and colleges to visit on the women-only day to observe animals and birds up close and benefit from other amenities. Additionally, he called for measures to boost animal breeding within the zoo and emphasized the swift completion of remaining development projects under mega projects. He described the zoo as a historic asset, highlighting the importance of its preservation and improvement.

The mayor also recommended exploring options to introduce facilities like zip lining at the zoo. He stressed the need for high-quality food at the zoo's food stalls and instructed contractors to provide healthy and quality refreshments to visitors. Mayor Karachi inquired about the food provided to the animals and directed that around 900 animals and birds at the zoo be given fresh and nutritious food. He announced plans to

visit the Landhi and Korangi Zoo this week to inspect the facilities.

Regarding Safari Park, Mayor Karachi also received updates and issued instructions to enhance the park's standards. He emphasized taking special care of the animals' health, warning that contractors failing to provide quality services would be blacklisted immediately. Officials informed him that the Dino Safari contract had ended and was now being managed by KMC.

Similarly, the contracts for Jumbo Jumping, the canteen, horse riding, and parking had expired. Mayor Karachi highlighted that there was significant potential for improvement in Safari Park and encouraged officials to provide proposals to make it a top-notch, fully-equipped recreational park. He concluded by noting that recreational facilities are essential, especially in a densely populated city like Karachi, making it crucial to provide ample recreational opportunities.

Major crackdown on transport amid rising smog levels

LAHORE (APP): Amid worsening smog and environmental pollution, the Environmental Protection Department, in collaboration with the district administration and police, has launched a major operation against transport laws violators in Lahore.

Raids were conducted at bus terminals along Bund Road, where vehicles emitting excessive smoke were ticketed, and 24 vehicles were impounded for breaching regulations.

Officials from the Environmental Protection Department inspected emissions from passenger buses and took strict action against those violating environmental standards.

Environmental Protection Secretary Raja Jahangir Anwar said that such actions would continue, and strict measures would be taken against those failing to comply with the environmental regulations.

Strict security provided at churches

LAHORE (APP): Under the directives of Capital City Police Officer Bilal Siddique Kanyana, security in the provincial capital was put on high alert on Sunday.

The Lahore police developed a comprehensive security plan for churches, with additional police personnel, including snipers, deployed at sensitive churches and key locations. Police teams remained vigilant and actively performed their security duties.

Lahore police officials ensured foolproof security at churches during services and at significant sites. Search and sweep operations continued around churches, Christian communities and sensitive areas.

Supervisory officers closely monitored security arrangements at churches and other critical sites. Rigorous checks were conducted at the city's entry and exit points for both people and vehicles.

The Dolphin Squad, Police Response Unit and Elite teams ensured effective patrolling around churches and important areas, keeping a vigilant watch on any suspicious activity.

Sindh govt, KMC asked to raise tree cover

KARACHI (PPI): Expressing grave concern over lack of parks and gardens in Karachi besides cutting of mangroves in the coastal areas, Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor here Sunday demanded of the government of Sindh and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) to increase the tree cover of the megacity on urgent basis.

"We should follow the suit of the second megacity Lahore, where the government is taking efforts to increase tree plantation. The Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) of Lahore is working to plant over 25 million trees during this year to boost Lahore's low

tree cover to 7 percent, hence the tree cover of Karachi should also be increased at least with the same ratio," Mr Shakoor said in a statement today.

He said that tree cover primarily cool the air by shading surfaces such as concrete and asphalt, preventing heat storage and reducing the urban heat island effect. Tree cover can reduce land surface temperature by 10 to 20 degrees Celsius (18 to 36 degrees Fahrenheit) on a summer day.

He said trees produce oxygen, intercept airborne particulates, and reduce smog, enhancing a community's respiratory health. The urban canopy directly contributes to meeting a

city's regulatory clean air requirements. He said access to trees, green spaces, and parks promotes greater physical activity, and reduces stress, while improving the quality of life in our cities and towns.

Shakoor said that the Sindh government had planned urban forestry in Karachi but no concrete efforts are still seen in this regard. He said areas near Malir and Lyari rivers are ideal for urban forestry. He said mangrove forests could be developed along long coastline of the megacity. He asked the government to plant trees in Karachi on emergency basis to increase the green canopy of the megacity.

Education minister calls on governor Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Sunday and discussed educational challenges, being faced by Punjab and possible solutions during a meeting at the Governor's House here.

The minister briefed the governor about up-gradation of schools and other issues. The governor said that they would work

together for educational development of Punjab. He said that education has a fundamental role in building nations; therefore, the government should pay full attention to the sector.

The Punjab governor said education should not be beyond the reach of the poor, adding that the government should upgrade schools, especially girls' schools in remote areas and provide facilities there. He emphasised the govern-

ment should take all measures to provide relief to the poor people in the field of education and health.

Sardar Saleem Haider also congratulated the national cricket team on winning the ODI series against Australia, saying that the Men in Green created history after 22 years by defeating the Australian cricket team on their soil. He said that the national cricket team made the nation proud.

ETPB chairman orders swift action

LAHORE (APP): Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Chairman Syed Ata-ur-Rehman chaired a high-level meeting with board administrators, emphasising the need for swift and effective action in line with the Supreme Court directives.

The chairman assigned administrators the final task of completing the rental assessment of department properties promptly.

According to a press release, issued here on Sunday, Chairman Ata-ur-

Rehman issued directives to expedite the leasing of reclaimed lands, intensify recovery efforts for outstanding dues, and enforce actions against illegal occupants of trust properties. Highlighting the importance of revenue enhancement, he encouraged officials to approach their duties with sincerity and dedication, ensuring that tasks are completed within specified timelines.

It was resolved to implement measures aimed at improving the

board's performance and ensuring the safety of trust properties.

The chairman stressed the importance of protecting Hindu and Sikh religious sites under the board's jurisdiction and directed administrators to take a hands-on approach in monitoring these sites. He also advised cost-cutting measures in zonal and district offices and called for robust action against defaulters and illegal occupants to safeguard the board's interests.

PakTurk Maarif Schools: Where quality meets success

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: For two brotherly countries; Türkiye and Pakistan, education holds a critical importance not only for their future through the new generation but also for bringing them closer. The strategy and approach in academic development target the highest possible quality and standard in our programs.

To embed the philosophy of “Two Nations, One Future”, Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges provide inspirational, value integrated and progressive learning environments to students who are also encouraged to participate in National & International Competitions and celebrate the accomplishment of the teachers for their efforts.

To embed the philosophy of “Two Nations, One Future”, Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges provide inspirational, value integrated and progressive learning environments to students who



Students in school uniforms holding green signs with Urdu text, standing in front of a building with posters of world leaders.

from kindergarten to high school, across the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

At ther Boys’ Campus located in Hayatabad Phase 5, which has a capacity of 800 students, the school offer both the local curriculum and the Cambridge curriculum, preparing our students for a future on both national and international stages.

With a 160-capacity dormitory that hosts students from all regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the school serve the entire province.

Additionally, through a collaborative project with FWO and MPCL, two prestigious companies of the army, we provide educational opportunities for students from the Waziristan region.

The Girls’ Campus in University Town also offers quality education across all grade levels, from kindergarten to high school.

The schools have set a high standard in academic achievement, particularly with a national first place

in the Cambridge IG 3 level English class and a third place in the Board level under the local curriculum in Peshawar.

This success extends beyond select students; with the highest average GPA scores, our Peshawar campus stands out for its overall student achievement.

Beyond academic excellence, our campuses offer ideal learning conditions, with quality physical infrastructure, social facilities, hygienic dormitory environments, and nutritious meal options.

With a team of expert teachers and highly qualified staff, PakTurk Maarif Schools equip students not only with academic knowledge but also with social and cultural skills.

The school is among the most respected educational institutions in Pakistan. PakTurk Maarif Schools, are committed to raising the standard of education in Pakistan and ensuring that every child has access to an equal, high-quality education.

Energy’s natural resources a valuable treasure: Sadozai

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Special Assistant for Energy and Power Engineer Tariq Mehmood Sadozai has said that the natural energy resources in the province are valuable treasures that can be utilized to bring about revolutionary changes in the province.

In order to exploit these natural resources, there is a dire need of passion and good management. In addition, the Energy and Power Department and all its subsidiaries, PEDO, KP Oil and Gas Company and various others are working rapidly which will prove to be milestones for the development of the province in

the coming period.

A strong voice will be raised for the solution of energy related issues at the federal level in the coming days. He expressed these views while addressing an introductory meeting in the Energy department after assuming new responsibilities as Special Assistant.

On this occasion, Secretary Energy & Power Nisar Ahmed Khan, Special Secretary Irfan Wazir, Special Secretaries Shah Fahad, Abdul Haseeb, Akhlaq Ahmed, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Kashif, Chief Executive PEDO Engr. Riaz Ahmed jan, Chief Executive KPOGCL Nasir Khan and other senior officers of the department participated.

While giving a briefing in the meeting, Additional Secretary Admin Shah Fahad said that PEDO is working rapidly on various energy projects for the production of cheap hydropower in the province.

Many projects have been completed that are generating billions of rupees annually while 6 more projects are in the final stages of completion having 223 megawatts of total electricity generated capacity.

He further added Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Transmission and Grid Company has been established for the first time in order to improve the power system in the province and make possi-

ble the transmission of the generated electricity and work is going on the projects to lay new transmission lines.

Shah Fahad also briefed that in the same way, several projects have been completed to convert thousands of schools, mosques, basic health units to solar energy, while in the next two years, 2 mega projects of converting deserving households and all government buildings to solar system have been initiated.

Meanwhile, SA Sadozai expressed satisfaction on the overall performance and hoped that the ongoing energy projects will be completed on time and the department’s revenue to be further increased, he concluded.

44 HIV, HCV positive addicts held

PESHAWAR (APP): In latest phase of the ongoing Drug-Free Peshawar campaign, the district administration has arrested 494 drug addicts with 44 of them testing positive for serious infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C (HCV).

In a statement issued here

Sunday by the office of Commissioner, 26 of the arrested addicts were found to be HIV positive, while 18 others tested positive for hepatitis (HCV).

It is confirmed that those testing positive for these diseases would be transferred to Islamabad for specialized.

Among the arrested

addicts were eight women and six children. The campaign targeted several high-risk areas in Peshawar including Gulbahar, Haji Camp Ada, GT Road and major cemeteries.

Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riyaz Khan reported that significant progress has been made in clearing

major drug hotspots, including areas around factories, Hayatabad, Peshawar to Hayatabad railway track and University Road.

Efforts are underway to detain drug addicts who have fled these areas, with the ultimate goal of eliminating addiction from the city, Commissioner said.

Iranian Consul agrees on strengthening ties

PESHAWAR (APP):Iranian Consul General in Peshawar, Ali Banafshekhah has agreed with a suggestion of arranging touristic visits by columnists and writers of Pakistan and Iran for highlighting cultural, historical bonds besides strengthening socio-economic relations between the two brotherly neighbouring countries. The Iranian envoy expressed these views while talking with a delegation of Abaseen Column Writers Association which called on him under the leadership of its President, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi. According to a press release issued here on Sunday, the delegation members included General Secretary, Abid Akhtar Hassan, Wasim Shahid, Sahibzada Talha Saeed Advocate, Munawar Shah Munawar, Aurangzeb Ghaznavi and Malik Khan Saeed Mohmand. Speaking during the meeting, President Abaseen Column Writers Association, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi thanked Iranian Consul General for being in contact with columnists and journalist community of the region. On this occasion, he recalled a 14 days visit of Abaseen Column Writers Association under his supervision to Iran in 2019. The visit was historical and very informative from knowledge sharing point of view, Zia Sarhadi mentioned. After the visit, members of the delegation penned their views in press the potential of joint Pak-Iran Joint Touristic Potential.

Kundi congratulates forces on successful operation

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faissal Karim Kundi on Sunday congratulated nation and security forces over successful operation against militants in Spin Wam area of South Waziristan Uppar.

A major security operation carried out by the Pakistan Army and eliminated six terrorists.

The Governor hailed the operation as a significant victory in the ongoing battle against terrorism in

He commended the security forces for their bravery and professionalism in neutralizing the terrorists and thwarting their malicious plans.

He also expressed his gratitude to the forces for their dedication to safeguarding the country.

"Security forces have once again demonstrated their unwavering commitment and courage in the fight against terrorism. Their prompt and effective action has thwarted the dangerous designs of these terrorists," said Faisal Karim Kundi.

Kundi further emphasized that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stand united with the security forces in their efforts to eliminate terrorism from the province.

Thalassemia prevention day observed

PESHAWAR (APP): Hamza Foundation Welfare Thalassemia Hospital here on Sunday celebrated World Thalassemia Prevention Day with an objective to create awareness about complications of thalassemia disease and its effects on children.

Chairman Ejaz Ali Khan, Medical Director Dr. Tariq Khan, Lady Dr. Kushmala Shah, Engineer Hamza Ejaz, affected children with parents participated the event

On the occasion, the speakers stressed the need to make thalassemia tests mandatory before marriage and to activate thalassemia units at hospital level.

Child Labour – Addressing a pervasive social issue

PESHAWAR (APP): Toiling hard at an auto workshop in the bustling town of Nowshera, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, youngster Adil Khan was encircled by scattered spare parts and tools, fixing engines and CNG kits to earn some money for supporting his family.

With his small hands looking blackish and greasy and eyes navigating complex machinery of vehicles at his Pabbi town auto market, Adil entered into this grueling profession in 2020, driven by poverty that forced him to abandon his education at Amankot primary school.

"Year 2000 was very painful for my family when my mother had to borrow heavy amount of money for treatment of my father's pancreatic cancer," he recalled, telling a painful story. "Father's protracted ailment and mother's discomfort compelled me to work at auto market and help my family."

With distress in his eyes, he continued, "poverty had deprived me of education as well as my childhood. "Now, am here working till late hours and my ambition for education has drowned deep somewhere in my heart."

Adil's story is the one among millions daily witnessed in our surroundings with kids of hundreds of thousands families compelled to early age labor due to families financial compulsions.

Although respective governments launched number of projects in education, legal and social sector to ameliorate the lot of people and ensuring that school run-away or dropout students are enrolled afresh and curb child labor, yet the desired results are still awaited.

Jehanzeb Khan, Manager, Society for Protection of the Rights of Child (SPARC) KP states that a large number of children in Pakistan are currently engaged in child labor due to poverty and socio-economic imbalances.

"Pakistan Labor Force survey reveals a worrisome number of children aged 10-17 who are engaged in various forms of labor countrywide."

A recent Child Labor Survey conducted by Labor Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported that approximately 1.5 million children in the province were working as child laborers, with thousands below 10 years age found working at shops and auto markets.

"Poverty and illiteracy are primary drivers behind this pressing issue," said Dr. Muhammad Naem Khattak, an educationist. "As poverty rate rises, it directly impacts the social sector also resulting in increased underage labor.

Therefore, this financial instability forces families to prioritize immediate economic needs over their children's education and health.

"Literacy rate in Pakistan is around 62.8%, with almost half of the population lacking access to quality education," Naem said.

"This lack of opportunity forces youngsters to opt for an early age labor, particularly in impoverished areas. Therefore, we need comprehensive policies to protect children's rights and ensure quality and affordable education for them."

As the country faces numerous socio-economic problems, efforts to combat child labor usually seem like insufficient. Since, the country's debt burden, low economic growth and pressure on foreign exchange reserves continue to haunt every government, their first priority remains to better economic conditions.

Therefore, number of issue of key importance slip down on the priority list due to shabby economic conditions and unnecessary tug of war among political parties that badly affect our socio-economic sectors.

Many public sector organizations and NGOs working in this area face financial constraints and dwindling enthusiasm that hampering their ability to make a meaningful impact.

Though the government has recognized education as a fundamental right under Article 25-A of the Constitution, its implementation in far flung areas remains weak. The civil society activists have urged the KP government to increase minimum employment age from 14 to 16 years, allowing more children to acquire education.

Meanwhile, Fazal Shakoor Khan, Provincial Minister for Labour KPK has mentioned to different steps taken to combat child labor including Rs177.5 million allocations for education of child laborers and planned appointment of wage magistrates to enforce minimum wage regulations.

"Education Emergency Program has been launched in nine remote districts to provide stipends and support to families to encourage school enrollment under Gov KP's Rs 3.1 billion education emergency program," he stated.

The Minister informed that each child in these districts would receive a monthly stipend of Rs1,000 besides an option to enroll their children in registered private schools at the government expenses.

"Initially 40,000, mostly the street children from nine districts would benefit from this initiative," he said. "Approximately 50 million free textbooks would be provided to children on enrollment from grades 1 to 12 and 506 talented students would be granted ETEA scholarships."

The minister also mentioned to adopting multi-faceted policies also involving the government and private organizations for meaningful action and transparent utilization of financial resources for breaking child labor cycle.

Although KP Child Protection and Welfare Act had been enacted to combat forced labor, yet the real test lies in its enforcement. The road ahead requires unwavering commitment from all stakeholders to ensure that children like Adil Khan are given a chance to reclaim their childhood and secure their future through education.

As the government and society grapple with this pervasive issue, addressing child labor is not merely a policy issue but a moral imperative and only through concerted efforts can we hope to turn the tide against this deeply entrenched social problem.

KP elegantly exhibits ancient culture, folk music at Lok Mela

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The traditional rubab music and Kalash dances attracted a large number of visitors to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pavilion established at the Lok Mela to display the unique and indigenous culture of the province.

Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Tourism, Culture, Archaeology, and Museums Zahid Chanzeb during a visit to the KP Pavilion set up at the Lok Virsa praised the organizers for tastefully displaying folk music and local culture.

"KP Pavilion at Lok Mela has showcased the province's ancient culture in the best possible way," he said, adding that the artisans of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were the living custodians of our cultural heritage.

He said the pavilion had provided an opportunity for artisans from different districts of the province to present their craft.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority Director General Tashfeen Haider, Director

of Admin and Finance Umar Arshad Khan, General Manager of Tourism Sajjad Hamid, Event Manager Haseena Shaukat and other important figures were also present. Zahid Chanzeb said that the KP Pavilion at the folk festival featured skilled artisans demonstrating handicrafts, which have become the centre of attention for incoming tourists.

"Various stalls at the pavilion not only provide artisans with an opportunity to showcase their skills to the world, but also allow the province to send a positive message to the world.

The pavilion at the event attracts millions of local and international tourists," he added. He said that the purpose of participating in the festival was to present the soft image of the province, raise global awareness about KP's rich cultural and traditional heritage and support the province's artisans and artists.

The KP Pavilion displays 30 stalls featuring various handicrafts and cultural items, including mosaic art, Mizari work,

traditional hand-made bags from Islampur, Charsadda slippers, Kundi work, lacquer art, woodcraft, Jinnah caps, pottery, handicrafts, Mughal art, clay products, and even items made by prisoners of the provincial Prison Department.

The pavilion also showcases traditional foods from the province such as Pinda, Chapli Kabab, rice Pulao, Tikka Boti, Chicken Boti and others. A special setup of the Kalash tribe is also featured in the pavilion, where Kalash men and women showcase their culture.

The traditional Pashtun "Hujra", the historical Qissa Khawani Bazaar of Peshawar, and a traditional "Qahwa Khana" (green-tea house) have been set up to entertain tourists.

Traditional rubab music is also being performed to captivate visitors.

The pavilion also features videos and documentaries about various tourist destinations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, along with a tourism information desk for visitors to learn more about cultural and tourist attractions.

The Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa music show at the Lok Mela will be held on Wednesday (November 13) where various singers from the province will perform. The much-awaited annual Lok Mela is going on at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa), presenting a diverse cultural extravaganza for the art lovers.

The event is being arranged by Lok Virsa, which is an autonomous cultural organization working under the National Heritage and Culture Division.

As this year's festival is marking the golden jubilee celebrations of Lok Virsa (1974-2024), several new and innovative attractions are being added to the event.

The objective is to promote Pakistan's indigenous folk heritage, strengthen national harmony and integration among all federating units through a cultural perspective and provide a much-needed platform to the master artisans, folk artists, folk musicians and folk dancers to demonstrate their skills at the national level.

Vintage Car Rally Show held at DHA Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): An impressive Vintage Car Rally Show was held at Defense Housing Authority (DHA) Peshawar on Sunday.

The Pak wheel auto show was arranged jointly by Frontier 4 by 4 Club and DHA Peshawar which was attended by a large number of people and car lovers.

To promote the show, banners and placards with writings in connection with the show were installed at the venue.

Tug of war 4 by 4 jeep race and race among vehicles on 1.3 kilometers track was also organized. The tug of war 4 by 4 jeep race was won by Jamsheed Burki and first position of the race of vehicles on 1.3 kilometers

track was clinched by Babar Yousafzai.

About 60 vehicles participated in both the races that was warmly applauded by large number of spectators.

The organizers and participants of the vintage car show have highly praised DHA Peshawar and Frontier 4 by 4 Club for organizing the event where

stalls of Excide battery, vehicles and motorcycles were also installed

The Excide battery also arranged a funfair show that was warmly applauded.





In brief

Dental doctor shot dead

LAKKI MARWAT (APP): A dental doctor in Lakki Marwat district shot dead two brothers and critically injured their father over a monetary dispute, police informed on Sunday. Police said the incident occurred in Muhalla Minakhel of Lakki City where a dental doctor shot dead two brothers and critically injured their father. Bodies of the brothers identified as 26-year-old, Shaukat and 24-year-old, Imran and their injured father, Bahadur Khan were shifted to DHQ Lakki. Police said the dental doctor, Jahangir Khan had taken an advanced payment of Rs 15000 from the deceased for teeth treatment and was making lame excuses in planting artificial teeth. The matter turned into a verbal clash, following which the doctor shot both the brothers dead. Lakki City police have registered a case against the dental doctor, Jahangir Khan and his accomplice, Qaizar and started investigation.

Man kills wife, son in Shabqadar

CHARSADDA (APP): A man in Shabqada tehsil of Charsadda district shot dead his wife and young son and critically injured the daughter after some domestic skirmishes, police informed on Sunday. Police said the callous father who was stated to be mentally disturb, shot dead his wife, son and injured the 8-year-old daughter in Dilla Zak area of Shabqada before fleeing the area. The mentally disturbed man went for the extreme action in the wake of frequent domestic skirmishes, police said adding that a case has been registered and investigation started.

3 held for visa fraud

MULTAN (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Composite Circle busted a group of people involved in visa fraud, here on Sunday. The accused, identified as Maqsood, Ghulam Abbas, Muhammad Muzamil were arrested in a raid, conducted in Khanewal and Multan. According to the FIA officials, the accused allegedly took Rs. 1,140,000 from a man on the pretext of sending him abroad. However, later they failed to fulfill their commitment and went into hiding when he demanded return of the amount.

Smog camps set up in Lodhran

LODHRAN (INP): Lodhran Deputy Commissioner Abdul Rauf Mehr has ordered for establishment of smog awareness camps across the district. He issued a high alert detailing protective measures against the harmful impact of smog two days ago. The awareness camps aimed to create awareness among the public about the dangers of smog and encourage active participation in measures to mitigate its effects. Highlighting the seriousness of the issue, the DC described smog as a dangerous environmental threat, stressing the need for collective action from all citizens to combat it. Special anti-smog squads have been deployed across the district. These squads are actively working to curb air pollution through various interventions. Municipal committees are conducting regular water sprinkling to reduce dust level. The Punjab government has enforced strict ban on activities contributing to smog, such as the burning of crop residue, emissions from industrial waste, and the incineration of municipal waste, tires, and plastic materials.



DIR: Minister for State and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam welcoming Senator Zahid Khan, former Secratry Information ANP on joining PML-N

KIMS organizes Grand Literary Program



F.P. Report

KOHAT: The Kohat Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) has in collaboration with the Divisional and District Administration Kohat organized a Grand Literary Program under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda" in KIMS Kohat the other day.

The program beside Dr. Abasin Yusufzai, a great literary figure, was also attended by the prominent writers and poets from various universities and districts of the province.

Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah was the Chief guest of this prestigious event.

The students of Kohat Medical College hosted the program diligently.

Commissioner Kohat on this occasion, highlighted the event about the details of the government's "Awami Agenda" and assured the students that the administration will ensure a safe environment and proper arrangements for their educational and recreational activities under the government's program "Awami Agenda".

The students actively participated in the program and enjoyed it a lot. Commissioner Kohat Division Motsim Billah Shah thanked the college administration and the guests from various universities of the province and expressed the hope that the students would be protected from the effects of drugs and other negative activities through positive activities.

In the said program, prominent literary figures presented their papers and speeches on the occasion, which were highly appreciated by the audience.



SARGODHA: A worker busy in making geyser at selawli road. — APP photo

Minister takes notice of medicines shortage

Hafiz Muhammad Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: Provincial Minister Punjab, Khawaja Imran Nazir took notice of shortage of medicines in District Head Quarter Hospital Hafizabad. Minister reached to DHQ hospital to review deficiencies of medicines and to ensure availability of free of cost medicines to patients in the hospital whereas he directed the health officers to provide all necessary medicines to f diabetes, heart and kidney patients immediately.

Minister inspected emergency, medical, surgical wads, pharmacy, dialysis unit, laboratory and other departments of the hospital and took feedback from patients about availability of treatment facilities. Former Federal Minister Saira Afzal Tarar, MPA Mian Shahid Hussain, Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq, Chief Executive Officer Health Dr. Umer Sharif and other officers were also accompanied by minister.

Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir said on this occasion that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is committed to ensure provision of latest medical facilities to the people of the province including Hafizabad.

He said that the Punjab government was taking all possible measure to provide treatment facilities to the people at their doorsteps.

On the request of Sair Afzal Tarar, the minister assured to provide angiography facility and medicines to heart patients at district head quarter hospital Hafizabad.

He also directed the concerned officers to do audit of local purchase of medicines

during last three month.

During the visit of Surgery, Urology wards and positive feedback of patients, the minister lauded services of Dr. Zahoor Ahmad and announced to give commendation certificate to him for showing the best performance.

The Minister also assured to construct sperate rooms for dialysis patients at Rural Health Centre Sukheki Mandi.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government is taking different measures on emergency basis to contain spread of smog under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and a sum of Rs. 10 billion are being spent to arrange artificial rain, smog tower and other modern facilities to control smog in the province.

This was stated by the Minister for Health, Punjab, Khawaja Imran Nazir while distributing face mask among people at Jinnah Chowk Hafizabad, on Saturday. Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq, DPO Faisal Gulzar were also present on this occasion.

He said that due to air coming from India, the smog was increased different cities of the Punjab, whoever, with the joint efforts of the Punjab government and district administration, all possible measures were being taken to get rid of smog.

He appealed the people to remain indoor and to ensure use of mask while going to out from homes because smog was harmful for children, old and young people.

He directed the district administration to established smog awareness counters at hospitals and he appreciated steps taken by the district administration and police to control smog in the district.

Rally staged against torching three trucks, killing ASI

HARNAI (PPD): Harnai Acton Committee on Sunday staged a rally and held a protest demonstration at Bacha Khan Chowk against setting on fire three coal loaded trucks, killing of Assistant Sub Inspector of Police, Khalil Mulazai, closure of Harnai-Sanjawi road and the frequent acts of terrorism in Harnai.

The rally was taken out from Bacha Khan Chowk. The participants of the rally marched through different roads and reached Bacha Khan Chowk where a protest demonstration was held.

Addressing the protest demonstration, Chairman, Harnai Action Committee, Syed Hafeez Shah, condemned firing at the vehicle of SP Police Harnai the previous day that resulted in the martyrdom of Sub Inspector Khalil Mulazai. They demanded of the authorities that owners of three burnt trucks be compensated besides taking steps for restoring peace in Harnai.

WASA Employees Union calls off strike

QUETTA (PPD): WASA Employees Union in Quetta ended its week-long strike on Sunday after successful negotiations with local district authorities and WASA management.

The strike, which lasted seven days, was called off after Additional Deputy Commissioner Quetta (Revenue), Muhammad Waqar Kakar, and Managing Director of Balochistan WASA, Latif Rana, met with union representatives.

During the talks, the union outlined their demands, including salary payments and an adhoc relief allowance. Managing Director Latif Rana assured that outstanding salaries would be disbursed within a month.

Five killed in fog-related accident

THATTA (INP): Death toll in jumble up of six vehicles at the National Highway near Gharo has reached to five after two more injured of the accident died in hospital.

Earlier, three persons were killed instantly in fog-related traffic mishap in Thatta district on Sunday.

"Two more injured in critical condition succumbed to their injuries soaring death toll to five," hospital administration said.

Five deceased have been identified as Shoaib, Rehman, Nadeem, Moin and Gul Zaman.

Four more injured from 12, have been in a precarious condition and shifted to Karachi for medical attendance. Earlier, at least five persons were killed in two fog-related traffic mishaps at the National Highway near Gharo and at Darya Khan in Punjab.

Three persons died in accident near Gharo at the National Highway when six vehicles were jumbled up owing to poor visibility caused by foggy weather conditions early morning.

Muqam says PTI fails to deliver on all fronts in KP

Welcomes ex-ANP leader Zahid in PMLN

DIR LOWER (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam here Sunday said that Pakistan Tahrir e Insaf (PTI) despite its third consecutive government has failed to deliver for welfare of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the problems of masses have increased manifold.

Engr Amir Muqam was addressing a big public gathering here on occasion of joining of PMLN by former Senator and ANP leader Zahid Khan and his brother Ayub Khan along with thousands of his supporters.

Senator Zahid Khan and his brother have expressed full confidence in the leadership of PMLN President Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and PMLN KP President Engr Amir Muqam.

Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam said that PMLN strongly believed in people's welfare service as well as uniformed development of Pakistan and that was why political leaders such as Zahid Khan, Ayub Khan and ex Minister Wajid Ali Khan have joined his party.

He said that people of Pakistan knew that PMLN's leadership has all the ability and strength to take the country's out of all challenges and put it on road to prosperity.

He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was tirelessly working to make the country forward on road to

progress and development besides provide relief to masses.

Engr Amir Muqam said that the successful holding of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) at Islamabad have enhanced Pakistan's image at global level.

He said bringing price hike to below seven percent digit and record increase in stock exchange besides revival of economy was made possible due to untiring efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his financial team.

He said that unfortunately some elements, who are raising hallow slogans of 'true freedom' did not like political stability in the country. He said people are fully aware that who were using foreign lobby for the release of PTI founder.

He said that raising of flag of a super power in Swabi public meeting of PTI addressed by CM KP and staging of cipher drama for political gains by the PTI founder was fully exposed before the masses.

Engr Amir Muqam ruled out of granting of NRO for anyone under foreign pressure, reiterating that only courts would decide the cases of PTI founder.

Instead to address issues of the protesting teachers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that CM KP has failed to address their genuine problems, resultantly precious time of thousands students are being wasted.

Engr Amir Muqam advised CM KP to address teachers problems on pri-

ority basis and focus on improvement in security situation in the province rather than provoking workers against the state institutions.

He said that KP Assembly should be used for empowerment of masses and legislation for resolution of provincial issues rather against political opponents.

Engr Amir Muqam said that people of Malakand Division had suffered due to terrorism and floods and requires fast track development.

He said that PTI Government has failed to construct Dir-Chitral Motorway despite tall hallow promises.

Engr Amir Muqam said that only PMLN Govt has completed record numbers of projects whether it was provision of gas, electricity and road infrastructure in Malakand Division.

He said that construction of Nawaz Sharif kidney hospital at Swat was a gift of PMLN Govt benefiting thousands of patients every year.

Engr Amir Muqam said that Malakand Division has been exempted of taxes for one year by the PMLN Govt to provide relief to its people.

He said that all problems of road infrastructure, gas and electricity in the area would be addressed on priority basis.

Engr Amir Muqam said party workers are real asset of the party and all their genuine demands would be addressed. He welcomed Senator Zahid Khan in the party fold and assured support in resolution of the area problems.

Poor administrative conditions in jail Minister directs urgent corrected measures

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: In a swift response to concerns raised about the poor administrative conditions at District Jail Timergara, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Prisons, Humayun Khan, has ordered immediate corrective measures following a surprise inspection of the facility.

During his visit, Humayun Khan observed several critical issues, including substandard cleanliness, poor food quality, and numerous complaints from inmates regarding mistreatment. As a result, the Special Assistant issued directives for the immediate removal of the Jail Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent.

All senior staff members have been instructed to report directly to the Directorate of Prisons for

further action. Humayun Khan took the time to meet with the inmates, listening to their grievances regarding the unsatisfactory conditions, which included allegations of inhumane treatment, subpar food, and inadequate hygiene. He emphasized that such practices would not be tolerated under any circumstances and that immediate steps would be taken to rectify the situation.

The Special Assistant also inspected the jail's food supply and cleanliness arrangements in the prison kitchen and examined the health care facilities in the jail hospital. His findings were alarming, leading him to order a full review of the management and an immediate transfer of the prison staff. Addressing the situation, Humayun Khan stated, "The conditions at District Jail Timergara are unacceptable, and we will ensure that no one, including prisoners, is subjected

to inhumane treatment.

I am committed to implementing reforms that reflect the vision of our leadership, including Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, to improve the conditions in our prisons." He further assured that similar surprise inspections would be conducted across all prisons in the province. "Those failing to perform their duties responsibly will face strict consequences," he added. Accompanying Humayun Khan during the visit was Feroz Shah, the Chairman of the Tehsil, who expressed his full support for the measures being taken to address the issues at the jail.

The government is committed to transforming the prison system into a rehabilitative environment where inmates are treated with dignity and respect, in line with the vision of societal reintegration.



HYDERABAD: A woman standing near her relative, who is under treatment for dengue at Bhilai Hospital.



Pakistan pledges ending violence against children

E.P. Report

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA: Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting children's rights and eradicating violence against children as its delegation, led by Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson of the National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), and Ms. Sarah Ahmad, Chairperson of the Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Punjab, represented Pakistan in the first-ever Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (VAC).

This landmark event, hosted by the Government of Colombia in collaboration with Sweden, UNICEF, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, and the World Health Organization, aims to accelerate global efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target of ending violence against children by 2030. Hosted in Bogotá, Colombia, the conference gathered representatives from 143 countries, along with global leaders, child rights organizations, and United Nations bodies, to

address the universal challenge of ending violence against children.

The conference commenced with an inspiring plenary session, where Mr. Gustavo Petro, President of Colombia, underscored the urgent need to eliminate violence against children. Leaders and stakeholders worldwide pledged their commitment to ensuring children's safety through universal access to comprehensive parenting support, secure and enabling environments, and effective response services for victims of violence to prevent recurrence and foster resilient pathways for children and families.

Pakistan's delegation presented the commitments followed by the National Preparatory Session held in Islamabad on October 3, where key stakeholders from national and provincial governments, civil society, and academia discussed the nation's child protection goals. At the conference, Pakistan will present two significant pledges:

Strengthening Integrated Child Protection Services: Pakistan pledges to expand and enhance child protection services across the country by



2027. This includes reinforcing district-level child protection units, enacting and enforcing child protection laws, and developing a gender-responsive, child-sensitive workforce. This initiative aims to support at least 18,000 child survivors and their families while extending protection services to over 28 million children.

Promoting Positive Parenting and Non-Violent Discipline: Recognizing the key role of parents and caregivers in preventing violence, Pakistan will implement nationwide parenting programmes that promote non-violent, positive discipline. The initiative aims to equip

approximately 28 million parents and caregivers with tools to create safe, nurturing environments for children, while challenging harmful social and gender norms.

In her address, Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq shared the pledge on behalf of Government of Pakistan "I make this pledge on behalf of children of our

country Pakistan to ensure that every child is safe from all forms of violence in all contexts through strengthening and expanding integrated child protection services, by 2027. Supported by a comprehensive policy framework, enhanced inter departmental coordination, well capacitated workforce and a dedicated allocation of financial resources. The pledge emphasizes the strengthening and enforcement of child protection laws including those against corporal punishment, child marriage, and online sexual abuse and exploitation. Additionally, the government will focus on building a child sensitive and a gender responsive workforce, capable of providing equitable necessary and timely support to children in need while ensuring that responsive services are accessible and effective across all provinces and territories."

The pledge also reinforces the enforcement of child protection laws, particularly targeting issues such as corporal punishment, child marriage, and online sexual abuse and exploitation. Pakistan aims to build a child-sensitive, gender-responsive and inclusive workforce capable of delivering necessary and appropriate

support services for children in need of protection. The plan includes a focus on enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of family-based multi-sectoral responsive services aligned with constitutional and international standards across all provinces and territories.

Pakistan's participation in the conference underscores the country's commitment to child protection and sets the stage for future evidence-based and child-focused action. The delegation has outlined clear steps to turn these pledges into action, including expanding family-based child protection services, coordinating efforts across government agencies, allocating resources for prevention programs, and training the child protection workforce.

Pakistan's commitment to strengthening family-based child protection services and promoting positive parenting is a vital step toward ensuring a future where every child grows up safe, healthy, and free from violence. Through these initiatives, Pakistan is not only aligning with global goals but also positioning itself as a proactive player in the international fight to end violence against children.

Mauritius holds election, with cost of living on everyone's minds

PORT LOUIS (Reuters): Mauritius held a parliamentary election on Sunday in which Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and his main rivals all promised to tackle a cost of living crisis in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Polls closed at 6 p.m. local time (1400 GMT) and results were expected on Monday, according to the country's electoral body.

The country of about 1.3 million people markets itself as a link between Africa and Asia, deriving most of its revenues from a flourishing offshore financial sector, tourism and textiles. Mauritius also receives aid from China.

It has forecast 6.5% economic growth this year compared with 7.0% last year but many voters are not feeling the bene-

fits.

Jugnauth's Alliance Lepep coalition has promised to raise minimum wages, increase pensions and reduce value-added tax on some basic goods.

It says it will use payments from the UK under an October agreement for Britain to cede the Chagos Islands while retaining the U.S.-UK Diego Garcia air base.

"The alliance led by the prime minister is selling the economic prosperity card, with promises of more money to different segments of the population," said political analyst Subash Gobine.

The opposition has also pledged to increase pensions as well as introduce free transport and internet services and reduce fuel prices.

It is dominated by the

Alliance du Changement coalition led by Navin Ramgoolam and two other parties running in the Linion Reform alliance, whose leaders, Nando Bodha and Roshi Bhadain, plan to alternate as prime minister if they win.

Voters were picking lawmakers for the 62 seats in parliament for the next five years, from a list of 68 parties and five political alliances.

Music instructor Ivan Mootoooveren, 41, who cast his ballot at a polling centre in the capital, Port Louis, told Reuters he was voting for the opposition because the country needed a new direction.

Another voter, David Stafford, 36, said young people would make the difference in the election. He did not say who he was voting for but added

that people were looking for economic innovation and job opportunities as much as fiscal changes.

Arvin Boolell, deputy leader of the Labour Party, a member of the opposition coalition, told Reuters voter turnout had likely exceeded 75%. The electoral body could not be immediately reached to give an official figure for turnout.

Whichever party or coalition gets more than half the seats in parliament also wins the prime minister's post.

Earlier this month, Jugnauth's government blocked social media platforms until a day after the election, citing national security concerns after conversations between public figures were leaked. It lifted the ban a day later after opposition parties criticised the move.

Lithuania government to include party whose leader is on trial

VILNIUS (Reuters): Lithuania's Social Democrats, winners of last month's parliamentary election, defended on Saturday their decision to form a coalition government with a populist party whose leader is standing trial over alleged antisemitic statements.

Nemunas Dawn party founder and head Remigijus Zemaitytis resigned from parliament in April, ahead of an impeachment vote, after the Constitutional Court ruled he had broken his oath by stirring up hatred against Jews in social media posts last year.

Zemaitytis went on criminal trial over the

posts in September, charged with "attempting to create hostility, and provoking intolerance, towards Jews", and with playing down the Holocaust in Lithuania.

Zemaitytis has said the posts were not antisemitic and denies wrongdoing.

He will not serve in the cabinet himself but his party will lead three of the government's 14 ministries, among them the Justice Ministry, said Social Democrat deputy leader and designated Prime Minister Gintautas Paluckas.

Paluckas told reporters joining forces with Nemunas Dawn was the only way to have a "sus-

tainable" coalition and said his party was ready to explain its decision to the country's international partners.

"Some claim the whole Nemunas Dawn party is antisemitic - we don't see it like that," Paluckas said. "There is no place for antisemitism, neither in the Social Democrat party nor its government."

Democratic U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, the outgoing chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on Friday that including Zemaitytis' party in the government "undermines the core values that unite our nations".

The chair of the German parliament's Foreign

Affairs Committee, Michael Roth, said "alliance with an antisemitic party is incompatible with our values".

The Social Democrat-led alliance, which also includes the For Lithuania party, is set to hold 84 seats in the 141-member parliament, above the 71 seats required for a majority.

During the election campaign, both the Social Democrats and the second-placed centre-right Homeland Union said they would refrain from forming a ruling coalition with Nemunas Dawn, which came third in the election.

The new government is expected to be sworn into office in December.

Dutch police halt pro-Palestinian rally after soccer violence

AMSTERDAM (Reuters): Riot police in Amsterdam began breaking up a pro-Palestinian protest on Sunday after a court upheld a ban on demonstrations following clashes this week involving Israeli soccer fans.

Hundreds of demonstrators defied the prohibition to gather in the Dutch capital's Dam square, chanting demands for an end to violence in Gaza and "Free Palestine."

But after a local court ratified the city authorities' ban, police moved in, instructing protesters to leave. Several people were dragged away by police, a Reuters journalist saw.

The three-day ban was imposed from Friday after attacks on Israeli soccer supporters following a soccer match on Thursday between visiting Maccabi Tel Aviv and Ajax Amsterdam.

At least five people were injured early on Friday, as Israeli fans were assaulted by what Amsterdam mayor

Femke Halsema described as "antisemitic hit-and-run squads".

Prosecutors said late on Saturday that four suspects remained detained on suspicion of violent acts, including two minors, and that 40 people had been fined for public disturbance and 10 for offences including vandalism.

They added that they expected to make more arrests.

A large group of Maccabi supporters was seen in a video posted online by news site Bender arming themselves with sticks, pipes and rocks and twice clashing with opponents when they marched into the city after the match.

The video was not verified by Reuters.

Local police chief Olivier Dutilh told the court on Sunday that the ban was still needed as antisemitic incidents were also reported on Saturday night, local TV station AT5 reported.

Dutilh told the court that people had been pushed out

of taxis and intimidated by others who asked to see their passports on the streets. Reuters was unable to verify the incidents.

The Netherlands has seen a rise in antisemitic incidents since the Gaza war began in October last year.

Meanwhile, Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof will miss the COP29 climate summit after clashes in Amsterdam this week between Israeli soccer fans and pro-Palestinian protesters as his government investigates if warning signs from Israel were missed.

"I will not be going to Azerbaijan next week for the UN Climate Conference COP29. Due to the major social impact of the events of last Thursday night in Amsterdam, I will remain in the Netherlands," he said on social media platform X.

Dutch Climate Minister Sophie Hermans will still attend the Nov. 11-22 environment meeting while a climate envoy will replace

Schoof, the premier added, saying Thursday night's violence in Amsterdam would be discussed at Monday's cabinet meeting.

Prosecutors in Amsterdam said late on Saturday that four suspects remained detained on suspicion of violent acts, including two minors, and that 40 people had been fined for public disturbance and 10 for offences including vandalism. They added that they expected to make more arrests.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, who made a last-minute trip to the Netherlands due to the unrest, met Schoof and his Dutch counterpart, Caspar Veldkamp, on Saturday. Saar held talks with Justice Minister David van Weel and far-right leader Geert Wilders when he arrived on Friday. At least five people were injured during the unrest involving fans of the visiting Maccabi Tel Aviv soccer team who lost 5-0 to Ajax in the Europa League.



PORT LOUIS: Former Prime Minister and leader of the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) party Paul Berenger casts his ballot at a polling centre during the Mauritian general election in Vacoas/Floreal, Mauritius, on Sunday. — Reuters photo

King Charles III and Kate attend remembrance event as both slowly return to duty

LONDON (AP): King Charles III led the nation Sunday in a two-minute silence in remembrance of fallen service personnel in central London as the Princess of Wales looked on, a further sign the royal family is slowly returning to normal at the end of a year in which two of the most popular royals were sidelined by cancer.

Remembrance Sunday is a totemic event in the U.K., with the monarch leading senior royals, political leaders, including Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his eight living predecessors, and envoys from the Commonwealth countries in laying wreaths at the Cenotaph, the Portland stone memorial that serves as the focal point for honoring the nation's war dead.

The service is held on the second Sunday of November to mark the signing of the armistice to end World War I "on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" in 1918. Across the U.K., services are conducted at the same time in memory of the dead.

After the two-minute silence, buglers from the Royal Marines played the

Last Post and Charles led the wreath-laying part of the service.

The 75-year-old king, dressed in his Royal Navy uniform of the Admiral of the Fleet, laid a wreath of poppies at the base of the Cenotaph in recognition of the fallen from conflicts dating back to World War I.

His eldest son and the heir to the throne, William, left his own floral tribute — featuring the Prince of Wales' feathers and a new ribbon in Welsh red.

Dressed in somber black, his wife, Kate, watched on from a balcony of the nearby Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, as is tradition.

Queen Camilla, who would normally be standing next to the princess, was not present as she recovered from a chest infection.

It is the first time since the start of the year that Kate is carrying out two consecutive days of public official engagements. On Saturday, she attended the Royal British Legion Festival Of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Following the wreath-laying, around 10,000 veterans, including those who have fought in wars this

century, notably in Afghanistan and Iraq, marched past the Cenotaph. With the passage of time, there were only a handful of World War II veterans present.

Charles' ceremonial role as commander in chief of the armed forces is a holdover from the days when the monarch led his troops into battle.

But the link between the monarchy and the military is still very strong, with service members taking an oath of allegiance to the king and members of the royal family supporting service personnel through a variety of charities. Charles and William served on active duty in the military before taking up full-time royal duties.

They are showing respect to us, as we've shown to them by serving," said Victor Needham-Crofton, 91, an army veteran who served during the Suez Crisis of 1956 and later in Kenya.

Charles was diagnosed with an undisclosed form of cancer in February, forcing him to step away from public appearances for two months as he focused on his treatment and recovery. Just a few weeks later, Kate

announced her own cancer diagnosis, which sidelined her for much of the year as she underwent chemotherapy.

The king has been in good form in recent months and recently completed a taxing trip to Australia and Samoa.

Kate, who made her first post-diagnosis public appearance during the monarch's birthday parade in June, is slowly returning to public duties.

Prince William reflected this week on the strain that the cancer scare has placed on the royal family.

"I'm so proud of my wife, I'm proud of my father, for handling the things that they have done," William told reporters on Thursday as he wrapped up a four-day trip to South Africa. "But from a personal family point of view, it's been, yeah, it's been brutal."

While the Cenotaph was the focus of the national remembrance service, communities throughout the U.K. held their own ceremonies on Sunday.

Needham-Crofton, who served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers before a truck accident ended his military career, planned to attend a local service in Eastbourne on the south coast of England.

He has spent much of his time honoring veterans and trying to help them, including 20 years as a volunteer for the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans. Like some of his army tasks, raising cash was rather grueling as it involved standing in front of London subway stations collecting coins to help fund the group's efforts.

"I like to respect all the veterans and do what I can for them," he told The Associated Press. "It's a brotherhood really. Even if you don't know a veteran that you meet, you feel a kinship toward them. That is very important to me. I shall be like that for the rest of my life."



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Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

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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

Donald trumps Harris

BUT his apocalyptic warnings about immigration and championing of isolationism found their mark with voters battered by the post-Covid economy and eager for a change from the Biden years. The campaign pointed to a nail-bitingly close contest, but the results came surprisingly fast, delivering a crushing victory that included wins in the swing states of Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Trump is the first president in more than a century to win a non-consecutive second term. He is also the only person to be elected as a convicted felon — he will face sentencing in a New York court for fraud on November 26. Already 78, Trump is on course to break another record as the oldest-ever sitting president during his four-year term. He will surpass Biden who is set to step down in January at the age of 82.

The Republican former president's address to a crowd of jubilant supporters came despite the fact that only Fox News had so far declared him the winner of the presidential election.

"This is a magnificent victory for the American people that will allow us to make America great again," the 78-year-old told cheering supporters at his campaign headquarters in Florida. Trump on Wednesday said he and his supporters had made history in the White House race. He said, "We've made history for a reason tonight, and the reason is going to be just that we overcame obstacles that nobody thought possible," Trump told cheering supporters. "It's a political victory that our country has never seen before."

World leaders rushed to congratulate him before the final results were in, with Ukraine's president in particular urging Trump to help achieve a "just peace" against Russia. Trump has previously called for US military aid to Kyiv to be cut, part of his nationalist "America First" policy that unsettled US allies in his first term. US networks called the swing states of Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina for Trump, and he led the Democratic vice president in the others although they have not been called yet. Gloom swiftly descended on Harris's camp as she canceled a watch party for supporters who dreamed of seeing her elected as America's first woman president.

"You won't hear from the vice president tonight but you will hear from her tomorrow," Cedric Richmond, Harris campaign co-chair, told a watch party in Washington as supporters left. In a further blow to Democrats, Trump's Republican Party also seized control of the Senate, flipping two seats to overturn a narrow Democratic majority.

As Trump's jubilant supporters cheered and chanted "USA," Trump took to the stage along with his wife Melania and several of his children as he heared the cusp of victory. "We made history," he said, speaking against a backdrop of Stars and Stripes flags, adding that "we are going to help our country heal."

He also referenced the two assassination attempts he escaped during the campaign, adding: "Many people have told me that God has spared my life for a reason." Trump was joined at his watch party by key supporters including tech tycoon Elon Musk, the world's richest man. He called the X and Tesla boss a "new star" in a shout-out from the podium.

Polls for weeks had shown a knife-edge race between Harris and the twice-impeached Trump, who would be the oldest ever president at the time of inauguration, the first felon president and only the second in history to serve non-consecutive terms. Trump also faces sentencing in a criminal case over hush money payments on November 26, while the controversy over his unprecedented attempt to overturn his 2020 election defeat by Joe Biden still persists. But in the end, the night was over surprisingly soon.

Trump even appeared to be nearing victory in the popular vote — something he never achieved in his 2016 victory or in 2020. Harris appeared to have underperformed in key areas, with Trump winning support among Latinos and Black men. Trump's promises of economic bounty and his dark rhetoric on migrants also appear to have resonated with voters who were tired of Biden and Harris's administration.

US stock futures and US dollar surged and bitcoin hit a record high while most equity markets advanced as traders bet on a victory for Trump. The mood shifted sharply at Harris's watch party in Howard University — her former college and a historically Black university in Washington — as the results came in. "I am scared," said Charlyn Anderson. "I am anxious now. I am leaving, my legs can barely move." Millions of Americans had lined up throughout Election Day — and millions more voted early — in a race with momentous consequences for the United States and the world.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was quick to hail his "incredible victory." Trump has indicated he will push through a peace deal that would force Kyiv cede land to Russia's invading forces. France's President Emmanuel Macron led a series of European leaders and the head of NATO as they also sought to court a leader who regularly strained transatlantic ties in his first term. For the Democrats, the soul-searching will begin.

Harris made a dramatic entrance into the race when Biden dropped out in July and hammered home her message that Trump was a threat to democracy and her opposition to Trump-backed abortion bans.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer congratulated Donald Trump after the Republican claimed victory in the US presidential election, and said he looked forward to working with him. Italy's far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni congratulated Donald Trump after he claimed victory in the US presidential election and hailed the "unshakeable" ties between the two countries. Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan congratulated "my friend Donald Trump" after he claimed victory in the US presidential election.

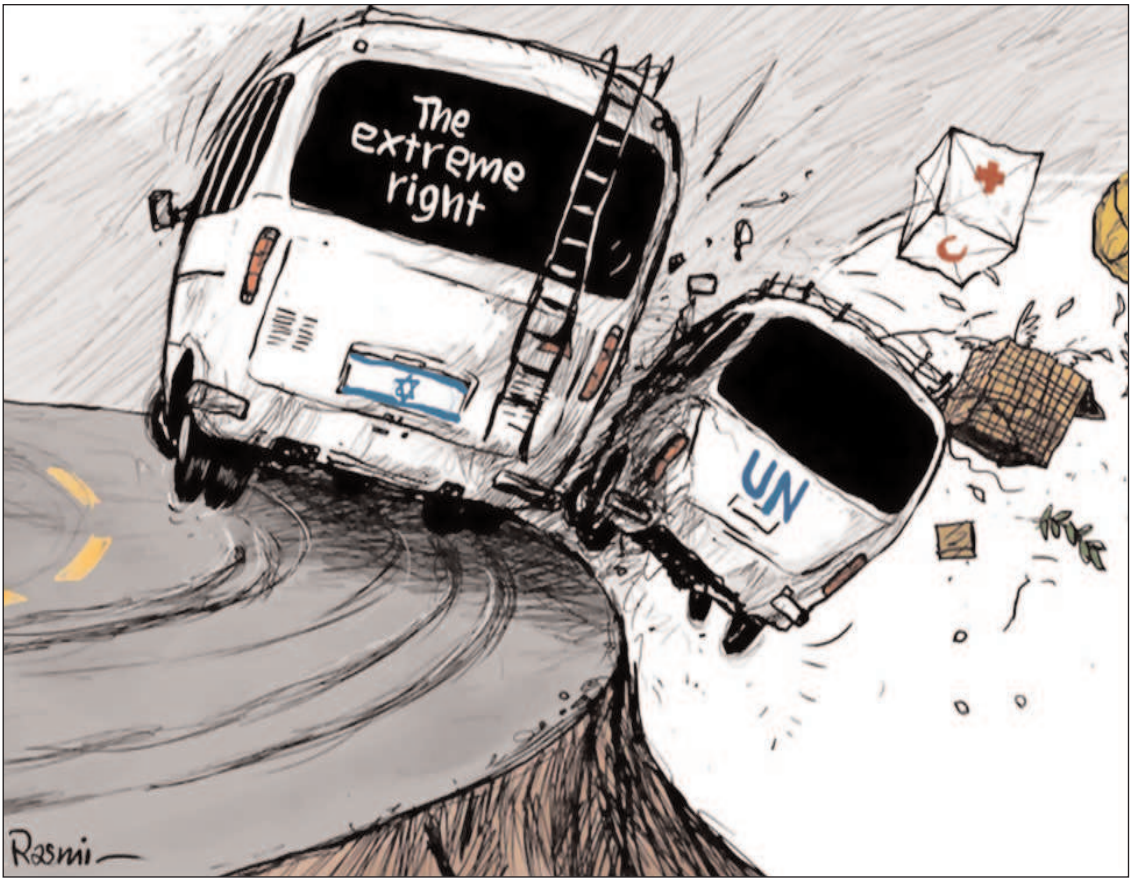
German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Wednesday congratulated Donald Trump after he claimed victory in the US presidential election, vowing Berlin would work with him for "prosperity and freedom".

NATO chief Mark Rutte congratulated Donald Trump for winning the US presidential election and said his return to power will help keep the alliance "strong". "His leadership will again be key to keeping our Alliance strong. I look forward to working with him again to advance peace through strength through NATO," Rutte said in a statement.

Spain's left-wing Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez congratulated Donald Trump Wednesday after he claimed victory in the US presidential election and pledged to work on a "strong transatlantic partnership".

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Can Tunisia's youth resist the resurgence of authoritarianism?

Hafed Al-Ghwell

The youthful energy that once thrummed through the streets of Tunis, ousting a long-entrenched dictator more than a decade ago, has withered in the face of an unchecked authoritarian resurgence.

The Arab Spring, which ignited the spark of hope for many young Tunisians, is now merely a dim and haunting memory in what is left of the country's disappearing democracy. This sense of disillusionment does not signify an end, however, but rather an opportunity to recalibrate and learn lessons from counterparts in regions steeped in similar, if not greater, challenges.

The youth of Tunisia face a political environment strained by past promises of democracy now overshadowed by a return to authoritarian tendencies. In the decade since the Arab Spring, periods of optimism have faded into disillusionment as democratic institutions weaken and economic hardships persist. Meanwhile, the government's centralization of power has only fueled further frustration and an impending sense of permanent hopelessness, leading to sporadic but fervent protests demanding systemic change. These agitations often meet with harsh crackdowns, leaving young Tunisians locked in an endless struggle against political stagnation.

There is a palpable sense of distress among Tunisian youth, and understandably so. Their complaints are two-fold: broken democratic promises and diminished socioeconomic prospects.

However, if we expand our scope to consider the lived experiences etched in the lives and similar struggles of Iraqi youth, we can see that they appear to have accepted the grim realities they face without giving up on their ambitions for change. Instead, they have recalibrated their approach rather than persisting with head-on resistance.

Young people in Iraq have chosen a path of strategic patience, opting for grassroots movements as their vehicles for change. In an environment fraught with political risks, they have carved out space for community-driven initiatives in education, healthcare and local development.

This quiet resistance is a methodical tactic, effectively operating under the radar of government retaliation. By focusing on long-term societal reforms rather than short-term political gains, Iraqi youths are slowly working to dismantle systemic corruption and failures of governance.

Their subtle approach is a lesson in political dexterity. It hints at a profound understanding that real change comes through building societal resilience, rather than direct confrontation with entrenched authority.

Contrast this with Tunisia, where young activists often lean toward more visible forms of opposition, often relying on direct protest and public resistance as their primary tools. However, these methods provoke an immediate backlash, the result of which is that sustainable change remains elusive in a

volatile political climate.

While protests can galvanize attention, the Iraqi youth model suggests that the real battleground for change lies in achieving incremental victories through local engagement and creating sustainable systems of accountability. The strategic patience of youth in Iraq is a compelling example of how quiet resistance can yield tangible results. It offers crucial lessons for those trapped in similarly repressive environments on how to pursue gradual, yet genuine and sustainable reform and change.

Rather than repeating the same old strategies that result only in brutal crackdowns and a whittling away of the opposition, then, Tunisian youth must learn a

roads where the crumbling promises of the past decade offer scant comfort amid an authoritarian reset. Much like their Iraqi counterparts, young people in Tunisia need a fresh blueprint that revisits the idea of grassroots activism and adapts it to fit the local context.

Adaptation of the Iraqi youth strategy, which has encouraged significant local engagement on issues such as sanitation, girls' education and business incubation, offers a viable model for Tunisia's youth amid authoritarian encroachments.

In Iraq, the pivot from mass protests to community-focused initiatives has not only facilitated immediate local improvements but also strengthened civil society against regression by

ects that tackle unemployment or improve educational services, for example, Tunisian youth can address urgent needs while laying the groundwork for sustained civic involvement. Such grassroots endeavors build community trust and create a vested interest in the continuity of democratic practices, making it more challenging for authoritarian forces to dismantle progress.

For the defenders of democracy, the empowerment of youth through targeted local projects could therefore serve as a buffer against the rollback of democratic gains, helping to create a generation that is fully invested in, and capable of steering, gradual yet effective systemic changes.

This refocused form of activism can better harness the individualistic tendencies of the youth worldview, transforming the pursuit of personal responsibility into collective local action and thereby initiating a bottom-up rebuilding process that creates realistic expectations based on current capabilities.

Economic initiatives also offer a tangible pathway for engagement that aligns with the practical needs of a generation grappling with the specter of stagnant development and deteriorating public services. In many regions, young Tunisians could spearhead cooperative ventures and social enterprises that not only provide employment but also fill service gaps left by the state. Such initiatives aim to cultivate a sense of agency and innovation, encouraging a shift from disillusionment, through top-down political discourse, toward actionable, community-centric economic empowerment.

Drawing on the post-2003 experiences of Iraq, it is crucial that these initiatives embrace patience and persistence in the realization that the journey from microeconomic projects to macroeconomic effects will require time.

The empowerment of Tunisian youth through localized economic drivers will not only foster resilience in the absence of comprehensive national reforms but also set a pragmatic course for long-lasting political and social repair.

Moreover, Tunisian youths must realize that discontent, if channeled constructively, can persist and achieve desirable results in the face of authoritarian drift. They do not need to abandon their democratic ideals but rather reorient them into the pursuit of tangible community benefits. This approach does not denote submission to authoritarianism but rather a savvy recalibration of the fight.

Historical precedents and current comparatives serve as reminders that every movement must evolve. For Tunisia's youth, this means a transition from the role of revolutionaries to steady builders. The future of democracy in the country might therefore rest not in the fervent cries of protest but in the quieter, consistent hum of daily community work, strategic socioeconomic campaigning, and a gradual, inevitable reshaping of the political culture.

35 years after fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany is in a funk that might engulf Europe

Andrew Hammond

Ordinarily, Saturday's 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall might have been expected to be a cause for much joy in Germany. However, celebrations of the milestone will for many people be subdued given the nation's deep economic and political funk.

This was most recently illustrated by the collapse on Wednesday of the three-way governing coalition that included the left-of-center Social Democratic Party (the SPD), the Greens and the liberal Free Democratic Party.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz fired Finance Minister Christian Lindner, leader of the FDP, declaring that there was no longer any "basis of trust" between them. Scholz, who is leader of the SPD, said he would seek a vote of confidence by Jan. 15 so that MPs "can decide whether to clear the way for early elections."

about 1 million migrants, largely from the Middle East, in 2015 and 2016.

This political malaise is mirrored on the economic front. The fall of the Berlin Wall hastened the end of Soviet Communism and led to the reunification of Germany, but the nation has more recently been given the moniker of the "sick man of Europe."

Certainly, Germany has long had the largest economy in the region and is the most powerful nation in the EU, yet it is flatlining. The country has been in a state of ferment now for many years, exacerbated by the pandemic and the energy shocks that followed the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Economically, the latest data shows that Germany very narrowly avoided a recession in the third quarter of this year but is still struggling after shrinking last year, with the International Monetary

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These could take place as soon as March, six months earlier than scheduled.

Beneath this governmental instability there lies a deeper issue: the breakdown of the traditional duopoly of power between the SPD and the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union.

These parties have been the twin pillars of German politics since the end of the Second World War. But with the SPD now very unpopular and the direction of the CDU/CSU still uncertain since the end of Angela Merkel's long chancellorship between 2005 and 2021, Germany appears to be moving from de facto two-party politics to a multiparty system. This is illustrated by the growing number of smaller parties that previously functioned as subsidiaries of either the SPD or the CDU/CSU.

One of the drivers of this unraveling of traditional German politics and the fracturing of the political landscape has been the fact that the nation's post-war consensus is eroding on multiple issues, including history, geopolitics, the economy and ethics.

These political fractures might mean politics is becoming more generally unstable and less predictable, with significant challenges each election cycle in establishing a governing coalition. So there might be more rotation of ruling coalitions, with all the problems this can bring including, potentially, the prospect of the role of the chancellorship becoming weaker in patchwork governments.

For much of the 35 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, many Germans have been mostly content with their post-Cold War lot, seeing themselves in general as beneficiaries of globalization. This might be changing, as evidenced by the rise of smaller parties.

The far right Alternative for Deutschland is currently running second in the polls, for instance. It was the first far-right group to gain seats in the Bundestag, the German federal parliament, for six decades. Moreover, in September the party won its first state election, in Thuringia.

The AfD campaigns extensively on immigration, an issue that has grown significantly in salience in Germany in recent years. This is in part because of the integration of more than 1 million Ukrainian refugees since the Russian invasion in 2022, and the arrival of

Fund forecasting zero growth in 2024.

The challenges the country faces are exemplified by Volkswagen, which has experienced a sharp fall in profits and might decide to close several factories for the first time in its almost 90-year history. Operating profits for the nine months to the end of September fell by more than a fifth compared with the same period a year ago to just under 13 billion (\$14 billion), the causes of which included weaker demand from China. The company's problems reflect a wider malaise in the automotive industry, which is Germany's single largest business sector.

With economic confidence weak, there has also been the biggest reduction in employment for about half a decade, according to an S&P Global and Hamburg Commercial Bank index. In addition, the Federation of German Industries has warned that a fifth of the country's industrial output might be at risk between now and 2030. This is not only because of weaker export markets for German goods (exports account for nearly half of the nation's gross domestic product, a higher proportion than many other major economies) but also high energy costs.

One worrying sign of the declining economic confidence might be German birth rates, which have gone into decline after rising before the pandemic. Between 2011 and 2016, the birth rate rose from 1.38 to 1.59 children per woman. However, it had fallen to only 1.35 in 2023.

To rub salt into the wounds, the nation's troubled public finances could soon become much worse as a result of a Federal Constitutional Court decision that might reduce tax income by up to 75 billion. The court case concerns the legality of a so-called "solidarity surcharge" that was introduced to tackle the burden of German reunification. Reportedly at risk is about 66 billion collected since 2020, and approximately 9 billion in interest. If the court rules against the government on this, it will blow a huge hole in public finances.

All of this explains why the nation might now be at a historic crossroads. The danger is that it might result in a significantly weaker Germany, and wider EU, at a time of growing global geopolitical flux and economic uncertainty.

A few helpful suggestions for Trump on NASA space policy

The 2024 presidential election is finally over. Donald Trump has been reelected by the voters.

This calls for a fresh look at space policy. Here are some hopefully helpful suggestions.

First, Trump should nominate a new NASA administrator quickly. Biden's pick, Bill Nelson, was nominated and confirmed by May 2021. But his predecessor, Jim Bridenstine, was nominated in September 2017 and not confirmed until April 2018. Considering the problems facing NASA and its programs, a new administrator should be installed quickly so that he or she can get to work addressing them.

The new NASA administrator should have political skills, though not necessarily be a former politician like the last two. He or she should have business experience, considering NASA's reliance on commercial space. The nominee should be familiar with space policy issues, though not necessarily have a technical background.

The new administrator will have to examine how NASA does what it does with a goal of finding out why most of its major projects take longer and cost more than expected. Examples include the International Space Station, the James Webb Space Telescope, the Mars Sample Return mission and the VIPER rover. The new NASA chief should have help from a proposed Government Efficiency Commission led by Elon Musk.

The new administrator needs to deal with the

Artemis program to return astronauts to the moon and on to Mars. Artemis II, which will send astronauts around the moon, and Artemis III, which will land people on the lunar surface, are still slated for 2025 and 2026 respectively, but those dates are very much in doubt.

Recently, NASA revealed that it had discovered the cause of the concerning Orion heat shield erosion that occurred dur-

Mark R. Whittington

new NASA administrator must be more forthcoming about such problems.

With the successful capture of the SpaceX Super Heavy, NASA is increasingly optimistic about the Starship's ability to serve as a lunar lander for the Artemis return to the moon. According to Space Flight Now, SpaceX will start testing in-orbit refueling in March 2025, a crucial mile-

landing before NASA will allow it to carry astronauts to the moon. As Ars Technica suggests, a more realistic date for the next human moon landing is late 2028.

The Federal Aviation Administration has thrown up regulatory roadblocks against Starship's testing program, threatening unacceptable delays in the Artemis program over and above the usual technical and fiscal impediments.

With the successful capture of the SpaceX Super Heavy, NASA is increasingly optimistic about the Starship's ability to serve as a lunar lander for the Artemis return to the moon. According to Space Flight Now, SpaceX will start testing in-orbit refueling in March 2025, a crucial milestone in developing the super rocket as a deep space vehicle. The test campaign should conclude sometime in the summer of 2025. The lunar lander version of Starship still has to perform an uncrewed lunar landing before NASA will allow it to carry astronauts to the moon. As Ars Technica suggests, a more realistic date for the next human moon landing is late 2028. The Federal Aviation Administration has thrown up regulatory roadblocks against Starship's testing program, threatening unacceptable delays in the Artemis program over and above the usual technical and fiscal impediments. Something will have to be done to speed up the process, particularly important since China seems to be developing its own version of the Starship rocket. The idea of China beating NASA back to the moon because of red tape is unthinkable.

ing the Artemis I flight. But the space agency did not reveal the cause, a troubling lack of transparency.

The cause and solution of the heat shield anomaly may affect the date of the Artemis II mission. The

stone in developing the super rocket as a deep space vehicle. The test campaign should conclude sometime in the summer of 2025.

The lunar lander version of Starship still has to perform an uncrewed lunar

Something will have to be done to speed up the process, particularly important since China seems to be developing its own version of the Starship rocket.

The idea of China beating NASA back to the

moon because of red tape is unthinkable.

It might be a good idea to revamp the Artemis program entirely, perhaps eliminating the Space Launch System and relying more on commercial systems like Starship.

Commercial Crew is another troubled NASA program. While the SpaceX Crew Dragon is doing quite well, taking astronauts to and from the International Space Station and even conducting private missions such as Polaris Dawn, the same cannot be said about the Boeing Starliner.

Boeing is considering selling its space division, including Starliner. Could another company, say Blue Origin, fix the troubled spacecraft and turn it into a viable alternative to Crew Dragon? Should NASA look for another alternative such as a crewed version of Dream Chaser? In any case, the space agency needs at least two ways to send astronauts to and from low Earth orbit.

What to do with VIPER, the planned roving lunar water prospector, is a question NASA should decide quickly. Currently, the space agency is waiting until "early next year" to decide its fate. It needs to either make a partnership with a commercial company or get more money from Congress to get the rover on the lunar surface. Finding water is crucial for long-term exploration of the moon.

We have a chance for a reset that will enable a space future for the United States and the world. All we have to do is to reach out and take it.

rigorous impact assessments. These will be scalable, raising at least \$100 billion a year, and accompanied by clear assessments of potential externalities.

As we look ahead to COP30 in the Brazilian city of Belem next year, political leadership will be essential to the initiative's success. COP29 in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, this month will provide the right opportunity to discuss our options and get on track for success.

Our plan is to hold a special event for heads of state and government to marshal further support for our solidarity-leaves coalition. This is a crucial opportunity to ensure that the UN's New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance incorporates solidarity leaves and unlocks climate-finance flows that are both ambitious and equitable.

When it comes to additional sources of finance, experts often allude to "innovative finance." In the case of global solidarity leaves, the only innovation required is ambitious leadership across a sufficient base of countries.

Let the 10th anniversary of the Paris climate agreement next year be remembered as the moment when we came together as a global community to implement solidarity leaves, providing the financial tools necessary to meet the great challenge of our time.

Ahead of COP29, we call on all governments to join our coalition and we welcome the support of civil society, business leaders and multilateral institutions.

(Emmanuel Macron is president of France. Mia Amor Mottley is prime minister of Barbados. William Ruto is president of Kenya.)

How are you? A question I struggle to answer in Gaza

Fatma Al Zahraa Schwall

“How are you?” It is a simple question I get in daily messages from my friends – Kenyan, Nigerian, Turkish, British, Jordanian, Iranian and Moroccan. While it may seem like an ordinary question for friends to ask each other, I feel they use it as a way to reassure themselves that I am still alive.

I understand why they are doing it but every time I see a message with this question, I find it hard to answer.

How am I, when I keep thinking of my home which I left in panic on the second day of the genocide? How am I, knowing that the place I spent years building with my husband has been obliterated by an Israeli air strike? How am I, remembering the images I saw in media reports showing just a pile of rubble where my home used to stand, where so many sweet memories were made?

How am I, as my dreams of completing my PhD lies under the rubble of my home? How am I, when I hear my little girl crying and asking me what happened to her toys? How am I, when I see my older daughter lose her hope for an education just when she was about to start high school? How am I, when I see my sons, who used to go to the gym every day, going into despair, having lost their dreams of becoming sports stars?

How am I doing, as I remember that I have lost all research papers I ever wrote in the rubble of my home? How am I doing, thinking of every book I bought to create a beautiful library for my children? All are now gone.

How am I doing, while I live in a tent that has been repeatedly flooded by the rain and invaded by insects? How am I doing, while I constantly worry about my children's health in a place where the most basic of healthcare and the most basic of medicines cannot be found? How am I doing, knowing my children are not eating nutritious food? How am I doing, knowing that for a year now we have been eating canned food, that we

have forgotten the taste of meat and fish?

How am I doing when I spend hours on end hand-washing clothes and dishes? How am I doing when I see my children running after the water truck? How am I doing, worrying about how to keep things clean as the price of soap reaches insane levels? How am I doing while I wonder what my children will wear in the winter and how I will keep them warm?

How am I doing, while I look for a place to charge my phone so I can complete my work? How am I doing,

How am I doing, while I live in a tent that has been repeatedly flooded by the rain and invaded by insects? How am I doing, while I constantly worry about my children's health in a place where the most basic of healthcare and the most basic of medicines cannot be found? How am I doing, knowing my children are not eating nutritious food? How am I doing, knowing that for a year now we have been eating canned food, that we have forgotten the taste of meat and fish? How am I doing when I spend hours on end hand-washing clothes and dishes? How am I doing when I see my children running after the water truck? How am I doing, worrying about how to keep things clean as the price of soap reaches insane levels? How am I doing while I wonder what my children will wear in the winter and how I will keep them warm?

struggling to write on my phone whole texts? How am I doing, trying to find the strength to do storytelling amid a genocide? How am I doing, while I walk long distances in search of a good internet connection, to check on relatives and make sure they are OK?

How am I, as I go through the lists of martyrs and the missing, fearful I may discover a name I know? How am I, dealing with the loss of so many of my relatives and neighbours? How am I, amid all

this pain and all this fear of what will happen to us tomorrow? How am I, while I gather the children of the tent camp around me to tell them stories, in a desperate attempt to open a window of hope for them and for myself?

How am I? It is a daily question I cannot answer. Perhaps I need a dictionary to help me find an accurate description of how I feel amid a genocide.

Outside Gaza, “How are you?” is a simple question that does not require much thought to answer because people have the human

right “to be”. Inside Gaza, we do not know where human rights have gone. Everywhere we turn, there is the sight and smell of death. Everywhere we go, there is rubble, garbage and sewage. I worked hard for many years to raise my children and give them a role model of a strong, independent woman to look up to. Unfortunately, now I have lost my strength. Amid this genocide, I do not have the ability to answer even a simple question: How are you?

BRICS signals shift towards global multipolarity

Sajjad Ashraf

The 2024 BRICS Summit late last month drew attention like no other before. It was an ideal occasion for Russian president Vladimir Putin, Chinese president Xi Jinping and other leaders to promote a vision of a world that the United States does not lead.

Four new countries, UAE, Iran, Ethiopia and Egypt participated for the first time. The central theme that came to unite BRICS members is their disillusionment with the Western led institutions of global governance, especially those dealing with economy. And with 30 countries lined up for membership they seem to be on road towards their goal of setting up an alternate to the American led world.

In the final communique the BRICS found a common ground in areas such as cooperation on the environment, financial reform, and resolving global conflicts. They strongly condemned Israeli attacks over Gaza and now Lebanon.

But in the lead up to the Summit Russia's interest was (and remains so) an agreement to launch “BRICS Bridge” a payment system free of Western controls allowing Russia and other member states to trade free from strangulation by the US dominated SWIFT system.

An alternate system?

The communique does mention an alternate payment system but the concept is still vague. The fear of launching into an unknown is holding countries back even though they disapprove American control over the payment systems.

Members are still divided over whether to urgently devise an alternate system or continue with the current. They would however, like existing global institutions to be more open, more representative and more effective.

Awaiting further refinement of the proposal the BRICS is focusing on use of national currencies for bilateral trade and to also insulate them from fluctuations and cut their dependence on the US dollar.

Entry of additional members boosts BRICS. Dozens more are knocking at the door. As the BRICS expands the emphasis will more likely be on ‘complementarity.’

To a degree BRICS draws its inspiration from Non-aligned Movement (NAM) that was founded in 1961 largely to resist American pressure during the Cold War years. From 5 states NAM grew to 120 — the largest after the UN, and played a sterling decolonisation role during the Cold War years. As BRICS

enlists more members it is likely to follow a similar trajectory. BRICS therefore, considers itself a step towards multipolar world.

A moment of reflection. For the US and its Western partners, it is moment of reflection to examine where they are falling short and what compels such a diverse group of countries to band together and seek an alternate voice in the international arena.

The West should engage with BRICS meaningfully and complement each other in support of the Global South's aspirations.

By a strange coincidence while BRICS was going on in Kazan the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings were being held in Washington. They were talking about changing the archaic quota systems that makes the US the largest shareholder into a more equitable future, reflecting the newer economic realities. The US must make room for the emerging economies in the power halls of global financial centres — without that happening BRICS appeal will only grow.

Organisations that challenge the existing order inevitably face resistance from the status quo powers. Notwithstanding their modest start they become harbingers for change over time.

documents, or perhaps accept that he simply did not know there was a chance that they might end up being published in the foreign press.

The leaking of documents on such sensitive issues would naturally be regarded as a serious criminal offense, especially during a war.

If, as has been suggested, it was the result of collusion between certain elements in the Israeli military and a spokesperson in the prime minister's office, it would be no surprise to hear claims that those involved have committed treason.

The case for solidarity levies to help tackle the climate crisis

Emmanuel Macron, Mia Amor Mottley and William Ruto

From Barbados to Kenya to France, no country is immune to the worsening effects of the climate crisis. With each passing year, we witness more climate-related destruction.

In 2024, we have set a number of new records: wildfires in Chile destroyed more than 14,000 homes; extreme rainfall devastated 478 cities in Brazil and left nearly 2 million people stranded in Bangladesh; and in July the world experienced its hottest day ever.

Africa has contributed only 3 percent of historical greenhouse-gas emissions, yet it endures some of the most severe climate-related disasters. These now cost the continent \$15 billion a year, with climate-induced droughts and floods in 2023 causing food insecurity for more than 40 million Africans.

Convinced that no country should have to choose between fighting the climate crisis and combating poverty, we have decided to contribute to an ambitious reform of the international financial architecture.

The Paris Pact for People and the Planet, the Bridgetown Initiative, and the Nairobi Declaration each seek to provide one piece of the puzzle. Current international dynamics give us hope; many reform tracks have been opened up and some have delivered results. That said, many more efforts are needed and no options should be overlooked.

One key piece of the puzzle is still underused: “solidarity levies.” Such policies are necessary to ensure that everyone contributes their fair share to what should be a global effort. There are swaths of the economy that are largely under-taxed yet polluting the planet. This applies to

maritime shipping, aviation and, of course, the fossil-fuel industry, which enjoys low effective tax rates due to government subsidies (which totaled an estimated \$7 trillion in 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund).

These solidarity levies can contribute by allocating a share of the revenues to

development assistance without amplifying existing debt burdens.

The benefits would be significant. Despite Africa's climate vulnerability, its vast potential to leverage renewable energy and critical minerals, and its role as a global carbon sink, the continent receives far less climate finance than

Solidarity levies could provide the funding needed to drive green development in Africa and around the world, especially in vulnerable low- and middle-income countries and small states with little fiscal room for building resilience or climate action. These levies already exist. More than 30 countries currently implement a financial-transaction tax, and at least 21 impose a levy on airplane tickets. Moreover, even small-scale initiatives such as the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds demonstrate the feasibility of an international redistribution mechanism. To replicate and scale up these models requires further international cooperation to limit market distortions and preserve a level playing field. To that end, we launched the Global Solidarity Levies Task Force last year at the UN Climate Change Conference, COP28. With 13 member countries already signed up, the task force has been examining the potential of levies across shipping, aviation, fossil fuels and financial transactions, as well as exploring options such as levies on plastic or cryptocurrency.

developing countries. A global levy of 0.1 percent on stock and bond trades could raise up to \$418 billion a year. A levy on shipping of \$100 per ton of carbon dioxide could raise \$80 billion a year. A levy on fossil-fuel extraction of \$5 per ton of carbon dioxide could raise \$210 billion a year.

Even a partial redistribution of these funds through solidarity levies would guarantee a large source of predictable climate finance for these countries, complementing flows of official

it needs.

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Moreover, even small-scale

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In early 2025, we will publicly launch a handful of concrete proposals with

press conference during which he presented a document he said was found in Gaza. Later one of the journalists closest to him suggested it was written by none other than Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. The document reportedly revealed that Hamas forces had been instructed “to intensify the psychological pressure” on the families of hostages, and on Netanyahu's main rival in the Cabinet, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and “to continue the line blaming Netanyahu for what happened.”

Netanyahu said during his press conference that he

could not confirm the document was “from Sinwar himself but I can confirm it's from high-ranking members of Hamas.” As is typical of his strategy, he created the strong impression that something was true (in this case that Sinwar wrote the document) but left enough wiggle room to later distance himself from an allegation he knew to be false.

In the meantime, he knew it would have his desired effect of giving many of his supporters the impression that Sinwar was manipulating the families

Yossi Mekelberg

of hostages, and that those families were either being naive in calling for a deal to return the hostages, or were prepared to sacrifice the good of their country for their own “selfish” desire to see their loved ones come home.

Then, mysteriously, as the protests calling for a deal with Hamas were gathering momentum, a completely fabricated report was published in London's Jewish Chronicle newspaper. Claiming to be based on captured documents, it said Sinwar planned to smuggle himself and the

Israeli hostages out of Gaza through the Philadelphi Corridor, a narrow strip of land between Gaza and Egypt.

The very next day, the German tabloid newspaper Bild published a story with the headline: “Chilling! This is what Hamas leader plans to do with the hostages.” It claimed, based on a “previously unknown document from Hamas' military intelligence” in Gaza, the group was unwilling to end the war, regardless of the dire consequences for itself and the people of Gaza, and was pursuing a strategy of creating divisions in Israeli society.

This article gave the impression that Sinwar was behind this document as well, although it was later proven this was not the case.

But to be honest, it is no great revelation that two enemies at war would be attempting to sow divisions among each other's peoples. Israel does this too. The main issue is why those documents were leaked and by whom.

If one was to be lenient in criticism of Netanyahu over this matter, one might accuse him simply of gross neglect in allowing individuals with no security clearance to access top secret

Just when we thought Netanyahu could sink no lower, he does

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has never been one to let ideological or moral concerns diminish his insatiable lust for power. Control of the political narrative through manipulation of the media has been central to his staying power.

The latest scandal to engulf the prime minister's office revolves around the leaking of top-secret documents to foreign media outlets. Netanyahu himself is not, at least for now, a suspect in this case but it is nevertheless an indictment of the permissive environment he has created, in which his closest circle of

aides believes that ensuring his political survival should be placed ahead of the national interest.

The origins of the current scandal — in which several people have been implicated, including a spokesperson from the prime minister's office — date back to September, when the tragic news of the murder of six Israeli hostages held by Hamas sent hundreds of thousands of Israelis onto the streets demanding an agreement for the release of the remaining hostages.

This left Netanyahu feeling politically threatened. The following day he held a



FTO directs South Punjab Coordinator to address tax grievance within 60 days

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr Asif Mahmood Jah has on Sunday directed the newly appointed coordinator for South Punjab Saif Ur Rehman to actively engage with the business community of the region for creating awareness for prompt redressal of the genuine tax related grievances in a record time within 60 days.

He emphasized the

importance of educating taxpayers about the FTO secretariat which provide a timely and accessible platform for resolving legitimate tax-related issues, said a news release

By visiting various chambers of commerce across South Punjab, Rehman will directly connect with local business representatives, explaining how the FTO office ensures quick and fair grievance

redressal at taxpayers' convenience.

The FTO regional offices offer an effective mechanism to handle complaints related to taxation without requiring lengthy procedures, often resolving cases within a record time of 60 days.

By prioritizing transparency and accountability in the tax administration, the FTO aims to foster trust between the taxpayers and

tax authorities.

This outreach initiative also seeks to encourage taxpayers to utilize the FTO's services instead of enduring prolonged bureaucratic processes.

With a focus on providing relief at the taxpayer's doorstep, the FTO office is committed to enhancing taxpayer satisfaction, promoting compliance, and ultimately contributing to a more efficient tax system.



ISLAMABAD: A young vendor displaying fish to attract customers at his roadside setup.

Admin cracks down on Sunday Market prices

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration officials have ramped up checks on prices and product quality, as the shoppers flocked to Sunday markets across the Federal Capital.

As Sunday markets filled with holiday crowds in Islamabad, district officials intensified price inspections across various stalls, said the spokesman of ICT administration here.

The administration, aiming to enforce strict controls on prices, deployed teams to ensure vendors followed official rate lists. This included raids to multiple Sunday markets by Assistant Commissioners and Price Control Magistrates.

In this regard, AC Pothohar's Aneeq Anwar conducted a thorough inspection, scrutinizing prices and the quality of fruits and vegetables. His visit, which was accompanied by a magistrate, resulted in six shopkeepers being arrested on charges of overpricing.

DC Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized that all Assistant Commissioners were present at Sunday markets throughout the city, tasked with monitoring prices.

He urged citizens to pay only the rates approved by the administration. "If any shopkeeper is not displaying the official rate list, customers should immediately inform the magistrate on duty," he said.

Saigol appointed as KPT Board acting chairman

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Chairman of Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Fahimur Rehman Saigol has been appointed as acting chairman of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Board for the first time from private sector in the history.

The seat was vacant due to the resignation of the previous chairman. Chairman of PIAF was elected as acting chairman of KPT Board by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, government of Pakistan.

The business community across the country congratulated Fahimur Rahman Saigol on assuming the charge of chairmanship of KPT Board.

Fahimur Rahman Saigol will perform the duties till the appointment of the permanent chairman of the Karachi Port Trust Board and will carry out all the responsibilities.

The acting chairman said that it is great honor for him to take the charge of acting chairman of this prestigious post, as the KPT is considered as the gateway to Pakistan and the Central Asian region, contributing significantly to Pakistan's economy.

He said that Karachi Port Trust is the pioneer Sea Port of Pakistan and can be referred Gateway to Pakistan. KPT have potential of handling more than 125 Million Tons cargo including 4.25 Million TEUs (containers) as well as Transshipment and In-Transit containers. Karachi Port including its three Private Container Terminals has sufficient capacity to provide the required facility as per requirements.

Cargo handling at Karachi Port refers to the various activities and processes involved in the movement, loading, unloading, and storage of goods (cargo)

between ships, trucks, trains, and storage facilities within the port area. It is a crucial aspect of maritime logistics and plays a significant role in facilitating international trade. The primary goal of Karachi Port is to handle cargo efficiently and to ensure the timely and safe transfer of goods between different modes of transportation.

Karachi Port Trust is expanding their businesses by liason with AD Ports to increase the maximum out of Cargo Handling and various operations as Karachi Port Trust has the ability to set a benchmark in the fourth coming future.

Container handling at a port involves the processes and activities related to the movement, storage, and transportation of shipping containers. The statistics of last 10 years show record breaking container handling in the year 2020-2021.

Iftikhar calls for boosting trade with Afghanistan

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chambers of Commerce and Industry former president Iftikhar Ali Malik has stressed the need for unlocking potential of regional economic cooperation and integration to boost trade among regional countries, especially with Afghanistan at this critical juncture.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said intra-regional trade in South Asia is less than one third of its potential, which indicated that 67 per cent of trade was not being fully exploited. He said the role

of Afghanistan as a connector and as land bridge between Central Asia, the Middle East and South Asia needs to be reviewed in prevailing scenario to primarily focus on promotion of trade and investment.

He said even today, Afghanistan is seen as a viable doorway to South Asian countries for direct access to oil and gas of republics of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. He said better trade ties would help promote economic growth, and do away with abject poverty

in the region especially in Afghanistan.

Iftikhar Malik said Pakistan after Iran and China is the third largest trading partner of Afghanistan which exports cement, pharmaceuticals products, sulphur, stone, plaster, peel of citrus fruit, melon, vegetable fats, edible fruits and oil etc., and Afghanistan's main exports are carpets and rugs, which account for 45 per cent of total exports, while dried fruits constitutes 31 per cent, and medicinal plants 12 per cent.

PFC to participate in Lisbon Global Expo: CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that the council would participate in the four-day Lisbon Global Expo, starting from today (Monday, November 11) in Lisbon, Portugal.

Chairing a board of directors meeting here on

Sunday, he said the prestigious event would gather industry leaders, innovators, and professionals from around the world, creating a vibrant platform for networking, showcasing new solutions, and discussing future trends.

During the expo, the PFC would present its latest advancements, highlighting

innovations that address key challenges and opportunities in the global market. The Pakistan Furniture Council team would explore potential partnerships. Investors would have the opportunity to experience firsthand the cutting-edge technologies and services that set the PFC apart in the industry, he added.

Soft loans for SMEs must to achieve high economic growth target: BMP

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has asked the government to announce soft financing with very low interest rate and without any collateral for SMEs with a view to spur the economic growth

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in the country.

The FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar, in a meeting of trade and industry representatives, stated that the constant increase in power tariffs on the pretext of fuel adjustment had increased electricity prices and added to the already high cost of trade and industry.

Seeking comparable energy tariffs for domestic industries in order to capture the global market, he stated that due to high electricity rates, power theft became rampant as the tariff was unaffordable to consumers.

The meeting forwarded several recommendations so that the small industry could deal with the challenges posed by the present economic crisis, saying mere statements would not

work unless solid measures are taken by the government, including a sizable reduction in fuel prices, bringing down key policy rate to single digit, regionally competitive energy rates and substantial cut in duties and taxes.

It is unfortunate that the State Bank has several times introduced a financing scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises, enabling them to get loans without collateral but it was never implemented in its true spirit.

The scheme was launched to improve the SMEs' access to finances in collaboration with the government and aimed at enabling businesses that cannot offer security or collateral to access bank finance.

The BMP and PIAF meeting was held here to

deliberate the government economic policies and called for concrete steps to keep industrial wheels running, especially for SMEs, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with the small and medium industries.

The BMP Chairman urged the central bank to announce a soft loan with a minimum markup rate, especially for SMEs to bail out their struggling businesses.

The Businessmen Panel called for significant cuts in import duties and waiver of sales tax, income tax, and additional income taxes, which are still being charged in this time of grave crisis.

Mian Anjum Nisar asked the government to take concrete steps to keep the industrial wheels running especially for SMEs, to

Saudia's flyadeal boosts Dammam network with 3 domestic routes

RIYADH (Arab News): Saudi Arabia's low-cost airline, flyadeal, will launch three new domestic routes from Dammam starting in January, aligning with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 objectives.

The airline will launch daily flights from Dammam to Najran and four weekly services to Tabuk on Jan. 1, followed by three weekly flights to Yanbu starting Jan. 2. The announcement was made by Steven Greenway, CEO of flyadeal, on the sidelines of the World Travel Market in London.

Greenway said the new routes are part of flyadeal's mission to connect smaller towns and cities across the Kingdom, catering to populations under 400,000 that are underserved yet have a growing demand for air travel.

"Having well-established bases in Riyadh and Jeddah, flyadeal is now strengthening its presence in the Eastern Province by increasing frequencies on existing routes and adding three new destinations connected to Dammam," Greenway said.

He added: "Our new flights will facilitate travel for business and leisure purposes, support the growing desire among Saudis

and international visitors to discover the rich diversity that the country offers, and attract a growing expatriate population to explore the Kingdom."

The expansion complements Vision 2030, which seeks to diversify Saudi Arabia's economy and transform the Kingdom into a global transportation and logistics hub.

By enhancing access to remote and economically vital cities, flyadeal supports Vision 2030 objectives to strengthen tourism, stimulate business opportunities, and increase domestic mobility.

The new routes will also advance the nation's strategy to welcome 150 million visitors annually by 2030.

The expansion marks the first phase of flyadeal's 2025 growth plan, which includes adding more domestic routes and launching international flights from its primary hubs in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam in the coming months.

The developments align with Saudi Arabia's broad national efforts to establish itself as a key player in the aviation sector, with enhanced infrastructure, expanded air service networks, and a focus on customer experience.

Operating from its three main bases, Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam, flyadeal serves nearly 30 year-round and seasonal destinations across the Kingdom and select cities in the Middle East, Europe, and North Africa.

The airline's fleet comprises 36 modern Airbus A320 narrowbody aircraft, optimized for efficiency and passenger comfort, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's commitment to advancing sustainable and high-quality air travel.

The new destinations, Najran, Tabuk, and Yanbu, are strategically significant. Najran, an agricultural hub in the southwest, contributes substantially to the local economy.

Tabuk serves as a gateway to the Red Sea coast and plays a pivotal role in the Kingdom's large-scale tourism and development projects.

Yanbu, Saudi Arabia's second-largest port in the Madinah province, is a hub for petroleum and petrochemical industries, supporting national economic objectives and Vision 2030's goals for diversified growth.

With international routes to Amman, Cairo, and Istanbul, flyadeal positions

itself as a crucial connector between the Kingdom and key regional and international destinations, advancing Vision 2030's ambition of creating an integrated, globally connected Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia's industrial production holds steady in September: GASTAT

RIYADH (Arab News): Saudi Arabia's industrial production held steady in September, showing a slight year-on-year decrease of 0.3 percent due to a modest decline in manufacturing output, official data showed.

According to data from the General Authority for Statistics, the Kingdom's manufacturing sector decreased by 0.5 percent in September, bringing the Industrial Production Index to 105.6 points. This decrease was largely attributed to a 12.3 percent drop in the production of coke and refined petroleum products.

In contrast, the manufacture of chemicals and chemical products grew by 2 percent, while food product manufacturing saw a 12.3 percent increase.

Saudi Arabia's growth in the manufacturing sector is crucial to achieving the goals outlined in Vision 2030, as the Kingdom continues to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on crude revenues.

GASTAT revealed that the sub-index for mining and quarrying activity remained stable in September compared to the same month in 2023.

"Oil production level in Saudi Arabia reached 8.97 million barrels per day in September 2024, which is the same level recorded in the previous year," said GASTAT.

In a bid to maintain market stability, Saudi Arabia, in alignment with the decision of OPEC+, reduced its oil output by 500,000 barrels per day in April 2023. This cut has now been extended until December 2024.



In brief

Naqvi hails national team

LAHORE (APP): Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi has felicitated Pakistan cricket team on historic ODI series win over Australia on their home soil. Celebrating the momentous achievement, he highlighted that defeating the World Champions Australia in Australia was a feat that had brought immense pride to the nation. "The entire nation's pride has been lifted by the outstanding performances of our players, who outclassed Australia in all departments — batting, bowling, and fielding," said the PCB chairman. "This victory belongs to every player and member of the management who contributed to this team effort." In a commanding eight-wicket win, Pakistan's bowlers set the tone for success. Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Haris Rauf delivered stellar bowling performances, restricting Australia to a low score. In the chase, once again, Abdullah Shafique and Saim Ayub showcased composure and skill, securing victory with responsible batting, while Captain Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan made vital contributions with the bat. Chairman Mohsin Naqvi further added, "Today's triumph has spread joy across the entire nation. Our team's determination, effort, and unwavering commitment have brought about this success. I firmly believe that with such spirit, hard work, and dedication, our team will continue to achieve great things." The PCB congratulates the Pakistan cricket team and acknowledges the invaluable role played by the entire management team in this victory.

Medvedev rages in defeat

TURIN (AFP): Daniil Medvedev lost his head on Sunday as he fell in straight sets 4-6, 3-6 to Taylor Fritz in the opening match of this year's ATP Finals. Champion in 2020 and finalist the following year, Medvedev is in the same Ilie Nastase Group as Jannik Sinner who opens his bid for a first Finals title against Alex de Minaur later on Sunday. American Fritz leads the group ahead of that clash following a surprisingly straightforward win in Turin over world number four Medvedev who exploded with anger during his below-par display. Medvedev destroyed his racket after going a set down. Things went from bad to worse when Fritz broke serve to take a 4-2 lead in the second set. Medvedev was docked a penalty point for throwing his racket at a court-side microphone and during game seven of the second set he held a new racket by its head while waiting for Fritz's serve. His behaviour was met with whistles from the disapproving crowd who will be hoping for a more edifying spectacle when home hero Sinner takes to the court on Sunday night. Sinner, who lost last year's final to Novak Djokovic, tops the world rankings after a stunning season in which he claimed the Australian and US Opens -- his first Grand Slam victories -- and won five more ATP titles. However, he has been dogged by controversy after twice testing positive for traces of the steroid clostebol in March. He was initially cleared by the International Tennis Integrity Agency but at the end of September the World Anti-Doping Agency appealed, seeking a ban of up to two years.



SINGAPORE: Mark Cavendish of The United Kingdom and Astana Qazaqstan Team celebrates at finish line as race winner.

Salt peppers West Indies as England romp to T20 win

BRIDGETOWN (AFP): Phil Salt smashed a scintillating century and Barbados-born Jacob Bethell blasted an unbeaten 58 as England romped to an eight-wicket victory over West Indies in their opening Twenty20 clash at Kensington Oval on Saturday.

Chasing a target of 183 to win, England opener Salt guided the tourists home with 19 balls to spare after a dazzling unbeaten 103 in Bridgetown. Salt's third T20 international century came off just 54 balls, including nine fours and six sixes as England cantered to victory, finishing on 183-2 in the 17th over.

Salt set the tone for a dominant England performance in the fourth over, bludgeoning West Indies

bowler Shamar Joseph around the ground for 24 runs to take England to 52-0.

The 21-year-old Bethell, who was born and grew up in Barbados before moving to England when he was 12, provided a dazzling half-century, delighting a contingent of friends and family in the stands with a 36-ball knock that included five fours and two sixes.

All three of Salt's international T20 centuries have come in games played at Caribbean venues against West Indies. He scored back-to-back tons in last December's series. "I enjoy batting here — I've grown up on these surfaces," Salt said. "It's probably the place I'm happiest."

Earlier, West Indies had finished their innings on 182-

9 thanks to a late burst of scoring from the lower order, with Andre Russell, Romario Shepherd and Gudakesh Motie accounting for 98 runs of the home side's final total.

Russell smashed four sixes on his way to 30 off 17 balls while Shepherd slashed an unbeaten 35 off 22 deliveries, including three fours and two sixes.

Shepherd received sterling support from Motie, the tailender cutting loose to score 33 off 14 balls before being caught by Dan Mousley off Saqib Mahmood.

Mahmood was the pick of England's bowlers, taking four wickets for 34 runs off his four overs. Adil Rashid took three for 32 off four overs. Game two in the five-match series takes place on Sunday in Bridgetown.

Emotional Cavendish wins final race of career

PARIS (Agencies): Britain's Mark Cavendish, the most successful sprinter in cycling history, ended his career with victory in the Tour de France Criterium in Singapore.

The 39-year-old from the Isle of Man, who said on Saturday that this would be his final race before retirement, triumphed in a sprint finish to end a 19-year career. Cavendish, riding for Astana-Qazaqstan, wore race number 35 to mark his record for stage wins in the Tour de France.

He signed autographs and took selfies with fans before the race and received a 'wheel of honour' - other riders held their bikes up on one wheel and spun the other - on the start line of the race, made up of 25 laps of a 2.3km course.

"I'm quite emotional," said Cavendish, who was close to tears after the race. "I realised in the last five laps it was the last 15km of my career. "I was nervous about crashing or something if I fight [for the lead]. I really wanted that so bad. I've always loved this sport." Cavendish won 165 races in his career, including the road world title in 2011, 17 stages in the Giro d'Italia and three in the Vuelta a Espana. He received a knighthood in October.

On the track, he won omnium silver at the 2016 Olympics and was a three-time madison world champion. Having delayed his retirement by a year, Cavendish broke the record for most Tour de France stage wins with victory in Saint Vulbas in July.

"Cycling is such a form of freedom," he said. "It's a way to meet people; it's a way to be alone with your thoughts. It has so much potential as a sport, a mode of transport, a pastime.

"I've always tried to do anything I can to help this move forward and that won't stop even if I'm not riding a bike any more. In fact, I might be able to put more into that. "I'm looking forward to what the rest of my career holds. I couldn't have wished for a better send-off. I'm so grateful. I hope everyone enjoyed that."

Alpecin-Deceuninck's Jasper Philipsen finished second and Arnaud de Lie third for Lotto-Dstny.

Krejcikova criticises journalist

RIYADH (Agencies): Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejcikova criticised a journalist's "unprofessional commentary" after he made a remark about her appearance on air. During a Tennis Channel broadcast on Friday, Jon Wertheim commented on the Czech world number 13's forehead.

Krejcikova was competing at the WTA Finals in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where she was knocked out in the semi-finals by eventual runner-up Zheng Qinwen. Wertheim said his comments were "deeply regrettable" and that he apologised to Krejcikova.

"You might have heard about the recent comments made on Tennis Channel during the WTA Finals coverage that focused on my appearance rather than my performance," 28-year-old Krejcikova posted on X, external "As an athlete who has dedicated herself to this sport, it was disappointing to see this type of unprofessional commentary.

"This isn't the first time something like this is happening in [the] sports



world. I've often chosen not to speak up, but I believe it's time to address the need for respect and professionalism in sports media.

"These moments distract from the true essence of sport and the dedication all athletes bring to the field.

"I love tennis deeply, and I want to see it represented in a way that honors the commitment we make to compete at this level."

In a statement on Sunday, Wertheim said he made the comments in a rehearsal that was "inadvertently" broadcast. "During a Tennis Channel studio show on Friday, I made some deeply regrettable comments off-air. I acknowledge them. I apolo-

gise for them. I reached out immediately and apologised to the player," he said on X, external.

"What happened? I joined the show by Zoom. In rehearsal we were shown a graphic of a player who had just competed. It showed her at an angle that exaggerated her forehead.

"A few moments later, I was told to frame up my Zoom. I looked at the low camera angle and joked that it made my forehead resemble the photo of the player in question. Someone in the control room chimed in and I bantered back. Though this was a private rehearsal, this exchange inadvertently, and without context, made it to live air.

Rohit Sharma opens up on India's visit to Pakistan for Champions Trophy

NEW DELHI (Web Desk): Rohit Sharma, the ODI and Test captain of India, recently discussed the possibility of his team's participation in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025, which will be hosted by Pakistan.

The ninth edition of the Champions Trophy is scheduled to take place in Pakistan in the February-March window in 2025, however, India's participation in the tournament is uncertain as the BCCI seeks the government's approval to visit the country.

Furthermore, reports emerged in Indian media, citing a source from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), that Team India will not be visiting Pakistan for the Champions Trophy citing security concerns.

The reports also suggest

that the BCCI has expressed their desire to move their matches to Dubai.

During a recent media interaction, Rohit Sharma was asked about the possibility of India's tour to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

In response, he emphasized that the players have no issue in visiting any country to play cricket, however, the ultimate decision rests with the BCCI rather than the players themselves.

"The decision is not in our hands. It will be made by the cricket boards, and we are focused on the tournament ahead," said Sharma. "If we are sent to Pakistan, there will be no issue."

It's worth noting that Mohsin Naqvi, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, recently revealed that

the cricket board is yet to receive any official confirmation from the BCCI about not visiting Pakistan for the global eight-team tournament.

"Although there's a lot of talk [in media] that India may not come, we have received no official statement [from the BCCI]," said Naqvi.

"Our stance is that India should give us a written confirmation if they are not coming for the Champions Trophy."

Mohsin Naqvi reiterated that the PCB is not considering a hybrid model and is determined to host the Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan.

"We maintain that the Champions Trophy will only be hosted in Pakistan, and there's been no discussion of a hybrid model," he added.

Serena Polo Cup concludes

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): Serena Hotels, under its Sports Diplomacy initiative and commitment to community engagement, organized the Serena Polo Cup 2024 on 10th November at Islamabad Club polo grounds.

The event was attended by diplomats, members of the corporate sector, and polo enthusiasts, creating a vibrant atmosphere celebrating the spirit of the sport.

The final match of the Serena Polo Cup featured an exciting showdown between Team BN and

Team Rizvi's by U Bank. Both teams displayed exceptional skill and teamwork, captivating the audience with their skill of the game. Team Rizvi won the Serena Polo Cup with a score of 7, after an exciting tie across four chukkers that led to a decisive fifth chukker.

Serena Hotels congratulates both the teams for their outstanding performance at the Serena Polo Cup 2024. Hosting these events brings communities together and promotes diverse sports across

Pakistan. Through initiatives like the Polo Cup, Serena Hotels provides a platform to celebrate athleticism and raise positive community connections.

The Sports Diplomacy efforts extend beyond polo, extensive support for various sports, including squash, tennis, and women's cricket. These initiatives promote youth engagement, gender equality, and national pride, encouraging positive relations within both local and international communities.

Asif 'disheartened' with 'quiet' reception



KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistani cueist Mohammad Asif, following his victory at the International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) World Snooker Championship in Qatar, has been left disheartened after receiving a quiet reception upon his return to the country at Karachi Airport on Sunday.

"It's unfortunate that no government representative came to welcome a world champion. This attitude discourages young players who look up to their heroes," said Asif while speaking to media upon his return to the country.

Asif, who clinched his third world title by defeating an Iranian competitor in the final, has now set his sights on a fourth title to make his record even more formidable.

Although Pakistan Billiards and Snooker Association (PBSA) officials were present to welcome him, there were no representatives from the federal or provincial government — an absence Asif described as "disheartening." Commenting on his win, Asif acknowledged early challenges in the tournament but said that he found his stride as the matches progressed.

He credited the PBSA, particularly its chairman Alamgir Shaikh, for their unwavering support and encouragement, sharing that Shaikh had expressed a personal wish for him to win the title a third time.

Asif said that his game against Qatari cueist Ahmed Saif was a challenging one but added that this victory in that game gave him the momentum needed to secure the championship. Asif urged the government to step up its recognition and support for world champions, advocating for improved incentives for top players. With his third title win fueling his confidence, Asif now aims for a fourth championship to cement a lasting legacy for Pakistan.

"I want to create a unique record for Pakistan that can stay for longer, and breaking that record becomes difficult for any other cueist," he said. In response to a question about his interactions with Indian players, Asif described his relationship with them as "cordial", stating that both Indian and Pakistani players are eager to compete in each other's countries.

Messi and Miami eliminated from MLS Cup

FORT LAUDERDALE (AFP): Lionel Messi's goal of winning the MLS Cup title came to an abrupt end on Saturday with his Inter Miami suffering a shock first-round elimination from the playoffs after a 3-2 home defeat to Atlanta United.

Miami had won the regular season campaign with a record points total but after losing twice in the best-of-three series, the MLS Cup favourites and their eight-times Ballon d'Or winner are out.

All the accolades Miami received for their regular season 'Supporters' Shield' triumph count for little after an Atlanta team which finished ninth in the Eastern Conference pulled off a stunning upset. Inter took the lead in the 17th minute when Messi was denied by a diving save from Atlanta keeper Brad Guzan but Matias Rojas followed in to slot home the loose ball.

Just two minutes later

though the visitors, who only secured a wildcard spot on the final day of the season, levelled when a deflected pass from Dax McCarty fell to Jamal Thiare who confidently fired home with a sweet strike.

Miami were stunned when moments later Thiare struck again — the 37-year-old McCarty lifted the ball forward to Russian Aleksei Miranchuk who slipped the ball inside to the Senegalese striker who blasted home to make it 2-1.

Diego Gomez thought he had brought Miami level in the 23rd minute but his effort was ruled out for offside and Miami continued to look vulnerable against Atlanta's swift breaks.

After the break, the 40-year-old former USA and Aston Villa keeper Guzan was in inspired form as he frustrated Miami's search for an equalizer. Miami, with the injured Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets



on the bench, lacked fluency in midfield and neither Messi nor his former Barcelona strike partners Luis Suarez were at their best as they struggled to conjure up opportunities from limited service.

'The players are sad' But it was Messi who finally broke through in the 65th minute, meeting a Marcelo Weigandt cross from the right with a thundering header. Miami pushed forward in search of

the winner but instead they were caught out once again with Pedro Amador's cross from the left headed home at the back post by Polish midfielder Bartosz Slisz.

Inter players were furious that the referee had

allowed play to continue while their defender Tomas Aviles lay injured on the floor but their frustration was in vain. The final whistle brought a deflated silence over Chase Stadium as Miami's season, which so many had expected would end with their first MLS Cup title, concluded with the sight of Guzan and his Atlanta team-mates celebrating.

For Miami head coach Gerardo Martino, who won MLS Cup with Atlanta in 2018, an inquest is sure to follow but he tried to put a brave face on the loss.

"This season has had good and bad things. If you think about where we were in November last year, there has obviously been progress in terms of the club, not just the team. If you think about the expectations we had for this play-off, obviously we came up a little short," said the Argentine. Martino said

there was a despondent mood in the dressing room.

"The players are sad, as they should be when there are so many expectations and the team can't fulfil them. In this final part of the year we got used to achieving the objectives but we couldn't achieve the most important one," he said.

Former Spain full-back Jordi Alba questioned whether the playoff format was the right approach for MLS. "I think this format is a bit unfair. It's been done for many years but I think it should be the champion of one conference against the champion of the other, to make it as fair as possible," said the former Barcelona wing-back.

Atlanta will now face Orlando in the Eastern Conference semi-finals with New York Red Bulls and New York City clashing in the other conference semi.



In brief

115,700 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 115,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 53,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1517.47 feet and was 119.47 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 29,100 cusecs and 64,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1176.50 feet, which was 126.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,200 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 57,200, 49,500, 35,700 and 4,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police intensify crackdown

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Police have intensified crackdown on unfit Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) in bid to improve public safety. Over the past 76 days, police have impounded 1,602 vehicles that failed to meet fitness standards, while also issuing 10,538 tickets for various violations. Fines collected from these penalties exceed Rs. 11 million. The crackdown focuses on checking the fitness, route permits, and licenses of public transport vehicles and drivers. Police have taken legal action against 849 drivers found without licenses, and 27 drivers had their licenses canceled for negligence. Additionally, 52 cases have been registered against vehicle owners and drivers for severe safety violations. City Police Officer Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani emphasized that police would also hold vehicle owners and transport managers accountable if their negligence endangers public safety. The Rawalpindi Police are dedicated to enforcing strict standards on public transport to ensure the safety of all citizens.

Two food outlets fined

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Directorate General (DG) Punjab Food Authority (PFA) conducted inspections of food outlets on Murree Road, and imposed fine two food outlets totaling Rs. 250,000 due to poor hygiene and over cleanliness arrangements. PFA spokesman informed. During the inspection, PFA teams also destroyed approximately 100 kilograms of ice cream after finding human hair in the product. The fines were imposed in response to inadequate cleaning and sanitation measures observed at outlets. However, the well-known Pizza Hut in the commercial market was appreciated for maintaining high standards of cleanliness. Additionally, three food points were issued notices, advising them to improve their hygiene standards. DG Food Authority emphasized that "cleanliness is half of faith" and urged all food businesses to prioritize hygiene to ensure the safety of the consumers. He made it clear that such businesses would be closed down involved in malpractices. Strict action would be continued against the violators without any discrimination, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Victims of Al Muraj Group square Nine are protesting outside NPC for their demands. —INP Photo

Youth entrepreneurship to get Rs300 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan Sunday announced that Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme has achieved remarkable success, disbursing approximately Rs186 billion to young entrepreneurs across Pakistan and now sets its sights on an ambitious target of Rs300 billion.

In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, he explained that the Prime Minister's Youth Loan Scheme has made significant strides in empowering young entrepreneurs, with approximately 186 billion rupees distributed among 790,000 young entrepreneurs to boost economic development.

The Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme has made significant strides in empowering female entrepreneurs, with 13% of female beneficiaries in previous years, adding, this year, the target has been set at 33% female participation, aiming to provide more loan opportunities to young women.

Responding to a query, he said many students lack knowledge on how to apply for loans, to address this issue, facilitation centers are being established where financial experts will guide students through the loan application process. These centers will also utilize web portals to streamline the process, making it easier for students to apply, he mentioned.

Chairman further unveiled a com-

prehensive vision for youth-driven socio-economic development in Pakistan, as outlined by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. This vision empowers young girls and boys equally through various initiatives, including Youth Loan Schemes to provide financial support to young entrepreneurs, Laptop distributions to enhance digital access and education, Skill Programs to equip youth with marketable skills, facilitation centers to offer resources and guidance for youth development, and Scholarship Programs to support education and personal growth, he added.

By investing in Pakistan's youth, who make up about 70% of the country's population, Khan aims to harness their potential for a brighter future and sustainable development.

The PML-N has taken groundbreaking initiatives for youth empowerment, he said, adding, these initiatives aim to equip young Pakistanis with essential skills, education and economic opportunities to thrive in the modern world. The Prime Minister's Youth Program is taking a huge step forward in empowering young Pakistanis with in-demand skills, he said. Through collaborations with NEFCDC and TEVTAS, we are introducing 'Demand-Based Skilled' programs that cater to the needs of countries around the world. This means our youth will be trained in skills that are actually needed, both internationally and locally, he mentioned.

PM Shahbaz Sharif also instructed to facilitate students through the Laptop Scheme to talented students on merit through an online transparent system, adding, this scheme is envisioned to promote outreach of youth to information and communication technologies, bridging the digital divide within the higher education sector and beyond, he highlighted.

Last year, one million laptops were distributed in Punjab, and 600,000 in the Federal capital, he said, adding, this year, the distribution numbers are expected to increase with an additional 1 million smartphones being distributed interest-free. He added that the present government has re-announced a collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to offer scholarship programs and endowment funds for students.

This initiative aims to promote higher education and research in Pakistan, providing opportunities for students to pursue their academic goals without financial constraints, he added. In his concluded remarks said that Pakistan is experiencing a significant turnaround, with the world's trust in the country being restored and its economy getting back on track.

This is a remarkable achievement, and now it is time for the youth to play their part. To truly unlock their potential, young Pakistanis must learn to trust themselves, respect their parents and value the guidance of their teachers, he added.

FGEHA set to auction commercial plots

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has finalized arrangements to auction several commercial plots in sectors G-13 and G-14 on Wednesday and Thursday (November 13 and 14) at the Citizen Club, located in F-9 Park, Islamabad.

An official told APP that the auction includes multiple commercial plots in G-14, various Class-III commercial plots in G-13, G-14-2/3 and a petrol pump plot in the Mauve area (Sri Nagar Highway) G-13.

Additionally, mixed-use plots and apartments in front of G-13 Markaz will also be auctioned.

The winning bidder must complete the total payment through easy installments spread over two years. Investors who choose to pay the full amount upfront will receive a 10% rebate on the total payment, with an additional 5% discount available for those paying the full amount in U.S. dollars through banking channels.

The building plan will be approved upon payment of 25% of the total plot price, and possession of the plot will be granted upon payment of 75% of the total price.

tainable development, and from healthcare advancements to inclusive education. UNESCO and its partners use the day to promote responsible science practices, advocate for funding and support, and encourage educational initiatives that foster interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

By addressing these topics, World Science Day highlights how science can empower communities, especially young people, by offering them the tools to engage in meaningful conversations and solutions that affect their future.

to tackle pressing issues such as climate change, health crises, and technological transformation.

World Science Day for Peace and Development was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2001 and is celebrated annually on November 10. The day was established to strengthen public awareness of the role science plays in advancing peaceful and sustainable societies. It aims to bridge the gap between science and society, encouraging a greater connection between scientific progress and the everyday lives of people around the world.

Since its inception, the day has spotlighted key issues related to science and its contributions to solving global challenges, from climate change to sus-

for Girls, Chak Shehzad, displayed a collection of natural history specimens for the awareness of the visitors. Students from various educational institutions also participated in diverse science related activities on the occasion.

The day is celebrated annually on November 10, highlights the role of science in society and the need for public engagement in scientific discussions. The theme emphasized the role of science in empowering individuals and societies to make informed decisions for a sustainable and resilient future.

This occasion encourages collaborations among scientists, educators, policymakers, and communities to build a science-informed society equipped

biryani, Punjab's sarson ka saag, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's chapli kabab, and Balochistan's Sajji, said a visitor. "Lok Mela 2024 is a true reflection of Pakistan's rich cultural diversity. I am mesmerized by the colors, sounds and flavors" said a group of students with their school trip. "I have never seen such a vibrant display of Pakistani culture. Lok Virsa has outdone itself", said a businessman with his family visit who came from Punjab. "The folk music performances are incredible and we have discovered so many new artists", a music enthusiast young girl commented while enjoying musical night.

"The food stalls are a culinary heaven and I have tried dishes from all provinces", said a foodie while enjoying Balochi Sajji. "Lok Mela 2024 is a must-visit event for anyone

275,000 AMI meters installed so far in Rawalpindi: IESCO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The installation process of advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters equipped with modern technology and modern requirements is going on rapidly in two operation circles of IESCO Rawalpindi City and Rawalpindi Cantt.

Project Director AMI Mohsin Raza Gilani while giving details told that in the initial phase, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) meters are being installed in the Rawalpindi City and Rawalpindi cantt

circles and so far 275000 AMI meters have been replaced with old electricity meters.

He expressed the hope that by 2026, 1.2 million old meters of Rawalpindi City and Rawalpindi cantt circles will be replaced with AMI meters.

Mohsin Raza Gilani said that in the arrears of Korang, Swan, DHA 2, Chaklala, Chandi Chowk, F Block, Saham, Khayaban Sir Syed, Gagal, Fiaiza, Murree Road, PWD, National Police Foundation, Media Town areas AMI

meters have been installed and it is hoped that the target of installation of 1.2 million AMI meters will be achieved within the stipulated period.

He said the advance metering Infrastructure AMI meters will ensure Automatic meter reading, control of electricity theft, elimination of system overloading, reduction in burn incidents of transformers and meters and will also ensure timely registration and rectification of valuable IESCO customers complaints.

Shazia visits Punjab Pavilion

RAWALPINDI (APP): Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture, Punjab Shazia Rizwan on Sunday visited the Punjab Pavilion at the Lok Mela. She visited various stalls at the pavilion and appreciated the artisans for their skills.

Talking on the occasion, Shazia said that handicrafts are a regular industry in Punjab. Artisans from every part of the province have been invited to the Punjab Pavilion to represent the entire province.

Executive Director

Punjab Arts Council, Muhammad Tanvir Majid while briefing the Parliamentary Secretary said that the Government of Punjab is rendering valuable services for promoting art and culture in the province.

As many as 50 skilled artisans from across the province have been invited to the Punjab Pavilion. He informed her that the folk artists from all corners of Punjab were performing in the festival. Traditional folk dances including Bhangra, Ludi, Jhomar and Sammi

are also part of the Punjab Pavilion.

The historical building of "Chouburji" and the glimpse of traditional village also add to the glory of Punjab Pavilion. Director Arts Council Sajjad Hussain was also present during the visit.

The parliamentary secretary lauded the efforts by the PAC for establishing an attractive Punjabi Pavilion and accommodating a large number of representative artisans from across the province in Lok Mela.

ICT admin cracks down on Sunday Market

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration officials have ramped up checks on prices and product quality, as the shoppers flocked to Sunday markets across the Federal Capital.

As Sunday markets filled with holiday crowds in Islamabad, district officials intensified price inspections across various stalls, said the spokesman of ICT administration here.

The administration, aiming to enforce strict controls on prices, deployed teams to ensure vendors followed official rate lists. This included raids to mul-

tiply Sunday markets by Assistant Commissioners and Price Control Magistrates.

In this regard, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar's Aneeq Anwar conducted a thorough inspection, scrutinizing prices and the quality of fruits and vegetables. His visit, which was accompanied by a magistrate, resulted in six shopkeepers being arrested on charges of overpricing.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized that all Assistant Commissioners were present at Sunday markets

throughout the city, tasked with monitoring prices.

He urged citizens to pay only the rates approved by the administration. "If any shopkeeper is not displaying the official rate list, customers should immediately inform the magistrate on duty," he said.

Memon added that Price Control Magistrates would remain available at each market, ready to address any violations on the spot.

The district administration's measures reflect a growing commitment to maintaining consumer rights and ensuring fair prices in local markets.

DG EPA for combating pollution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Additional Director General (DG) Environment Multan at EPA Punjab Zafar Iqbal Sunday urged citizens to take proactive steps to combat dust pollution which is a major contributor to smog and advised citizens to wear face masks, while authorities are encouraged to prioritize road cleaning and watering to minimize dust pollution.

Punjab's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the direction of CM Punjab was taking proactive measures to combat smog and improve air qual-

ity, adding, road cleaning and watering can also minimize dust pollution.

To tackle smog, the Punjab government has implemented various policies, including the Policy and Action Plan for Control, Mitigation, Advisory and Protective Measures in Extreme Weather Conditions of Dense Smog in Punjab and government has also initiated a "Green Lockdown" in Lahore to counteract rising smog levels, he added.

Cooperation between the business community, vendors, shopkeepers and

common people is crucial for the government to effectively address various social issues, he added. By working together, these stakeholders can help create a more united and prosperous community, he stressed.

He further said that smog, emissions of toxic substances and particulate matter will be curbed as government is rigorously enforce environmental laws and regulations related to industry and transportation sectors to promote a clean environment.

Islamabad Police bust key accused

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have successfully apprehended the key accused in two high-profile criminal cases, including a mobile shop robbery and the brutal murder of an elderly man.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations/Investigation Muhammad Ahsan Shahzaib, along with senior police officials, briefed the media during a press conference at the Rescue-15 office on Sunday.

SSP Shahzaib said that the first case involved a robbery at a mobile shop within the jurisdiction of the Secretariat Police Station, where four armed suspects targeted the business. In a separate incident, he said that an elderly man was found murdered in Bhara Kahu, with his throat slit.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, swiftly took notice of these serious crimes and ordered the formation of special police teams under

the leadership of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza, and SSP Ahsan Shahzaib, he said adding that these teams were tasked with investigating both cases.

SSP Shahzaib said utilizing modern investigative techniques, including digital tracking and surveillance, the police teams managed to identify and arrest the four suspects involved in the mobile shop robbery within just 48 hours.

He said the arrested individuals, Faisal, Shabbir, Ghulam Abbas, and Muhammad Faraz, were found in possession of several firearms, including a Kalashnikov rifle, a 55 bore rifle, an M-16 style pistol, two 30 bore pistols, and the motorcycles used in the robbery. Additionally, the stolen money was recovered, he added.

SSP said a key factor in identifying the suspects was a viral video recorded by a bystander during the mobile shop robbery. He said that the video, which

was captured on a mobile phone by a civilian, played a crucial role in tracking down the culprits.

SSP Shahzaib said the suspects, who were residents of Jhang, were found to have committed similar robberies in Faisalabad as well. He said that the police team's swift response, combined with the public's support, led to the successful arrest of the accused.

He said that further investigations into the gang revealed their involvement in other criminal activities, and legal action is underway. The police are continuing to investigate their criminal connections, he maintained. SSP Shahzaib said in the second case, on November 3, police discovered the body of the elderly man, later identified as Abdul Qayyum, in Bhara Kahu. He had been brutally murdered by having his throat slit.

SSP Shahzaib confirmed that Amanullah (23 years) and Riyasat Abbasi were arrested in connection with the murder.

Substandard fuel rejected

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Finance has announced that 60 tankers of substandard fuel were rejected at customs points across the country last week. In an official statement to Bakhtar News Agency, the ministry detailed that the Department of Fuel Quality Control and Monitoring, responsible for ensuring compliance with national import standards, conducted inspections that identified fuel shipments failing to meet quality criteria.

Envoy raises concerns

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Acting Head of Afghanistan's Mission to the United Nations has described the situation for Afghan refugees in Iran as "severe." Naseer Ahmad Faiq highlighted that many Afghan children in neighboring county is deprived of education and healthcare services. In a session at the UN General Assembly, Faiq expressed concern about the growing number of Afghan refugees, with more than 5 million Afghans now residing in Iran.

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

Afghanistan to attend UN climate talks

KABUL (Khaama Press): An Afghan delegation will attend the upcoming UN climate change summit COP29 in Azerbaijan scheduled to take place from today (Monday, November 11).

According to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's (IEA) foreign ministry spokesman, Abdul Qahar Balkhi, said "delegation of the Afghan government will be in Baku".

It was not immediately clear in what capacity the delegation would participate at COP29, but sources indicated it would have observer status.

Afghanistan is ranked as the country sixth most vulnerable to climate change and IEA authorities have pushed to participate in

COP summits, saying their political isolation shouldn't bar them from international climate talks.

Having tried and failed to attend UN climate change summits in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, this year an invitation from COP29 hosts Azerbaijan came through.

Officials from the country's National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) have repeatedly said climate change should not be politicized and called for environment-related projects put on hold due to the IEA's takeover to be reinstated.

"Climate change is a humanitarian subject," deputy NEPA head Zainulabedin Abid said in a recent interview with AFP.

"We have called on the international community not to relate climate change matters with politics."

Among the poorest countries in the world after decades of war, Afghanistan is particularly exposed to the effects of climate change, which scientists say is spurring extreme weather.

Drought, floods, land degradation and declining agricultural productivity are key threats, the UN development agency's representative in Afghanistan, Stephen Rodrigues, said in 2023.

Flash floods in May killed hundreds and swamped swaths of agricultural land in Afghanistan, where 80 percent of people depend on farming to survive.

US cuts 82% of aid to Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): The US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has called on Congress to end its mission in Afghanistan due to a sharp decline in US aid.

SIGAR reported that US contributions to Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts have dropped by 82% since the Taliban's return to power in 2021.

John Sopko, the US Special Inspector General, presented the agency's findings to Congress, highlighting a significant reduction in both financial assistance and political engagement.

The new report suggests that SIGAR's mission should be phased out by 2025, with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) taking over oversight of US aid after fiscal year 2026.

The report reveals that US aid to Afghanistan has plummeted from \$6.68 billion in June 2021 to just \$1.21 billion by September 2024.

SIGAR also pointed out the lack of a replacement for the position of US Special Representative for Afghanistan after Tom West resigned in October 2023.

While the US closed its embassy in Kabul, diplomatic engagement continues through meetings between US officials and the Taliban in Doha, Qatar.

Despite an 82% reduction in funding, SIGAR notes that the US remains Afghanistan's largest donor, providing over \$3 billion in aid under Taliban control since 2021.

The dramatic reduction in US aid underscores a shift in American policy, marking a decline in both financial and political involvement in Afghanistan.

As US support wanes, the future of Afghanistan's reconstruction and stability remains uncertain, with international support increasingly limited.

‘Mining projects generate employment opportunities’



KABUL (BNA): The Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, in a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, stated that mining projects have created direct and indirect jobs for tens of thousands of people.

According to the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Mullah Hedayatullah Badri, the Acting Minister, met with Mawlawi

Mohammad Zahid Ahmadzai, the Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, in his office.

In the meeting, they discussed better management of the country's natural and mineral resources, attracting investment, providing job opportunities in mining projects, and increasing coordination between the two ministries.

During the meeting,

Mullah Hedayatullah Badri described Afghanistan as a country with abundant mineral resources, which can play a significant role in attracting domestic and foreign investment, economic growth and development, job creation, and reducing poverty and unemployment.

He also added that currently, mining projects have created direct and indirect employment for

tens of thousands of people, and compared to the past, the work scope has expanded, creating more job opportunities.

The Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs has emphasized the need for greater coordination between the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in the area of workforce recruitment.

ARCS delivers health services in Kapisa



KAPISA (BNA): The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has reported the delivery of health services to 7,746 residents in Kapisa province.

According to the ARCS report, over the past month, their teams have provided medical consultations and

treatments to 3,224 individuals across various areas in Kapisa.

Additionally, they administered first aid to 316 injured individuals, vaccinated 400 women and children to prevent various diseases, offered essential pre- and postnatal counsel-

ing to 460 women, and provided special nutritional supplements to 216 children suffering from malnutrition.

The ARCS also conducted hygiene awareness sessions for 3,130 individuals to promote personal hygiene practices.

Taliban report mining contracts amid transparency concerns

KABUL (Amu TV): Taliban announced Sunday that they have signed contracts for the exploration and extraction of 21 major mines across Afghanistan over the past three years.

The Taliban's deputy chief's office said on X that these mining projects are located in seven provinces, including Herat, Ghor, Takhar, Baghlan, Kabul, Parwan, and Kandahar. The majority of the contracts involve iron mines.

According to Taliban, the estimated value of these mining contracts is close to \$6 billion. The mines being developed include deposits of iron, lead and zinc, gold, rubies, chromite, cement, barite, and coal.

Key mining projects announced

- Iron Mine in Herat
- Lead and Zinc Mine in Ghor
- Gold Mines in Takhar and Baghlan
- Ruby Mine in Kabul
- Chromite Mine in

- Parwan Cement Mines in Parwan, Herat, and Kandahar
 - Barite Mine in Herat
 - Coal Mine in Herat
- Contracts have been awarded to companies from China, Qatar, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and Iran, along with several domestic firms. Some agreements extend for 30 years and include partnerships between foreign and Afghan companies.

Notable contracts

- Ghorian Iron Mine: \$5.6 billion investment; contracts with Turkish, British, Iranian companies, and Afghan partners.
- Jabal Saraj Cement Project: \$220 million investment; contracted to a Qatari company in partnership with an Afghan firm.
- Lead Mine in Ghor: \$537 million investment; contracted to Afghan Invest. Takhar Gold Mine: \$310 million investment; contracted to a Chinese

company.

Residents and civil society groups have raised concerns that while the Taliban are signing lucrative contracts, the revenue allocation remains opaque, and local communities where mining takes place do not see the benefits. The lack of transparency in the expenditure of mining revenue has been a recurring criticism.

Economic context

UNDP has reported that political upheaval and natural disasters have left Afghanistan among the world's poorest nations. The country's gross domestic product has shrunk dramatically, from \$20.4 billion in 2020 to an estimated \$12.2 billion in 2024, marking an \$8 billion decline during the Taliban's rule.

The UN figures contrast with the Taliban's Bureau of Statistics, which claims a GDP of \$15.7 billion for the current year.

The Taliban's Ministry

of Mines and Petroleum has awarded at least 22 significant mining contracts to international and domestic firms over the last three years, with a collective estimated value of \$7.5 billion. Significant projects include the Amu Darya oil basin and cement plants in Herat, Kandahar, and Parwan.

Reported revenues

- Amu Darya Oil Basin: \$94.5 million
- Panjshir Emeralds: \$4.5 million
- Lead, Zinc: \$14 million

Despite these figures, Taliban have not provided comprehensive details on revenue from all mining activities, including coal, fueling calls for increased transparency and accountability. The handling of national revenue remains a point of contention, with both local citizens and international observers urging more oversight to ensure that the wealth generated benefits the Afghan population.

Ambassador attends 7th China Int’l Exhibition in Shanghai

KABUL (BNA): The Embassy of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in China has announced that Ambassador Mullah Bilal Karim participated in the 7th China International Exhibition held in Shanghai.

The embassy shared on its X account that during his visit to the exhibition, Ambassador Karim toured the Afghan traders' booths, which showcased various Afghan dry fruits such as different types of almonds, apricot kernels, pine nuts, figs, as well as saffron, sweet-scented herbs, yarlang, and other products. Additionally, handmade crafts like carpets and lapis lazuli jewelry were also on display.

According to the source, Afghan traders during the visit requested the ambassador to facilitate the transportation of Afghan export



goods to China. Meanwhile, during the visit, Afghanistan's ambassador provided Afghan traders with information on

trade matters between China and Afghanistan and reassured them of full cooperation.

He also listened to the

traders' requests, concerns, opinions, and suggestions, promising to make further efforts for addressing their issues.

Three killed in Afghanistan last week

KABUL (Pajhwok): Last week, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) hoped the new US administration would adopt a pragmatic approach towards Afghanistan. Uzbekistan stressed cooperation with Afghanistan, with the European Union pledging \$100 million in aid to the country.

Casualties

Last week, three people were killed in various incidents in Nangarhar province, where security personnel found the body of a young man, who had been killed by unknown individuals, in Khogyani district.

The officials also report that in the same district, unidentified assailants beheaded a man writing amulet for people.

Additionally, security officials say a fight broke out between two brothers in the Sheikh Misri camp area

of Surkhrod district. One brother was stabbed to death. No reports of killings were received from other provinces of the country in the past week.

In the previous week, five people had been killed and two others wounded in an incident in Afghanistan.

Before the regime change in 2021, hundreds of civilians, insurgents and security forces would be killed and maimed every week.

UN claims surge in poppy cultivation, IEA denies

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported a 19 percent spike in poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2024, a claim spurned as baseless by the Ministry of Interior.

But Mufti Abdul Mateen Qane, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior (MoI), wrote on X: "As poppy cul-

tivation is a destructive phenomenon considered haram in Islam, IEA Supreme Leader Maulvi Hebatullah Akhundzada has banned the production and cultivation of drugs in the entire country."

UNAMA's report on women

In its recent quarterly report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, UNAMA noted certain sections of the law from the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, stating it had imposed new restrictions on women.

The UNAMA report said: "The law codifies a number of restrictions that had already been issued as decrees, edicts and instructions by the de facto authorities. The law also appears to broaden some preexisting restrictions, and adds new ones."

But the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, in response to the UNAMA report, said the mission still prepared its reports based on non-Afghan and non-Islamic values.

Saif-ul-Islam Khyber, a spokesman for the ministry, said the report made no mention of the ministry's achievements in areas such as inheritance and the prevention of forced marriages.

Mirziyoyev urges continued global support for Afghanistan

Speaking at the 11th summit of the Organization Turkic States in Bishkek, Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev underscored the importance of integrating Afghanistan into regional economic processes and prioritising the implementation of social and infrastructure projects.

At the same summit, Turkish President, Recep

Tayyip Erdogan reaffirmed his country's support for Afghanistan.

The Turkish leader believed, in his view, a comprehensive approach based on fundamental human rights by the interim Afghan government could unlock new opportunities for Afghanistan.

Erdogan said: "We do not separate the stability and peace of our region from Afghanistan's progress. As we have always said, we stand by our Afghan brothers. However, I believe adopting an inclusive approach based on basic human rights by the interim government will open new opportunities."

The Organization of Turkic States was founded on October 3, 2009, with the participation of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. Currently,

it includes eight member states, seven Turkic-speaking countries and Hungary.

Meetings with foreign officials

In a statement, MoFA said Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi met JP Singh, joint secretary at India's Ministry of External Affairs. They discussed political and economic ties between Afghanistan and India, as well as the issue of travel for Afghans.

Also, Minister of Defence Maulvi Mohammad Yaqub Mujahid met Singh. They expressed a keen interest in further strengthening interaction between Afghanistan and India.

Acting Minister of Public Health Maulvi Noor Jalal Jalali and Emergency President Rossella Miccio discussed various issues, including the expansion of services and facilities for

disabled patients at the hospital.

The two sides also conferred on the initiation of specialisation programmes at the Emergency Hospital, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said in a statement.

Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Zhao Xing discussed bilateral relations with Deputy Foreign Minister Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai.

In a post on X, Xing wrote: "I have great honour to meet with Shir Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan and exchange views on strengthening bilateral relations."

Trump's victory, IEA view

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) hoped the new US administration would adopt a practical

approach to foster tangible progress in bilateral ties.

Republican candidate Donald Trump on Wednesday defeated Vice President Kamala Harris to secure a second term in the White House.

In a statement, MoFA said[, "In line with its balanced foreign policy, we hope that following the announcement of the election results, the incoming US administration will adopt a pragmatic approach to ensure tangible advancement in bilateral relations, allowing both nations to open a new chapter of relations grounded in mutual engagement."

Continuation of aid

The European Union has pledged to allocate \$100 million in support of humanitarian and development projects in Afghanistan's agricultural sector.

WWF delegation, Gandapur discuss ongoing initiatives in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Pakistan led by its Chief Executive Officer Hammad Naqvi called on the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, at his office, and discussed with the ongoing and proposed initiatives of WWF for the province in the field of environmental conservation.

Member of the Wildlife and Biodiversity Board Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, MNA Faisal Amin Gandapur, and relevant high ups of the provincial government were also

present.

The meeting focused on enhancing collaboration between the provincial government and WWF Pakistan to strengthen environmental protection, wildlife conservation, and water resource management.

Both parties agreed to expand mutual collaboration to mitigate flood damage and reached a principle decision to launch WWF's "Recharge Pakistan Program" in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During a briefing on the Recharge Pakistan Program, it was told that this seven-year initiative aims to increase green infrastructure, protect agri-

cultural land from flood damage, and implement various water conservation projects in the province.

The program will protect 10,000 hectares of land from flood risks and take measures to raise the groundwater level. Additionally, strategies to boost agricultural productivity also came under discussion.

Hammad Naqvi praised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's efforts to address climate change and environmental challenges, highlighting that these initiatives have gained international recognition. He reiterated WWF Pakistan's commitment to collaborating with the

provincial government to further strengthen these efforts.

Talking to the delegation, Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur welcomed the partnership with WWF Pakistan and emphasized that environmental conservation, wildlife protection, and water resource management are already priority areas for the provincial government.

He assured full support for international organizations working in these fields and directed relevant department officials to coordinate with WWF Pakistan to finalize an action plan for the program's implementation.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur talking to a delegation of World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

President, PM congratulate Pakistan cricket team

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated Pakistan Cricket Team on winning the one-day international (ODI) series against Aussies eleven at their home ground in Australia.

The president lauded the national team for achieving the remarkable triumph in Australia after a gap of 22 years span, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

He further observed that Pakistan team performed well for which the entire team deserved accolades.

The president expressed the optimism that the national cricket team would continue its winning streak in future.

The prime minister termed it as the happiest occasion for the nation because the national team achieved victory in ODI series in Australia after a gap of 22 years, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The bowlers and batters displayed an excellent performance against Australia, he said, adding the members of the team and management worked hard for which they deserved such victory.

Separately, on X account, the prime minister posted, "Big Day for Pakistani Cricket! Congratulations to the Pakistan cricket team on their historic ODI series victory against Australia. After 22 years, Pakistan has defeated Australia on their home ground, and that too, in a convincing manne."

He further posted that this victory was the result of unity and teamwork of their brilliant players; as well as efforts of coaching staff and the PCB under the able leadership of Chairman Mohsin Naqvi.

"May this be the start of a great and glorious period for Pakistani Cricket Team", he added.

Bilawal extends congratulations to national cricket team

Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has extended warm congratulations to the national cricket team for their historic victory in the One Day International (ODI) series against Australia.

In a press release issued by the Media Cell of Bilawal House on Sunday, Chairman PPP praised the players' outstanding performance, which not only clinched a series win but also won the hearts of the entire nation.

He expressed the hope that the team would continue to display the same spirit and determination, carrying forward their winning momentum in future matches.

Tarar shares grief with Zuberi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday expressed deep grief over the death of the mother of Aaj TV Group Chief Executive Officer Shahab Zuberi.

In his condolence message, the information minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to Shahab Zuberi and other family members.

Attaullah Tarar said he was deeply saddened to hear the news of Shahab Zubari's mother's death.

Terming the death of Zuberi's mother a great tragedy for the bereaved family, he shared their grief.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.

Pakistan thump Australia to win series

PERTH (BBC): Pakistan thrashed Australia by eight wickets in Perth to claim their first one-day series win in the country for 22 years.

Shaheen Shah Afridi took 3-32 and Naseem Shah 3-54 to help bowl an under-strength Australia out for only 140 at Optus Stadium.

Pakistan cruised home with 23.1 overs to spare thanks to 42 from Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique's 37 and an unbeaten 30 from Mohammad Rizwan.

Australia rested their

Test players before the five-match series against India starting on 22 November.

"It was a great feeling for us as a country, as a nation - everyone is so excited," said pace bowler Shaheen.

Asked to bat first, Australia could not recover from slipping from 20-0 to 88-6, with Cooper Connolly retiring hurt because of a suspected broken hand after being struck by Mohammad Hasnain.

Sean Abbott top-scored for the hosts with 30, while

six batters failed to reach double figures.

"Our whole batting lineup really didn't get going at all throughout the series," said captain Josh Inglis.

Pakistan openers Ayub and Shafique put on 84 for the first wicket before captain Rizwan and Babar Azam wrapped up a 2-1 series win.

Australia won the first ODI by two wickets and Pakistan the second by nine wickets.

They begin a three-match T20 series on Thursday in Brisbane.



PERTH: Pakistan players and team officials celebrating the series win over Australia.

Lahore, Multan, Peshawar most polluted cities

LAHORE (INP): Polluted winds from India have engulfed most parts of Punjab and other areas as Lahore remained the most polluted city of the country.

Multan remained second and Peshawar third most polluted cities of the country with highest level of pollutants in the air.

The Air Quality Index reading of Lahore measured 753, Multan's 587 and Peshawar's 463. The AQI reading of Islamabad and Haripur has also been recorded above 200.

Motorway M-2, M-4 and M-5 have been closed owing to poor visibility, caused by foggy weather conditions.

Bad air continuing to haunt Lahore and several other cities despite authorities' desperate efforts to curb smog.

Punjab's senior minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the air direction from India, has been towards Lahore resulting in increasing smog. "This

issue could not be resolved without talking to India."

"Polluted eastern winds, blowing from India, have direction towards Lahore," secretary environment protection agency, Jahangir Anwar said.

"This polluted air has added to smog in Lahore and given extraordinary boost to the AQI reading," Anwar said.

Talking to earlier, senior environmental protection official said, "We have never reached a level of 1,000."

For days, Lahore has been enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants caused by low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning and winter cooling.

Air pollution level in Lahore once soared to more than 80 times over the level deemed acceptable by the World Health Organization (WHO), AFP said in a report.

Israeli strikes kill dozens in Lebanon and isolated northern Gaza

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP): Israeli strikes killed dozens of people including children on Sunday in Lebanon and northern Gaza, where the military has waged a major offensive for more than a month that aid groups say has worsened the humanitarian crisis in the besieged enclave.

The Israeli airstrike in Lebanon killed at least 23 people including seven children in Aalmat village north of Beirut, far from the areas in the east and south where Hezbollah militants have a major presence. Lebanon's Health Ministry said another six people were wounded. There was no immediate Israeli comment.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, drones and missiles into Israel after war broke out in Gaza, in solidarity with the Palestinians and fellow Iran-backed militant group Hamas. Israel retaliated, and a series of escalations have led to all-out war.

In northern Gaza, an Israeli strike on a home sheltering displaced people

in the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya killed at least 17 people including nine women, according to Dr. Fadel Naim, director of Al-Ahly Hospital in Gaza City.

Israel's military said it targeted a site where militants were operating, without providing evidence. It said the details of the strike are under review.

A separate strike hit a house in Gaza City, killing Wael al-Khour, a minister in the Hamas-run government, as well as his wife and three children, according to the Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the government.

Israel has struck deeper inside Lebanon since September, when it killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah as well as most of his top commanders. Hezbollah has expanded its rocket fire from northern to central Israel. The fighting has killed over 3,000 people in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry, and more than 70 people in Israel.

After Israel's strike in Aalmat, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of

Beirut, legislator Raed Berro denied that any Hezbollah personnel or assets were in the building that was hit, adding: "The important people are on the front line resisting ... It is impossible for them to be among people in civilian life."

Hassan Ghaddaf, who lived next door and was lightly wounded, said displaced people were in the house that was struck.

"I had seen them and got to know them the other day," Ghaddaf said. "They were peaceful. On the contrary, they had someone from the Lebanese Internal Security Forces that works for the state, and we saw their garb and clothes in the rubble." Israeli forces have encircled and largely isolated Jabaliya and the nearby northern Gaza towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun for the past month, allowing only a trickle of humanitarian aid. Hundreds of people have been killed since the offensive began on Oct. 6, and tens of thousands of people have fled to nearby Gaza City.

Experts from a panel that

monitors food security say famine is imminent in the north or may already be happening. The deadline is approaching for an ultimatum the Biden administration gave Israel to allow more aid into Gaza or risk possible restrictions on U.S. military funding.

The northern third of Gaza, including Gaza City, was the first target of Israel's ground invasion and has suffered the heaviest destruction of the 13-month war that was triggered by Hamas' attack into southern Israel. Israel has sent forces back in after repeated operations, saying Hamas has regrouped.

Israeli strikes often kill women and children. The military says it only targets militants, whom it accuses of hiding among civilians.

Also Sunday, Israel's military released what it said was video footage of Hamas abusing detainees. The soundless footage, dated from 2018 to 2020, appears to show hooded detainees chained in stress positions. In some clips, men beat or poke them with batons.

Dar hopes new US administration to reinvigorate efforts for peace in ME

RIYADH (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday expressed the hope that the new US administration following last week's elections would lend its weight to reinvigorate efforts for peace in the Middle East in accordance with the UN resolutions and international law, as a priority.

Addressing the Council of Foreign Ministers' Preparatory Meeting for the Second Arab-Islamic Summit on the Situation in Middle East, the deputy prime minister highlighted that mere condemnation of Israeli actions will not be enough. He also stressed to act now to fulfil the moral and legal duty to stand with the people of Palestine for their rights and demand justice for them.

"The whole Muslim Ummah is looking at us today. We need to demonstrate unwavering political will and complete unity and take concrete steps to effectively address the situation

at hand."

He stressed for securing an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and the region, ensuring unfettered humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, forcing Israel to stop demonization of UNRWA and urging the UNGA to ensure UNRWA continues its vital operations.

Ishaq Dar also called for pursuing full implementation of the UNGA resolution ES-10/24, supporting Palestine's admission as a full member of the UN, exploring legal avenues to hold Israel accountable for war crimes, imposing an immediate arms embargo on Israel, undertaking a comprehensive review of Israel's membership of the UN, and nominating a Joint Arab-Islamic Special Envoy on Middle East as a focal point to coordinate progress on the implementation of the Resolutions adopted by the Joint-Arab-Islamic Summits.

He said the first Joint Arab-Islamic Summit in

Riyadh in November last year had adopted far-reaching decisions to end war in Gaza. However he said unfortunately, after more than a year, the situation in the Middle East had become worse.

"Israel has been contravening all international norms and laws with impunity. The Israeli occupying forces continue to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity against the innocent Palestinians," he added.

He said during the last one year death toll of innocent Palestinians had crossed 44,000, while more than a hundred thousand had been injured and millions displaced.

Furthermore, he said international humanitarian access to Palestinians had been further restricted.

"The reckless pursuit of a so-called greater Israel by encroaching upon the sovereignty of states beyond Palestine, is fraught with serious implications for regional peace and stability."

ty."

He said Pakistan strongly condemned Israel's military strikes against these brotherly countries which were a blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law.

He said the UN Security Council remained ineffective, the calls by UN General Assembly, the OIC, and International Court of Justice for a ceasefire, unimpeded humanitarian aid, and civilian protection were also utterly disregarded.

Congratulating the Saudi initiative for holding the inaugural meeting of the "Global Alliance for Implementation of a Two State Solution" last month, the deputy prime minister assured that Pakistan will abide by its commitment to and engagement with the Alliance for the achievement of its objectives.

"Pakistan looks forward to actively contributing to the different thematic working groups of the Global Alliance."

Ukraine attacks Moscow with 34 drones, biggest strike

MOSCOW (Reuters): Ukraine attacked Moscow on Sunday with at least 34 drones, the biggest drone strike on the Russian capital since the start of the war in 2022, forcing flights to be diverted from three of the city's major airports and injuring at least five people.

Russian air defences destroyed another 50 drones over other regions of Western Russia on Sunday, the defence ministry said.

"An attempt by the Kyiv regime to carry out a terrorist attack using airplane-type drones on the territory of the Russian Federation was thwarted," the ministry said.

Russia's federal air transport agency said the airports of Domodedovo, Sheremetyevo and Zhukovsky diverted at least 36 flights, but then resumed operations. Five people were injured in the Moscow

region, the defence ministry said.

Moscow and its surrounding region, with a population of at least 21 million, is one of the biggest metropolitan areas in Europe, alongside Istanbul.

For its part, Russia launched a record 145 drones overnight, Ukraine said. Kyiv said its air defences downed 62 of those. Ukraine also said it attacked an arsenal in the Bryansk region of Russia, which reported 14 drones had been downed in the region.

Unverified video posted on Russian Telegram channels showed drones buzzing across the skyline.

The 2-1/2-year-old war in Ukraine is entering what some officials say could be its final act after Moscow's forces advanced at the fastest pace since the early days of the war and Donald

Trump was elected 47th president of the United States.

Trump, who takes office in January, said during campaigning that he could bring peace in Ukraine within 24 hours, but has given few details on how he would seek to do this.

When Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called Trump to congratulate him on his presidential election victory, Tesla CEO and Trump supporter Elon Musk joined the call, according to media reports. Musk owns SpaceX, which provides Starlink satellite communication services that are vital for Ukraine's defence effort.

Kyiv, itself the target of repeated mass drone strikes from Russian forces, has tried to strike back against its vastly larger eastern neighbour with repeated drone strikes against oil

refineries, airfields and even Russian strategic early-warning radar stations.

While the 1,000 km (620 mile) front has largely resembled grinding World War One trench and artillery warfare for much of the war, one of the biggest innovations of the conflict has been drone warfare.

Moscow and Kyiv have both sought to buy and develop new drones, deploy them in innovative ways, and seek new ways to destroy them - from using farmers' shotguns to advanced electronic jamming systems.

Russia has developed a series of electronic "umbrellas" over Moscow, with additional advanced internal layers over strategic buildings, and a complex web of air defences to shoot down the drones before they reach the Kremlin in the heart of the capital.