

Minister briefs IMF team
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The IMF delegation Tuesday visited Pakistan's Ministry of Finance and received a briefing on the country's economic performance during the first quarter of the current fiscal year. It reported in media that Finance Minister and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb warmly welcomed the IMF delegation led by Mission Chief Nathan Porter upon their arrival at the ministry.



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Pakistan for redefining climate finance

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the world community for redefining the global climate finance to enable climate vulnerable developing countries to meet their NDC goals, half of which may take around US\$6.8 trillion by 2030.

The prime minister, addressing the high level climate finance roundtable on the sidelines of COP29 - international climate negotiations' multilateral forum held under the patronage of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) -, emphasized the urgent need to build momentum for reforming international financial architecture, "forging a path where no nation is left behind in the global response to climate change."

PM Shehbaz while elaborating the purpose of the roundtable briefed the participants that it was intended to foster new thinking on an old problem that was becoming complicated on all the international climate forums without yielding substantial results. "We stand at a crucial threshold where global climate finance framework must be redefined to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable nations. Despite years of promises and repeated commitments, the gaps are growing in quantum leaps leading to egregious barriers in achieving objectives of UNFCCC. We all agree that financing resilience as well as ambition is the most urgent need of the hour," the prime minister said.

He said that the developing countries needed to deliver to their masses on nationally-determined contributions (NDCs) that was why it was imperative to spur both ideas and discourse to make international climate finance more responsive, equitable and sufficient enough to address solutions at various scale enhancing effectiveness of climate finance. Prime Minister Shehbaz underscored that the donor countries should fulfill their commitment to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as developing assistance and capitalize existing climate funds.

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"One such commitment is the \$100 billion annual climate finance pledge made over a decade ago at COP-15 is now reported by OECD to reach only \$160 billion. Despite this number remaining a tiny proportion of the defined need, a significant part over this financing is disbursed in the form of loans, further enhancing the debt burden on developing nations and potentially pushing towards mounting debt traps. I call it death traps," the prime minister said. Pakistan can understand the agony and pain of other vulnerable developing countries as it had faced two devastating floods and still recovering from the loss, he said, adding "In order to spur some transparency and coordination into the financial commitments made to the developing countries on climate transfers, Pakistan alongside many other developing countries call for stronger, more equitable climate finance mechanisms under the UNFCCC."

He suggested a mechanism be set up to measure the unfulfilled pledges, fragmented at an incomplete landscape of climate funds to developing countries. "What I call INDCs whereby major historic emitters should account for climate finance commitments for both mitigation and adaptation pledges reflecting their proportionate responsibilities," he added. Debt could not become acceptable new normal in climate financing which was why the world should focus on non-debt financing solutions enabling developing countries to fund climate initiatives without depositing an additional burden, he said.

In 2022, he said when one third of Pakistan was under water, the country had to re-purpose all its development and climate funds for just financing basic relief and humanitarian efforts. The prime

PM calls for global galvanization, efforts to protect glaciers' health

BAKU (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday linked the survival of humankind on the planet earth with the compact health of glaciers and reiterated that Pakistan, being the most affected country, stood ready to work with the international community to protect these valuable natural resources.

Addressing a high-level event of Glaciers 2025: Actions for Glaciers' hosted by Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, the prime minister called upon all the countries to unite in the efforts of protecting glaciers from pollution and snow melt by taking concrete and decisive actions to secure the future of glaciers as well as protect the mankind. He said Pakistan was home to 7,000 glaciers which provided an approximately 60 to 70 percent water for the Indus River flow, supporting 90 percent of agriculture and serving its 200 million people. "However the glaciers that provide water for this river have been shrinking over a period of time and at an alarming time, which is estimated at about 23 pc decrease since 1960," he added. The prime minister said this retreat was driven by rising temperatures and the consequences of these changes were glaringly visible. He shared that accelerated glacial melt had led to the formation of more than 3,000 glacial lakes in the Northern Areas of Pakistan which were posing great threat. Out of these, he said, about 33 lakes were estimated at the risk of outburst flooding, putting lives of over 7 million people in danger.

minister also highlighted challenges to developing countries in embracing clean energy transition to offset their carbon emission from power sector. He mentioned that the developing countries looking to enable energy transition should also get preferential capacity and technical assistance in fast tracking consortium financing through various financial instruments.

He suggested the UNFCCC to setup a committee to review internationally-determined contributions (IDCs) periodically. The forum was also participated by heads of states of different countries and high level dignitaries, state representatives, global experts and international media. President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon said in order to address global threats and challenges, the world needed to take coordinated actions collectively, especially through financing climate initiatives. "Tajikistan is also among developing climate vulnerable countries bearing vagaries of climate disasters as over 4,000 climate and natural disasters hit the country in past decade incurring \$500 million losses and deaths of 400 people," he said.

President Rahmon said that he was confident that holding a strong and inclusive coalition of developing countries and development partners was key to collectively promote reform of the international climate finance system for generations to come. President of Kyrgyzstan, Sadyr Nurgojo uulu Japarov said Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan like many others were expressing their willingness to fulfill the agenda on the table.

"We are witnessing climate change that is posing fundamental threat to the sustainable development of regions, countries and the world as a whole," he said. The high level roundtable by Pakistan was timely given the upcoming decisions of the COP29 for new collective qualitative goals on climate finance, the Kyrgyz President said.



BAKU: Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif addressing the high-level Climate Finance Roundtable hosted by Pakistan at COP-29 Climate Action Summit in Azerbaijan.

22 drown as bus plunges into river in Diamer

F.P. Report

GILGIT: Twenty-two people drowned, while one person was saved on Tuesday after a bus carrying them plunged into a river in Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer district on Tuesday, according to rescue officials. "Sixteen dead bodies have been recovered from the river, while the search for the remaining persons continues," Senior Superintendent of Police Diamer, Sher Khan, told media.

He added that a woman, who was a bride, had sustained injuries and was receiving treatment at a hospital. Sharing details of the accident earlier, Rescue 1122 spokesperson Shaukat Riaz told media that a bus coming from Astore fell into the Indus River from Telchi bridge in the limits of Diamer district in Gilgit-Baltistan on Tuesday afternoon.

"The vehicle was part of a wedding procession heading towards Punjab's Chakwal district," he said. He added the passengers who were onboard the bus had been identified and women were among the drowned. "Nineteen of them belonged to Astore while four were from the Chakwal district of Punjab," he said.

The district administration officials were also present on the spot and supervised the search operation in the river, Riaz added. President Asif Ali Zardari expressed his grief and conveyed his condolences to the victims' relatives. Road accidents are frequent in KP and GB, exacerbated by harsh weather, rugged terrain, poorly maintained roads, overloaded vehicles, and minimal traffic regulations.

The narrow, winding routes and driver fatigue further elevate risk, making these regions especially accident-prone.

Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan, leader of the House Senator Ishaq Dar, and leader of the opposition Senator Syed Shibli Faraz also issued separate condolence messages, expressing deep sadness over the incident and offering their sympathies to the affected families.

Omar Ayub, other PTI leaders released

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Several top PTI leaders were taken into custody on Tuesday from outside the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi for violating Section 144 but were released shortly afterwards after being issued a warning, police said.

Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is a legal provision that empowers district administrations to prohibit an assembly of four or more people in an area for a limited period. It is usually imposed to prevent potential disturbances, maintain law and order, and curb any activities that might escalate into violence. According to Punjab Police spokesperson, Sajjadul Hassan, "PTI workers were detained for violating Section 144 but were released after being issued a warning."

"The enforcement of the law will be ensured in any case," said the police spokesperson. Earlier, the PTI had said that several of its leaders were arrested from outside the Adiala Jail when they went to meet their incarcerated leader, Imran Khan, terming the move "absolutely shameful."

"Absolutely shameful! Omar Ayub Khan, Shibli Faraz, Asad Qaiser, Ahmed Bhachar, Sahibzada Hamid Raza have been arrested outside Adiala Jail, for simply exercising their right to meet with Imran Khan, as permitted by law," the PTI said in a post on X. "This should alarm anyone who values the rule of law, as it

shows how basic freedoms are being trampled upon," it added.

Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader Malik Ahmed Bhachar and ally Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) MNA Sahibzada Hamid Raza were also among those arrested, the party said. A video shared by the PTI showed Ayub being seated in the backseat of a white Toyota Corolla vehicle amid high security, while Raza was also being pulled away by uniformed personnel. A police van could also be seen parked on the road's opposite side.

In another post on X, the PTI said the arrests highlighted the "PML-N government's blatant misuse of power", saying it was aimed at "silencing PTI leaders and anyone standing with Imran Khan". Calling it an "assault on political freedoms", the party called on the public to "peacefully protest". A post on Qaiser's X account said former MNA Aliya Hamza Malik was also among those taken into custody. It claimed that the party leaders were "being arrested after being forced out of their vehicles".

Following their release, PTI leaders held a press conference to condemn their detention. "The way we were dragged today unprovoked is an insult to the Constitution of Pakistan," said Faraz. "We went there to meet our leader peacefully. We hadn't held a rally or shown any aggression, but we were neither allowed to leave nor meet Khan Sahab."

Police Lines bombing suspect remanded

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Peshawar Judge Muhammad Iqbal Khan has granted remand of a terrorism suspect policeman named Wali Muhammad for 15-day physical custody to the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), on Tuesday.

According to prosecution, Wali Muhammad was arrested from the BRT Station in Peshawar for allegedly facilitating the Police Lines bombing that killed over 80 police personnel and injured more than 250 others.

The CTD had sought an extension of Wali's physical remand to investigate his role in the bombing. During the hearing, the investigation officer informed the court that Wali Muhammad had facilitated the bomber and was involved in the planning and execution of the attack.

Wali said prior to the police lines' blast he went to Bara tehsil of Khyber district and took along the suicide bomber, named Qair, resident of Afghanistan for Peshawar. Taking advantage of his police uniform, the accused said three days prior to the deadly blast, he took the suicide bomber to the police lines to show him the target and routes to reach the target. He also confessed to being on the payroll of the Jamat ul Ahrar and used to receive Rs 40 to 50 thousand on a monthly basis. Following the Police Lines incident, Wali mentioned he was then posted to the BRT.

Key facilitator of deadly police lines blast, constable held: IGP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General Akhtar Hayat Gandapur on Tuesday informed that police have arrested a serving police constable identified as the key facilitator of a deadly suicide blast in a Mosque that claimed lives of 80 police officials in Malik Saad Shaheed Police Lines here in January 2023.

Addressing a press conference here, the police chief said the constable, Mohammad Wali, was apprehended a few days ago from Jamil Chowk here along with two suicide jackets. Surprisingly, he said the arrested prime facilitator of the police lines blast, a police



constable, was also a member of a banned terror outfit.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to bond links with banned Jamat ul Ahrar through social media

platforms. He said that following the deadly blast, police traced a suspected facilitator of the blast, named Intiaz alias Tora Shpa, a resident of Afghanistan from Bara tehsil of Khyber district who led the police to arrest the prime facilitator and provided crucial information.

The IGP said that the arrested accused had met with terrorists of Jamat ul Ahrar and Mohammad Khurasani in Afghanistan, adding that the suspect had been arrested by the Afghan forces as well but later seen off for Pakistan with an amount of Rs 20000. On his way back to Pakistan, the accused was arrested by the Afghan forces, however on

intervention of a Jamat ul Ahrar member, named Junaid, he was released to continue his journey for Pakistan.

The accused also maintained his contacts with other terrorists, providing them with critical information and a map of the Police Lines and other important places besides, informing them about the deadly suicide blast at police lines after it occurred. For his anti-state and anti-human role, he received an amount of Rs 0.2 million through hawala-hundi at Chowk Yadgar," the IG added. During interrogation, the accused, Abdul Wali also confessed to killing a priest in 2022 besides revealing his involvement in the Warsaw

Road bomb blasts.

A video showing the suspect's confessing statement was also played on the screen during the press conference. The accused Wali said he joined the police department on December 31, 2019 and later joined Jamat ul Ahrar through social media in 2021, where one of its members, Junaid influenced and convinced him to carry out subversive activities against the state and its people. In his video confession, the accused said "I personally expressed my intent to join Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, support it, and work for it," Wali said, adding that he travelled to Afghanistan to join the terrorist organization.

Wali said prior to the police lines' blast he went to Bara tehsil of Khyber district and took along the suicide bomber, named Qair, resident of Afghanistan for Peshawar. Taking advantage of his police uniform, the accused said three days prior to the deadly blast, he took the suicide bomber to the police lines to show him the target and routes to reach the target. He also confessed to being on the payroll of the Jamat ul Ahrar and used to receive Rs 40 to 50 thousand on a monthly basis. Following the Police Lines incident, Wali mentioned he was then posted to the BRT.

Giving reasons for carrying out one of the deadliest blasts,

the accused said his organization wanted to take revenge for the killing of the Jamat ul Ahrar leader, Khalid Khurasani who was killed in Afghanistan on 7th August 2021.

The IGP said the achievements made so far by the KP police in the police lines blast was a result of tireless efforts of the police department adding that they were expecting more revelations from the prime accused in further interrogations. IGP Gandapur said the arrest of the Fitna-al-Khawarij members was a clear message to all those that our people and law enforcing institutions were united, committed and capable of thwarting any threat to the homeland and its people.



Standing committee on Home affairs convenes to address security challenges

F.P. Report

KARACHI: A high-level meeting of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs took place at the Sindh Assembly Building in Karachi to discuss various agenda items.

The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Faryal Talpur. Among the participants were Sindh Home Minister Zia Ul Hasan Lanjar, Additional Chief Secretary for Home, IGP Sindh, all Additional IGs, DIGs, & District SSsP IGP Sindh gave a detailed briefing on the law and order situation in the province, anti-street crime efforts, and ongoing police operations in the Kacha areas. He mentioned that kidnapping incidents in Kacha areas have taken the form of "honey traps," but the police force is vigilant and alert to protect citizens. He also expressed gratitude to the Sindh government for providing modern weapons to the police.

The IGP shared details of absconding and wanted criminals and the crack-down on tinted windows, blue lights, fake/fancy number plates, along with the efforts to enhance CTD's capabilities. According to the IG, 40 toll plazas under the S4 project are equipped with CCTV cameras to combat crime. Additionally, he informed the meeting

about online verification of citizens' data, issuance of driving licenses, e-tagging, and search and hotel check-in apps. He also confirmed that the Safe City project has entered its first phase.

The IGP requested 400 prosecutors and highlighted the importance of rehabilitation centers. During a Q&A session, the IGP explained that FIR data is reported and can be compared with CPLC data. In response to a question by Chairperson Faryal Talpur, he stated that the Internal Accountability Bureau (IAB), headed by an Additional IG, investigates and identifies complaints against police misconduct.

The IG Sindh also clarified that convoys are no longer used on Katcha roads. Currently, 485 police stations receive budgets, with financial authority held by respective SHOs. Allocated budgets are also audited. He added that tagging of absconders and fugitives requires court permission, and 31 police stations in Sindh are under repair, with plans to repair an additional 50 stations. Complaints against the police can be reported to 1715, which MPA Faryal Talpur mentioned they would soon test. The IG added that steps are being taken to strengthen Police 15 and emphasized the need for legislation to prevent domestic disputes and conflicts. He also highlighted

ed that 30,000 police personnel participated in polio duty. Faryal Talpur desired the salary details of police employees by pay scale, emphasizing that the police are a frontline force, with soldiers who sacrifice their lives and return as heroes. Increasing their salaries is the need of the hour.

In response to a question, Sindh Home Minister Zia Ul Hassan Lanjar stated that the Sindh government has provided health insurance cards, but housing is also necessary. The Sindh government aims to increase police salaries, and the recent hike was due to the serious directives of former President Asif Ali Zardari. Faryal Talpur commended this progress, saying that it's just the beginning and more support will be provided in the future.

Member of the Standing Committee, Sohail Anwar Siyal, suggested that cameras installed under the S4 project should detect all occupants in vehicles, and the details of absconders and wanted individuals should be shared with all districts. Those who have passed away should be removed from the list. Chairperson Faryal Talpur appreciated the comprehensive briefing by the IG and assured full support from the Sindh government, adding that narcotics would be discussed in the next meeting.

CM sets Dec 31 deadline for revamping 1,236 health centers

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the record revamping of health centers across the province is nearing completion.

In her statement on Tuesday, she revealed that the project to upgrade and rehabilitate 1,236 health centers in Punjab is progressing rapidly. "Dilapidated health centers will be transformed into makeshift clinics to ensure access to healthcare," she said.

CM Maryam Nawaz set a deadline of December 31 for the completion of the project, underscoring her commitment to providing the best medical facilities to the people of Punjab.

The CM highlighted that the revamping project includes 286 health centers in Central Punjab, 363 in the North Zone, and 587 in South Punjab. She further shared that 20 percent of health centers in Central Punjab, 28 percent in the North Zone, and over 25 percent in South Punjab have already been completed.

"The transformation of 1,219 health centers into family clinics is progressing rapidly," she added, noting that plastering of 772 units, flooring of 384 units, and finishing work on 74 units are currently underway.

"Teams of C&W Punjab are working diligently to ensure the timely completion of the project."

ect." She added, "We are committed to fulfilling our promise of providing the best healthcare facilities to the people."

The CM said basic health centers will be transformed into modern clinics, and emphasized that the shortage of doctors and staff would be addressed. "We will establish clinics in Punjab's villages that will surpass even private hospitals in the cities," she added.

Providing top-quality healthcare at people's doorsteps will reduce the pressure on large hospitals," she said and directed the relevant authorities to ensure that the health centers meet the highest construction standards during the revamping process.

Bilal Yaseen visits Wasa, reviews digital systems

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Housing and Urban Development Bilal Yaseen paid a visit to the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) Headquarters on Tuesday and reviewed digital system and solarization.

The minister was welcomed by Vice Chairman Chaudhry Shahbaz and Managing Director Ghufan Ahmed. During his visit, the minister was given a detailed briefing on the agency's various departments, performance and ongoing projects.

MD Ghufan Ahmed briefed the minister on several innovative systems being implemented at the Wasa, including the Digital Complaint Management System, Rainwater Board, and the SCADA system, aimed at improving efficiency and service delivery. Discussions also focused on the Revenue Dashboard, IT reforms, and revenue collection initiatives.

Minister Bilal Yaseen expressed his appreciation for the IT reforms and the underground water tank projects, which, he described, as revolutionary steps towards improving public convenience. He emphasized the need for the timely completion of all development projects under the Wasa to ensure better facilities for the public. He underscored the importance of fully digitizing all revenue systems to enhance transparency and operational efficiency. Bilal Yaseen also signaled an immediate push for the implementation of solarization projects as part of efforts to reduce electricity bills and promote cost-saving measures.



KARACHI: 12-Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh, Sharifullah, presides over a meeting to review arrangements for the upcoming Local Bodies by-election across the province. —APP Photo

Children represent future foundations of strong Pakistan: CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that our children represent the future foundations of a strong Pakistan, and their well-being and development must be our collective priority.

This he said while speaking at a UNICEF Pakistan concert organized to celebrate World Children's Day, themed 'Listen to the Future' at Pakistan Arts Council. Minister Education Sardar Ali Shah, UNICEF Representative Abdullah Fadil and UN Resident Coordinator Mohammad Yahya, and others were present on occasion.

Shah expressed gratitude for the commitment to advancing children's rights, acknowledged World Children's Day as a vital moment for Pakistan and underscored the need for continued action to ensure every child's right to a bright future.

"Happy World Children's Day to every child in Sindh, Pakistan and around the globe," Chief Minister Murad Shah said and

emphasised that the celebration reaffirms Sindh's commitment to child rights. He said that, in collaboration with UNICEF and other UN partners, provincial government was dedicated to ensuring all children receive the support they deserve.

The CM praised the diversity represented at the event, highlighting how children from every region

of Pakistan embody the nation's unity and strength. He thanked UNICEF and its partners for their relentless efforts, particularly in alignment with Pakistan's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have been integral to the country's vision since 2016. He added that Pakistan's adoption of the SDGs is part of a broader mission to drive reforms and investments

that prioritize the nation's youth and secure a prosperous future.

With nearly 20 million children in Sindh alone, Murad Shah recognised the province's significant responsibility, saying "Our children represent the future foundations of a strong nation, and their well-being, education and over all development must be our collective priority."



KARACHI: Models walk on the ramp in stunning outfits during the fashion show at the inauguration of Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD).

PSATF strengthens ties with key Sindh trade bodies

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Southern Africa Trade Federation (PSATF) received strong support and cooperation from the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in its mission to expand Pakistan's trade footprint in the African markets. During meetings with these leading trade bodies, the PSATF delegation, led by Chairman Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Memon, discussed a comprehensive agenda for advancing trade ties between Pakistan and Southern Africa.

The first meeting, held at the KCCI office on Monday, centered on identifying opportunities and addressing challenges to foster trade growth between Pakistan and Southern Africa. KCCI representatives expressed interest in formalizing their support by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PSATF, demonstrating a strong commitment to mutual collaboration.

Senior Vice-President of KCCI, Mr. Zia ul Arfeen, and Mr. Ahmed Azeem Alvi,

President of the SITE Association, welcomed the PSATF delegation, alongside KCCI office bearers and executive members. In his address, Mr. Rafiq Memon congratulated the newly elected KCCI leadership and shared PSATF's vision of broadening the export base of Pakistani products to South Africa, where significant demand and opportunities exist. He also highlighted recent productive discussions held with the Special Facilitation Council (SIFC) and the Board of Investment (BOI) in Islamabad, focused on PSATF's trade and investment promotion activities.

Mr. Rafiq Memon emphasized the critical role of Chambers of Commerce in driving Pakistan's export growth and expressed optimism about exporting Pakistani mangoes to South Africa as early as next year, pending the completion of certification processes. He encouraged KCCI to actively support this initiative by capitalizing on the emerging opportunities within Africa, with particular emphasis on sectors such as mining, tourism, manufacturing, and surgical instruments.

منجانب انجمن کشیشل انڈومنٹ فنڈ (PEEF)

سابقہ قائد کا ہونہار موقع طلباء ودطالبات کیلئے مائریٹل سکارشپ پروگرام کے برائے سال 2024-25

منجانب انجمن کشیشل انڈومنٹ فنڈ (PEEF) نے سابق قائد کا ہونہار موقع طلباء ودطالبات کیلئے مائریٹل سکارشپ پیش کیے ہیں۔ ان سکارشپ کیلئے سابق قائد کا دو میڈیاں رکھنے والے ہیں اور حق طلب ودطالبات سے درخواستیں مطلوب ہیں۔

سابقہ قائد کا بے طلب ودطالبات کیلئے سال 2022/2023/2024 کا امتحان CGPA 2.5/60% حاصل کیے ہوں۔ حریہ راہ ودطالبات جو پریکٹ یا قابل تین، اور مارک / آف / اونگ میٹرو میں داخلہ لینے والے ایسی درخواست دینے کے اہل ہیں

☆ درج بالا امتحان مرکزی تعلیمی اداروں سے پاس کیا ہو۔

☆ سابقہ قائد کا دو میڈیاں کے حامل طلب ودطالبات ہوں۔

☆ کسی بھی کل وقتی ریسرچ یا نیو ریسرچ میں داخل ہوں۔

☆ والدین کی کل مائریٹل آمدن - 60,000/- روپے سے زائد نہ ہو۔

☆ گریڈ 4-1 کے سرکاری ملازمین کے بچے مائریٹل مدد (اگر آمدن کا زیر صرف تنخواہ ہے) کی شرط سے مستثنیٰ ہیں۔

☆ دیگر دوائیوں میں شہید ہونے والے موٹوین کے بچے مائریٹل مدد کی شرط سے مستثنیٰ ہیں۔

☆ موجودہ تعلیمی سال میں پہلے سے کوئی تکلیف حاصل نہ کر رہے ہوں۔

☆ ملاوڑ اور اہل طلب ودطالبات کیلئے تین سکارشپ بھی پیش کیا گیا ہے۔ ایسے طلب ودطالبات جو مندرجہ ذیل کسی بھی کیٹیگری سے تعلق رکھتے ہوں اور مندرجہ بالا شرائط کا پورا کرتے ہوں اور پیش کیے گئے سکارشپ کیلئے کسی درخواست دینے کے اہل ہیں:

☆ بینیم طلب (دو طلب ودطالبات جن کے والدات یا بچے ہیں) ● گریڈ 4-1 کے سرکاری ملازمین کے بچے

☆ اقلیتی مذاہب سے تعلق رکھنے والے طلب ودطالبات ● سکول (مقدور) طلب ودطالبات

☆ دیگر دوائیوں میں شہید ہونے والے موٹوین کے بچے ● طلاق یافتہ خواتین کے بچے

نوٹ: ہر قائد سے عمل پر شدہ درخواست جمع کروانے کی آخری تاریخ 15 دسمبر 2024 ہے۔ سکارشپ درخواست صرف مطلوبہ درخواست نام پر قائم کی جاتی ہے۔

سکارشپ فارم PEEF کی ویب سائٹ <https://sites.google.com/view/kpkad1> www.peef.org.pk پر دستیاب ہے۔

مزید معلومات کیلئے ان فون نمبرز پر رابطہ کریں 091-9223512

یہ فارم صرف بائیر انجمن کشیشل ڈیپارٹمنٹ حکومت خیبر پختونخوا، سول سیکریت، پشاور (Autonomous Bodies) سیکشن میں آخری تاریخ سے پہلے پیش کرنا ہوگا۔ تاریخ کرنے کے بعد موصول ہونے والی درخواستوں پر عمل نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

PEEF کو براہ راست موصول ہونے والی درخواستوں پر نوٹیشن کیا جائے گا۔

☆ **انتہی:** طارق محمود نیکی

☆ **نیکش بائیر (ناٹس بائیر) بائیر نیکی نیکی نیکی**

KHUSHAL KHAN KHATTAK UNIVERSITY, KARAK

27200-Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Pakistan)

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The Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak is a Public-Sector University, Chartered by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The University offers the following Faculty Positions:

S#	Position	Required Qualification & Experience
Associate Professor (BPS-20)		<p>Minimum Qualification: PhD in the relevant field from HEC recognized University/Institution.</p> <p>Experience: 10-years teaching/research experience in an HEC recognized University or a post-graduate Institution or professional experience in the relevant field in a National or International organization.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>5-years post-PhD teaching/research experience in an HEC recognized University or a post-graduate Institution or professional experience in the relevant field in a National or International organization.</p> <p>Minimum No. of Publications: The applicant must have 10 research publications (with at least 4 publications in the last 5 years in the HEC recognized Journals).</p> <p>Note: HEC updated criteria shall be followed.</p>
1.	Education & Research (01)	
2.	Library and Information Science (02)	
Assistant professor (TTS/BPS)		<p>PhD Degree/Terminal Qualification in the relevant field (from an HEC recognized institution) and excellent written, communication and presentation skills.</p> <p>Note: HEC updated criteria shall be followed.</p>
3.	Psychology (01)	
4.	Library and Information Science (01)	

INSTRUCTIONS

- The applicant(s) should apply for the advertised post(s) on the prescribed form, downloadable from the University's website (www.kkkuk.edu.pk) and also available in the Office of the University Registrar, along with the prescribed non-refundable application(s) processing fee in the form of Demand Draft in favor of Treasurer, Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak or Bank Deposit/Online Receipt in A/C No. PK51 KHYB 0049 0020 0757 3537, The Bank of Khyber Main Bazar Branch, Karak (0049), as per following detail:
 - Rs. 2500/- (non-refundable) for BPS-20.
 - Rs. 2000/- (non-refundable) for BPS-19.
 - In addition to the above application processing fee, an amount of Rs. 3500/- should also be deposited by the applicant(s) for the post of Associate Professor (as fee for evaluation of the research publications).
- The applicant(s) should submit attested copies of all degrees, diplomas, certificates etc. with 02 recent passport size photographs.
- The applicant(s) for the post of Associate Professor should prepare a dossier containing four sets of the following documents with the application(s) form:
 - List of research publications showing names of publications, journals in which they are published, and their year of publication.
 - Reprints of the publications along with title pages of the journals.
 - Curriculum Vitae.
 - The University may demand any other additional document(s) as and when required.
- Candidate(s) serving in the Government, Semi-Government or Autonomous Institutions should route their application(s) through proper channel and must provide No Objection Certificate from the employer(s) before the closing date of applications.
- The application(s) along with all aforementioned attachments/documents should reach the office of the Registrar on or before **November 28, 2024** from indigenous and **December 03, 2024** from abroad candidates. In case of a public holiday, the next working day will be considered as the last date.
- Age limit shall be strictly followed as per Statutes of the University.
- The candidate(s) having a Foreign Degree/Certificate shall provide an Equivalency Certificate from HEC/IBCC before the closing date of applications, as the case may be.
- Incomplete application(s) or application(s) received after the closing date will not be entertained.
- Separate application shall be submitted for each post.
- The eligibility of a candidate shall be determined on the basis of data /qualifications and experience(s) provided till the closing date of submission of the application.
- Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates issued by the HEC recognized Universities/ Institutions and Government recognized Boards will be acceptable.
- Only eligible candidates will be called for the interview as per rules.
- Legal action may be taken if any document is found fake.
- Merit for selection will be determined/made as per the Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak relevant rules.
- Landline, Telephone, Mobile No., Postal and email address must be clearly written in the Application form.
- No TA/DA will be paid for interview.
- CGPA less than 3.00/4.00 will not be considered as first division.
- All reserved quota(s) will be observed as and when admissible. In case of special person, the candidate will have to submit a certificate regarding his/her disability from the relevant office.
- The University reserves the right not to fill any or all post(s) or increase/ decrease the post(s) according to requirements/Budgetary Provision.
- Errors/Omissions (if any) by the University are liable for rectification.

Note: Those who have already applied in response to university's advertisement(s) for the above positions, need not to apply afresh, however they can update their CV's with proof duly attested.

Registrar

0927-291027

Nurturing of orphaned into respectable citizens is societal responsibility: Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday emphasized that the nurturing and development of orphaned children into respectable citizens is a shared societal responsibility.

He said this during a special event organized at the Governor's House under the auspices of Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD).

Sajid Ali Chatha, the Director of the program, briefed the Governor about HHRD's nationwide initiative, which supports the education and welfare of 10,000 orphan children across Pakistan.

During the event, Governor Kundi distributed awards to orphaned

students who had shown outstanding performance in various board exams and other academic achievements.

Governor Kundi praised HHRD for its efforts in providing education, healthcare, and food for orphaned children.

He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the organization for its invaluable contribution to the community.

"Orphaned children deserve more attention and affection from society," said Governor Faisal Karim Kundi. "It fills me with immense joy to see these children excelling in their studies," he added.

The Governor also assured the children that they should consider the Governor's House their

second home and that they should never feel alone or neglected.

"You children should never feel deprived or isolated," Governor Kundi concluded. "You are not alone, and I am here as your guardian."

Meanwhile, delegation from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Football Association, led by renowned footballer Shahid Shinwari, met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

The meeting focused on the promotion of sports, youth welfare, and the organization of provincial-level sporting events.

Governor Kundi welcomed the delegation and emphasized the importance of sports, highlighting their positive impact on both the

physical and mental health of youth.

He acknowledged that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is home to a wealth of untapped talent and stressed that providing suitable platforms for these young athletes is a key priority for the government.

The Governor said that promoting sports will not only channel the energy of youth in a positive direction but will also help develop their self-confidence and competitive skills.

He expressed his commitment to further invigorating sports activities across the province and assured the delegation that the government would provide full support for hosting and organizing various sports competitions.



PESHAWAR: A doctor examines patients at a free diabetes medical camp for journalists and their families at the Peshawar Press Club.

KhUJ, PPC collaborates with PGH Free medical camp for diabetes held at Peshawar Press Club

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Union of Journalists and Peshawar Press Club, in collaboration with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Peshawar General Hospital, organized a one-day free medical camp for diabetes screening and care for esteemed members and their families.

Renowned doctors, including Dr. A.H. Amir and specialists from Peshawar General

Hospital, conducted patient check-ups and provided on-the-spot essential tests, including HbA1c, cholesterol (RBS), and retinopathy screenings, to diagnose diabetes effectively.

Around 200 journalists and their families benefited from the health services provided at the medical camp. Speaking to the media, Dr. A.H. Amir and Peshawar General Hospital CEO Javed Malik emphasized that lifestyle changes are essential for controlling diabetes.

They highlighted that the medical camp aimed to not only provide treatment but also to raise awareness about diabetes, educate patients, facilitate timely diagnosis, and underscore the importance of adopting a healthier lifestyle.

They discussed dietary guidelines for diabetes control, and CEO Malik Javed further stressed the need for regular check-ups, the use of appropriate footwear, and prompt treatment of wounds for

diabetic patients. He also announced plans for future camps at Peshawar Press Club to raise awareness about diabetes, ensuring that journalists receive necessary health facilities.

On this occasion, Peshawar Press Club President Arshad Aziz Malik and General Secretary Irfan Moosa Zai expressed gratitude to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and PGH administration for organizing the medical camp for journalists.

Meeting on Auqaf, Hajj, Religious Affairs held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A meeting of the Standing Committee for Auqaf, Hajj, Religious, and Minority Affairs convened on Tuesday at the Rehman Baba Assembly Secretariat Hall, under the chairmanship of Member Provincial Assembly, Ijaz Muhammad, MPAs Ali Shah Khan, Shafiqullah Khan, Rehana Ismail, and Adnan Khan attended the meeting along with key officials, including Deputy Secretary Assembly Jahanzeb Khan, Assistant Secretary Assembly Saifullah, Additional Secretary Law Department Hafiz Abdul Muneem, Additional Secretary Auqaf Abdul Kabir, Additional Advocate General Nadeem Shah, and other relevant stakeholders. Minister Auqaf Adnan Qadri also attended the meeting.

The department's officials provided a comprehensive briefing on the committee's aims, powers, roles, and responsibilities, covering the structure of the Auqaf department, its operations relating to

mosques and madrassas, land leases, property, and the Ruyat Hilal process. Additionally, topics such as the organization of the Hasne Qir'at competitions, the Quran Board, the Ulama and Mashaikh Conference, and minority rights protection were discussed. The briefing also addressed issues like encroachments, the new lease policy, training for madrasa teachers and students, and employees salaries and pensions.

Provincial Minister of Auqaf, Hajj, and Religious Affairs, Muhammad Adnan Qadri, highlighted the department's achievements, stating that facilities have been enhanced through the implementation of a GIS mapping system, with funding allocated to make department records accessible at a single click across all districts. He also noted that the Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur, has released one lakh rupee for each imam, following their request, and expressed the department's commitment to further reforms.

During the meeting,

Member Provincial Assembly Shafiqullah Khan proposed accelerating the solarization project for mosques and madrassas. Responding to a query from Member Assembly Rehana Ismail, department officials clarified the land lease procedure and told that a new policy has been introduced. Chairman Ijaz Muhammad also addressed and said that issues related to the department's properties, including the 36,000 kanals of land in Kalu Shah, Auqaf Plaza Dabgri Garden, 7 kanals in Firdous Peshawar, and lease matters at Haji Camp Adda.

Member of Provincial Assembly from Swat, Ali Shah Khan, recommended that assembly members be consulted, along with the DC, in all land lease policy matters. Assembly member Adnan Khan also called attention to missing records of waqf properties, urging for measures to protect and retrieve these records and suggesting that cases involving illegally occupied properties be taken up in the Provincial Assembly for resolution.

Ms Saeeda submits P.hD thesis F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Ms. Saeeda Hussain Afridi, a PhD Research Scholar in Urdu has submitted her thesis on "Younas Javed Ke Naavalo Ka Samajati aur Fanni Jaiza" to the Sarhad University of Science & Technology Peshawar in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Urdu.

An Oral Examination (Public Defense) is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 19th November, 2024 at 11:00 AM in the video conference Room of the University.

All those having interest in the said research work, are cordially invited to attend the public Defense. The participants would be allowed to raise relevant questions after the presentation by the scholar, for further judgment and evaluation of the examinee.

Pesco issues power shutdown plan

PESHAWAR (APP): PESCO authorities have notified power shutdown in areas of Peshawar, Havelian, D I Khan and Haripur due to maintenance work. According to PESCO, power supply will remain suspended from Sheikh Muhammadi-Turbela Power House Cricut on 13, 15, 18 and 19 November from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, resulting consumers 132 KV Peshawar University, Peshawar Cantt, Peshawar Industrial, Jamrud, Regi Model Town, Hayatabad, Rehman Baba, Peshawar City, Musa Zai, 66 KV Badbair, Shahi Bagh, Shabqadar, Warsak grid connected feeders will face inconvenience. Power supply will remain suspended from Kholian Bala Grid Station on 14, 18, 21 and 25th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 AM.

Minister leads meeting on traffic management

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Excise and Taxation, Khaleequr Rehman, chaired a high-level meeting today at the Commissioner Office Peshawar to address the growing issues of illegal rickshaws, traffic congestion, and the need for a comprehensive traffic plan for Peshawar. The meeting was attended by Member Provincial Assembly Fazl Elahi, Member National Assembly Sher Ali Arbab, Commissioner Peshawar Division Riaz Mehsud, and officers from various related departments.

The session opened with a detailed presentation on a traffic improvement strategy for Peshawar city, aimed at providing both short-term and long-term solutions to the traffic challenges. The Excise Minister directed officials to develop a concrete plan within two weeks, outlining immediate goals as well as longer-term objectives to facilitate quick implementation and ensure sustainable progress.

Minister Khaleequr Rehman emphasized the necessity of removing buses and wagons currently operating along the BRT route and reassigning

them to other routes to improve traffic flow in central areas of Peshawar. He also instructed officials to gather precise data on population and vehicle density through coordinated efforts across departments. This data will form the foundation for an actionable traffic management plan.

Highlighting the potential health hazards posed by worsening traffic congestion, Minister Khaleequr Rehman warned that, without timely action, Peshawar's citizens could face serious health risks, including diseases caused by smog in the coming years.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister on Information, Barrister Dr. Said speaking during Round Table Discussion at IM Sciences.

Snowfall lovers flock to Swat after Met Office forecast

PESHAWAR (APP): Known as Switzerland of Pakistan, Swat has started attracting an influx of tourists and adventure sports enthusiasts along with families to enjoy the first snowfall of the winter season.

In the wake of Met Office's report of rains and snowfalls over the hills in upper parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Swat, Dir, Chitral, Abbottabad and Mansehra on Monday, the snowfall lovers from across the country especially Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa thronged to Kalam, Bahrain and Malam Jabba.

The tourists have enjoyed light snowfall at upper Kalam and Malam Jabba amid great fun and laughter.

Besides Kalam and Malam Jabba, the snowy mountains peaks of Gabin Jabba, Miandam, Matiltan, Kalam, Utror, Gabral, Matiltan, Mahodand, Loya Sar resorts drew influx of snowfall lovers along

with families and children.

"I love snowfall. I came from Peshawar to my favorite tourists' destination Swat for snowfall following MET's office forecast besides enjoying its brown trout fish at a reasonable rate," said Fayaz Khan, a retired school teacher while taking to APP. Advising tourists to bring warm clothes, he said the cold breeze has increased chill in Upper Swat forcing tourists to wear additional cloths and wollen sweaters. Tourists from Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Charsadda, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad were seen in large numbers at Kalam, Malam Jabba and Bahrian on Sunday to get pleasures from snowfall, trout fish and river rafting on the weekend.

Known for a combination of its seven distinctive features including snowfall that was hard to find together in any tourist destination of Pakistan, Swat is also a

home to primitive Gandhara civilization and ice skiing at Malam Jabba.

Besides river rafting, adventure sports, snow-clad mountain peaks and trout-fish, he said Swat motorway has made it an ideal destination for winter tourism and sports in Pakistan.

"I have visited many countries but could not find such a distinctive features together found in Swat" said Manzoorul Haq, former Ambassador while taking to APP.

He said the 150-kilometers long freshwater of the river Swat originating from different glaciers and lakes including Mahodand and Gabriel Mahodand offers unique opportunities for adventure sports enthusiasts to explore in a single day trip along with loved ones.

Fazagut, Fatehpur, Barikot, and Chakdara were most suitable for water rafting in river Swat and if developed on modern lines could attract

a large number of tourists during winter.

Ambassador Manzoor said River Swat was ideal for 'fish jumping and disappearing water sports' and introduction of such sports would help bolster the rural economy, promote tourism and transport industries in KP.

Bestowed with more than 50 high-altitude small and big lakes, Swat's Mahodand lake is an exceptional source of attraction for tourists enjoying its blue waters and boats riding amid cold breezes and snowfalls. Nasir Khan, a property dealer of Wapda Town, told APP that he came from Nowshera to enjoy snowfall in Kalam, trout fish of River Swat and Mahudand lake.

He said Mahudand and Gabriel lakes carried unique charm and clean air besides nearby birds chanting valleys take tourists into a lap of serenity.

"I have ordered 2 KG trout fish to enjoy with my family members," he

said, adding green trout of Swat attract foodies at Kalam, Madain and other areas of the district.

Besides its famous Deodar trees and precious wildlife, he said the Swat's snow-clad tall mountain ranges of Falakser, Mankial and Elum peaks offer great challenges to mountaineers and trekkers to explore especially during winter.

Likewise, its extensive plains and orchards that bear fruits and vegetables carried a unique comparative advantage than other tourists destination of the country.

Attracting Buddhists, monks and archaeologists from across the world throughout the year, he said the Swat's archaeological treasures and ancient artifacts housed at Saidu Sharif Museum become a distinctive feature taking tourists to the glorious history of Swat.

Archaeologists and tourists visited different Buddhist sites of Swat including Saidu Sharif

Museum and Stupa besides Buthkara Buddhist monastery which impressed them a lot. Ambassador Manzoor said Swat was very important in terms of Buddhist history in Pakistan and must be visited by followers of Bhuddism from all around the world.

"Another striking feature of Swat is skiing sports being played at Malam Jabba every year during winter and such sport was hardly placed in any part of the country."

KP tourism department officials told APP that a mega project was prepared for organizing different winter sports and tourism events in various districts including Swat.

Kalam's winter gala and tour-de-cycle race would be organized in Swat while first-ever sports rafting at River Swat to be held besides paragliding event.

To reduce tourists' load at Kalam, Malam Jabba and Bahrian, new tourists spots would be developed

at Sola Tanar, Puchar and Jargo valleys while walking tracks to promote ecotourism in Swat.

To maintain natural beauty and avoid pollution at tourist spots in Swat, he said camping pods would be established at new tourists' destinations besides Kalash culture events in Chitral. To link new tourist destination with Swat Motorway, he said that huge amount were being spent on development and construction of new roads.

Work on the world bank's assisted KP Integrated Tourism Project was underway in the province to promote tourism, he added.

The construction of 15 jeepable tracks was also proposed in Malakand and Hazara divisions while six tourist facilitation centers established and work on seven others started.

The ground breaking of 23 km long Mankyal-Bada Sarai Road has been performed for rehabilitation.

The project also includes the construction of four bridges and two rest areas. He said that an Integrated Tourism Zone at Mankyal Swat would be established where modern facilities would be provided to tourists under the KITE project.

He said a mega project for feasibility studies for identification of new tourist spots was planned. To promote ecotourism in southern districts of KP.

A road to Sheikh Badin tourist resort located at the confluence of DI Khan and Lakki Marwat districts would be constructed while a tourist wing for merged areas was established to monitor and oversee tourism-related activities there.

Tourism police was made operational at Malakand and Hazara divisions to facilitate tourists. He said Tourism police were deployed on key places of Swat to facilitate tourists and snowfall lovers during winter season.



In brief

Court acquits PTI workers F.P. Report

MARDAN: The local court acquitted several workers including the Provincial Minister Food, PTI members of the Provincial Assembly in a case of 9th May vandalism, All PTI parliamentarians and workers were acquitted in the case and the case was dismissed. The prosecution failed to prove the crime, provincial food minister Zahir Shah and members of the provincial assembly Ifthikhar Ali Mashwani, Ameer Farzand, Abdul Salam Afridi, PTI Peshawar Region Information Secretary Engineer Adil Nawaz and others appeared in the court, while the PTI leader appeared in the local court in the cases of October 20, 2023, the court extended the bail till November 23. Meanwhile, Information Secretary of PTI Peshawar Region Engineer Adil Nawaz while welcoming the court's decision said that we cannot be satisfied with false cases in any way. God willing, Quaid Imran Khan will also face all the false cases filed against him and will soon be among us. After his release, he will give an important message to the nation.

Target killers arrested F.P. Report

KOHAT: Kohat Police here on Tuesday arrested three target killers with weapons and motorcycle that was used in killing incidents. The criminals were arrested by a team of police led by Station House Officer Cantt Police Station, Nasir Rafiq. The arrested target killers were identified as Gulab Khan resident of Bara, Shahabuddin resident of Noorabad Kohat and Sulaiman resident of Tapi Kohat. Target killers were arrested with weapons when they were trying to plan murder in limits of Cantt Police Station.

British Mayor visits AIOU F.P. Report

MIRPUR: Kashmir-origin Mayor of Britain's Keighly city Chaudhry Gulfranz has visited the Mirpur AJK Regional Campus of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and planted a commemorative sapling at the entrance of the university's campus. During his visit, Mayor Gulfranz explored the university's mobile app and received a briefing on the admission process for international students. He visited several facilities, including the library, computer laboratory, e-classroom, and the university's garden spaces nurtured under the ongoing plantation drive.

Seminar held F.P. Report

SARGODHA: A seminar on "Adverse Environmental and Health Effects of Disposable Plastics" organized by the Punjab Green Development Programme was held at Arts Council Complex on Tuesday. Commissioner Jahanzeb Awan participated in the seminar as a special guest. Director Environment Dr Ambar Rahim, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Fahad Mehmood, ADCG Umar Farooq, Director Arts Council Asad Rabbani, Jamia Sargodha environmental experts Dr Mudassar Shah and Dr Muhammad Rafiq besides business representatives were also present. Commissioner Jahanzeb Awan said that food and drinks should not be used in plastic bags. He said that the use of plastic bags was harmful to human health and life.

Residents pile up public issues in kuli katcheri

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Residents of Adenzai pile up several burning issues in front of the administration during an open katcheri held at the Chakdara Fishing hut here on Tuesday. Deputy commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan chaired the event which was also attended by tehsil chairman Fairoz Shah, additional deputy commissioner finance and planning Gauhar Ali, assistant commissioner Adenzai Suhail Khan, AAC Syed Sardar Badshah, tehsildar Imran Khan, DSP Fakhar Alam and other heads of government departments.

Representing the people of Adenzai, PPP's leader Naemullah, Lateef Ahmad Bacha, Haji Nazir Muhammad, Sartaj Khan, Ji's Syed Liaqatul Mulk, PTI's Awal Khan, Altaf Hussain, Javed Kheyal and social activists highlighted the issues of lawlessness, traffic jams at Chakdara, drug selling, inflated electricity bills, delay and negligence in repair of power transformers, selling of substandard edible items, choked drains, shortage of subsidized wheat flour in the market, lack of basic amenities at schools and hospitals, unsatisfactory service delivery of TMA, communication and works, and public health engineering departments, mushrooming of stone crushing plants, shortage of essential medicines and anti-rabies vaccine at tehsil headquarters hospital Chakdara and lack of sports' grounds for youth in Adenzai tehsil. They demanded the installation of CCTV cameras at Bab e Dir and provision of essential medicines to local hospitals.

One of the representatives alleged that a youth was brutally killed at Maina Ouch and was buried in a local graveyard without his identity. He said the local administration had failed to trace out the murder and arrest the killers. Some participants said that they found it difficult to meet government officials.

Responding to public grievances,

deputy commissioner Muhammad Arif said that doors of his office were open for all and anyone could meet him any time. He said the administration had fixed hours for public meetings during which the complainants could approach them easily. The DC directed the local administration to hold sports' events, launch a special cleanliness drive in Ouch bazaar, ensure strict implementation of the official price list and check on deforestation. He said that issues relating to the district administration would be resolved on priority basis while those relating to the provincial government would be forwarded to it.

Traders' protest: Local traders staged a protest sit-in against the administration at Timergara for forcibly demolishing roadside shops here the other day. Political leaders including former MNA Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, Jamaat-i-Islami district chief Maulana Asadullah, PPP's district secretary information Alam Zeb advocate, PPP Khall president Zahoor Zada, former tehsil nazim Malik Sher Bahadar and others visited the protest camp and expressed solidarity with the traders' community.

Speaking on the occasion the Anjuman Tajiran Timergara president Haji Anwarud Din, general secretary Haji Liaq Zada and others alleged the Lower Dir administration had razed several shops on roadside at Timergara without taking traders into confidence. They said that the city road's roads had already been widened to a distance of 60 feet. The traders' leaders said the owner would never permit the government to demolish roadside shops beyond 60 feet. They said that tearing down shops was tantamount to financial killing of local shopkeepers. They also alleged the administration had turned the city into ruins in the name of the city's beautification. They asked the administration to focus on the Timergara beautification project instead of razing shops. They announced the business community would strongly resist what they called a so-called anti-encroachment operation in the city.

Commissioner reviews spring plantation plan

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Mutasim Billah Shah has been under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda" visited the remote area Darmalak of Tehsil Lachi, district Kohat along with the Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram Chitrali, DFO Forest and SDO the other day.

The purpose of his visit was to protect the environment, forests and wildlife and to plant about 2 million saplings through systematic and effective plantation within the available resources on a vast area of 2800 Hectares in the upcoming Spring Tree Plantation season. He reviewed in

detail the steps to be taken under the plantation plan in the coming spring. He also analyzes the possible feasibility of seed broadcasting through helicopters.

Commissioner Kohat, on this occasion, stressed the importance of preparing a comprehensive and effective contingency plan for the seed distribution process to ensure timely implementation of this important project.

Later, the Commissioner along with the authorities concerned rushed to Dralmak Dam, where he reviewed the potential for development of eco-tourism in view of the natural beauty and geographical location of the area. He directed the authorities concerned to prepare a coherent

and effective strategy to make the area more attractive for tourists and promote sustainable tourism practices, which will not only help in protecting the environment but will also benefit the local community. The concerned authorities were instructed to prepare a comprehensive plan within 10 days.

Mutasim Billah Shah has called a special meeting of Deputy Commissioners of all the districts of Kohat division and officers of the Forest and Environment Department on Thursday in which certain important decisions regarding suitable locations and comprehensive planning within all districts for the upcoming tree plantation drive will be taken.



JAMSHORO: Residents holding a protest for acceptance of their demands.

‘Admn a spectator in dengue outbreak’

F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: The rapid spread of dengue fever in Takhtbhai has become alarming. The number of patients admitted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital and Type D Hospital in Lund Khwar has significantly increased.

The number of patients suffering from malaria and dengue fever is rising daily. Test reports reveal a noticeable decrease in platelet counts among many individuals. Experts are attributing the outbreak to contaminated water. The entire tehsil is under the grip of dengue, with two to three patients reported in every household.

The disease has taken on epidemic proportions, but the government and the health department have not fulfilled their responsibility.

ties. Awareness should have been raised among the public to prevent the disease in advance, along with conducting anti-mosquito spray campaigns. Due to the lack of these preventive measures, the virus has spread widely.

Dr. Bilad Islam, the focal person for dengue control at the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, stated that the health department is working on an emergency basis to combat the disease. Teams have been participating in awareness campaigns since day one, and a large number of mosquito nets have been distributed compared to last year. He mentioned that the health department and TMA have conducted mosquito-killing sprays in countless homes. Furthermore, he emphasized that the public

does not follow preventive measures; simply covering the tops of water containers and tanks in homes would be effective.

According to Dr. Bilad Islam, 85 positive dengue cases have been reported from the tehsil. Out of these, 49 patients have recovered and been discharged, while 36 patients are currently admitted to the hospital and are receiving treatment. One of these 36 patients has been transferred to Mardan Medical Complex (MMC). As per Dr. Bilad Islam, the NSI positive cases are also considered dengue. Every day, around twenty dengue patients visit the outpatient department (OPD). However, on the other hand, the performance of the tehsil administration in controlling dengue is disappointing.



LANDI KOTAL: Locals holding placards during a protest against electricity load shedding. — F.P. photo

Tribesmen protests against power outages F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Residents accused the crew of grid station, Landi Kotal for unscheduled and prolonged power off in a protest rally held on Tuesday. Under the banner of Qaumi Masail Committee, a protest demonstration against unscheduled load shedding was organized in front of the grid station that was attended by the office bearers of the Committee besides general masses.

Addressing on the occasion, speakers including Kaleemullah Shinwari, Zahid Shinwari, Malik Shaoor Afridi and others criticized the grid station officials for constant electricity off and said the officials deliberately suspended the power supply to tease the dwellers of the area.

They said that previously, the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) high ups had promised them for the provision of four hours electricity supply to the locals round the clock but ironically, the grid station crew members declined to materialize the pledge for a long time.

Prolonged and unscheduled power off multiplied problems of the residents, they remarked. They threatened that if the electricity supply was not resumed in near future then they had no other option but to initiate indefinite agitation against the WAPDA.

The protesters while carrying placards inscribed with statements like "honor four hours power supply accord", "resume electricity to the poor" etc., chanted slogans against grid station and WAPDA officials and dispersed peacefully.

SI dies on Hazara Expressway F.P. Report

ABBOTTABAD: A Sub-inspector of Motorway Police died and a constable critically injured when a pickup van hit them on Hazara Expressway on Tuesday.

Motorway Police spokesman said the unfortunate incident occurred near Chinarkot area on Hazara Expressway where the Motorway Police Sub-Inspector, Shabbir Ahmad and constable were hit by a van when they were providing assistance to a stalled vehicle.

Both the police officials were shifted to DHQ Hospital Battagram from where the sub-inspector was referred to AMC Hospital Abbottabad. The sub-inspector succumbed to his injuries at AMC Hospital. Motorway Police have arrested the pickup driver for his reckless and irresponsible driving and shifted to the police station.

Meanwhile, a man along with his son shot dead his son-in-law over a domestic dispute in Abbottabad. According to police, slain Saifur Rehman has a minor dispute with his wife.

He came to his in-laws' house to pacify things but the situation got worse and he was shot dead by his father-in-law and brother-in-law. However, the police have arrested both the murder accused after registering a case.

Kundi, Hoti vows discuss provincial issues

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and leader of Awami National Party (ANP) and former chief minister Ameer Haider Khan Hoti on Tuesday vowed to address provincial rights and challenges. A meeting took place in Mardan between Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, and Ameer Haider Khan Hoti.

The meeting focused on the pressing issues of the province, including the need for a united political front to address provincial rights and challenges

including law and order. Both leaders emphasized the necessity and effectiveness of political party unity to resolve the long-standing issues facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, such as maintaining peace, equitable distribution of resources, securing financial rights, and ensuring the province receives its rightful share at the federal level.

They cautioned that if immediate attention is not given to maintaining peace in the region, the situation could deteriorate to an alarming extent, potentially spreading instability to other parts of the country. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi stressed the need for all political parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to unite on a common platform to exert pressure on the federal government and secure the province's rights.

He also highlighted the importance of a united voice for acquiring provincial financial resources and development funds. Ameer Haider Khan Hoti appreciated the call for unity and acknowledged that cooperation among political parties would not only help resolve public issues but also strengthen the province's political autonomy and stability.

Assembly Kamran Khan Nazim Tehsil Chaghorzai Haji Sharif Khan, faculty members and local workers participated.

In a brief speech at the ceremony, VC Dr. Saiful Islam, Dr. Shahid Rehman, Dr. Haji Rehman, mentioned the construction and development and administrative affairs of the university, the enrollment of thousands of students and the initiation of many new departments and the MS program starting this year and their determination to start the Ph. D program by next year. They demanded more land, more buses, research center, library,

former candidate National

ful share at the federal level.

He lauded Governor Kundi's efforts and assured his full support for the provincial jirga and initiatives aimed at resolving the province's problems. Hoti emphasized that despite past political differences, the political parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had come together several times in the past for the betterment of the province, and this tradition should continue.

The meeting also saw the presence of key figures from both parties, including Shuja Khanzada provincial General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Abrar Saeed Swati Deputy General Secretary of PPP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Farzand Ali Wazir Vice Chairman of KP Red Crescent Society, Haroon Khan Provincial Finance Secretary of ANP, and district leaders from both PPP and ANP were present on this occasion.

Gohar inaugurates two blocks at UoB

F.P. Report

BUNER: Chairman Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) Barrister Gohar and Provincial Minister Syed Fakhar Jihan along with Vice Chancellor Dr. Saiful Islam inaugurated two buildings Jinnah Administration and Hazrat Fatma Rehmat Ullah Alaihi Girls Hostel at University of Buner (UoB), on Tuesday.

Later on, they addressed the function held in the auditorium hall UoB. On the occasion of the inauguration, DC Buner Kashif Qayyum DPO Buner Shah Hasan, former candidate National

Assembly Kamran Khan Nazim Tehsil Chaghorzai Haji Sharif Khan, faculty members and local workers participated.

Meanwhile, Barrister Gohar has reiterated that party leadership are agreed upon that founding chairman release and other political and parliamentary matters, they will find ways according to the constitution and laws of Pakistan, and in this regard, they have not taken any kind of help from any foreign country, including the United States. About waving US flag in Sawabi gathering, he said it is not part of the policy and that action can be done against activist, whom about information is being collected in this regard.

JUI-F leader flays attack on journalists

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazal (JUI-F) district Larkana Amir Maulana Nasir Mahmood Soomro has said that the attack on journalists is a threat to freedom of expression. Strongly condemning the violence committed by SEPCO officials on Naveed Lark, he said that journalism is the best means of identifying the problems in the society and the interests of the people, and the attack on it not only affects personal freedom but also

the public's information.

While such attacks are unacceptable in any social and political system and are strongly condemned, journalists have the right to carry out their duties freely. As their work for justice and truth in the society continues, he said that in Larkana city and surrounding areas, SEPCO authorities are load shedding 18/18 hours on a daily basis due to which consumers who pay electricity bills are facing severe problems.

Three killed over dispute: In Murad Dahani

village near Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto police station near Larkana, a fight broke out between two parties of Jeha and Dahani castes due to the old woman black dispute three peoples Jhando Khan, panah Dahani and Asad ali Jeho were killed in twice parties firing, on receiving the information, the police station Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto officials took the body to Nodero hospital and handed it over to the relatives after conducting the post mortem.

Public holiday declared

NANKANA (INP): The Nankana Sahib Deputy commissioner has declared a public holiday on November 15 across the district in honour of the 555th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

Deputy Commissioner Taslim Akhtar Rao has issued a notification in this regard. The birth anniversary celebrations will run from November 13 to 16. The celebrations are expected to draw thousands of Sikh pilgrims from across Pakistan and around the world to Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Baba Guru Nanak. The dis-

trict administration has coordinated with relevant authorities to ensure a safe and smooth experience for all attendees, especially the large influx of foreign visitors.

Last week, Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, along with Home Secretary Noorul Amin Mengal, visited Nankana Sahib to review security preparations for Sikh pilgrims attending the upcoming 555th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak at Gurdwara Janam Asthan.

During their visit, they inspected key entry and exit

points of the city and provided necessary directives to enhance security. Deputy Commissioner Tasleem Akhtar Rao and District Police Officer Syed Nadeem Abbas briefed the minister and home secretary on the security arrangements from the control room. Arora claimed that more than 60,000 Sikh pilgrims from around the world were expected to visit Nankana Sahib between November 13 and 16. Later, the pilgrims will visit other significant sites, including Farooqabad, Sheikhupura, Hassan Abdal, Kartarpur, Eimanabad, and Lahore.



‘Dying of thirst’ as climate-driven floods mix with oil

JUBA (BBC): Herders scooping murky water from a small pond in grasslands in South Sudan are well aware of the dangers they face if they drink it. "The water is dirty because this place has oil - it has chemicals in it," says their chief, Chilhok Puot. Nyatabah, a woman from this community raising cows in the heart of oil fields in Unity State, adds: "If you drink it, it makes you pant and cough. "We know it's bad water, but we don't have anywhere else, we're dying of thirst." A former oil engineer, David Bojo Leju, has told the BBC World service that flooding in the area is washing pollution into water sources. Large swathes of the state have been under water for several years after unprecedented flooding, which scientists say has been worsened by climate change. Mr Bojo Leju says the floods are a "disaster" and that pollution from mismanaged oil facilities is a "silent killer" spreading across the state. South Sudan is the world's youngest country and one of its poorest, with a government hugely dependent on oil revenue. Unity State, a major oil-producing state, has always experienced seasonal flooding. But in 2019, extreme rains brought a deluge that engulfed villages, grasslands and forests. Year after year of intense rainfall followed. The water built up, trapped on the clay soil. At the worst point in 2022, two-thirds of Unity State were submerged, according to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) - even now, it says about 40% is still under water. Mr Bojo Leju worked for eight years for the oil consortium Greater Pioneer Operating Company (GPOC), a joint venture between Malaysian, Indian and Chinese oil companies - with South Sudan's government owning 5%. After a major pipeline rupture five years ago, he started photographing and filming pools of oily water and heaps of blackened soil in locations in Unity State, including sites near Roriak, where the herders live. He says spills from oil wells and

pipelines were "a recurring situation", and that he was involved in transporting contaminated soil away from roads, so it would not be seen. He tried to raise his concerns with company managers, but he says little was done and "there was no treatment plan for soil". Mr Bojo Leju also says "produced water" - water released from the ground when oil is extracted and often containing hydrocarbons and other pollutants - was not properly treated. There were reports of high oil content, above international standards, in the produced water "every day in our morning meeting", he says, "and this water is injected back into the environment". "The question is where does water flow?" he says. "Up to the river, up to the water source where people drink, up to ponds where people catch fish." Mr Bojo Leju explains that "some of the oil chemicals seeped down" into the groundwater, where they will flow into boreholes. "The water table is contaminated," he says. When intense rains began in 2019, earth dykes were put around some spilled oil "but it was not enough to withstand the volume of water", he adds. In Roriak, there is no data available about the quality of the water the herders drink, but they fear pollution is making their cattle sick. They say calves have been born without heads or without limbs. Unity State's agriculture minister blames the deaths of more than 100,000 cattle in the last two years on the floods combined with oil pollution. In a forest close to Roriak, a group of men and women chop down trees to make charcoal. They have walked for eight hours along dirt roads flanked by flood water to reach the forest. They say the only water they can find here is polluted. Even boiled "it causes diarrhoea and abdominal pain", says one woman, Nyakal. Another, Nyeda, wipes away tears, saying she needs the charcoal to sell, but is worried about her seven children, left with her mother for a week.

"She has nothing either," she says. Nyeda lives near the state capital, Bentiu, in a reed hut squeezed into a camp housing 140,000 people who have fled conflict or the floods. It is completely surrounded by flood water and protected only by earth dykes. There is some food aid, but many in the area survive by foraging for water lily roots and fish to supplement their rations. Safe water is scarce. Nyeda uses water from a borehole for washing and cooking, but needs money to buy drinking water. Health professionals and politicians in the area have told the BBC they fear pollution and the lack of clean water are taking a toll on human health. In a hospital in Bentiu, a mother has just given birth. Her new-born baby's nose and mouth are joined. "They have no access to clean water," says Dr Samuel Puot, one of the doctors caring for the baby. "They just drink from the river where water and oil are mixed. That might be the problem." He says there are "many" cases of children born with abnormalities, such as no limbs or a small head, in Bentiu and also Ruweng, an oil-producing area north of Unity State. They often die within days or months, he adds. Genetic testing can give clues about the causes of congenital abnormalities, but the hospital does not have the facilities, and results are often not conclusive. Dr Puot wants the government to keep a register of cases. As the data is not recorded systematically, it is not clear whether these anecdotal reports indicate an unusually high prevalence of congenital abnormalities. "It is plausible that oil-related pollution could contribute to an increased risk of birth defects," says Dr Nicole Deziel, an environmental health specialist at Yale University. Environmental pollution is a risk factor for congenital abnormalities, alongside genetics, maternal age, infection and nutrition, she says. Some compounds released during the production of oil can affect foetal development, Dr Deziel adds.

A ‘jungle’: Rome’s teeming jail lays bare Italy’s prison ills

ROME (AFP): Traces of black soot still mark the facade of the Regina Coeli jail, a reminder of the latest riots in Rome's infamous lock-up -- now emblematic of long-standing troubles plaguing Italy's prison system. A steady stream of women, some with eyes swollen from crying, pass through the visitor's entrance of the crumbling edifice, where on any one day more than 1,150 men are crammed into a facility designed for just 628. A short walk from tourist-thronged bars and restaurants in the leafy Trastevere district, Veronica Giuffrida, 31, sits on a steel bench holding her toddler, awaiting the weekly visit with her incarcerated father, the child's grandad. "They lack everything. The hot water doesn't work. The electricity doesn't work. They're just abandoned," she told AFP. "It's a jungle inside," she said. A guard emerges from inside for a quick break. While not authorised to talk, he confirms: "No-one who's not inside could ever understand. It's indescribable."

Regina Coeli is a teeming microcosm of the major problems plaguing Italy's prison system today -- severe, systemic overcrowding and rising suicide rates. They've festered for decades as past governments -- both left and right -- have resorted to ad hoc measures without tackling tough structural problems. Similar challenges are seen elsewhere in Europe. The Council of Europe placing Italy sixth last year for overcrowding behind Cyprus, Romania, France, Belgium and Hungary. But despite far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni vowing to fix Italy's prisons, observers say they've got worse. Court delays and slow procedures nationwide mean too many suspects linger in pre-trial detention, and hamper early release efforts. Inmates with mental illnesses or drug addictions -- or both -- pack prisons because facilities to treat them lack space. So far this year, 77 inmates and seven guards have taken their lives. Foreigners represent about a third of inmates -- and half at Regina Coeli -- many of them in precarious social circumstances that make them ineligible for house arrest. "Today prisons are a large container where everything ends up... a sort of welfare system for society," Gennaro De Fazio, head of the UILPA prison guards' union, told AFP. "When you don't know how to treat an individual or where, he ends up in prison, in one way or another." That's the case in Regina Coeli ("Queen of

Heaven"), a former 17th-century convent converted into a jail in the late 1800s. It housed Resistance heroes during the Fascist era along with countless ordinary Romans, whose wives in years past would yell down to them from the Janiculum Hill above. Although the jail is intended for short-term stays, 20 percent of inmates today have been convicted and should be in prisons better equipped for long incarcerations. That has contributed to an occupancy rate of over 183 percent, Italy's fifth worst, official data shows. Regina Coeli has the highest number of suicides within correctional facilities -- five in 2023 and three this year. The latest was in September in the new arrivals wing, where two or three men spend 23 hours a day in each cell with no direct natural light. During riots in August and September, inmates set cooking gas cannisters alight, tore down railings and flung tiles from the roof. The burning jail, wrote La Stampa daily, emblemised prisoners and guards "trapped in a powder keg ready to explode out of anger, hatred, humiliation, abandonment". Regina Coeli's director, Claudia Clementi, told a regional health hearing last month she saw no way of reducing

the overcrowding. The jail is obliged to accept all incoming people arrested and yet has nowhere else to transfer existing prisoners to, her hands were tied. It was "not just a question of beds", she said. "The entire system goes into crisis, because if 1,150 people take a shower instead of 700-800, the heating system may not work anymore." "I honestly don't know how this problem could be solved." The justice ministry denied AFP's request to enter Regina Coeli and interview Clementi. When she became prime minister in October 2022, Meloni told parliament the suicides and work conditions for guards were "unworthy of a civilised nation". But suicides have continued since, while Italy's incarcerated population has grown by 5,885 to 62,110 people. Prison experts warn things stand to get worse. Meloni's government has created dozens of new crimes carrying jail sentences that will pack prisons further -- from assaulting doctors to organising illegal raves to "nautical" homicide -- while increasing penalties on existing offences. Critics say some moves are draconian, such as scrapping the automatic deferral of sentences for pregnant women and mothers with babies.

Mauritius PM accepts ‘huge defeat’ in election

PORT LOUIS (BBC): The prime minister of Mauritius has accepted that his coalition, L'Alliance Lepep, has suffered a "huge defeat" following parliamentary election. "The population has decided to choose another team," Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, 62, told journalists. Jugnauth was seeking a second five-year term, but his main rival, Navin Ramgoolam, 77, leader of the Alliance of Change coalition, looks set to become the next leader of the Indian Ocean archipelago. Mauritius is known as one of Africa's most stable democracies, but this election was tainted by a phone-tapping scandal, with leaked recordings of public figures posted online. In response, the government issued a social media ban until after the election, although this led to an outcry and the decision was reversed within 24 hours. Final results are yet to be released but Ramgoolam's party looks set to win. Ramgoolam, a former doctor, told reporters that his party was "heading towards a huge victory", but didn't go into any further detail as he said all votes must be counted first. "We must respect this choice... and we wish the country and the population good luck," said Jugnauth. The mood in the capital Port Louis reflects this changing tide, as people gathered in hopeful anticipation of results that signal a fresh direction for the country. People were dancing and singing in the streets with vuvuzelas, the national flags in their hands and fire crackers. Ibrahim, who voted for the Alliance for Change told the BBC that "growing public dissatisfaction" was a major reason the ruling party lost. The cost-of-living crisis has been a major issue for many Mauritians, along with a growing concern about governance and corruption. On the campaign trail, both parties promised to improve the lives of people on the islands. Ramgoolam - whose father was a liberation hero and has already twice served as prime minister - said he would increase pensions, introduce free transport and internet and reduce fuel costs. Mauritius' former foreign minister and a member of the opposition coalition, Arvin Boollell, told the BBC Newsday programme the election was a "victory of the people". Voter turnout was about 80%, according to the electoral commission. Citizens went to the polls to elect lawmakers for the 62 seats in parliament for the next five years. Additionally, up to eight "best loser" seats are allocated to ensure fair ethnic representation in parliament. The vote comes after a historic agreement in which the UK gave up sovereignty over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius.

Kenya's top judge: No-one has ever tried to bribe me

NAIROBI (BBC): Kenya's most senior judge has hit out following recent allegations of corruption and incompetence within the judiciary. "In all these 22 years I've been a judge and a chief justice, nobody has ever approached me with a bribe. I would have them arrested," Martha Koome told the BBC. The country's first female chief justice has recently been accused of failing to properly investigate and tackle allegations of bribery and corruption within the judiciary. Some Kenyans have been referring to "jurispesa" - a corruption of the legal term jurisprudence and pesa (the Swahili word for money) - implying there is corruption in the judiciary. But she defended herself and her colleagues, asking anyone making such accusations to present the evidence to the security agencies or to the judicial oversight commission. She told the BBC Africa Daily podcast that the claims were "supposed to lower my credibility. It is supposed to distract me. I know who I am and I know what I have done and what I am going to do."

Italy’s plan to screen migrants in Albania hits another snag



MILAN (AP): Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni's program to screen asylum seekers outside of European Union borders in Albania hit another snag when a court in Rome refused to rule on a formal request to detain seven migrants transferred to the Balkan nation last week. The decision means the seven migrants, hailing from Bangladesh and Egypt, will be brought to Italy by naval ship, just days after their arrival in Albania. Albanian media showed images of a minibus accompanied by Italian police vehicles entering the Albanian port of Shengjin, where the migrants were seen boarding a small ship. It is a repeat of what happened with the first 12 migrants in the program, who also were returned to Italy by another court decision last month shortly after the opening of two migrant screening centers in Albania operated by Italy. In both cases, courts referred the cases to the EU court of justice in Luxembourg to rule if the countries of origin for the migrants are considered safe countries for repatriation. The first 12 were also from Egypt and Bangladesh. The courts' move has raised the ire of Meloni's far-right-led government, which has been seeking

strategies for easing the strain on Italy of the arrival of migrants seeking a better life in Europe. In the latest decision, the court specified that it was seeking clarification on which countries are designated as safe "only to identify which procedure to apply." "The exclusion of a state from the list of safe countries of origin does not prevent the repatriation and/or expulsion of those migrants whose asylum applications has been rejected," the court said in its ruling. Under a five-year deal, Albania would allow Italy to run two migrant centers on its territory with the capacity to screen up to 3,000 migrants a month to be vetted for asylum or returned to their home countries. Human rights groups and non-governmental organizations active in the Mediterranean have slammed the agreement as a dangerous precedent that conflicts with international laws. So far, Italy has failed to identify anywhere close to that number for possible screening in Albania, despite thousands of arrivals on Italian shores since the centers opened. Migrants sent to Albania must be adult males, traveling without family members, and come from countries deemed safe.

New study on moons of Uranus raises chance of life

NEW YORK (BBC): The planet Uranus and its five biggest moons may not be the dead sterile worlds that scientists have long thought. Instead, they may have oceans, and the moons may even be capable of supporting life, scientists say. Much of what we know about them was gathered by Nasa's Voyager 2 spacecraft which visited nearly 40 years ago. But a new analysis shows that Voyager's visit coincided with a powerful solar storm, which led to a misleading idea of what the Uranian system is really like. Uranus is a beautiful, icy ringed world in the outer reaches of our solar system. It is among the coldest of all the planets. It is also tilted on its side compared to all the other worlds - as if it had been knocked over - making it arguably the weirdest. We got our first close-up look at it in 1986, when Voyager 2 flew past and sent back sensational pictures of the planet and its five major moons. But what amazed scientists even more was the data Voyager 2 sent back indicating that the Uranian system was even weirder than they thought. The measurements from the spacecraft's instruments indicated that the planets

and moons were inactive, unlike the other moons in the outer solar system. They also showed that Uranus's protective magnetic field was strangely distorted. It was squashed and pushed away from the Sun. A planet's magnetic field traps any gases and other material coming off the planet and its moons. This came as an enormous surprise because it was unlike the solar system's other planets and their moons. But the new analysis has solved the decades-long mystery. It shows that Voyager 2 flew past on a bad day. The new research shows that just as Voyager 2 flew past Uranus, the Sun was raging, creating a powerful solar wind that might have blown the material away and temporarily distorted the magnetic field. So, for 40 years we have had an incorrect view of what Uranus and its five largest moons are normally like, according to Dr William Dunn of University College London. "These results suggest that the Uranian system could be much more exciting than previously thought. There

could be moons there that could have the conditions that are necessary for life, they might have oceans that below the surface that could be teeming with fish". Linda Spilker was a young scientist working on the Voyager programme when the Uranus data came in. She is now still serving as the project scientist for the Voyager missions. She said that she was delighted to hear about the new results, which have been published in the Journal Nature Astronomy. "The results are fascinating, and I am really excited to see that there is potential for life in the Uranian system," she told BBC News. "I'm also so pleased that so much is being done with the Voyager data. It's amazing that scientists are looking back at the data we collected in 1986 and finding new results and new discoveries". Dr Affelia Wibisono of the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies, who is independent of the research team, described the results as "very exciting". "It shows how important it is to look back at old data, because sometimes, hiding behind them is something new to be discovered, which can help us design the next generation of space exploration missions".

US migrant rights advocates raise alarm over Trump appointments

WASHINGTON: As US President-elect Donald Trump moves to fill key cabinet positions in his incoming administration, experts and rights groups in the United States have said his selections so far point towards a hardline approach to immigration. Trump announced that Tom Homan - a former Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) director - will serve as his "border czar", while it was also reported that longtime adviser Stephen Miller will act as his deputy chief of staff for policy. Homan and Miller were the architects of some of Trump's most divisive immigration policies during his first term in office, including the separation of migrant and asylum-seeker families seeking protection at the US-Mexico border and the so-called Muslim ban.

With the Republican set to take office in January on a promise to carry out the "largest deportation operation in American history", advocates say the new appointments signal that Trump intends to try to follow through on that election campaign pledge. "They've learned some things since the last time they were in power," immigration lawyer Greg Siskind said of Miller and Homan. "We'll see whether they take a slower, more methodical approach to try and find ways around obstacles they ran into last time, or a bull-in-the-China-shop approach where they come in and just start breaking things," he told Al Jazeera. Cracking down on immigration - a topic that routinely ranked among Americans' top concerns leading into the November 5 presidential vote - was a central plank of Trump's

successful re-election campaign. The former president and his Republican allies spent months attacking Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden for their handling of the issue, promising to "close" the US-Mexico border and deport millions of people. In a statement announcing Homan's appointment, Trump said there was "nobody better at policing our Borders". He added that as "border czar", Homan would be in charge of all deportations of "illegal Aliens back to their Country of Origin". Homan - who served as ICE director during Trump's first term, which ran from 2017 to 2021 - has been a vocal proponent of the push to deport undocumented immigrants from the country. "I shut my phone off because I couldn't handle the phone

calls, the texts, and emails from thousands of ICE agents, Border Patrol agents, excited about the rumour I'm coming back," he said in an interview with FOX News. "And more important than that, thousands of retired agents, retired military, that want to come in and volunteer to help this president secure the border and do the deportation operation." Miller, one of Trump's long-time advisers who frequently uses incendiary, anti-migrant rhetoric, also has been a vocal proponent of mass deportations. In a podcast interview last year, he said that National Guard units in various states could be deputised to help with the deportation push. He also told The New York Times in November 2023 that the administration could set up "camps" to hold people pending their removal. — Aljazeera

Greta protests against Baku hosting summit

TBILISI (AP): Climate activist Greta Thunberg attended a rally in Georgia to protest against Azerbaijan hosting the annual United Nations climate talks. Thunberg and scores of other activists who rallied in Tbilisi, the capital of the South Caucasus nation, argued that Azerbaijan doesn't deserve to host the climate talks because of its repressive policies. UN climate talks, called COP29, opened in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, a major oil producer where the world's first oil well was drilled. Thunberg described Azerbaijan as "a repressive, occupying state, which has committed ethnic cleansing, and which is continuing cracking down on Azerbaijani civil society." She charged that the Caspian Sea nation has used the summit as "a chance to greenwash their crimes and human rights abuses."

"We can't give them any legitimacy in this situation, which is why we are standing here and saying no to greenwashing and no to the Azerbaijani regime," she said. Azerbaijan has committed to clean energy projects, but critics have argued that's just to export more oil and gas. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has been in power since 2003 when he succeeded his father who died after ruling the oil rich nation for the previous decade. He has been accused by critics of intolerance to dissent and freedom of speech. Earlier this year, Aliyev won another seven-year presidential term in an election that monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said took place in a "restrictive environment" with no real political competition. Aliyev called the early vote while enjoying a surge in popularity after Azerbaijani forces in September 2023 swiftly reclaimed the Karabakh region from ethnic Armenian separatists, who had controlled it for three

decades. After Azerbaijan regained full control of Karabakh, most of its 120,000 Armenian residents fled. The Azerbaijani authorities, however, said they were welcome to stay and promised their human rights would be ensured. Thunberg, 21, has inspired a global youth movement demanding stronger efforts to fight climate change after staging weekly protests outside the Swedish parliament starting in 2018. The European climate service Copernicus announced earlier this month that the world is on pace for 1.5 degrees of warming this year, which is heading to become the hottest year in human civilization. Speaking at the rally in Tbilisi, Thunberg emphasized that the hottest year ever recorded comes after global greenhouse gas emissions reached an all time high last year. Holding the climate change conference "in an authoritarian petro state is beyond absurd," she said.

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Israel should step back from the brink

ISRAEIL launched what it described as "precise and targeted" strikes on "military targets" in Iran on Oct 26, as part of its response to the Iranian ballistic missile attack at the start of the month.

The Israeli strikes reportedly did significant damage to the Iranian air defenses as well as missile launch facilities, emphasizing Israel's conventional military superiority. The attacks are judged to have demonstrated the vulnerability of Iran's air defenses and exposed the limitations of its regional deterrence strategy, as the United Kingdom's defense and security think tank, United Royal Services Institute, has said. That seems to have prompted Tel Aviv to raise its military sights once again, judging by the remarks of Israel's new defense minister, Israel Katz, at a meeting on Monday.

Apart from vowing to achieve the country's goals of returning hostages and defeating Hamas in Gaza and reiterating there will be no cease-fire in Lebanon and no respite for Hezbollah, Katz also hinted that Israel might attack Iran's nuclear facilities. "Iran today is more exposed than ever to damage to its nuclear facilities. There is a possibility to achieve the most important goal, to thwart and remove the threat of annihilation from hanging over the State of Israel," Katz said.

As the country's new defense chief, Katz may be eager to show he is fully on board the Israeli prime minister's military agenda, as fidelity to Benjamin Netanyahu's war aims is a nonnegotiable requirement for the job. His predecessor was abruptly sacked after losing the prime minister's trust on that score last week.

But such a stance plays into the hands of Israeli hard-liners who are seeking to take their aggression to Iran. It is no secret that the unswerving support from the United States, Israel's close ally, has emboldened the Jewish state to pursue higher and grander military and strategic goals in the region, with its military offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip expanding to campaigns against Iran's regional proxies Hezbollah and the Houthis.

The result of the US presidential election is thus another factor that may have factored into Israel's calculations. It is believed that Israel would be unable to do significant damage to Iran's nuclear facilities without the help of the United States military. But the Joe Biden administration had made it clear that Israel could count on the US' help should Teheran ever build a nuclear weapon, but now was not the time.

As US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said at the time, the long-range B-2 stealth bomber strikes against the Houthis in Yemen were a demonstration of the US military's ability to strike hard-to-reach facilities, "no matter how deeply buried underground, hardened, or fortified".

But with Donald Trump, a staunch supporter of Israel, winning the election, Tel Aviv may be sending the message, that a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities should be carried out sooner rather than being a remote possibility.

With the backing of the next US administration, Tel Aviv will certainly hope to gain more direct support for its war aims, which does not bode well for the region.

China continues to call on all parties involved in the tensions between Israel and Iran to exercise caution and avoid escalating the situation. It opposes any actions violating the sovereignty and undermining the security of countries, and opposes the abuse of force. It urges the international community, especially major countries with influence, to take concrete actions to play a constructive role and create the necessary conditions for the de-escalation of regional tensions.

It is high time the US stopped its enabling of Israel's military actions and did more to restore peace and stability in the Middle East. Both Washington and Tel Aviv should abide by relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions as they are binding on all UN member states. Israel, in particular, must stop taking actions that further escalate the situation, and the US must stop giving Tel Aviv its seal of approval.

Though both were perceived as measured retaliations, the tension that has ensued from the recent strikes has put the world on edge about the possibility of a full-scale war in the region.

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There is no alternative to multilateral climate action

Mukhtar Babayev

OUR world is at a critical juncture. The devastating effects of global warming are increasingly evident and the crisis is deepening. To mitigate it, we must urgently reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Failing to act now will only increase the human and economic toll.

This month's COP29 climate change conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, presents a unique opportunity for effective collective action. Amid heightened geopolitical tensions and global uncertainty, COP29 will serve as a test of the multilateral system on which humanity's ability to respond to this existential threat depends.

The groundwork for coordinated action was laid in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 with the creation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which established the annual Conference of the Parties to promote consensus-based solutions. The philosophy was simple: given that climate change is a global issue, addressing it requires a collaborative approach.

The convention fosters cooperation between smaller countries and superpowers, enables civil society organizations to engage directly with governments and facilitates cross-border technology transfers. Perhaps most importantly, it provides a framework for collective action in which each country's efforts encourage others to step up their own.

While the 1997 Kyoto

Protocol set binding emission-reduction targets for developed economies, it quickly became clear that more was needed. In response, developed countries pledged in 2009 to mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support developing countries' climate policies.

The 2015 Paris climate agreement marked a turning point, setting the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and ensuring that the increase stays well below 2 C. To monitor progress, the agreement established a system of nationally determined contributions, through which each country outlines its emission-reduction plans. Periodic global audits assess whether countries are on track to fulfill their climate commitments.

Regrettably, the first global audit, released ahead of last year's COP28 in Dubai, showed that we are far from meeting these climate targets. It also offered a comprehensive roadmap, calling on all countries to commit to targets aligned with the 1.5 C goal and establishing clear steps and timelines — including transitioning away from fossil fuels — that could bring the Paris agreement's objectives within reach.

COP29 represents the next step for the multilateral approach, with leaders expected to agree on a significant boost to the \$100 billion climate finance target — the so-called New Collective

Quantified Goal. Moreover, each country must submit its updated nationally determined contributions by February 2025.

Transparency is essential to this process. If the Paris agreement's targets are the destination, and the nationally determined contributions are the roadmap, the New Collective Quantified Goal provides the fuel needed to get there. Building trust in countries' commitment to bold climate action and willingness to provide the necessary financing is key.

As COP29 president, Azerbaijan is urging all countries to submit goals aligned with the 1.5 C target as soon as possible. We are also doing everything we can to secure a fair and ambitious new climate finance goal that addresses developing countries' needs and matches the scale and urgency of the crisis.

Falling short would force us to confront tough questions: Are we willing to accept the failure of the Paris Agreement? And what are the alternatives? One thing is clear: without a viable backup plan, we must do all we can to meet the 1.5 C goal. Sleepwalking into climate catastrophe is not an option.

To be sure, the multilateral system has its flaws. But it remains the best framework to tackle this daunting challenge. Over three decades, it has fostered lasting international cooperation, a

shared understanding of the science and a strong consensus concerning global climate goals.

The alternative to multilateralism is a fragmented response, with governments pursuing their own agendas without coordination or cooperation. This approach would mean slower progress, higher costs and less equitable outcomes. Without a unifying goal, any sense of shared purpose would all but vanish.

Consider, for example, COP29's objective of finalizing negotiations on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which aims to standardize carbon markets. By channeling resources toward the most effective mitigation projects, this framework could save \$250 billion annually by 2030 — a substantial boost in an era of limited resources.

Given the alternatives, we have no choice but to make the current system work. The COP29 presidency will leave no stone unturned to achieve an international consensus. With an agenda focused on advancing transformative climate action, Azerbaijan could help bridge geopolitical divisions. But our success hinges on countries' willingness to engage constructively and commit to the multilateral process.

The science is clear, the frameworks for coordinated action are in place and the plan has been laid out. Now, we must find the political will to put these tools to use. COP29 is our chance to prove that multilateralism can work.

This time, Trump's win is not an oddity — it is the American reality

Yossi Mekelberg

IT is not only Donald Trump's election victory that has sent shockwaves across the US and many parts of the world, but also its decisiveness, which defied all forecasts of a close race. If Trump's first victory in 2016 felt like a fluke, benefiting from a combination of him being a political novice but with star qualities as a multimillionaire businessman and a well-known reality TV presenter, this time he was elected, and by a big margin, for who he is.

Make no mistake, the margin of Trump's victory and the Republicans' control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate should not conceal the depth of the divisions within American society. This is a feature that will dominate the US for the foreseeable future. And for a stunned Democratic Party, there is an uphill battle, first to come to terms with defeat, but more significantly to reconnect with those who are its natural electorate yet have been swayed by Trump.

A quick glimpse of the distribution of votes across the US shows that most of this vast territory has been painted red, emphasizing that the party representing leftist-liberal progressive ideas and values has lost the working class, who should be its backbone. These are mainly white men who are angry at seeing their jobs disappearing abroad and who feel marginalized.

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It was not only the economy that decided last week's election, but immigration too.

The debate over this divisive issue has been hijacked by the populist right and, interestingly, even Latinos voted for Trump in big numbers.

There is an interesting phenomenon operating here: those who are legal migrants begrudge the undocumented ones, whom they perceive as skipping the hard work they had to do to earn their status.

Moreover, they perceive illegal migration from Latin America as the main reason they are disparaged by others in US society and face a more difficult path to social acceptance. Yet the Biden administration and Harris in particular, who was in charge of securing the borders, did very little to stop illegal migration.

Trump's appeal to just over half of the American people is a mystery to the rest of the nation and to many around the world. However, he rides his status with pride and has appealed to enough voters.

For the Democrats, this should be the beginning of a period of soul-searching: how do they reconnect with their electoral and ideological roots? If their position on the economy and migration put them in an inferior position, their inability to bring an end to the war in Gaza also cost them votes in certain parts of the country.

However, it was their pushing too hard and too fast for some aspects of their progressive agenda that made some voters uncomfortable and left them feeling that an elite was trying to force upon them changes that clashed with their traditional values.

This is not to suggest that these progressive ideas are wrong as such, the opposite is often the case, but they cannot be enforced from the top down and by patronizing those who object to them. Instead, they should engage with people and allay their fears.

What's more, it should not be forgotten that, while Trump won the

Republican primaries easily and had months to build his campaign, Harris won her party's nomination almost by default when it became apparent that President Joe Biden was not fit to run for another term.

Going through the grinding process of the primaries gains the winner credibility, legitimacy, better engagement with the public and the momentum for a presidential campaign.

But the result of last Tuesday's election made it clear that Harris had too little time to lift the campaign and build trust, as well as being too closely associated with the Biden administration as his second in command.

For the second time in eight years, we are once more entering the territory of the unknown and the unpredictable.

Trump won this election fairly and squarely and there will not be a repeat of the ugly scenes of Jan. 6, 2021, but an orderly and civilized transition of power, as we should expect. Nevertheless, there will be many Americans, along with many in the international community, who will be deeply skeptical.

— Arab News

Trump’s emerging team of loyalists is primed for a fast start in his second term

DONALD Trump is doing exactly what his sweeping election win entitled him to do by systematically building a governing team in his own headline MAGA image.

What may end up as the modern age’s most right-wing West Wing will target Washington elites and undocumented migrants, seek to shred the regulatory state and tell the rest of the world that from now on, it’s America First.

The shape of Trump’s second administration is emerging from his Mar-a-Lago resort, where he’s being feted by club members amid a circus atmosphere enlivened by the presence of the world’s richest man, Elon Musk.

Each of the president-elect’s new picks for top jobs has been enough to send shudders down liberals’ spines. And that was part of the point.

Stephen Miller, last seen in public declaring that “America is for Americans and Americans only” at Trump’s seething Madison Square Garden rally, is expected to be named as White House deputy chief of staff for policy, CNN reported, a position in which he’d likely choreograph mass deportations.

Tom Homan, the pick for “border czar,” sports a gruff persona that’s a good fit for a president-elect who loves a tough guy. He played to type Monday by going on Fox News, where he has served for years as a pundit, and warning Democratic governors who try to block deportations “to get the hell out of the way.”

And CNN’s Kaitlan Collins reported early Tuesday that South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who has been a fervent supporter of Trump dating back to his first term, is his pick for secretary of Homeland Security. Noem is a heroine of the MAGA movement and star of conservative media. If confirmed for the role, she would form an uncompromising trio of officials responsible for border enforcement alongside Miller and Homan.

While Trump’s word will be law in the new administration, the president-elect’s national security picks so far suggest a more mainstream Republican approach to foreign policy than those for immigration.

Trump is likely to nominate Marco Rubio as secretary of state, Collins also reported. The Florida senator crudely mocked Trump on the 2016 campaign trail and was seen as the kind of neo-conservative whom the president-elect’s fans love to hate. But Rubio has long since

converted to Trumpism, and at the Republican National Convention this summer told the nation, “The only way to make America wealthy and safe and strong again is to make Donald J. Trump our president again.” Rubio’s likely selection was first reported by The New York Times.

Trump’s choice for UN ambassador is House GOP conference chair Elise Stefanik, whose career rocketed after she ditched mainstream conservatism to become one of Trump’s top defenders. “I stand ready to advance President Donald J. Trump’s restoration of America First peace through strength leadership on the world stage on Day One at the United Nations,” the New York congresswoman said in a statement.

On Monday evening, sources said Trump asked Florida Rep. Mike Waltz to be national security adviser in a move that will send shockwaves across the Atlantic given the former Green Beret’s warning this year that “it’s time for allies to invest in their own security” and that US taxpayers had footed “the bill for far too long.”

Rubio, Waltz and Stefanik are all hardcore China hawks and their selection offers a clear pointer of how Trump’s policy will develop toward America’s new superpower rival.

The president-elect also tapped former New York Rep. Lee Zeldin to head the Environmental Protection Agency, despite or because of his rock-bottom ratings from progressive green groups while in the House. The last two Democratic presidents have used the EPA’s regulatory powers to try to fight climate change. But Zeldin pledged to implement Trump’s “drill, baby, drill” energy policy and framed his responsibilities as “protecting access to clean air and water,” paraphrasing his new boss’ non sequitur that he uses when asked about global warming. Given Trump’s unpredictability, no staff pick is ever certain until it’s official. And even then, many staff don’t last long.

But each selection or anticipated pick so far has one thing in common: Ultra-loyalty to Trump, especially during his indictment-strewn post-presidency. Each person is known for paying the kind of exaggerated homage in television interviews that the president-elect adores. A sense of betrayal often burned in Trump’s first term when members of government prioritized their oath to the Constitution over their fealty to him, as was the case with former FBI chief James

Stephen Collinson

Comey and many others.

The drip-drip of top government picks suggests a level of planning and organization absent from Trump’s first transition in 2016 and may reflect the influence of incoming White House chief of staff Susie Wiles, who ran an efficient general election campaign in parallel to the president-elect’s outlandish eruptions at his rallies and on social media. It’s far too soon to say, however, whether the current approach will be repeated in the White House. Often during Trump’s first term, he trampled over his agenda by openly feuding with members of his administration on whom he quickly soured.

The likes of Rubio, Waltz, Stefanik, Zeldin, Homan, Noem and especially Miller are anathema to Trump critics who fear that the president-elect will head off in extreme directions. But each of these picks personifies one aspect of the president-elect’s political beliefs and instincts. And their own positions reflect the desire for shakeups in Washington and in US global policy that motivated many of the tens of millions of voters in Trump’s election majority.

Most are also accomplished and – perhaps with the exception of Miller, who is regarded by critics as a hard-core extremist – within the parameters of people typically chosen for administrations. If they are all far to the right, they only parallel the movement of the GOP and its voters during the Trump era.

Rubio, a former presidential candidate, is well known around the world and serves on the Senate Foreign Relations and Intelligence Committees. Stefanik is a Harvard graduate, former George W. Bush West Wing aide and one of the highest-ranking Republican women ever to serve in the House. Waltz, who served multiple combat tours in Afghanistan, the Middle East and Africa, was awarded four Bronze stars and worked for Defense Secretaries Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates. Homan, as former acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is steeped in border issues, even if his opponents regard his manner as somewhat callous. Zeldin is an Army veteran and an ex-congressman who waged a closer-than-expected bid for New York governor.

Alyssa Farah Griffin, who served as a Trump White House communications director, summed up his selections so far as “people who inarguably have the credentials to be there and you

have a sense of what they are going to do.” Griffin, now a CNN commentator who has often criticized Trump, told CNN’s Erin Burnett that the rapidity of her former boss’ government-in-waiting selections struck a contrast with the personnel scramble of his first administration.

Trump’s picks of Miller and Homan suggest there’s no stepping back from his vows to launch a massive deportation of undocumented migrants, which was the foundation of the most extreme closing argument of any presidential candidate in recent memory.

Homan was asked in a recent interview on CBS’ “60 Minutes” if there was an alternative to separating migrants tagged for deportation from their parents — a policy that caused uproar during the first Trump term. “Of course there is. Families can be deported together,” he said.

Miller was a powerful White House aide in Trump’s first term, authoring much of his most fiery scripted rhetoric as a speechwriter. His headline ideology was on display at the Conservative Political Action Conference in February when he argued immigration policy was simple. “Seal the border. No illegals in, everyone that’s here goes out — that’s very straightforward.” Miller added that the next step was to grab undocumented migrants and move them to “large-scale staging grounds” where planes would be waiting.

Yet despite these draconian visions, there’s uncertainty about how far Trump will go in his deportation program and whether it matches his dystopian speeches. Homan, for example, said the idea that there would be “concentration camps” and mass sweeps through neighborhoods is ridiculous.

The president-elect has the luxury of not running for reelection in 2028, so in theory he’s got nothing to lose. But he has sometimes balked at taking steps that might result in extreme unpopularity. Stiff legal challenges that are being drawn up by civil liberties groups and immigrant advocates could, meanwhile, slow deportations. And expelling millions of undocumented migrants could be hugely expensive, could disrupt the labor market, anger big business and complicate supply chains — all of which could hurt the economy and weigh on the future president.

Many Democrats and Republicans could agree on Trump’s vow to start by deporting criminal undocumented migrants — the easi-

est part of his plan. But the next stages are where the politics could get dicey for Trump.

Chad Wolf, a former acting Homeland Security secretary in the first Trump term, appeared to indicate that were still gray areas in the full extent of the president-elect’s intentions but that a far wider enforcement operation would be possible. “It may be a tough political position, but there are criminals here today that aren’t being removed,” Wolf told CNN’s Jake Tapper on Monday, complaining that the Biden administration had fallen short in this area. “This idea that you are going to exempt whole classes of individuals from the law, I don’t think that should be the case,” Wolf said, allowing that there were other mechanisms for workers to come into the US economy legally or for some undocumented migrants to obtain legal status from outside the country if they are married to US citizens.

Trump’s critics and vulnerable undocumented migrants, however, will find little in the president-elect’s new staff picks to offer them comfort.

Similar uncertainty surrounds Trump’s second-term foreign policy.

Unlike Trump, Rubio has been no friend of Russian President Vladimir Putin, though he has lately defended the president-elect’s position that the war in Ukraine must end.

Waltz was an opponent of the Biden administration’s attempts to broker a ceasefire in Gaza between Israel and Hamas. These positions are far to the right of many boilerplate policies of America’s Western allies and some Democratic Party leaders. But they are in line with the orthodoxy of the GOP and millions of its voters.

And Rubio and Waltz are more conventional on foreign policy than some of the most isolationist members of the broader Trump coalition. On the critical question of Ukraine, Waltz criticized the Biden administration’s policy of arming President Volodymyr Zelensky’s forces to repel Russia’s invasion as “too little, too late.” But he also backed Trump’s positions this year that it was time for Europe to bear the burden of supporting Ukraine because the US needed to concentrate on its own borders. In every incoming presidential administration, staffing is important and provides ideological clues to how a White House will act. Given Trump’s record of extraordinary turnover of aides, however, nothing may be permanent.

— CNN

Pneumonia kills 800,000 children a year

Maha Barakat

A part of the awareness campaign is to illuminate 362 iconic monuments in 38 countries across the world.

While pneumonia predominantly affects the young, diabetes is a chronic condition that knows no age boundaries, affecting over 500 million people worldwide. World Diabetes Day marks this growing epidemic, which poses significant health, social and economic challenges globally.

Diabetes is characterised by elevated blood sugar levels due to the body’s inability to produce or effectively use insulin, and the consequences of unmanaged diabetes are severe, including cardiovascular disease, kidney failure, blindness and lower-limb amputations.

The rise in diabetes prevalence is alarming, driven by urbanisation, aging populations and unhealthy lifestyles. This epidemic not only affects individuals but also places immense pressure on healthcare systems and economies. The cost of managing diabetes and its complications is substantial, diverting resources from other critical health needs. The prevention and management of diabetes requires a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach, and education plays a pivotal role. Empowering people with knowledge about their condition, how to manage it, and the importance of regular check-ups can lead to better health results. Community-based interventions, support groups, and digital health solutions can also provide critical support to those living with diabetes.

The illumination of landmarks in blue this month is a symbol of solidarity and awareness. However, it must also be a call to action for the international community to prioritise pneumonia and diabetes on the global health agenda. Governments, healthcare organisations and the private sector must collaborate to implement and fund comprehensive strategies to prevent, diagnose and treat these diseases.

In this regard, the UAE’s dedication to healthcare extends beyond its borders, with a commitment to improving world health alongside our international partners, which aligns with its commitment to global humanitarianism. This inclusive vision underpins all of the UAE’s international aid efforts, ensuring that assistance reaches those who need it most, without discrimination.

The UAE has a long history of providing humanitarian aid to countries in need, including substantial contributions to healthcare services in regions affected by conflicts, natural disasters and pandemics. This aid often includes medical supplies, equipment, and the establishment of healthcare facilities in affected areas.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the UAE played a crucial role in supporting the global response. The country provided millions of vaccine doses to various countries, particularly those with limited access. Additionally, the UAE sent medical supplies, testing kits, and personal protective equipment to numerous nations to help combat the virus.

The UAE collaborates with international agencies such as the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and the Red Cross to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, promote disease prevention and enhance emergency medical response in developing countries. It also organises medical missions and volunteer programmes, sending healthcare professionals to underserved regions to deliver medical care and training. These missions aim to build local healthcare capacity and provide immediate assistance.

Additionally, the UAE supports refugees through initiatives such as the Emirates Red Crescent, establishing field hospitals in locations such as Chad and Rafah, deploying mobile clinics, and offering essential healthcare services in refugee camps worldwide. By providing critically needed medical resources, diseases such as pneumonia and diabetes can be treated in these high-risk populations.

Investment in research and innovation is also essential to develop new vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tools. The UAE invests in medical research and innovation through funding and partnerships with global research institutions, aiming to advance medical knowledge, develop new treatments, and improve healthcare delivery systems worldwide.

Addressing pneumonia and diabetes requires a commitment to health equity. Initiatives such as the Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea and the Global Diabetes Compact can help. Ultimately every person, regardless of where they live, should have the opportunity to lead a healthy life free from preventable and manageable diseases. As we light up the world in blue, let it be a beacon of our collective resolve to tackle these global health challenges with urgency and determination.

Shoppers must guard against fake customer reviews online

ZHANG XI

CHINA has become a global leader in e-commerce because Chinese consumers have taken to online shopping like fish takes to water. What has made this miracle possible is the high internet penetration rate (77.5 percent by 2023) in China.

In the first three quarters of this year, online retail sales in China reached 10.89 trillion yuan (\$1.51 trillion), up 8.6 percent year-on-year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. The continuous rise in online sales revenue can be attributed to online shopping becoming increasingly mainstream in China, especially during the “Double Eleven” (Nov 11) shopping festival.

As China’s biggest annual online shopping event, the festival, which this year actually started at the end of October, has been playing a vital role in further stimulating the appetite of consumers for years despite online buyers having become more rational. Online merchants now find it difficult to sell their products to consumers who know exactly what they want. This “water army”, or paid internet trolls, simply needed to post prepared comments and photographs in the form of fake customer reviews without actually buying any product or service from the shopping platform in question. Incidentally, photographs can cause more trouble than fake consumer reviews because most probably they are stolen from some other e-shops or platforms. If someone uploads a stolen photograph with a person’s face, he or she can be held responsible for invasion of privacy. If the photograph only shows a person’s back, the person who uploads it can

be held accountable for violating the copyright law of the original photographer. And if the photograph shows the person’s home decoration, for example, the person who posts it online can be held responsible for infringing on right to privacy.

Although online merchants do not post the stolen photographs themselves, they can be held responsible for false advertisement for using them. The manipulated reviews and photographs disrupt market transactions, by prompting people to buy poor quality products and lose confidence in e-shops and/or online shopping platforms.

Last month, the Internet Security Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security issued a notice, asking online buyers to guard against fake customer reviews. The notice said that the police in Taizhou, Zhejiang province, has cracked down on a gang that was posting manipulated customer reviews online. This “water army”, or paid internet trolls, simply needed to post prepared comments and photographs in the form of fake customer reviews without actually buying any product or service from the shopping platform in question. Incidentally, photographs can cause more trouble than fake consumer reviews because most probably they are stolen from some other e-shops or platforms. If someone uploads a stolen photograph with a person’s face, he or she can be held responsible for invasion of privacy. If the photograph only shows a person’s back, the person who uploads it can

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Customers losing trust in the products and services will harm the development of the e-commerce sector, and deal a blow to online enterprises that do business in good faith.

To address this problem, the authorities should take action to deter online enterprises from indulging in such acts. Online shoppers, too, have a role to play in curbing such harmful behavior by resisting the lure of a small amount of money and sounding the alarm against those e-shops that offer them “bribes” to write fake reviews. As for online enterprises, they should abide by the law. Fortunately, people are becoming more aware of the developments on online platforms and are prepared to do their bit to ensure the culprits receive due punishment according to law.

Also, the State Administration for Market Regulation introduced fair competition regulation, especially for the internet industry, in May, to deal with infringements of consumer rights on online platforms including fake orders and manipulated reviews.

China can help ensure future food security

Ismaiane Elouafi and Lindiwe Majele Sibanda

LIKE the economies of other countries across the planet, China’s economy, too, is feeling the sting of climate change. In recent months, the country has seen storms, droughts, floods and heat waves that have damaged crops, disrupted food supply chains, and led to higher prices for staple foods. These events threaten China’s food security and highlight a broader reality: climate change is undermining agricultural systems worldwide.

By hosting the 2024 World AgriFood Innovation Conference in October, China put the focus on global food security and agricultural resilience could not be more timely. With leaders, scientists and entrepreneurs from around the world in attendance, the event showcased not only China’s leadership in agricultural innovation, but also its opportunities for global partnerships in building climate-resilient food systems. At this critical juncture, China has the opportunity to not just secure its own food future, but to lead globally in addressing agricultural challenges. By investing in scientific research and development — and strengthening South-South cooperation — China can help shape the future of agriculture in a way that strengthens both its own and global food security.

China’s recent experience of extreme weather is a powerful reminder of the urgent need for more resilient agricultural systems. Rural livelihoods are under threat, and food prices are rising. This presents a challenge to China’s rural revitalization efforts, a central pillar of the country’s development strategy. Rural vital-

ization is not just about building infrastructure; it’s also about ensuring that rural communities can thrive in a world where climate change is an ever-present threat.

The same challenges are being faced on a larger scale in Africa, home to 60 percent of the world’s remaining arable land. Yet Africa’s agricultural potential is increasingly at risk due to severe droughts, soil degradation and extreme weather patterns. By 2030, an estimated 118 million extremely poor people in Africa will be exposed to droughts, floods and extreme heat. The stability of Africa’s food systems will have far-reaching effects on global markets and food security, including on China, which imports a significant amount of food.

In this context, China’s experience and leadership in agricultural modernization are critical. Having transformed its own agricultural sector, China is well-positioned to help the world develop resilient, climate-adapted food systems. Through South-South cooperation and partnerships with institutions like Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research — the world’s largest global agricultural innovation network — China can support Africa’s agricultural transformation while helping secure its own food future.

China’s own agricultural success story offers important lessons for both its own future and that of the world. In the mid-20th century, China struggled with widespread food insecurity. However, by using technologies to develop and grow high-yielding crop

varieties and employing advanced irrigation techniques, China rapidly increased its agricultural productivity.

Contributing to this transformation were partnerships with international research bodies like the CGIAR. Since China formally partnered with the CGIAR in 1984, the collaboration has led to major agricultural advancements, particularly in wheat and corn production. Joint research helped increase China’s wheat output by 10.7 million tons (worth 23 billion yuan or \$3.23 billion) by developing disease-resistant varieties and implementing farming practices such as reduced tillage and water efficiency.

Over the decades, China’s innovations have not only enhanced its food security but also lifted millions of people out of poverty in rural areas. The strategies that drove this — investing in R&D, modernizing rural infrastructure and embracing climate-smart technologies — are directly applicable to meet the challenges facing global agriculture today. As climate change intensifies, the need for resilient agricultural systems gets greater.

In an era of climate change, the future of agriculture depends on research and innovation. Drought-resistant crops, sustainable farming practices, and efficient water use are critical for ensuring that food systems can withstand climate shocks. This is where China’s collaboration with the CGIAR continues to play a vital role.

In July 2024, the CGIAR and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences agreed to expand their coop-

eration in agricultural research. This partnership focuses on improving crop genetic resources and sharing climate-smart agricultural technologies. These innovations will not only benefit China but also support other nations facing similar challenges, especially in Africa.

As the world’s largest developing country and a leader in agricultural innovation, China has the opportunity to help build resilient food systems across the Global South. South-South cooperation, particularly with Africa, can support African nations as they modernize their food systems and adapt to climate change.

Africa’s agricultural future is important for the African countries as well as the rest of the world. The continent holds vast potential to become a global food powerhouse. But without investment in R&D and technology, this potential may never be realized. China has already pledged 360 billion yuan to African development, focusing on agricultural modernization, industrialization and green development. These investments are critical for securing Africa’s food systems, which in turn will have a stabilizing effect on global food markets.

The future of food security, both in China and globally, depends on continued collaboration on, and investment in, agricultural R&D. The Ceres2030 report emphasizes the need to double that investment globally to sustainably meet the world’s food needs. China, with its advanced research capabilities and strong agricultural base, is well-positioned to lead this charge. Agricultural innovation



PESHAWAR: Honorary Consul General of Tunisia Ammad Rasheed and US Consul General Shante Moore presenting a shield to president Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fazal Moqem Khan.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 423 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 423.76 points, a negative change of 0.45 percent, closing at 93,224.56 points as compared to 93,648.33 points on the last trading day.

A total of 792,904,878 shares were traded during the day as compared to 815,188,409 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs30.788 billion against Rs37.324 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 454 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 151 of them recorded gains and 242 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 61 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Pak Int. Bulk with 79,861,776 shares at Rs8.00 per share, K-Electric with 71,760,455 shares at Rs5.13 per share and Pak Refinery with 56,364,168 shares at Rs26.88 per share.

Ismail Industries Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs123.96 per

share price, closing at Rs1,639.50, whereas the runner-up was Sapphire Fibers Limited with Rs46.55 rise in its per share price to Rs1,175.63.

Services Industries Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs45.87 per share closing at Rs1,160.19 followed by Philip Morris Limited with Rs40.58 decline to close at Rs789.50.

Rupee sheds 06 paise against dollar

Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 06 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.92 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.86.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.40 and Rs278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.57 to close at Rs295.44 against the last day's closing of Rs297.01, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.80, whereas a

decline of Rs2.26 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs356.00 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs358.26.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal went up by 02 and 01 paise to close at Rs75.66 and Rs73.98, respectively.

Gold prices decrease by Rs7,000 to Rs270,500 per tola

The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs7,000 and was sold at Rs270,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs277,500. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also came down by Rs6,000 to Rs231,911 from Rs237,911 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold decreased to Rs212,584 from Rs218,085.

The price of per tola silver also decreased by Rs50 to Rs3250 and ten gram silver by Rs42.86 to Rs2,786.

The price of gold in the international market declined by \$77 to \$2,593 from \$2,670, the Association reported.

SNGPL: 76 illegal connections disconnected

F.P. Report

LAHORE: As part of the ongoing crackdown against gas theft, SNGPL has intensified its raids across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, disconnecting 76 illegal connections and imposing fines amounting to Rs 4.9 million.

In Lahore, 21 illegal gas connections were disconnected, with fines totaling Rs 1.22 million imposed for gas theft.

In Faisalabad, six illegal connections were cut off, and Rs 0.04 million in fines were levied.

The Sheikhpura team disconnected six illegal connections and imposed a substantial fine of Rs 3.52 million.

In Bahawalpur, seven connections were disconnected for illegal gas use, while an additional seven were disconnected for using gas compressors.

Similarly, in Multan, 19 connections were severed for illegal use, with nine more disconnected due to compressor usage.

In Sahiwal, Rs 0.05 million in fines were imposed for gas theft, while in Gujranwala, one connection was disconnected, and fines amounting to Rs 0.09 million were imposed.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Mars-Jand Nord Master Carrying Soyabean and Mogas, berthed at Green Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile, three more ships, Xin Xiang, Porto Kioni and Hafnia Atlantic scheduled to load/offload Rice, Coal and Palm oil also arrived at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

Ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Milha Ras Laffan left the port on Tuesday morning and four more ships, Ogun, Tamre-S, Ellirea and Nord Master are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo throughput during last 24 hours stood at 152,569 comprising 109,504 tonnes imports cargo and 43,065 tonnes export cargo was handled at the Port, including containerized cargo carried in 1,503 Containers (90 TEUs Imports and 1,413 TEUs export).

Fifteen ships at outer anchorage of the port, out of them six ships namely Kanoa, Conti Courage, Hafnia Atlantic, Crimson Delight, Falmouth Bay and Porto Kioni & two more ships, MSC Lusa and Navios Tempo scheduled to load/offload Rice, Containers, Palm oil and Coal are expected to take berths at FAP, QICT, LCT, HFP&S, PQEPT and PIBT respectively on Tuesday.

Promotion of trade activities vital to uplift economy: SCCI

SARGODHA (APP): Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) President Khawaja Yasir Qayyum on Tuesday stressed the need for further reforms in trade policies to support the growth of local industries and remove obstacles faced by the business community. He also emphasised the importance of addressing the lack of banking channels with countries like Iran to facilitate smooth and more viable trade processes. He also called for the inclusion of local industries in the EFS, as the absence of industrial development was leading to increased unemployment and social issues among the youth. Regional trade, transit trade, land trade corridors, border markets, and the promotion of barter trade were essential, he observed.

SCCI chief stresses joint initiatives

— to strengthen Pak-Tunisia trade and economic ties

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fazal Moqem Khan emphasized the need of strengthening Pak-Tunisia bilateral trade and economic relations.

He was speaking at a luncheon, organized by Honorary Consul General of Tunisia in Peshawar and former SCCI senior vice president Ammad Rasheed in honour of the business community and dignitaries here.

KP is highly rich in hydel, mineral, oil and gas resources wherein ample opportunities were available to attract foreign investment, Fazal Moqem said. SCCI chief called for

provision of facilities to investors under a one-window operation.

Fazal Moqem on the occasion demanded of the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to withdraw 2 percent cess on export.

The luncheon was attended the chamber former president Fuad Ishaq, WCCIP president Rabia Basri, US Consul General in Peshawar Shante Moore, Honorary Consul General of Japan in Peshawar Nawabzada Fazal Karim Khan, Chairman Textile Mills Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sikandar Kuli Khan Khattak, vice president of the Rawalpindi Chamber Fahad Barlas, Khalid Sultan Khawaja,

Monawar Khurshid, Mansoor Khawaja, Aamir Bashir, TDAP Director KP Noman Bashir, CFO/Acting CEO, The Bank of Khyber Irfan Saleem Awan and other dignitaries.

Fazal Moqem said Pakistan and Tunisia have enjoyed cordial economic, trade and cultural relations. He, however, said that joint initiatives from both sides would improve the bilateral trade volume between the two countries.

The SCCI president said KP is a lucrative destination for foreign investors.

He added immense potentials in hydel power generation, marble, oil, gas and other natural resources exist in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa wherein prospects are

brighter to attract foreign investment.

Fazal Moqem invited the Tunisian companies to make investment in KP's potentials/important sectors.

In order to improve mutual trade volume between Pakistan and Tunisia, the SCCI chief suggested holding of a single country exhibition, exchange of trade delegations and launch of joint ventures.

Fazal Moqem thanked honorary Consul General Ammad Rasheed for hosting lunch in honour of the business community and assured that SCCI will work closely with him to further cement trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Tunisia.

SAFA Best Presented Annual Report Awards 2023: FFC honored with gold awards

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) continues to lead in financial reporting and corporate governance standards across South Asia, getting recognition in the prestigious SAFA Best Presented Annual (BPA) Report Awards 2023. FFC received top accolades in multiple categories, further cementing its position as a leader in transparency, corporate governance, and industry best practices.

FFC was awarded the Gold Category award for excellence in the Manufacturing Sector. This joint Gold Award recognizes FFC's dedication to producing high-quality, comprehensive annual reports that showcase financial accuracy, stakeholder engagement, and responsible corporate practices. This accolade was received by the Chief Financial Officer of FFC,



honoring the team's commitment to maintaining exemplary standards in financial reporting.

Additionally, FFC was honored with a joint Merit/Gold SAARC Anniversary Award for Corporate Governance, acknowledging the compa-

ny's robust governance frameworks and commitment to ethical business operations. Syed Mustafa Haider accepted this award on behalf of FFC, underscoring the organization's proactive approach to corporate governance across the region.

These awards, hosted by the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), recognize excellence in financial reporting, corporate governance, and transparency among South Asian companies, setting high standards across the industry.

‘Pakistanis turning to harvest opportunities in homeland’

FAISALABAD (APP):

Pakistanis migrated abroad decades ago are now returning to harvest the opportunities available in the homeland, said Rehan Naseem Bharara, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Addressing a 9-member Irish trade delegation at the FCCI, he said that it is the third largest chamber of Pakistan representing the business community of the metropolis.

He said that Faisalabad is known as the Manchester of Pakistan because of its state-of-the-art textile sector.

He said that the number of industrial units have increased to 7,000 with

diversification in various sectors of the economy.

He said that Faisalabad has one of the largest chemical plants while its pharmaceutical sector was also making phenomenal growth. "With the help of foreign and domestic investment, we could introduce latest technologies to further improve the quality of different units. We need sustainable and environment-friendly technologies to exploit the full potential of livestock, processing and other segments of the economy."

He said that Faisalabad has well-planned industrial units whereas diversified units could be established in a hassle-free environment.

He identified the unlimited potential of energy sector and said, "We could produce cheap electricity through solar, wind and biomass."

He urged the Irish investors to prefer the import substitution industry in collaboration with the local counterparts.

He said that environmental threats have opened new avenues of electric vehicles and we would appreciate new technology to undertake joint ventures in this field.

He also stressed the need to manufacture solar panels within the country and said that the government was encouraging electronic charging stations on motorways to cater to the future

needs of the electronic vehicles.

He said that safe disposal of the electronic waste would become a major threat in the coming years and we must prepare ourselves right now to tackle this challenge and offered to facilitate the foreign investors intending to set up new units in Faisalabad.

He said that the soft image of Pakistan was intentionally tarnished by promoting negativity within the country and abroad, adding that there was no dearth of resources and our intention was also good as everyone intends to put Pakistan back on the road to progress and prosperity.

GFS Builders organizes Haleem feast



F.P. Report

KARACHI: GFS Builders and Developers organized a Haleem feast in honor of the families who booked units in the Orangi Town Residency project at Chawla Market. A large number of booking families attended the event.

On this occasion, the

new Chawla Market project of GFS Builders and Developers, Orangi Town Residency, was inaugurated. HOD Syed Muhammad Anil and Sales Manager Jamal Sheikh mentioned that Bilal Heights is a significant project by GFS Builders, successfully progressing in Karachi. This project offers plots of vari-

ous sizes, residential and commercial, located in the prime area of Orangi Town, Karachi. GFS Builders has provided all essential facilities for clients, including schools, markets, parks, healthcare services, a gym, mosques, and a CCTV security system, creating an appealing location for living and business.

Stock markets retreat on Trump tariff worries

LONDON (AFP/APP): European and Asian stock markets slid Tuesday on worries of a possible trade war between China and the United States when Donald Trump takes over as president, analysts said.

Chinese stocks were already under pressure from disappointment about Beijing's lack of extra measures to boost China's stuttering economy.

The sell-off came despite another record close Monday on Wall Street, fuelled by expectations that Trump will launch tax cuts and other business-friendly policies.

Seen as inflationary measures that will keep interest rates high, the dollar was firm again Tuesday.

Trump's support for cryptocurrency pushed bit-

coin to a record high nearing \$90,000 at one point Tuesday.

The Republican has meanwhile pledged to impose tough tariffs on imports into the United States, including as much as 60 percent on goods from China.

Trump's decision to pick China hawks for key positions in his cabinet has added to fears the next few years could be bumpy.

"The latest moves from Trump's camp... are sending chills through the markets and casting a decidedly icy glow on US-China relations," noted independent analyst Stephen Innes.

Analysts are also expecting tariffs on European imports, hurting the region's top stock markets in London, Paris and

Frankfurt, all of which were down around one percent nearing the half-way stage Tuesday. Asia's top equity indices closed with big losses -- with Hong Kong finishing nearly three percent lower.

Higher education scholarships:

Lipton, Orange Tree Foundation unite to empower future generations

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Lipton Teas and Infusions Pakistan, a brand interwoven with the nation's journey since its inception in 1947, has partnered with the Orange Tree Foundation to provide educational scholarships for undergraduate and post-graduate degrees to five

The scholarships, aimed at enabling higher education, ensure that children from Lipton's Khanewal factory staff can pursue their academic goals, breaking financial barriers that often hinder access to university and advanced degrees. This collaboration reflects Lipton's dedication to both its employees and

just about degrees—they are about empowering dreams and building futures. We take immense pride in producing and packaging our tea in Khanewal, and this partnership allows us to uplift the very people who make it all possible."

Omer Mateen Allahwala, CEO of Orange Tree

For over 70 years, Lipton has been producing tea enjoyed by millions across Pakistan, with the Khanewal factory at the heart of its operations. This partnership with the Orange Tree Foundation reinforces Lipton's legacy of investing in education, community well-being, and social progress.

Court Notice

In the Court of Javeria Sartaj Khan Additional District Judge II /Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar Buner.Appeal. No.57/13 Institution.19/4/2024. Date of hearing. 17/12/2024.Ayub Khan VS Ehsanul Haq etc. Notice to no. 2.Saeedul Haq s/o Nami Haq.4.Mst Taj Baka d/o Bazed Khan resident of Bajkatta tehsel Gagra district Buner.Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8:00 am dated 17/12/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



children of its factory's workers. This initiative highlights Lipton's commitment to uplift the Khanewal community by fostering access to quality education and empowering the next generation through meaningful opportunities.

the community it serves, building on a legacy of social responsibility.

Faisal Sadruddin, Head of Supply Chain at Lipton Teas and Infusions, remarked: "Education is the cornerstone of progress. These scholarships are not

Foundation, added: "Through these scholarships, we open doors to opportunities that can change lives. Together with Lipton, we are committed to helping these students pursue higher education and unlock their full potential."



In brief

Pakistan look ahead to tri-series challenge

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan are all set to take on Afghanistan and hosts UAE in the U19 tri-series commencing November 13 at the ICC Academy in Dubai. The 50-over tournament will be played on a double-league basis and the final will be staged on November 26, said a press release. Saad Baig-led side, since their arrival in Dubai on Saturday afternoon, have gone through three practice sessions in order to acclimatise with the local conditions. At the conclusion of the tri-series, Pakistan will feature in an eight-team ACC U19 Asia Cup, which will take place from November 29 to December 8 in Dubai and Sharjah. Among the 15-member squad, three players – Saad Baig, Shahzaib Khan and Tayyab Arif had the experience of playing at the ICC Academy, as they were part of the squad which featured in ACC U19 Asia Cup held last year at the same venue. Saad Baig talking to PCB Digital on the eve of the tournament, said, “The preparation for the tournament has been good, the players have had good training sessions here and have played matches before departing and now we are looking forward to tomorrow’s game and the rest of the tournament. “Both Afghanistan and UAE are strong sides and playing against them will provide us a great opportunity to get our combination right before going into the all-important ACC U19 Asia Cup taking place later this month.” Pakistan U19 squad for tri-series: Saad Baig (captain, wicket-keeper) (Karachi), Abdul Subhan (Abbottabad), Ali Raza (Sialkot), Faham-ul-Haq (Lahore), Farhan Yousuf (Lahore), Haroon Arshad (Karachi), Hassan Khan (Rawalpindi), Mohammad Ahmed (Lahore), Mohammad Huzaifa (Bahawalpur), Mohammad Riazullah (Abbottabad), Naveed Ahmed Khan (Karachi), Shahzaib Khan (Abbottabad), Tayyab Arif (Sialkot), Umar Zaib (Abbottabad) and Usman Khan (FATA). Non-travelling reserves: Ahmed Hussain (Peshawar), Rizwanullah (Karachi) and Yahya bin Abdul Rehman (Lahore).

Club angered by jail sentence for punching referee

ANKARA (Agencies): Turkish football club Ankaragucu have defended their former president Faruk Koca after he was sentenced to jail for assaulting a referee. On Monday a court in the Turkish capital Ankara sentenced Koca, 60, to three years and seven months in prison for “intentionally wounding a public official”. Koca was also given a suspended sentence of under a year for making threats and violating laws related to violence in sport. Koca punched referee Halil Umut Meler in the face following a 1-1 draw with Rizespor in December 2023, leaving the official with a fractured eye socket. Meler fell to the floor and was subsequently kicked by three other individuals. In a statement published after the sentencing, Ankaragucu chairman Ismail Mert Firat said it was “impossible to interpret the sentence with good intentions”. He argued that “no disgraceful crime, external” had been committed and accused the court of succumbing to biased public opinion. Ankaragucu reaffirmed their support for Koca, citing his positive contributions to Turkish football during his three-year tenure as president and called him a “legend”.

Noman Ali wins ICC Men’s Player of the Month Award



LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan’s left-arm spinner Noman Ali has clinched the prestigious ICC Men’s Player of the Month award for October 2024, recognizing his exceptional contributions in Pakistan’s Test series win against England in Multan and Rawalpindi. The 38-year-old spinner was instrumental in Pakistan’s series win, taking an impressive 20 wickets across the second

and third Tests at an average of 13.85. Noman’s stellar performance included his career-best figures of 8/46, leading Pakistan to a memorable home victory in the second Test with a 297-run target set for England. Noman was among the nominees for the October award alongside South African fast bowler Kagiso Rabada and New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner.

After winning the award, Noman Ali expressed his gratitude to his teammates, saying, “I am delighted to be named the ICC Men’s Player of the Month and deeply grateful to my team for their support in our historic Test series win against England.” In the third Test, Noman’s all-round ability shone through. Coming in at a crucial moment with Pakistan at 177/7, he contributed a resilient 45 runs, pushing the team to a 77-run lead. His efforts didn’t stop there; he followed up with a decisive six-wicket haul, dismissing England for just 112 runs and securing a nine-wicket victory to close out the series. Noman Ali’s outstanding performance throughout the series had earned him a well-deserved place among the world’s top cricketers for October.

Oman to host inaugural FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2

ISLAMABAD (APP): The inaugural edition of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey Nations Cup 2 (men) will be staged in Muscat, Oman from February 17 to 23 next year. This new event will give the opportunity for eight more nations – ie, the national teams ranked after those involved in the FIH Hockey Pro League and the FIH Hockey Nations Cup - to play an intercontinental FIH tournament, and compete for the chance to be promoted into the 2026 FIH Nations Cup, said a press release. The creation of this new event follows one of the key focus areas of the FIH Empowerment and

Engagement strategy - namely “More opportunities to compete” - that aims at facilitating the accessibility of National Associations to FIH tournaments. The participating teams for this event include Austria, Chile, China, Egypt, Oman, Poland, Scotland and USA. “Hosting the inaugural FIH Nations Cup 2 in Oman is both an honor and a testament to our commitment to advancing hockey in the region. We are thrilled to welcome teams and fans from around the world to experience Oman’s passion for this sport. This tournament marks a significant milestone for Hockey Oman,

and we look forward to an exciting display of talent and sportsmanship on our home ground”, said Hockey Oman Chairman Dr. Marwan Juma Al Juma. Commenting on the announcement, FIH President Tayyab Ikram said, “Oman is the nation of the “firsts”! Hosting very successfully the inaugural FIH Hockey5s World Cup and now the very first FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2! The global hockey community could witness the wonderful hospitality of our Omani hosts during our FIH Congress, and all the participating teams can expect the same.” Meanwhile the hosts of the women’s event will be announced soon.

Nabi to retire from ODIs after Champions Trophy

KABUL (Agencies): Afghanistan allrounder Mohammad Nabi has said he wants to retire from the ODI format after the Champions Trophy 2025. Nabi revealed his plans at the end of the ODI series against Bangladesh in the UAE, while claiming his Player-of-the-Series award in Afghanistan’s 2-1 series victory. “In my mind, from the last World Cup, I was retired but then we qualified for the Champions Trophy and I felt if I could play that, it would be great,” Nabi told the host broadcaster after the third ODI. It is understood he has communicated the decision to the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) and will continue playing

T20Is. To the ACB media team, he said: “We will see, but no, I will not play for long. God willing, after the Champions Trophy, we will say goodbye to the ODIs.” With 167 appearances in the format, Nabi is Afghanistan’s highest-capped ODI cricketer and the current World No. 1 ODI allrounder according to the ICC rankings. He has represented Afghanistan ever since their debut ODI against Scotland in 2009. With the bat, his 3600 ODI runs puts him at second on the list of Afghanistan’s highest run-getters. He has also hit 17 fifties and two centuries at 27.48. As an offspinner, he has 172 wickets, the second-highest for Afghanistan, at an

average of 32.47. The 2025 Champions Trophy will be Afghanistan’s maiden appearance at the event. They made the cut by virtue of finishing sixth at the 2023 ODI World Cup in India. The eight-team Champions Trophy features the top seven teams from the latest ODI World Cup, along with hosts Pakistan. In both T20Is and ODIs, Nabi has been a constant in Afghanistan’s rise up the ranks that culminated in ODI, T20I and Test recognition. He was ODI captain in Afghanistan’s maiden 50-over World Cup appearance in 2015, and featured in the 2019 and 2023 editions too. He retired from Tests in 2019.

Ben Yedder gets suspended jail term for sexual assault

NICE (AFP): Former France international footballer Wissam Ben Yedder received a suspended two-year jail sentence on Tuesday for sexually assaulting a woman in September. Ben Yedder, 34, is the former captain of French Ligue 1 side Monaco and is second on the club’s list of all-time leading goalscorers. He left Monaco at the end of last season and has been without a club since. On the evening of September 6, Ben Yedder met a woman during an inebriated outing and invited her into his car, according to the investigation. There, the woman told police, he performed a sex act in front of her. The woman immediately filed a complaint with police, who arrested Ben Yedder later that night. “I don’t remember anything, I can’t say if I did it. It’s because of alcohol that I’m here,” Ben Yedder, who entered a rehab programme after the incident, said during the trial. He did not attend the sentenc-



ing on Tuesday. Ben Yedder is also the defendant in another case going to trial in December in which he is charged with psychological violence against his wife. The couple is in the process of divorcing. Ben Yedder also stands accused by another woman of raping her in the summer of 2023. Police are still investigating that claim. He has denied both accusations. Ben Yedder started his

professional career in Toulouse before moving to Spanish side Sevilla. A Spanish court in 2023 found him guilty of tax fraud while he was living in the country, and gave him a six-month suspended sentence. He arrived at Monaco in 2019 where he scored 118 goals in 201 matches, but his contract was not extended when it expired this year. He scored three times for the French national team in 19 matches.

PCB reaches out to ICC seeking India's reasons not to cross border for Champions Trophy

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has written to the International Cricket Council (ICC) seeking reasons behind India’s refusal to cross the border to play the Champions Trophy in Pakistan. The development comes amid the ongoing ambiguity surrounding India’s participation in the mega-event, set to be hosted by Pakistan in February-March next year. Earlier, the sources had said that the PCB intended to write to the ICC after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) verbally informed the international body of its decision to not send its team to Pakistan for the said tournament. The ICC then communicated the matter to the PCB which prompted the latter to consult with the Pakistani government on the issue. The board intends to present a firm stance, reflecting the government’s advisory, and has decided to not accept any “hybrid model” provisioning any of its Champions Trophy matches outside Pakistan. “If India’s participation contributes

to ICC’s revenue, the PCB’s role is equally crucial, and without Pakistan-India matches, the ICC revenues would suffer significantly,” say sources. The board intends to present a firm stance, reflecting the government’s advisory, and has decided to not accept any “hybrid model” provisioning any of its Champions Trophy matches outside Pakistan. “If India’s participation contributes to ICC’s revenue, the PCB’s role is equally crucial, and without Pakistan-India matches, the ICC revenues would suffer significantly,” say sources. Also, there’s a chance of Pakistan boycotting ICC events in India altogether for “mixing sports with politics” and refusing to visit Pakistan. The prospective move, if executed, could have major financial and structural consequences for global cricket as Pakistan’s absence could weaken viewership and ICC’s projected revenue from broadcasters and sponsors. The ICC, which secured \$3.2 billion from broadcast rights for the 2024-2027 cycle and anticipates \$1 billion

more in other revenue, relies heavily on marquee events featuring Pakistan and India, which consistently attract record viewership and engagement. “No India vs Pakistan games in ICC events mean all broadcast and sponsorship deals would fall out,” said a source who noted that a match in the ICC event is important for global cricket. In recent years, the ICC has made sure that India play Pakistan at least once in each of the global cricketing events, ensuring a major chunk of revenue from this game. The match between arch-rivals at the 2023 World Cup drew unprecedented interest, with 173 million viewers on Indian TV and 225 million digital viewers. It is to be noted that India has not played an international match in Pakistan since 2008. Last year, the BCCI declined to send a team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup, leading to a hybrid format with later stages held in Sri Lanka. However, Pakistan did visit India soon after for the 2023 ODI World Cup, where they fell short of reaching the semi-finals.

Pakistan unveils 16-memeber squad for Blind T20 World Cup

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan has announced a 16-member squad for the upcoming Blind T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in Pakistan. The fourth Blind Cricket T20 World Cup will begin on November 23 in Lahore, running through December 3. Nisar Ali has been named as the team captain, with Badar Munir serving as his deputy. The squad features a mix of players across three categories: B1 (completely blind), B2 (partially blind), and B3 (partially sighted), following the International Blind Cricket Association’s standards. The B1 category players include Zafar Iqbal, Muhammad Idrees Saleem, Muhammad Shahzaib, and

Fakhar Abbas, with representing the B1 category. In the B2 category, the players are Babar Ali, Muhammad Asif and Muhammad Salman also. **India blocks NOC for its blind cricket team for World Cup visit to Pakistan** NEW DELHI (Web Desk): India’s sports enmity has reached its peak as no objection certificate (NOC) of the Indian blind cricket team for playing Blind Cricket World Cup in Pakistan was withheld on Tuesday. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has not yet issued the NOC to the Indian team to participate in the Blind Cricket World Cup in Pakistan. The Indian blind cricket team had applied for NOC a month ago to participate in the World Cup. However, the Indian Sports Ministry has given permission to the Indian team to participate in the Blind Cricket World Cup. The Indian team is scheduled to reach Pakistan on November 21 to participate in the Blind Cricket World Cup. The Blind Cricket World Cup will be played from November 23 to December 3 in Lahore and Multan.

Naimatullah, and Haroon Khan. The B3 category includes Muhammad Saifdar, Kamran Akhtar, Akmal Hayat Nasir, Talha Iqbal, and Mutiullah. Additionally, Muhammad Ayaz, Moeen Aslam, and Muhammad Rashid have been named as reserve players. The team’s management consists of head coach Muhammad Jameel and assistant coach Masood Jan, along with assistant managers Malik Abrar Hussain and Naveed Hussain Abbasi. Tahir Mehmood Butt will oversee training. The Pakistan team will kick off its campaign on November 23, with the opening match against South Africa.

Rizwan says target is to win Champions Trophy

PERTH (INP): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) released an exclusive dressing room video capturing the team’s celebratory moments against Australia and words from key figures, including Head Coach Jason Gillespie, Assistant Coach Azhar Mehmood, and captain Mohammad Rizwan. Rizwan delivered a strong all-around performance that showcased exceptional skill, particularly in bowling. Skipper outlined his vision for the future, setting high goals for Pakistan cricket. “Our target is to win the Champions Trophy,” he declared, with an eye on future tournaments. Additionally, he hinted at an even broader ambition, expressing interest in a potential Olympics opportunity if it arises: “If there is an opportunity in the Olympics, I will make the Olympics a goal.”

In preparation for upcoming challenges, Rizwan noted that he’s actively engaging with each player to discuss improvement strategies. As for the T20 series, he made their aim clear: “Our target is to whitewash Australia,” a bold statement that underscores Pakistan’s growing confidence. Head Coach Jason Gillespie praised the players for their unity and consistency across all aspects of the game, emphasizing the outstanding effort put into bowling, which was crucial to their success. “The team performed well in all areas, especially in bowling,” Gillespie noted, attributing the series win to a collective determination. Assistant Coach Azhar Mehmood echoed this sentiment, commending the team for playing as a cohesive unit and displaying an unwavering commitment to victory. “The entire team played as one and showed great determination,” Mehmood stated, applauding their resilience and focus throughout the series. Captain Mohammad Rizwan expressed pride in the team’s efforts and credited their success to the strong bond shared from “top to bottom.” He emphasized their growth, saying, “No one expected us to play so well.”

Medvedev defeats De Minaur at ATP Tour Finals



TURIN (Agencies): A rejuvenated Daniil Medvedev defeated Alex de Minaur 6-2 6-4 in his second match at the ATP Tour Finals. Fourth seed Medvedev was irate during his opening defeat by American Taylor Fritz on Sunday but looked far more settled in Tuesday’s victory. The 28-year-old Russian, who had been booed for his antics against Fritz, put his fingers in his ears after sealing victory. He lost only nine points on his serve as he wrapped up the win in an hour and 18 minutes. “I went into this match blocking the noise, even from myself,” said 2020 champion Medvedev. “I really didn’t care what was happening on the court, I just tried to play, and it was a good feeling.” De Minaur, 25, battled in a pulsating second set but Medvedev’s stunning backhand put him 5-4 ahead and he held serve to

good noise can make you off balance. “You win everything and people say you’re a god. You lose two matches and people say ‘Your career is finished.’ Sometimes it’s good to just block it.” Australian De Minaur will be knocked out with a match to spare if the other tie in the Ilie Nastase Group between Italian top seed Jannik Sinner and Fritz goes to three sets later on Tuesday (19:30 GMT). Medvedev’s temperament was under scrutiny after his surly behaviour 48 hours earlier but he struck the ball superbly and broke in the third game with a cross-court winner. He gained a double break when De Minaur double-faulted, and went on to take the first set in 40 minutes. De Minaur, 25, battled in a pulsating second set but Medvedev’s stunning backhand put him 5-4 ahead and he held serve to

clinch victory. Meanwhile, Britain’s Henry Patten and partner Harri Helioevaara are on the brink of the doubles semi-finals after a second straight triumph. They beat Australians Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson 7-6 (7-3) 7-5 in a repeat outcome to their Wimbledon final. The British-Finnish duo are bidding to become the first team to capture the Wimbledon and ATP Finals trophy in the same season since Mike Bryan and Jack Sock in 2018. Alcaraz abandons practice session French Open and Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz’s prospects in the event are uncertain after he pulled out of practice. His coach Juan Carlos Ferrero told Spanish media the 21-year-old cut short his session after just five minutes as a chest complaint was making breathing difficult. The Spaniard is due to play Russian Andrey Rublev in the John Newcombe Group on Wednesday (13:00 GMT). “I don’t think it will get to the point of not playing, but it will be difficult for him to be at 100% tomorrow,” said Ferrero. Alcaraz was out of sorts when losing his first match in Turin on Monday to Norwegian Casper Ruud, who next faces German Alexander Zverev in Wednesday’s evening session.

Topley fined for breaching ICC code of conduct

ISLAMABAD (APP): England bowler, Reece Topley, has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the first T20I match against West Indies in Barbados on Saturday. Topley was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to ‘abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an International Match’, said a press release. In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Topley’s disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period. The incident occurred when Topley, while walking up the staircase of the players’ pavilion when England were fielding, took hold of a chair and aggressively hit it against the handrail. Topley admitted the offence and accepted the

sanction proposed by Richie Richardson of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Leslie Reifer and Zahid Bassarath, third umpire Gregory Brathwaite and fourth umpire Deighton Butler levelled the charge. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player’s match fee, and one or two demerit points.



In brief

Seven booked for violating tenancy act

RAWALPINDI (APP): On the direction of City Police Officer Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani, Rawalpindi police conducted search operation and seven were apprehended on violation of Tenancy Act on Tuesday. Police spokesman informed that the search operation were carried out in police station Mandra, Kalar Syedan and adjoining areas. The Police personnel's, elite force, ladies police participated in the operation. During the search operations, Police held those for violating the tenancy act were identified as Maan Khan, Saad, Arif, Shahid, Sherzaman, Ali and Yasin. SSP Operations Flight Lieutenant (retd) Hafiz Kamran Asghar said that the purpose of the search operations to keep a close eye on the criminal elements, law-breaking elements and bring them to justice. Rawalpindi Police is committed to protect the lives and property of the citizens, he added.

ANF recovers 127 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover over 127 kg drugs worth more than Rs 120 million and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that over 6.4 kg ice was recovered from the bag of a Bahrain-bound passenger at Islamabad International Airport. Over 10.4 kg heroin was Airport from a parcel booked for the UK at a cargo office located at Islamabad International and an accused was also arrested. 65 grams drugs were recovered from the possession of a Dubai-bound passenger at Sialkot International Airport. The recovered drugs included 52 grams opium, 2 grams heroin, 7 grams hashish and 4 grams ice. 1.7 kg ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at the courier office in Peshawar. 58 kg heroin concealed for smuggling was recovered near Lakpas in Mustang. In sixth operation, 50 kg hashish hidden near Kuchlak Bypass Quetta was recovered. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

9 drug dealers arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): On the special instructions of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani, Rawalpindi Police's effective crackdown continued against drug suppliers and arrested nine accused with 13.5 kilogram drugs here on Tuesday. According to police spokesman, Taxila Police held Dilwar and recovered 610 gram charas from his possession. Similarly, Civil Lines police nabbed Azhar and seized 2.2 kg drugs from his custody. While, Waris Khan police recovered 1.4 kg drugs from Zulfikar and 570 grams of hashish was also recovered from Faizan. Following operation, Saddar Wah police recovered 1.6 kg drugs from Waqas and 1.4 kg drugs was also recovered from Kashif. Additionally, Wah Cantt Police recovered 1.6 kg drugs from Irfan. Dharmyal police recovered 1.5 kg from Ijaz and Airport police recovered 510 grams of hashish from Asad. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress.



ISLAMABAD: A woman uses a spinning wheel to spin wool into yarn at the 10-day 'Lok Mela,' promoting provincial culture and folk heritage in the federal capital. —APP Photo

Khalid for opening of top 12 university's campuses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said that campuses of over 12 prominent universities from across Pakistan, currently without chapters in Karachi, would soon be launching campuses in the commercial hub of Pakistan.

Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui highly appreciated the efforts of Vice Chancellor Pakistan Institute of Fashion & Design (PIFD) Professor Hina Tayyab Khalil and her entire team, in the success of the PIFD. He welcomed PIFD's arrival in

Karachi and said the PIFD's Karachi Chapter would be operational soon and we are going to witness a new era through the launching of campuses of prominent education institutes in the port city.

The minister emphasized that the government's recent initiatives reflect Pakistan's commitment to progress, especially in making quality education accessible across the country.

"Pakistan is on the right path toward development, and the launching of campuses of more educational institutions in Karachi highlights our nation's dedication to fostering knowl-

edge and learning," remarked Dr Siddiqui.

He also underscored that humbleness is a true reflection of education, inspiring students to uphold this value. Dr Siddiqui applauded Professor Hina Tayyab Khalil, for her hard work in establishing PIFD's Karachi campus, which is set to become operational by February 2025. He recognized her efforts in expanding PIFD's impact and offering local students increased access to specialized fashion and design education.

Speaking on the occasion, Sindh Governor, Kamran Khan Tessori said that Pakistan is going to

achieve more economic stability. We all have to make joint efforts to make the country stronger and economically stable, he added.

In his address Chairman of the Higher Education Commission Prof Mukhtar Ahmed expressed his full support and cooperation to the PIFD. The society also needs the education of arts and fashion, he added.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor PIFD Professor Hina Tayyab Khalil presented an introduction and achievements of PIFD. In the end, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui was presented with a souvenir as a token of appreciation.

Women's role imperative for country development: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that Pakistan's future is in the hands of the youth and women's role is imperative in the country's development.

He expressed these views while addressing the launching ceremony of the "Women Empowerment Monitoring Program" held at the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Tuesday. Mashhood said that to empower women laws have been made to ensure their inheritance

share and prevent violence.

He said that the positive economic indicators show the remarkable achievements of the present government in every sector and the country is moving in the right direction.

The Chairman PMYP added that the country under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was advancing towards the path of development and growth in the exports of textiles and Information technology, increase in the stock exchange index, and growth in other sectors reflected the result-oriented

policies of the government.

He informed that as much as Rs 186 billion had been given to youth under the Prime Minister Youth Loan programme so far while efforts were underway to increase the women's share to 25 per cent from the existing 11 per cent.

Mashhood said that more opportunities were being provided to women under the PMYP in the fields of vocational, technical education, hospitality service and nursing. Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellors of various universities and others also addressed the event.

IG Rizvi holds Khuli Katchery

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery (open court) at the Central Police Office, on Tuesday.

During the katchery, IG Rizvi listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives on the spot for their resolution, a public relation officer Told APP. He said that resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated.

Any citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My office is always open for citizens, he added.

He further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office.

The IG directed all SDPOs and SHOs to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues. On this occasion, IG Rizvi said that the ICT Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens.

The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added.

Moreover, all zonal officers and SHOs are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

Ahsan Iqbal calls for emergency measures to tackle increasing pollution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday expressed serious concerns over the growing environmental pollution and smog in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, stressing the need to tackle these issues on an emergency basis.

He described the causes and worsening impact of the smog as a 'consequence' of human behavior, which now necessitated urgent action. Chairing a meeting on the escalating smog and air pollution in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, he said "Without a change in public behavior, smog and air pollution will lead to severe consequences for both health and the economy, posing a risk not only to public health but also to the country's GDP growth rate."

Among others, the meeting was attended by senior officials from the World Bank (WB), the Punjab Planning and Development Department, the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), the Ministry of Environment, the Country Director of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Nadia Rehman, Member of the Planning Commission for Environment and Climate Change, representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, civil society, the NDMA and environmental protection agencies from all provinces.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal called for a unified national approach to combat this challenge. He said environmental pro-

tection was a key component of the government's Five-E framework, which includes various measures to address these issues. He pointed out that while there was no shortage of knowledge on the matter, the real problem was the lack of implementation, stressing that all relevant institutions must take joint actions to tackle the issue effectively.

The minister further identified cross-border pollution, vehicle emissions, crop burning and urban development as primary contributors to smog. "The negative effects of smog on public health and daily life underline the need for a public awareness campaign so that every citizen becomes mindful of their environment and personal practices," he added.

The meeting underscored the importance of a coordinated strategy among federal and provincial institutions, academia, and other stakeholders. Ahsan Iqbal stressed the urgent need to develop a comprehensive action plan emphasizing effective implementation. The minister also highlighted that even pristine areas like Gilgit-Baltistan were now being affected by air pollution, warning that the consequences would be severe if environmental pollution were not controlled. He cautioned that failing to act promptly could lead to serious outcomes in the future. Ahsan Iqbal called upon all institutions to collaborate to address this issue and promote environmental awareness at the public level. "This collective effort is essential to building a healthy and clean future," he remarked.

Islooites demand action against illegal LPG, petrol sales

ISLAMABAD (APP): With the unregulated sale of LPG and petrol spreading across Islamabad and Rawalpindi, residents of twin cities are urging authorities concerned to act, fearing that these illegal practices pose severe risks to public safety.

Residents of both cities are alarmed by the widespread, unauthorized sale of LPG and petrol, particularly in areas like Bari Imam, Golra, and Koral. They worry that the lack of safety standards in these transactions could lead to severe accidents, especially as vendors operate in densely populated areas without essential precautions.

Talking to APP, Naeem Ahmad, a resident, noted

that with the winter season approaching and a shortage of sui gas expected, people are forced to refill gas cylinders wherever they can, regardless of safety. He warned that this unregulated trade could trigger a serious incident if left unchecked.

Another resident, Amjad Abbas, shared his concerns, highlighting that many shops openly refill gas cylinders for mini-rickshaws and other vehicles without adhering to safety protocols. Despite these risks, residents claim that the district administration has yet to address the problem effectively.

In response, the district administration in a recent statement said that the

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Nillore Uzair Ali Khan led a raid on two illegal LPG filling centers, confiscating equipment and impounding vehicles. These items were transferred to the police for further investigation. Additionally, two unauthorized petrol agencies were shut down, with illegal dispensing machines seized.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon has instructed officials to keep up the pressure on illegal fuel vendors and identify those involved. The administration affirmed its commitment to enforcing fuel regulations and protecting public safety.



ISLAMABAD: An attractive view of sunset in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

Women MPs contributed legislation to safeguard political rights: Rehmani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Dr. Shahida Rehmani on Tuesday highlighted significant legislative strides made by women

Parliamentarians to safeguard the socio-economic and political rights of women and children in Pakistan.

During a meeting with Deputy Political Councillor Karen Bronson and Political Officer Nelson Raymond Dr. Rehmani informed the US Embassy representatives about ongoing efforts to enhance women's access to quality healthcare services, secure women's political representation in political parties, Provincial Assemblies, and the Parliament, and establish a nationwide census to effectively address the diverse needs of women and children. She highlighted key achievements of WPC.

She also said that the formation of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus in the National Assembly was a

significant step towards the betterment of children and women, and hence it has been deemed a role model and praised at regional and international levels. The meeting underscored the pivotal role of the WPC, a cross-party and non-partisan body of Women Parliamentarians, in advocating for the rights of women and children. The discussion also emphasized WPC's contributions to legislative processes aimed at ensuring the protection and empowerment of women and children in Pakistan.

The US Embassy delegation commended the monumental contributions of the WPC in ensuring the betterment of women's socio-economic and political standing. They lauded WPC's sustained efforts to improve access to essential services, including healthcare, education, and economic opportunities, for women and children.

The delegation also expressed keen interest in

collaborating with the WPC in the future to promote women's and children's rights both regionally and internationally.

Car snatcher killed in encounter

RAWALPINDI (APP): A car snatcher was killed in an exchange of fire with the Dhamial Police on Monday night while his accomplices escaped leaving behind the snatched vehicle. According to a police spokesman, the Dhamial Police received information that the accused were fleeing after snatching a Corolla car from a citizen at gunpoint in Ranyal area. When the police tried to stop the vehicle on Girja Road, the accused opened fire on the police party. In the retaliatory fire by the police, the accused Gulzar was killed. The police were conducting raids to arrest the fleeing car snatchers.

Railways refund Rs 380 mln to passengers on account of undue delay

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has refunded an amount of Rs 380 million to passengers during a period of three years due to late start of trains from the originating station. "Rs 33 million have been refunded in 2023, Rs 269 million in 2022 and 78 million in 2021 to facilitate the passengers following their complaints regarding undue delay in trains arrival/departure," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said Pakistan Railways is taking several steps to improve the service of the trains and facilitate the passengers and in case of late running of trains, passengers are informed in advance through SMS alerts.

The official said the passengers are granted a full refund if a train starts more than six hours late from the originating station. Besides the pas-

sengers are also provided with complimentary meals in the event of emergencies, he added.

He said in case of disruptions, passengers are transported either by alternative railway path or by road service arranged by the department.

To a question, the official said the transportation of goods through Railways is always economical for bulk cargo and long-distance hauls providing economy of scale, whereas for transportation of goods for a shorter distance and small cargo, the road has the advantage over Pakistan Railways due to its doorstep loading and delivery options.

He said the main advantages of rail transportation over road included manifold fuel efficiency and reduction in transportation cost besides ensuring up to 75 percent improvement in the

environment. The official said that rail freight pricing in Pakistan and globally differ significantly due to various factors, including infrastructure, government policies, operational efficiency, and market dynamics.

About some key points highlighting these differences including many countries of the world have separated and dedicated freight corridors, bulk haulage regulations, and large transport capacities, he added. He said the rail infrastructure in Pakistan is over-aged and needs matching financial support from the government to upgrade its infrastructure.

The countries with modernized rail systems, like the United States, China, and many European nations, benefit from higher efficiency, faster speeds, and better logistics, reducing the overall cost of operations.

Hafiz appointment confirmed

KABUL (BNA): A reliable source from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed to the Bakhtar News Agency that Hafiz Ikramuddin Kamil has been appointed as the Acting Consul of the Islamic Emirate in Mumbai, India. Kamil holds a PhD degree in international law and has previously served as the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of Security Cooperation and Border Affairs.

Cash aid delivered

PANJSHIR (BNA): A total of 131 families impacted by recent floods in Panjshir have received financial assistance as part of ongoing relief efforts. Mohibullah Jahid, Head of Panjshir's Natural Disaster Management Authority said that with financial support from the IOM, cash aid was distributed to flood-affected families in the province. He added that, each family received 22,200 Afghanis under this program, aimed at supporting those most affected by the recent flooding.

Special team formed to assess drought in Afghanistan: OCHA

KABUL (TOLONews): The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has announced the formation of a task force to assess drought conditions in Afghanistan.

During a meeting with the acting director of the National Disaster Management Authority, the UN delegation stated that if signs of drought are identified by this team, \$10 million will be allocated to manage the situation.

This task force includes the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, and the Red Cross Federation.

"OCHA has set up a team which, if it encounters or confirms signs of drought in Afghanistan, will spend \$10 million to provide improved seeds for farmers and livestock in

Afghanistan," said Janan Saig, spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Meanwhile, Save the Children has announced a shortfall of \$4.2 million to implement its winter assistance program in Afghanistan.

Under this program, health, education, and cash assistance for heating homes in winter will be provided to 18,000 families.

Sayed Farooq, a Kabul resident, said, "I earn 80 to 100 afghani a day. How can I live with eight family members? If I buy flour, I can't afford oil; if I buy oil, what about flour? Should I pay rent or buy food?"

"We earn 100 afghani a day. If we buy food, it's not enough, and if we spend on other needs, food runs short. We ask the government to support us," said Another Kabul resident,

Mohammad Agha.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Economy announced that the country has been affected by recent droughts and floods and needs global cooperation to address these issues.

"We seek cooperation in public welfare and infrastructure sectors as we need roads, bridges, and schools to be built, and we need to prevent the destruction of agricultural lands," said Abdul Rahman Habib, spokesperson for the Ministry of Economy.

Previously, the World Food Program and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reported an increase in food insecurity in 22 countries, including Afghanistan. According to the joint report, conflicts, climate crises, and economic pressures will put millions of people in critical conditions in the coming months.

Key issues discussed in Cabinet meeting

KABUL (BNA): The Cabinet meeting of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan convened under the leadership of Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, to discuss several key economic, social, and cultural issues.

According to a statement from the ARG, the meeting took place yesterday, chaired by Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, where various topics were deliberated and decisions were made.

The statement notes that critical decisions were reached on important economic, social, and cultural issues. Furthermore, the meeting assigned the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs specific responsibilities on a number of topics. It was also decided that some matters would be forwarded to the esteemed Supreme Leader of IEA for approval.

Afghanistan and Iran to host exhibition

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Information and Culture has announced that a joint art and cultural exhibition between Afghanistan and Iran will be held in Kabul.

The ministry released a statement noting that Qudratullah Jamal, the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Finance, and Administration of the Ministry of Information and Culture, met with Seyed Ruhollah Hosseini, the Cultural Attaché of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul.

According to the ministry, the two officials discussed topics related to tourism, culture, and the arts.

Previously, the Khorasan Foreign Trade Administration had announced the upcoming "Export Capabilities" trade exhibition showcasing Afghanistan-Iran trade relations.

According to the Iranian official, in the first half of this year, over \$360 million worth of goods were exported from the province to Afghanistan, marking a 32% increase compared to the same period last year.

Iran remains one of Afghanistan's key trade partners, with economic exchanges worth millions of dollars conducted annually between the two nations.

The upcoming joint art and cultural exhibition between Afghanistan and Iran in Kabul is set against a backdrop of escalating tensions concerning the treatment of Afghan refugees in Iran.

Reports indicate that Iranian authorities have intensified harassment, violated basic rights, and forcibly deported Afghan refugees, including those possessing valid documentation. Notably, over 260 Afghan refugees were reportedly killed by Iranian police in Balochistan.

Despite these serious allegations, the current Taliban regime has remained largely silent on the issue, raising concerns about the protection and advocacy for Afghan nationals abroad.

ANDMA and ActionAid sign agreement to support flood-affected families



KABUL (BNA): Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, the acting head of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), met with Simon Wankor, the head of programs and acting director of ActionAid organization, and his accompanying delegation at his office, where they signed a joint cooperation agreement.

The ANDMA announced today that, during this meeting, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi encouraged ActionAid organization to imple-

ment more relief and infrastructure projects. He also highlighted the urgent needs of flood-affected residents from Murghab District who have been displaced to the center of Ghor Province. He stressed that, with winter approaching, emergency assistance must be delivered to these communities.

"As we expedite the work of organizations, we expect them to also enhance their efficiency in operations," He added. Meanwhile, Mr. Simon

Wankor, the head of ActionAid, expressed appreciation for ANDMA's collaboration with humanitarian organizations.

He also mentioned ActionAid's plan to provide rental assistance for displaced flood-affected families currently residing in the center of Ghor Province.

Notably, ActionAid will construct permanent shelters for 100 families at a total value of \$550,588. This includes 29 shelters in Ferozkoh Center, 24 in

Shahrak District, 22 in Chahar Sada District, and 25 in Murghab District. Each family will receive a total of \$2,700 in three installments over three months to support home construction.

Additionally, as part of this project, ActionAid plans to construct four community buildings across these four districts, with a budget of \$80,000. The organization will also establish four fully equipped kitchens to provide meals for project staff.

Herat's silk weaving industry faces decline



HERAT (TOLONews): The silk weavers of Herat say that the uncontrolled import of silk fabrics from China and Pakistan has severely impacted the ancient silk weaving industry in this province.

According to them, many silk weavers have been forced to leave their work due to the decline in the industry.

Aminullah, who has been supporting his family with silk weaving for over 60 years, says that two decades ago, dozens of silk weaving workshops were active in Herat city. However, in recent years, nearly eighty percent of these workshops have

closed.

He told TOLONews, "This industry is disappearing; in the past, it was between 60 and 100 percent active, but now only 15 percent of it remains, and even that 15 percent is on the verge of extinction."

Mohammad Asif, another silk weaver from Herat who inherited this profession from his father, is unhappy with the state of the silk weaving market and says, "The turbans come from Pakistan, and scarves from China. If these imports aren't stopped, their tariffs must be raised so we can compete with them."

"Turbans come from Pakistan and scarves from China; the silk weavers here have either quit their jobs or started rickshaw driving or left for Iran to do other work," said Ali Reza, a silk fabric seller.

Local officials in Herat province of Afghanistan say they are working to revive the silk weaving industry in this province.

"We have supported this industry in areas of marketing and packaging. Global standards need to be established for them to stay competitive with products from other countries," said Bashir Mohammad Sairat, the head of industry and commerce in Herat.

Silk weaving is one of Herat's ancient industries with a very long history. In the past, dozens of silk weaving workshops, especially along the southern road of Herat's Great Mosque, were active.

However, according to silk weavers, the import of silk fabrics from neighboring countries has brought this historical industry to a serious standstill.

Organization warns of IED contamination

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Mine Clearance Organization recently announced that over 65 square kilometers of land in Afghanistan is contaminated with improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The organization has called on the global community to increase political and financial support for clearing these devices from Afghanistan's lands.

According to the Mine Clearance Organization, more than 65 square kilometers across 26 provinces in Afghanistan are currently affected by IEDs.

This announcement was made on Monday, November 11, through a report highlighting a 10%

decrease in the number of anti-personnel mines cleared in contaminated areas.

The report states, "Sixty countries and various regions worldwide are contaminated by mines. The HALO Trust operates in one-third of these countries, including four heavily contaminated ones: Afghanistan with 2,235 deminers, Cambodia with 1,191 staff, Iraq with 83 staff, and Ukraine with 1,376 staff."

Afghanistan is among the countries with the highest contamination levels from landmines and unexploded ordnance left over from past conflicts. These explosive remnants are the

second leading cause of civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

The urgency for mine clearance in Afghanistan cannot be overstated, given the severe impact on civilian safety and the hindrance to development in affected areas.

Increased international support is essential for accelerating demining efforts, saving lives, and fostering a safer environment for communities in Afghanistan.

Furthermore, addressing the mine contamination issue is critical not only for Afghanistan's security but also for the stability and rebuilding efforts in the broader region.

Afghan delegation attends COP 29 meeting in Baku

KABUL (TOLONews): The annual United Nations Conference on Climate Issues (COP 29) has begun in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

The Executive Director for Climate Change of the United Nations, Simon Emmanuel Kervin Stiell, said during the opening ceremony that if two-thirds of the world's countries fail to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, other countries will pay a severe price.

Stiell added that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the only platform for addressing the climate

crisis, and a new global financial target for climate action should be agreed upon at this conference.

Simon Stiell said: "This is why we are here in Baku. We must agree on a new global climate finance goal. If at least two-thirds of the world's nations cannot afford to cut emissions quickly, then every nation pays a brutal price. If nations cannot build resilience and secure supply chains, the entire global economy will be brought to its knees. No country is immune." A delegation from the interim government is also participating in the conference.

Meanwhile, officials working on combating climate change in the country and participating in COP 29 said that efforts are ongoing to attract support for combating climate change at this conference.

Abdulhadi Achakzai, a participant at COP 29, said: "We will meet and discuss with officials from other organizations to share Afghanistan's situation with them so that they consider financial and technical support for Afghanistan."

Another participant, Shoaib Sadat, said: "Our main goal at this conference is to

advocate for climate change issues in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is one of the countries that, despite its high vulnerability, has a minimal role in contributing to climate change."

The conference is expected to continue in Azerbaijan's capital until November 22, with representatives from 198 member countries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, along with heads of state from various countries, the private sector, bilateral and multilateral financial institutions, civil society, and the media.

Paktia public schools short of 1,100 teachers, says Farooqi

GARDEZ (Pajhwok): More than 330 public schools in southeastern Paktia province have been faced with a shortage of 1,100 teachers, an official said on Tuesday.

Education Director Mawlawi Abdul Qayoum told Pajhwok Afghan News the administrative structure of teachers and services for Paktia was provided 13 years ago and needed an update because with time the number of enrolled students increased.

Currently, he said, 335 schools in Gardez and districts were faced with a shortage of 1,100 teachers and 600 service personnel.

Some students also complained about the shortage of teachers.

Mohibullah, a student of the Noorashah Khan School in Gardez's Mehlan



area, said there was teacher and text book shortage in his school. He said: "In our schools there is a shortage of teachers, textbooks, we want government address these issues."

Akhtar Jan, a resident of Zadrar district, said there was shortage of teachers in the Central District High School and many other schools. He asked officials to appoint qualified teach-

ers to ensure quality education in schools.

According to the provincial education officials, teachers and books shortage issues would be addressed in the new education year.

Drought-hit Daikundi farmers turn to planting pistachio trees

NEILI (Pajhwok): Some farmers in central Daikundi province say pistachio tree planting has recently gained momentum in the province because its trees are well-suited to the climate of most districts.

Daikundi is one of the country's agricultural provinces and according to officials, about 90 percent of its population are associated with farming.

Farmers in Daikundi say droughts have severely impacted them, so they are now focusing on promoting pistachio trees, which are more resistant to water scarcity.

Bakhtiyar Haidari, a resident of Shahrastan district, who first brought pistachio seeds from Herat to the province and promoted their cultivation, says that pistachio trees are well-suited to the climate of most districts in Daikundi and can become an important source of income for farmers.

He added, "The reason I planted pistachios is that I researched whether it could grow here. From a technical and scientific perspective, I found it to be compatible with the climate of most areas of Daikundi, so I promoted it."

Haidari, who is now recognized as the founder of pistachio planting in Daikundi, says that he faced many difficulties in bringing pistachio seeds from Herat and transforming them into saplings in the province.

He further explained that pistachio trees required less water than almonds and had a longer lifespan.

He pointed out that pistachio prices were also high in the market and could be a significant source of income for farmers.

He added, "It is our mission to bring innovation to agriculture for our people. I

am the promoter of pistachio cultivation in Daikundi and have spent significant amounts of money. To encourage and promote pistachio farming, I distributed 6,000 saplings for free to the people."

This well-known Daikundi farmer, who has planted about 1,500 pistachio trees on his land, hopes to harvest the fruit next year.

According to officials, pistachio trees have been promoted in districts of Khedir, Shahrastan, and Pato, and farmers are working to expand the planting of these trees due to their

resistance to water scarcity. Abdul Rahim, another farmer from Daikundi, says he bought several pistachio trees this year and planted them on his land.

He added that in recent years, droughts caused a significant reduction in agricultural yields, including almonds, so he decided to grow pistachio trees because they resisted drought.

He said, "I haven't seen pistachio harvest yet, but we have heard a lot about it. Those who are knowledgeable say that if pistachios are cultivated well, the income will be higher than

that of almonds."

Abdul Rahim also said pistachios were highly resistant to climate change, but they still required care.

He emphasized that in addition to almond trees, farmers should also focus on promoting pistachio planting.

These farmers are calling on the government to support them in this regard. According to farmers in Daikundi, pistachio trees have been planted on their agricultural lands.

Meanwhile, officials in the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock of Daikundi

province say tree planting has been promoted in recent years.

Hashim Behzad, Promotion Director at the Daikundi Department of Agriculture, said that their department has been working to promote pistachio trees, which are well-suited to the province's climate.

He added that pistachio saplings have been distributed to farmers in the districts of Shahrastan, Khedir, and Pato by the Department of Agriculture.

He also mentioned that they are currently implementing a project in these

districts to support farmers.

Behzad noted that in recent years, droughts have caused significant damage to agricultural products, including trees, and promoting pistachio planting could help recover these losses.

He explained that pistachio trees could be grown either in mountains or irrigated conditions, and in Daikundi, they were being cultivated in irrigated conditions.

He emphasized that pistachio trees required little water and could play a key role in boosting the economy of local farmers.

HED KP, ZF join hands to promote sports, health activities

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Higher Education Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Zalmi Foundation (ZF) signed an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as part of strategy to promote sports and healthy activities in the province here on Tuesday.

This partnership will see the launch of a Women's Cricket Championship aimed at forming a provincial women's cricket team that will compete in national tournaments. The initiative aligns with the province's commitment to achieving relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). A ceremony to this end was held here at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar, with Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur as chief guest. Besides, cabinet members Mina Khan Afridi, Adnan Qadri, and Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, members of the national and provincial assemblies, government officials, and representatives from the Zalmi Foundation, including

notable former cricket players Mohammad Akram, Inzamam-ul-Haq, and Kamran Akmal attended the ceremony.

A Women's Cricket Championship is scheduled to be held from 26-30 November at the Hayatabad Sports Complex, featuring eight teams from the provincial capital and seven divisions. Each team will consist of students, with 50% representing colleges and 50% from universities. The MoU also encompasses the development of sports infrastructure, including the preparation of pitches and provision of facilities at various grounds.

Additionally, it also includes a digital skills program with vocational training workshops. The agreement outlines plan for a ski festival at Malam Jabba to promote adventure tourism and healthy activities. A winter festival at Chitral University is also planned to boost educational tourism and showcase local arts, culture, and traditions.

Speaking on this occasion, Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur highlight-

ed the importance of this partnership in fostering healthy activities and expressed appreciation for the Zalmi Foundation's cooperation. He affirmed the provincial government's commitment to supporting this initiative, saying, "Our girls are our asset, and whenever given a chance, they have made the nation proud." He said that the provincial government was trying its best to hold the next PSL cricket matches in Peshawar with the aim to pave the way for holding international cricket matches in the province. He emphasized the crucial role of national heroes in inspiring young athletes.

Gandapur urged the players to work hard to excel in their fields as there was no alternative to hard work to be successful in life. He maintained that the provincial government is committed to providing youth with the best possible facilities and environment; and expressed the hope that this partnership would yield significant results in promoting sports activities in the province.

Siraj demands restoration of students' unions

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The former chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, Siraj-ul-Haq, has said that 58 Muslim countries have kept silence like a graveyard on the situation in Gaza. He was addressing a students' convention arranged by the Islamic Jamiat Tulba (IJT) as chief guest at government degree college Gulabad in Adenzai here on Tuesday. Siraj said the Muslim rulers were playing the role of Mir Jaffar and Mir Sadiq. Talking about the political system in Pakistan, he said the general elections in the country were a futile exercise that resulted in no good for the people.

"The No Objection Certificate for the Prime Minister of Pakistan is given by the United States", he said, adding the choice of military and political leadership was not possible without the permission of the West. The IJ former chief said that both Imran Khan and Shabbaz Sharif were waiting for Donald Trump's telephonic call. He said that students' unions in educational institutions played the role of basic democracy in politics but it had been banned in the country. He said the federal and provincial governments had failed to address students' issues for years.

He said that 'Khatam e Nabawat' and Bangladesh Namanazoor movements were led by students in the past. He said the government should restore students' unions and hold its elections in educational institutions. Lauding the efforts of the IJT, he said that it was doing a great job by organizing creative activities to build the capacity of students.

Inspector Moroccan Air Force calls on Naval Chief

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Air Force, Major General Mohammed Gadhi, called on the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting; professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional maritime security, were discussed.

The Naval Chief expressed that Pakistan and Morocco enjoy cordial relations underpinned by mutual respect, growing economic ties, and cooperation at multilateral forums. Various avenues, including bilateral training and exchange of visits were also highlighted.

The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitment in support of collaborative maritime security. Both leaders agreed to further strengthen and diversify the scope of the existing bilateral defence relationship.

Pak opposes additional permanent seats in UNSC

NEW YORK: Pakistan has once again opposed any proposal for the creation of additional permanent seats in the UN Security Council. Delivering a statement in the UN General Assembly, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Munir Akram emphasized that addition of new permanent members will only deepen the paralysis within the Security Council.

Munir Akram said the ongoing genocidal war in Gaza has proven that the Security Council's frequent failures to effectively respond to threats to international peace and security are due to the inability of its permanent members to agree on a decisive action.

He said the proposal for addition of 11 to 12 non-permanent members would not only ensure greater representation of small and medium states but also serve to balance inordinate influence of the five permanent members besides ensuring accountability and promoting democratization within the Council. — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Force, Major General Mohammed Gadhi, called on Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at Naval Headquarters.

PHC adjourns hearing in Gandapur assets case till Dec 17

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshad Ali adjourned hearing till 17th December against Election Commission's notice issued to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur regarding assets, on Tuesday.

The court deferred the hearing till 17th December, allowing the petitioner's lawyer, Malik Akhtar Hussain, time to prepare the case. The Election Commission issued a notice to Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur regarding allegations of assets. In another case, the Peshawar High Court dismissed a petition filed by Maulana Naseem Hassan Shah, who won the NA-39 Benoit National Assembly seat.

The petitioner's lawyer argued that the petitioner opponents, Asghar Ali and Malik Ehsan, filed a complaint with the Election Commission alleging that Shah was a member of the Ideological Council and received benefits, violating Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution.

PHC reserved verdict on Gandapur plea: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Syed Arshad Ali reserved judgement regarding the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) notice to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, on Tuesday.

The counsel Alam Khan Adeenzai advocate argued that the ECP's notice was unjustified and beyond its authority since the election tribunal has already been established. The ECP's lawyer stated that similar complaints were received and after the tri-

bunal's formation, they were referred to the tribunal. However, the court had already issued a stay order on the matter. The ECP issued a notice to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur regarding allegations of rigging.

Court seeks government's response on PTM ban: A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah ordered federal and provincial governments to submit response to a petition challenging the ban on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), on Tuesday.

The petition filed by PTM chief Manzoor Ahmed Pashteen contends that the government's decision to proscribe the organization is unconstitutional, unlawful, and violates fundamental rights. The counsel Atta Ullah Kundi advocate argued that PTM formed in 2014, aims to protect Pakhtun rights, promote peace, rule of law and accountability in the region. Inspired by Abdul Ghaffar Khan alias Bacha Khan's non-violent movement. The federal government banned the PTM on 6th October citing alleged involvement in anti-state activities and threats to national security. The government also listed PTM leaders and workers under the First Schedule and Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, the lawyer added.

The petition argue that the ban is unjustified and violates Articles 16, 17, and 19 of the Constitution, guaranteeing freedom of assembly, association and speech. The government failed to provide evidence of PTM's involvement in anti-state activities. The listing of PTM leaders and work-

ers under anti-terrorism laws is arbitrary and unjustified. Meanwhile, Additional Attorney General Sana Ullah and Additional Advocate General Inam Yousafzai appeared on behalf federal and provincial governments respectively.

PHC seeks record of cases against PTI's leaders: PHC has directed the federal government to submit a response regarding the cases filed against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Irrigation Aqib Ullah and Tehsil Chairman of Swabi Atta Ullah within 15 days.

PHC's divisional bench comprising Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah heard the petition filed by Aqib Ullah and Atta Ullah. Their lawyer, Arshad Ahmed advocate requested the court to seek details of the cases filed against his clients in Islamabad and Attock. PHC ordered the federal government to provide details of the cases within 15 days. Additionally, the court directed the petitioners to file a separate application for protective bail in cases filed in Punjab.

PHC grants proactive bail to Mashwani; PHC's single bench of Justice SM Attique Shah has granted protective bail to Ifkhar Mashwani, a member of the Provincial Assembly, in cases filed against him in Islamabad and other cities. The court also directed the federal government to submit a report detailing the cases filed against Mashwani within 15 days. The counsel Ali Zaman advocate argued that the petitioner wanted to appear before the relevant courts but feared arrest before doing so. The court accepted the plea and granted Mashwani protective bail, ordering him to appear before the courts within 14 days.

Wave of Israeli strikes hit Beirut after evacuation warning

BEIRUT (AFP): Israel launched at least 10 air strikes on south Beirut Tuesday morning, Lebanese state media said, shortly after Israel's army urged residents of several neighborhoods to evacuate the Hezbollah bastion. "Israeli warplanes launched a very violent tenth strike on Beirut's southern suburbs," the official National News Agency reported.

AFPTV footage showed grey smoke covering the area, with big plumes rising after each strike. Earlier Tuesday, the Israeli army told residents of four south Beirut neighborhoods to leave immediately, warning it would strike Hezbollah targets there. "You are located near facilities and interests affiliated with Hezbollah, against which the Israel Defense Forces will act in the near future," military spokesman Avichay Adraee said in a post on X.

The post included a map showing the buildings it would target in the Lebanese capital's south. Witnesses told AFP they heard gunfire in the area ahead of the strikes — warning shots by residents for people to leave following the evacuation call. NNA also reported Israeli strikes across Lebanon's south that destroyed a building in the main southern city of Nabatiyeh and also targeted the eastern city of Hermel.

Last month, Israeli strikes razed Nabatiyeh's historic marketplace, with another wave of attacks also hitting its municipality building and killing several including the mayor.

Since September 23, Israel has intensified its air campaign, mainly targeting Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon's east and south and in southern Beirut. A week later, it sent in ground troops. It came after nearly a year of cross-border exchanges of fire, launched by Hezbollah in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas following their October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that triggered the Gaza war.

More than 3,240 people have been killed in Lebanon since the clashes began last year, according to the health ministry, the majority of them since late September. Meanwhile, Hezbollah said that the Israeli military has been incapable of occupying even a single village in Lebanon since launching cross-border ground operations six weeks ago.

Israeli troops on September 30 began what the military called "localized and targeted raids" against Hezbollah in Lebanon's southern border area, a week after escalating air strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon. "After 45 days of bloody fighting, the enemy is still unable to occupy a single Lebanese village," Hezbollah spokesman Mohammad Afif told a news conference in south Beirut, a stronghold of the movement and a repeated target of Israeli air raids.

Hezbollah, armed and financed by Iran, had on October 23 issued a similar statement that said Israel's army "has not been able to fully establish its control or completely occupy any village" in southern Lebanon. Israel

has said its aim is to make its northern border safe for the return of tens of thousands of Israelis displaced when Hezbollah began cross-border fire, which it described as support for Hamas Palestinian militants in Gaza, more than a year ago.

On November 3, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told troops at the Lebanon border that the operation aimed to push Hezbollah back over the Litani River. He said a second goal was to stop any attempt to rearm and the third was "to respond firmly to any action taken against us," according to his office. On Monday Hezbollah spokesman Afif said the group's fighters had repulsed Israeli troops in Kham, about six kilometers (four miles) from the border.

He added that the Israelis also failed in attempts "to penetrate on several fronts at Bint Jbeil," about 17 kilometers southwest of Kham. Footage verified by AFP last week showed massive detonations in the village of Mais Al-Jabal, between Bint Jbeil and Kham. Similar aerial scenes have been captured from several border villages since Israel sent in ground troops. Hezbollah accuses Israel of seeking to create a "no man's land" on the frontier. Afif denied that Israeli strikes on Lebanon had diminished the group's missile stock. He asked how that could be the case "when we targeted the suburbs of Tel Aviv several days ago" and employed for the first time Fateh missiles.

Trump set to name Marco Rubio secretary of state

WASHINGTON (AFP): President-elect Donald Trump is expected to name Florida Senator Marco Rubio as secretary of state. He quoted three people as saying that the decision is not final, but that Trump appears to have settled on Rubio, a loyalist whom Trump passed over as his vice presidential running mate.

Rubio has been consistently named over the last week as one of the frontrunners to head US diplomacy, along with the abrasive former ambassador to Germany, Ric Grenell. Asked if he was destined for a senior cabinet job, Rubio told CNN last week, "I always am interested in serving this country." The nomination of the hawkish congressman, who has Cuban heritage, would cap a remarkable turnaround in his relations with Trump.

In 2016, when they were competing for the Republican presidential nomination, Rubio called Trump a "con artist" and the "most vulgar person to ever aspire to the presidency." Born to Cuban immigrants in Miami, he graduated with a political science degree from the

University of Florida in 1993. He was elected to the US Senate in 2010 with his campaign buoyed by the Tea Party, a far-right contingent of Republicans that coalesced in the aftermath of Barack Obama's election as president. President-elect Donald Trump has picked Republican Representative Mike Waltz to be his national security adviser, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Monday, tapping a retired Army Green Beret who has been a leading critic of China.

Waltz, a Trump loyalist who also served in the National Guard as a colonel, has criticized Chinese activity in the Asia-Pacific and has voiced the need for the United States to be ready for a potential conflict in the region. The national security adviser is a powerful role, which does not require Senate confirmation. Waltz will be responsible for briefing Trump on key national security issues and coordinating with different agencies. While slamming the Biden administration for a disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, Waltz has publicly praised Trump's foreign

policy views. "Disruptors are often not nice ... frankly our national security establishment and certainly a lot of people that are dug into bad old habits in the Pentagon need that disruption," Waltz said during an event earlier this year. "Donald Trump is that disruptor," he said.

Waltz has a long history in Washington's political circles. He was a defense policy director for defense secretaries Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates and was elected to Congress in 2018. He is the chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee overseeing military logistics and also on the select committee on intelligence. Waltz is also on the Republican's China Task Force and has argued the US military is not as prepared as it needs to be if there is conflict in the Indo-Pacific region. In a book published earlier this year titled "Hard Truths: Think and Lead Like a Green Beret," Waltz laid out a five part strategy to preventing war with China, including arming Taiwan faster, reassuring allies in the Pacific, and modernizing planes and ships.

Lahore remains most polluted city of world

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Smog situation worsened in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as poisonous smoke made it difficult to breathe for people, especially in Lahore, which was the worst polluted city in the world on Tuesday.

Early morning, the Air Quality Index (AQI) of Lahore reached highly hazardous 968. However, the situation improved a bit around 10:30am as the Swiss IQAir measured the AQI of Lahore at 744. The AQI of DHA area of the provincial capital was recorded at 1,236, Johar Town 991, Syed Maratub Ali Road 1,256, and Ghazi Road interchange 904. The AQI of Multan reached 800 while Faisalabad's recorded at 252 and Islamabad's 253. The provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar, had the AQI of 258.

Meanwhile, satellite images released by the US space agency NASA showed dense smog enveloping Lahore and Multan at the weekend. No roads and buildings could be seen due to smog. The Meteorological

Department, in the meantime, forecast arrival of westerly winds in the country from Nov 14. In case of clouds, artificial rain could be possible, it added.

Meanwhile, the decision to close shops, shopping malls and markets in Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad and Gujranwala at 8pm could not be implemented fully despite sealing of shops by the district administrations. The government has also banned outdoor dining by restaurants, outdoor games, exhibitions and events from Nov 11 to 17.

In the latest development, the Punjab government has closed educational institutions in five more divisions. The smog and poisonous smoke have compounded health problems in Lahore and elsewhere. According to health department figures, more than 35,000 patients visited five major hospitals in Lahore with smog-related problems. The health officials reported that most of the children who visited hospitals complained of dry cough, difficulty in breathing, pneumonia and chest infection.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has also issued a report that more than 11 million children under the age of five are among the Punjab population at risk due to highly polluted air. Railway authorities stated that heavy smog in various cities caused disruptions in train schedules.

Meanwhile, passengers have reported that the Khyber Mail, which was supposed to reach Karachi Cantt Station at 10pm, arrived at 5am next morning. Passengers also complained that no one was available to provide updates on train timings. Passengers have expressed frustration as railways authorities were reportedly refusing to issue refunds for tickets, advising travellers to simply discard them. Motorways across Punjab remain inaccessible for most part of the day due to low visibility. On the streets of Pakistan's second biggest city, smog stings eyes and burns throats. Inside homes, few people can afford air purifiers to limit the damage of toxic particles that seep through doors and windows.

35 dead as a driver hits a crowd in China

BANGKOK (AP): A driver killed 35 people and severely injured another 43 when he deliberately rammed his car into people exercising at a sports center in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai, police said Tuesday.

Police had detained a 62-year-old man at the sports center in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai following the ramming late Monday, on the eve of the country's premier aviation exhibition by the People's Liberation Army that's hosted annually in the city. Police identified the man only by his family name of Fan, consistent with the practice by Chinese authorities.

Fan was discovered in the car with a knife, with wounds to his neck thought to be self-harm injuries, according to the statement. He is unconscious and receiving medical care. He was dissatisfied with the split of financial assets in his divorce, according to a preliminary investigation, police said.

For almost 24 hours after the crime took place, it was

unclear what the death or injury toll was. One of the four hospitals that took in people for treatment said it had more than 20 injured, state media reported Monday. AP reporters call to the hospitals in the city were unanswered, or directed towards other hospitals. On Tuesday morning, searches for the incident on Chinese social media were heavily censored on Chinese social media platforms. A search on Weibo for the sports center only turned up a few posts, with only a couple referring to the fact something had happened, without pictures or details. Articles by Chinese media about the incident from Monday night were taken down.

Outside of China's Great Firewall, on X, however, videos were able to circulate. They were shared by news blogger and dissident Li Ying, who is better known on X as Teacher Li. His account posts daily news based on user submissions. Dozens of people were lying prone on the running track in the sports center in the videos. In one,

a woman says "my foot is broken." That same video showed a firefighter performing CPR on a person, as people were told to leave the scene. Chinese internet censors take extra care to scrub social media ahead of and during major events, such as the meeting of the National People's Congress, where the government announces its major policy initiatives for the coming year.

The sports center for the city district of Xiangzhou regularly attracts hundreds of residents, where they can run on the track field, play soccer and social dance. Following the incident, the center announced it would be closed until further notice. China has seen a number of attacks in which suspects appear to target random people such as schoolchildren.

In October, a 50-year-old man was detained after he allegedly used a knife to attack children at a school in Beijing. Five people were injured. In September, three people were killed in a knife attack in a Shanghai supermarket.

triggered blasts. She said that reports about happening of these sorts of incidents have been received from the whole country.

JUI legislator said that a recent incident has been reported from D I Khan in which two women were burned to death. She said that matter should be discussed as some companies have used gas in air conditioners that was causing these mishaps.

Minister for Industries, Abdul Karim said that the blast was not occurred due to compressor or R 410 gas that was filled in compressors. He told that explosion was occurred due to gas connection or faulty cylinder. He demanded that adjournment motion should be withdrawn and said that written confirmation of Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman also suggests that explosion was not occurred due to compressor.