

Meeting postponed
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Apex Committee meeting on NAP against terrorism, chaired by Prime Minister, has been postponed. The meeting, originally scheduled for 2:30 on Monday was called off. A new date and time are yet to be announced. The meeting was to include the Army Chief, DG ISI, heads of other intelligence agencies, federal ministers, all four chief ministers, and chief secretaries.



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18 Palestinians killed in fresh Israeli strikes

CAIRO (Reuters): Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 18 Palestinians on Monday, including six people who were killed in attacks on tents housing displaced families, medics said. Four people, two of them children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a tent encampment in the coastal area of Al-Mawasi, designated as a humanitarian zone, while two were killed in temporary shelters in the southern city of Rafah and another in drone fire, health officials said.

In Beit Lahiya town in northern Gaza, medics said an Israeli missile struck a house, killing at least two people and wounding several others. On Sunday, medics and residents said dozens of people were killed or wounded in an Israeli airstrike on a multi-floor residential building in the town. The Israeli military, which has been fighting Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza since October 2023, said it conducted strikes on "terrorist targets," in Beit Lahiya.

An Israeli airstrike on a house in Gaza City killed five people and wounded 10 others, medics said. Later on Monday, an Israeli air strike killed four people in the Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip, they added. There has been no Israeli comment on Monday's incidents.

In Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, relatives of Palestinians killed in an Israeli airstrike on tents housing displaced families sat beside bodies wrapped in blankets and white shrouds to pay farewell before walking them to graves. "My brother wasn't the only one; many others have been martyred in this brutal way — children torn to pieces, civilians shredded. They weren't carrying weapons or even know 'the resistance', yet they were ripped apart into fragments," said Mohammed Aboul Hassan, who lost his brother in the attack.

"We remain steadfast, patient, and resilient, and by the will of God, we will never falter. We will stay steadfast and patient," he told Reuters.

The Israeli army sent tanks and soldiers into Beit Lahiya and the nearby towns of Beit Hanoun and Jabalia, the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, early last month in what it said was a campaign to fight Hamas militants waging attacks and prevent them from regrouping. Hussam Abu Safiya, the director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, said the hospital was under siege by Israeli forces and the World Health Organization had been unable to deliver supplies of food, medicine and surgical equipment. Cases of malnutrition among children were increasing, he said, and the hospital was operating at a minimal level.

"We receive daily distress calls, but we are unable to assist them due to the lack of ambulances, and the situation is catastrophic," he said. "Yesterday, I received a distress call from women and children trapped under the rubble, and due to my inability to help them, they are now among the martyrs (dead)." Israel said it had killed hundreds of militants in the three northern areas, which residents said was cut off from Gaza City, making it difficult and dangerous for them to flee. The armed wings of Hamas and militant group Islamic Jihad said they have killed many Israeli soldiers in anti-tank rocket and mortar fire attacks during the same period. The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry says more than 43,800 people have been confirmed killed since the war erupted on Oct. 7, 2023. Hamas militants killed around 1,200 people in attacks on communities in southern Israel that day, and hold dozens of some 250 hostages they took back to Gaza, according to Israeli tallies.

Obstacles in way of PTI's protest to be removed: Saif

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, has said that all obstacles in the way of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's protest on November 24, will be removed.

He stated that similar obstacles have been overcome in the past, and the people's momentum will once again reach Islamabad on November 24. Barrister Dr. Saif warned the fake form 47 government not to create obstacles, emphasizing that containers will be like sand walls in front of the people's passion and enthusiasm.

He further stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, a large caravan from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will reach Islamabad and will not return until their demands are met. Barrister Dr. Saif said that the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have made a firm decision to free Imran Khan and all political prisoners.

PTI prepares special container: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is intensifying preparations for a major protest on November 24, with reports indicating the creation of a specially equipped container for the event.

The container, reported-

Bushra warns of stern action

PESHAWAR (INP): Bushra Bibi, the wife of PTI founder Imran Khan, on Monday warned the party leaders of stern action for not following her directions regarding the Nov 24 protest call. It reported that former first-lady grilled the party's office-bearers and Members of Parliament (MPs) during a meeting held in Peshawar yesterday. "Most of the MPs and leaders didn't participate in the protests wholeheartedly in the past," said the former first-lady. I got a report that most of the leaders returned back from midway during last many protests, she added. Addressing the party, she said that such a lackluster attitude wouldn't be tolerated this time.

ly fitted with a sound system, conference room, washroom, and bedroom, will house key PTI leaders, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. Speeches and coordination for the protest will be conducted from within this mobile headquarters. The preparations follow an earlier announcement by Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, on November 13, claiming that Imran Khan had given the final call for the November 24 protest.

She stated that the protests would continue until their demands are met, leaving the nation to decide whether it wants to live in freedom or not. Chief Minister Mahmood Khan confirmed the preparations and the date, emphasizing that this protest is decisive and will not end until their demands are fulfilled. Earlier statements by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's

Information Advisor, Barrister Saif, described the protest as a final, decisive action that would have significant consequences for the current government.

He even suggested that the protest would be so impactful that it might cause prominent political figures to reconsider their positions. Statements made earlier by Gandapur at a rally in Swabi on November 9th echoed this sentiment, urging party members to prepare for a significant and determined protest.

Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, is also reportedly actively involved in the protest preparations, holding meetings in Peshawar to coordinate mobilization efforts. Sources suggest she has instructed provincial assembly members to mobilize 5,000 workers each, while national assembly members are tasked with mobilizing 10,000.

VPNs vital for IT industry: PTA chairman

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Chairman Major General (retd) Hafeezur Rehman underscored the critical role of virtual private networks (VPNs) in enabling industry operations, asserting that "the industry cannot function without it."

He made these remarks while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications. Earlier, the PTA extended the deadline for VPN registration to November 30, amid concerns over the misuse of unregistered VPNs to bypass internet restrictions and access prohibited content.

During the briefing, the PTA chairman urged IT professionals and businesses to ensure timely registration of their VPNs to avoid inconvenience. Highlighting the necessity of VPNs, he stated, "Freelancers and companies require VPNs," adding that even the "common man" relies on such services.

The chairman noted that the policy for VPN registration was first introduced in 2016, with a renewed awareness campaign launched recently to ensure compliance. He assured lawmakers that registered VPNs would not disrupt internet access. "Internet will never be shut down if VPN is registered," he remarked.

However, he cautioned that unregulated internet shutdowns adversely impact the industry, stating, "Whenever the internet has to be shut down, the industry suffers." Senator Afanullah on the occasion asked the authority to inform the house after consulting the Attorney General for Pakistan. He said that if the move affected freelancers it would be fatal for the IT sector.

Miscreants destroy school

F.P. Report

WANA: Unknown miscreants detonated explosives inside a high school in Azam Warsak area of South Waziristan during late night hours, police informed on Monday. Police said miscreants planted explosive material inside Government High School, Azam Warsak and escaped.

The explosive was later detonated with a remote-controlled device causing complete damage to the building. Police said the blast razed most of the building portion to the ground however, no loss to human life was reported.

Meanwhile, at least two people including a minor girl were critically injured when a blast occurred inside a house in South Waziristan on Monday. Police said the incident occurred in Laddha tehsil of South Waziristan where a minor girl and a man were critically injured in an explosion inside their house. The injured were rushed to the district headquarters hospital for treatment.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif receiving a briefing from the Ministry of Finance regarding country's economy and meeting with IMF delegation.

PM satisfies with economic stability

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that country's economy was on path to stability and due to steps taken in this regard, stock market was showing brisk business.

He said that foreign investment was a reflection of confidence in the government's policies. The prime minister received a briefing from the Ministry of Finance regarding the country's economy and the meeting with the IMF delegation, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister was briefed on the economic indicators and the current situation of inflation. The meeting was also briefed on the steps taken against tax evasion and those facilitating such theft.

The prime minister stressed that public relief should be accorded priority

on all other steps and they were taking all possible measures to fulfill public promises. He also expressed satisfaction over the sliding down of the inflation rate to 7 percent from 38 percent and said the interest rate was lowered from 22 percent to 15 percent which would spur business activities and create jobs opportunities in the country.

The meeting was attended by ministers including Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Dr Mussadik Malik, Ali Pervaiz Malik, PM's coordinator Rana Ahsan Afzal and relevant senior officials. Prime Minister Sharif further observed that due to surge in exports and record remittances, the country's foreign reserves had increased.

He also praised Punjab chief minister and the provincial government for

reforms in the agriculture sector. The prime minister directed for accelerating actions against tax defaulters, and reiterated to bring the tax evaders and their facilitators to book. "The country's economy can progress well when all the stakeholders meet their responsibilities. All sectors should pay taxes to play their role in the national progress," a press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed sorrow over the loss of lives due to dengue outbreak in Bangladesh. "Deeply saddened by the loss of precious lives due to the dengue outbreak in Bangladesh," the prime wrote on X. He said "Pakistan stands in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh at this difficult time and we stand ready to assist in whatever way we can".

G20 leaders gather to discuss wars, climate

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP): G20 leaders began arriving for a summit in Brazil on Monday to try reignite deadlocked climate talks and overcome their differences on the Middle East and Ukraine wars ahead of Donald Trump's return to the White House.

US President Joe Biden will attend his last summit of the world's leading economies, but as a lame duck leader eclipsed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, the most influential leader at this year's meeting. Brazil's left-wing President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is using his hosting duties to promote issues close to his heart, including fighting hunger and climate change and taxing the super-rich.

But the wars which have bitterly divided G20 members are also set to feature prominently in the discussions. A Brazilian foreign ministry source said Monday that some countries wanted to renegotiate a draft summit communique. "For Brazil and other countries the text is already finalised, but some countries want to open up some points on wars and climate," he told AFP.

Biden's decision Sunday to allow Ukraine to use long-range US missiles to strike targets inside Russia — a major policy shift — could prompt European allies to also review their stance. G20 leaders are also under pressure to try rescue UN climate talks in Azerbaijan, which have stalled on the issue of greater climate finance for developing countries. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for G20 members, who account for 80% of global emissions, to show "leadership" to facilitate a deal.

Security is tight for the gathering, which comes days after a failed bomb attack on Brazil's Supreme Court in Brasilia by a suspected far-right extremist, who killed himself in the process. The get-together will

cap a farewell diplomatic tour by Biden which took him to Lima for a meeting of Asia-Pacific trading partners, and then to the Amazon in the first such visit for a sitting US president.

Biden, who has looked to burnish his legacy as time runs down on his presidency, insisted in the Amazon that his climate record would survive another Trump mandate. All eyes at the stalled COP29 climate conference in Azerbaijan are on Rio to break an impasse over how to raise \$1 trillion a year for developing countries to cope with global warming. Rich countries want fast-developing economies like China and Gulf states to also put their hands in their pockets.

The meeting comes in a year marked by another grim litany of extreme weather events, including Brazil's worst wildfire season in over a decade, fuelled by a record drought blamed at least partly on climate change. At the last G20 in India, leaders called for a tripling of renewable energy sources by the end of the decade, but without explicitly calling for an end to the use of fossil fuels. Conspicuously absent from the summit is Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose arrest is sought by the International Criminal Court over the Ukraine war.

Lula, 79, told Brazil's GloboNews channel on Sunday that he did not want the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East to take the focus off global poverty. "Because if not, we will not discuss other things which are more important for people that are not at war, who are poor people and invisible to the world," he said. The summit opens on Monday with Lula, a former steelworker who grew up in poverty, launching a "Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty."

Section 144 imposed in Islamabad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad administration on Monday imposed Section 144 for two months ahead of the potential Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) protest in the capital.

According to a notification issued by Additional District Magistrate Usman Ashraf, the ban has been placed on all public gatherings of five or more people, processions, rallies and demonstrations. The authorities said the decision has been taken in view of law and order situation, citing concerns about potential unlawful assemblies, disruption of public order and the current security environment.

The order specifically mentions concerns about planned religious and other demonstrations in the federal capital, said the notification. The ban prohibits gatherings in all public places within Islamabad's revenue limits, encompassing the area defined as the Red Zone which includes key government buildings, diplomatic missions and other sensitive locations.

The order states that even after the two-month period expires, any ongoing investigations, legal proceedings or penalties related to violations of the ban will continue. The development comes in light of the Imran Khan-founded party's planned country-wide demonstration on November 24.

The former prime minister had called on his supporters to march to Islamabad, stressing that the party's entire leadership will be part of the protest. Khan's lawyer, Faisal Chaudhry, said that the protest would not only take place in Islamabad, but throughout Pakistan and across the world where Imran's supporters were present.

The party has made four demands — revoke the 26th Constitutional Amendment, "restore" democracy and Constitution, return the public's mandate, and release all "innocent political" prisoners. The lawyer said that the party founder had also formed a committee for the march and asked not to reveal the names of those who were part of it as Imran feared they would be arrested. Khan has been behind bars since August 2023 after he was booked in several cases ranging from corruption to terrorism.

Gandapur reviews progress on redressal of public complaints

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: An important meeting was held here on Monday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair to review progress on the redressal of public complaints received through CM Complaints Portal (Ikhtiyar Awam Ka).

The Chief Minister was given detailed briefing on the latest updates of public complaints redressal, and it was told that a total of 6,242 complaints had been registered on the complaints portal, out of which, 2,559 complaints have been resolved, while work is in progress on the remaining 3,683. It was further informed that so far 1,200 complainants have been provided full relief and 757 complainants have been provided partial relief through the portal.

The chair was apprised that 13,679 citizens registered on the portal including 300 women who are regularly using the portal for complaints redressal. It was noted that Peshawar district accounted for the highest



number of complaints with 1,458 complaints followed by Mardan with 405, Bannu with 363, Dera Ismail Khan with 355, and Abbottabad with 344, Mansehra with 277 complaints, Charsadda 237, Haripur with 235, Swabi with 223, and Lower Dir with 195.

The portal had received 1,966 complaints related to municipal services, 1,040 related to education sector, 876 regarding the implementation of the Chief Minister's 99-point awami agenda, and 539 related to law and order, and added that a timeframe of three to seven days was fixed for resolving public grievances through

the portal. The Chief Minister was also briefed on the manual public complaints redressal system "Khalp Wazir-e- Ala Complaint Cell," launched during the previous provincial government which had received 1,165 complaints this year out of which, 1,047 have been resolved, while work on remaining 118 is in progress.

The Chief Minister directed the quarters concerned to integrate the Khalp Wazir-e- Ala Complaint Cell with the "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal to ensure a unified platform for addressing public grievances. He stressed that all complaints, regard-

less of when they were filed, must be addressed. Emphasizing the government's responsibility in this regard, he stated that there should be no discrimination in the resolution process.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the handling of some of the complaints, the Chief Minister reprimanded the relevant officials for delays and inefficiencies in redressing the public complaints, he decided to reopen some complaints with unsatisfactory redressal at the Chief Minister's Secretariat level and underscored the importance of satisfactory outcomes for complainants. He issued warning that any attempts to close public

KP CM writes letter to PM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif should summon an immediate session of the Council of Common Interest (CCI), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has demanded in a letter. "Provinces currently grappling with scores of economic and other internal problems, which required convening a meeting of the CCI," KP chief minister wrote in a letter addressed to the prime minister. He said the CCI session will help to settle scores of mutual issues among the federal government and provinces. "Convening a session of the CCI within 90 days period, has been mandatory under Article 154," the letter read. "Previous session of the Council of Common Interest was held in January this year," KP chief minister pointed out in his letter.

grievances without the satisfaction of the complainant would result in severe disciplinary action.

"Timely and satisfactory resolution of public complaints is the duty of all concerned officials, and any negligence in this matter will not be tolerated," he said, and warned that officials failing to meet their responsibilities should prepare for punitive measures. Chief Minister Gandapur pledged to make the portal more effective and active, urging citizens to

utilize it to the fullest.

He assured that he would personally oversee the resolution process and that legitimate complaints of citizens would be addressed well in time. He also instructed the relevant authorities to ensure that complaints from overseas Pakistanis be handled with special attention and directed the Information Department to launch an awareness campaign to inform the public about the "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal.



LAHORE: Mr. Vicente Azpitarte Perez, the head of the parliamentary delegation of Spain meeting with Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmed Khan. —APP Photo

Over 1,390 heavy vehicles fined in anti-illegal entry operation

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Following the directives of Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, a crack down against the illegal entry of heavy vehicles into Karachi city is in full swing.

During the operation that started since August 2024, the Department of Transport and Mass Transit has fined 1,392 vehicles, amounting to fines of 4,428 million rupees, against the violation of rules.

Moreover, the transport depart-

ment has impounded 80 vehicles and suspended route permits of 58. As many as 18 transporters have been warned for not adhering to the rules.

Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that Government initiatives aim to bring all transport activities in line with legal standards. The operation against illegal bus stands has significantly reduced traffic congestion on Karachi's roads.

In a statement, Sindh Senior

Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that The Sindh government is determined to implement the law without discrimination. Violators will face strict legal action. Our top priority is to remove illegal and unsafe vehicles from the roads and eliminate any inconvenience to citizens.

He appealed to the people that the public should cooperate with the authorities, and transporters must strictly follow the rules. The campaign will continue until full compliance is achieved.

Sindh CM calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Monday.

They discussed the ongoing development projects funded by the federal government in the province. The Governor Kamran Khan Tessori said that the federal government would continue supporting the provincial development. He said that the people would benefit from the projects funded by the federal government.

The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the role of the federal government was commendable in the development of the province, said a Governor house communique.

LDA seals 200 properties

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Monday sealed 200 properties during its on-going crackdown against illegal commercial properties and commercial fee defaulters.

Under the directives of LDA Director General Tahir Farooq, the teams sealed 200 properties in various areas of the city. The operations were carried out in Gulberg, Faisal Town, New Muslim

Town, WAPDA Town, China Scheme Gujjarpura, Sabzazar, College Road and Township. As many as 36 properties were sealed in Gulberg and Faisal

Town, 17 in New Muslim Town, 27 in WAPDA Town, 25 in Sabzazar, 80 in College Road Township while in China Scheme Gujjarpura, 13 wedding halls and marquees were sealed due to non-payment of commercial fees.

Notices had been issued multiple times before the operation. The operation was supervised by Chief Town Planner I Asad Uz Zaman and Chief Town Planner II Azhar Ali.

PJA conducts training program

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Judicial Academy (PJA) on Monday launched a six-day training program on forensic science, medico-legal procedures, post-mortem examination, and arms and ammunition analysis for judicial officers.

PJA Director-General Justice (Retd) Sardar Ahmad Naeem addressed the inaugural session, emphasizing that dispensing justice was not merely a job but a sacred trust bestowed by Almighty Allah. He stated that judges who fear Allah Almighty have no fear of any worldly power and can deliver justice without any external pressure. DG Sardar Ahmad Naeem highlighted the importance of post-mortem reports in criminal cases, noting that they are crucial in determining the fate of individuals. He emphasized that judicial officers must thoroughly understand post-mortem reports and other aspects of criminal cases to ensure justice is served. The training program will continue for six days, with 30 participants, including additional district and sessions judges, senior civil judges, and civil judges.

Spanish delegation meets Punjab CM

LAHORE (APP): A Senate delegation from Spain called on Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz at the Chief Minister's Office here on Monday.

During the meeting, the CM discuss the promotion of bilateral relations, trade and tourism between Spain and Punjab. The chief minister said, "Spain is Pakistan's second largest export partner in the European Union, there are numerous opportunities to increase bilateral trade volume." An agreement to increase cooperation in the fields like economy, climate change, disaster risk management and environmental pollution was also discussed in the meeting.

Maryam said, "We heartily appreciate Spain's support for achieving GSP Plus status. Friendly ties with Spain are highly valued and we want to work together with Spain on early warning system, and rescue services to prevent flood damage. We intend to further promote parliamentary diplomacy. We are making Punjab a tourist hub, will welcome Spanish investment in the sector. Aspecial package is being prepared to facilitate foreign investors."

She said, "We are especially focused on women empowerment. The number of female parliamentarians has increased significantly." Chief Minister Maryam

Nawaz Sharif expressed a deep sense of grief over the loss of life and property due to recent floods in Valencia, Spain, and offered her cooperation for the relief, recovery and rehabilitation of victims. She also appreciated the relief package provided by Spain under the flood response plan in Pakistan.

The Spanish parliamentary delegation said, "It is very welcome to have a woman in the post of chief minister." They added, "Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has been running affairs of the province quite smoothly." They also mentioned in the meeting a street attributed to Allama Iqbal in Cordoba, Spain.

Schools to reopen across Punjab except Lahore, Multan

LAHORE (APP): Due to changes in the direction and intensity of easterly winds, Punjab has witnessed an improvement in the smog situation that is why schools are being reopened in various areas.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb announced that, following the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, educational institutions in districts outside Lahore and Multan divisions will reopen from Tuesday.

According to a notification issued by the Punjab government, schools will

not open before 8:45am. Wearing masks has been made mandatory for all students, teachers, and staff. Outdoor sports and extracurricular activities are not allowed until further notice. Different closing times have been set for various classes to ensure smooth traffic flow.

The notification, signed by Director General Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh, instructs school administrations to strictly enforce precautionary measures.

Environmental experts

attribute the improvement in air quality due to recent rainfall in the Northern Areas, which has positively impacted most districts in Punjab.

Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb emphasized that stringent measures were necessary to safeguard public health. She stated, "Children's education is vital, but health cannot be compromised." She also expressed gratitude to the public, EPA, police, district administration, and other relevant departments for their cooperation and commended all stakeholders' dedicated efforts in this regard.

Governor administers oath to Chawla as minister

KARACHI (PPI): A simple and dignified oath-taking ceremony was held at the Governor House, where Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori administered the oath of office to Sindh Assembly member Mukesh Chawla as a provincial minister.

According to the Governor House information today, the governor congratulated Mr Chawla and extended his best wishes for his future endeavors.

The ceremony was moderated by Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Haider Shah. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, provincial ministers, secretaries of various departments, and others were also present at the event.

Meanwhile, Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at the Governor

House. During the meeting, they discussed ongoing development projects in the province, federal cooperation, and other matters of mutual interest.

The governor stated that federal cooperation for the province's development would continue. He further added that the development projects funded by the federal government would provide significant benefits to the public.

Mayor inspects Karachi Institute of Heart Diseases

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday said that the Karachi Institute of Heart Diseases (KIHD) is being modernized to provide priority healthcare facilities to citizens for the treatment of heart diseases. He expressed these views while visiting the KIHD and the Institute of Health Sciences (Nursing). During the visit, administrative officials, doctors, and other individuals from KIHD were also present.

He said that efforts will be made to address the shortage of doctors and paramedical staff at the hospital, ensuring timely and better medical care for patients. He added that 100 percent scholarships are being provided to young individuals for standard and advanced nursing training at the Institute of Health Sciences established within

the KIHD. Efforts will also be made to establish similar nursing institutes at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and Orangi Town, he added.

He said that these initiatives will not only improve health care services for citizens but will also enhance the performance of doctors and other staff in hospitals, ultimately restoring public trust in these institutions.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab inspected various departments of the KIHD, including the emergency ward, and instructed that the best possible facilities be provided for heart patients. He also interacted with patients and inquired about the services they were receiving.

On this occasion, the Executive Director of KIHD, Professor Dr.Rifaat, briefed the Mayor, explaining that due to the modern facilities, nearly all cardiac

procedures are now being carried out at the hospital with exceptional support.

The hospital has also started implanting permanent pacemakers after a 12-year gap, and currently, all cardiac procedures at KIHD, including elective PCI, primary PCI, angiography, and non-invasive departments, are fully operational, he added.

The Mayor Karachi said that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) is doing its best to provide better medical services to citizens within its available resources. The KIHD has been connected to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) via satellite, and further steps will be taken in the future to ensure that heart patients receive prompt and top-quality medical care.

CAS Serena Hotels Int'l Squash C'ship kick off today

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: CAS Serena Hotels International Squash Championship-2024 which is being organized by Pakistan Air Force in collaboration with Pakistan Squash Federation and Serena Hotels, has kicked off today at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad.

The prestigious tournament features 24 players from 8 countries including Egypt, England, Hong Kong, Ireland, Kuwait, Malaysia, Netherland and Pakistan, who will compete for the coveted title from 18-22 November, 2024.

As the patron of sports in the country, Pakistan Air Force has consistently promoted sporting activities at both national and international levels. Under the patronage and special guidance of Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, the sport of squash has witnessed remarkable progress providing a platform for young talent to shine globally.

The Air Chief's unwavering commitment to reviving Pakistan's legacy in squash continues to inspire the youth.

Chief of the Air Staff, Serena Hotels International Squash Championship 2024 is poised to be an exhilarating contest, uniting players and fans in their passion for squash. PAF's patronage of squash is aimed at reclaiming Pakistan's past glory in the sport and at encouraging the youth to pursue excellence.

Schools closed for four days amid IDEAS 2024

KARACHI, Nov 18 (INP): Sindh government has announced the closure of schools in Karachi due to the upcoming 12th edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminars (IDEAS) 2024.

The decision has been taken by the Private Schools Directorate in the light of the recommendation of the DIG Traffic ahead of the IDEAS 2024.

Foolproof security arrangements have been taken by the Sindh government to ensure smooth conduct of the international event in the port city.

According to the notification issued by the Sindh

Education Department, schools located near Karachi's Karsaz and Sharah-e-Faisal will remain closed for four days from November 19 to 22, 2024.

The most awaited exhibitions and seminars show will kick off tomorrow, and several international defense leaders and foreign delegations will attend the event.

The Karachi police have also revealed a traffic plan for the people of Karachi ahead of IDEAS 2024.

The International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2024

will kick off from November 19 to 22 at Karachi Expo Centre.

The Pakistan government attaches a high level of importance to IDEAS. The exhibition attracts a large number of delegates and it is seen as a vehicle for facilitating their own indigenous arms trade.

The inaugural launch of IDEAS occurred in 2000 and was a vehicle to promote Pakistan's domestic arms manufacturing businesses whilst providing a stage for international vendors to offer solutions to the requirements of the tri-services of Pakistan.

Commissioner reviews steps to check illegal profiteering

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi on Monday reviewed the steps to check illegal profiteering and ensure availability of essential commodities at officially notified prices, in a meeting held at his office.

It was decided that the auction system will be made transparent to control the prices of vegetables and fruits. It was also decided that coordinated efforts will be made with the help of Bureau of Supply and Market Committee.

It will be ensured that there was transparency in the auction so that realistic prices were fixed and efforts were being made to

ensure availability of commodities at reasonable prices in the city. Additional Commissioner-I Ghulam Mehdi Shah, all Deputy Commissioners and the officials of Bureau of Supply attended the meeting.

Important decisions were taken to make the auction transparent and it was decided that Bureau of Supply inspectors and Market Committee representatives will monitor the auction and will work under the Assistant Commissioner. The required number of inspectors will be appointed so that the auction can be fully monitored and the ambiguity in it can be

removed.

The meeting decided to continue the campaign against wholesalers to strictly enforce officially notified prices of essential commodities.

The meeting was informed that action was taken against 1239 wholesalers during the last one week. More than Rs 2.3 million fines were collected in the action against wholesalers from November 11 to 17.

Commissioner Karachi Syed Hasan Naqvi aid that coordinated efforts will be made with the support of Bureau of Supply and Market Committee to improve the auction system in the vegetable market.

unnamed sources, leaving one astonished."

Azma Bokhari has said that PTI leaders should come out to protest with their families instead of using other people's children. At a press conference at DGPR, she said, "Those chanting 'Al-Jihad, Al-Jihad' should first lead the so-called jihad with Qasim, Suleman, and Tyrian" and added that those who consider standing against the state as jihad would be treated like "Khawarij".

"The PTI is more dangerous than smog. While smog harms health, the PTI is deadly for Pakistan's economy," she said. Highlighting the state of journalism, she commented, "In our country, creating sensational news is considered acceptable at any cost. Things that aren't even mentioned in a story are turn into headlines. News stories are fabricated using

"Politicking economic news is unfortunate. Positive things regarding the economy have started to emerge.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani player Muhammad Abdul Qar and Kuwait player Amramar Al Tamimi in action International Squash Championship-2024 held at Pakistan Sports Complex.



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NOTICE FOR SHIFTING OF HAYATABAD BRANCH, PESHAWAR & ISLAMIC BANKING WINDOW (IBW)

This is to inform our valued customers that our Hayatabad Branch, Peshawar - IBW will be shifted to a new location Shop# Sector B-3, Block-A, Commercial Complex (office Enclave), Phase-V, Hayatabad, Peshawar from Monday, 23rd December 2024.

All Accounts/Lockers being maintained at Hayatabad Branch, Peshawar - IBW will automatically be transferred along with services from the appended location. All valued customers shall continue to enjoy our best services as usual.

The name and address of the branch are given below:

Hayatabad Branch, Peshawar & Islamic Banking Window
Shop# Sector B-3, Block-A, Commercial Complex (office Enclave), Phase-V, Hayatabad, Peshawar

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PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Technical Education and Vocational Training Tufail Anjum inspecting the practical work by students during his visit to Vocational Training Institute Gulbahar.

KMU holds antimicrobial resistance awareness week



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar, has launched the World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week 2024, which will run from November 18 to 22. This year's theme, "Educate, Advocate, and Act Now!" aims to address the critical global health issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), often referred to as a "silent pandemic."

The event is being held under the auspices of the World Health Organization (WHO), which promotes this awareness campaign annually to combat the rising threat of AMR worldwide. Organized by KMU's Institute of Pathology & Diagnostic Medicine (IPDM), Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC), Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (IPS), Institute of Public Health (IPH), and the Public Health Reference Laboratory (PHRL), the week-long initiative includes a series of educational and interactive activities.

In his inaugural address,

KMU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq emphasized the urgency of taking coordinated and immediate action to counter AMR, a growing threat to global health. He called for serious attention to this issue, noting that behind the excessive use of antibiotics lies a billion-dollar industry. Prof. Dr. Zia also highlighted the challenges faced in regions like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where traditional practices and low levels of awareness further complicate efforts to control antibiotic misuse.

He asserted that raising a voice against the overuse of antibiotics is nothing less than a jihad, and the media can play a pivotal role in spreading awareness in this regard. Dr. Zia underlined that unchecked antibiotic consumption is leading to numerous health complications, including premature aging and debilitating diseases among middle-aged populations. He expressed hope that such awareness campaigns would lead to informed public practices and help curb the unnecessary use of antibiotics.

Prof. Dr. Yasar Mehmood

Yousafzai, Director IPDM, congratulated all the organizing departments and outlined the week's planned activities. These include an inaugural ceremony and AMR Awareness Walk on November 18, followed by an AMR Quiz Competition on November 19. Poster competitions and hands-on workshops will be held on November 20, with guest speaker sessions, panel discussions, and "Meet the Expert" sessions scheduled for November 21. The week will conclude on November 22 with an innovative Agar Art Competition.

These events aim to engage a wide range of participants, including healthcare professionals, microbiologists, laboratory personnel, public health students and officials, researchers, academics, biotechnologists, veterinarians, and pharmaceutical scientists. KMU's initiative highlights its commitment to raise awareness about AMR and fostering collaborative efforts to combat this global threat, contributing to the creation of a healthier and more sustainable future.

ANP leader Haji Adeel remembered

PESHAWAR (APP): The 8th death anniversary of the renowned nationalist, ANP stalwart and advocate of the provincial rights Haji Mohammad Adeel was observed here on Monday by his family, political workers and his well-wishers.

Born on August 10, 1941, Haji Mohammad Adeel died of renal failure in Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Peshawar on November 18, 2016 at the age of 75 years.

He was a Hindko speaker and son of Hakeem Abdul Jalil who had actively participated in the non-violent movement, 'Khudai Khidmatgar' against the British empire in the subcontinent.

Late Haji Adeel won four consecutive elections to the provincial assembly and served as finance minister and deputy speaker of the provincial government of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

As a member of the upper house of the parliament, he represented KP in the National Finance Commission. Due to his active role and efforts in the commission the Federal government paid a huge amount of Rs 585 billion to the province.

Haji Adeel was also the member of different standing committees of the senate and parliamentary leader in senate.

Adeel also supported various initiatives for sustainable development in Pakistan.

Peshawar police arrest three criminals to uncover a notorious gang

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: In a significant breakthrough, Peshawar's Pushtakhra Circle Police have dismantled a dangerous gang that posed as government officials to commit armed robberies. The gang, involved in snatching cash and vehicles from a property dealer, was apprehended in a meticulously planned operation led by SP Cantt Division, Aitezaz Arif, under the directives of CCPO Peshawar Qasim Ali Khan.

The special team, comprising Acting DSP Pushtakhra Circle Umar Afridi, SHO Sarband Police Station Roman Ali, and other investigators, conducted the operation using modern scientific and technical methods. They successfully arrested three suspects, identified as Kamran, son of Haji Khan from Shah Kas, Ismail, son of Khan Dost from Pushtakhra Bala, and Najeeb, son of Jaleel Khan from Sheikh Muhammadi.

The gang had orchestrated an elaborate robbery last month on the Mal Mandi Road in Sarband. Disguised as government officials in a Vigo vehicle, they intercepted Mujahid, a property dealer from Bara, Khyber District, and looted cash amounting to PKR 11.4 million along with his motorcar.

During the investigation, the suspects confessed to the crime and led the police to recover PKR 8.755 million in stolen cash, the victim's motorcar, the Vigo vehicle used in the



crime, a motorcycle, and firearms. They also revealed the identities of other gang members, prompting the formation of a special team to apprehend the remaining culprits.

The operation followed a complaint lodged by Mujahid on October 7, 2024, at Sarband Police Station, reporting the robbery of his motorcar and cash. Taking notice of the case, CCPO Qasim Ali Khan tasked SP Cantt Division Aitezaz Arif to

lead the investigation and bring the culprits to justice. The investigative team interrogated multiple suspects and collected evidence that ultimately led to the gang's capture. Efforts are underway to arrest the remaining members of the group as the police continue their investigation.

This operation underscores Peshawar Police's commitment to combating organized crime and ensuring public safety.

Mehfil-e-Mushaira under Dosti Peshawar women literature festival held

PESHAWAR (APP): As part of the inaugural events of the Dosti Peshawar women literature festival, a Mehfil-e-Mushaira held here at Peshawar Barrack on Monday wherein renowned poets attracted literary enthusiasts by presenting their poetic contributions in Urdu and Pashto languages.

The event was presided over by renowned Khyber Pakhtunkhwa poet Professor Dr. Nazir Tabassum. Moderated by Dr. Sadaf Ambreen, the event commenced with a captivating poetry by emerging poetess Sakina Rawish, whose heartfelt poetry set the tone for the evening.

The session continued with a melodious Pashto ghazal by Shaheen, followed by soulful Urdu ghazal by Dr. Zaigham Hussan, which resonated deeply with the audience.

Dr. Shahida Sardar mesmerized the participants



with her Pashto and Urdu ghazals, earning widespread appreciation.

Samina Qadir's charming Pashto ghazal added a delicate touch to the evening, while Bekhzada Danish's impactful poetry left the audience spellbound. Jahanzeb Shaoor followed with a series of Urdu ghazals, captivating listeners with his expressive delivery.

Later, the famous poet of Peshawar, Professor Dr. Ishaq Wardak, delighted

the audience with his graceful presentation, paving the way for Bushra Farrukh's delightful poetry, which were received with great admiration. Khalid Rauf Qureshi's heartfelt Urdu ghazal drew applause from the crowd.

The stirring performance by special guest Nasir Ali Syed energized the gathering. The Mushaira was concluded with an address by the event's president,

Professor Dr. Nazir Tabassum, who shared his thoughts and also presented poetry, leaving the audience in awe.

The event was organized by Dr. Hamida while assisted by Dr. Fareeha, Saniyah Siraj, Tashfeen Zia, Dr. Anital Zia, and Dr. Zarmina Baloch.

The poetry session highlighted the vibrant literary culture of the region and the significant contributions of women to the literary arts.

KP Inter Regional Schools Cricket from Thursday

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Under the auspices of Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, another mega sports event has been scheduled to be held in the ongoing month of November this year.

In the said event of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inter Regional Schools Cricket Tournament which will be started from 21 November to 23 November, winner teams, qualified at regional level games of inter districts tournament will be participated while the same event opening had been initiated at intra district contests of schools cricket competitions earlier.

Similarly the winner and runner up teams in these competitions will be qualified for contesting in national level school games under Pakistan Cricket Board.

While commenting on the same event, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for sports and Youth Affairs

Syed Fakhar Jihan, said that the same event will be shaped as a talent hunt for the grass root natural talented cricket players in the province.

He said that the government's first priority is to bring on the surface the talented players on merit and transparent manner and also to encourage them.

He further added that we are promoting cultural, indigenous and international sports so that to create a healthy society here.

Dy Speaker takes strict notice of delays in Boni-Bozand Road construction

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Deputy Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Suraya Bibi, has taken strict notice of negligence and delays in the ongoing construction work on the Boni-Bozand Road in Upper Chitral district. She summoned the concerned officials to her chamber and expressed strong displeasure over the slow progress of the project.

The meeting was attended



by MNA Abdul Latif, PTI District President Shehzada Sikandar-ul-Mulk, Chief Engineer of C&W Department Jalal Mehsud, XEN C&W Upper Chitral Zia-ur-Rehman, SDO C&W Upper Chitral, ADC Upper Chitral, AC Upper Chitral,

and the contractor responsible for the project. During the meeting, Deputy Speaker Suraya Bibi instructed officials that negligence, delays, or any hurdles in the construction process would not be tolerated. She emphasized prompt

departmental action against those found guilty of negligence based on public complaints from the Torikho and Teriq areas. She urged the district administration to address public grievances promptly to prevent protests and ensure a smooth resolution of issues.

The Deputy Speaker directed the provision of seven dumpers and an excavator to expedite progress and ensure the project is completed as

soon as possible. She also instructed the officials and contractors to submit daily work progress reports, maintain high standards of construction quality, and avoid any form of compromise.

Additionally, she directed the district administration to inspect the site two to three times a week to monitor progress and address delays, ensuring relief for the affected public due to the project's slow pace.

Traditional drumsbeats resonate in digital age as dhol beaters' business thrives in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The centuries-old drumsbeating culture has kept alive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which are making weddings, birthday parties and other festivals more enchanting and colourful despite mushroom growth of social media in Pakistan.

Despite the mushroom growth of social media and information technology, the dhol players have started roaring business after start of seasons of marriages besides birthday parties and other celebrated occasions in Peshawar after dropping of temperature in KP.

Cleaning his dhol with a long white handkerchief, drumbeater Zulfiqar alias Bhutto (48) often come to Peshawar cantonment where he sit in Fakhar e Alam Road's square before his services were hired for marriages, birthday and other festivals especially

on the weekend.

"I entered into dhol beating profession after death of my father 21 years ago and come to Fakhar Alam Road's green shadi hall square from Gulbahar with a hope to earn maximum business on Saturday and Sunday," Zulfiqar Khan, who cleaned his dhol with handkerchief told APP.

"The drumbeaters pinned high hopes from winter season due to an increase of marriages, engagements and festivals, hoping the winter would bring happiness to their community," he said, adding the cost of dhols were also increased due to price hike and inflation.

"Two years ago, the price of a dhol was Rs20,000 along with beating plates that now jumped to Rs32,000," he said, adding poor drummers economically suffers in case damage to their

dhols," he said.

"Mostly during monsoon season, the dhol with a beating plate of skin gets dampened and also affected in hot weather conditions, incurring substantial financial losses to them," he said, adding plastic beating plates were mostly imported from abroad works for longer period of time.

Shareef Gul, another dhol player, who belonged to Lahore said that he was proud of his profession that helped his children attained upto university level education.

He said that drumbeaters were being preferred over DJs because it was cost efficient and required no electricity or expensive arrangements.

Known as Ustad, Shareef said, "I had sent two dhols for repair and the third one inherited from my elder brother was being used in marriages,

birthday parties, mehndi, political gatherings, wedding and other joys occasions," he said.

He hoped that their business would further shine during winter.

"The earning of a dhol player depend upon the financial position of the hired party. Some times, we earns Rs5,000 and some times pocket Rs20,000 per program on weekend," he said, adding a pair of dhol player normally charges Rs2,000 from the clients per program.

On weekends, the traditional drum-beaters were also seen waiting for customers at Ghandhara and Hayatabad chowk where dhol lovers hire them for festivals.

The people paid thousands to these drummers wearing white and yellow dresses inspite of an advance music equipment and DJs to give traditional

touch to their weddings.

"I came to green shadi hall chowk to hire a pair of dhol players for engagement of my son that was cost efficient compare to DJs besides can easily be performed in indoor function and outdoor activities," said Fayaz Khan, a resident of Wapda Town Nowshera.

He said that his father had also hired traditional dhol player during his marriage 40 years ago and he invited a seasoned dhol player for her son marriage.

Renowned TV star, Javed Babar (prime performance) said in the past when a Pashto or Urdu film was released in the city, thousands of film lovers on drumsbeats were gathered outside the cinema houses and cheered for their favourite hero/heroine that was "now hardly seen today" in Peshawar due to growth of social

media platforms.

He said one decade ago cinema was flourishing earning maximum capital with significant contributions by drummers to mobilize fans while the in recent years its growth was adversely affected by mushroom growth of social media platforms.

He said Peshawar has started losing the decades-old cinema houses, which have been converted into trade and commercial plazas depriving thousands of film lovers from entertainment.

Despite rich culture heritage, Peshawar had lost seven cinemas due to lack of production of new films in Urdu and Pashto, high property taxes on cinemas, security concerns and commercialization.

Out of 15 cinemas in Peshawar, the seven oldest cinema houses including Shabistan (Firdus), Palwasha, Capital, Falak

Sair, Novelty, Metro, Sabrina and Ihsrat were demolished and converted into trade and commercial centres and hotels for monetary gains.

The remaining few cinemas in Peshawar City including Arshad Cinema, Sabreena, Aaena, Naz and Shama also seemed mostly deserted due to the unavailability of new films, high-production film cost, pathetic seating facilities and unsatisfactory approach by the past governments towards film industry.

"I came to Peshawar to watch my favorite Pashto film at Arshad Cinema after the closure of two cinemas including 'Taj' in Mardan and was very disappointed after seeing limited numbers of movies fans," said Nasir Khan, a Pashto film lover and resident of Katlang Mardan City.

He said revival of cine-

ma was imperative for education, Information and infotainment.

Gohar Khan, Manager Sabrina Cinema, told APP that services of traditional dhol players were hired before screening of new films to attract people.

He said cinema culture was declining in Peshawar due to poor quality of films, camera work and price hike besides mushroom growth of cinema so as dhol culture.

He said the rising monthly energy bills, staff salaries and property taxes had added to the financial difficulties of cinema owners.

The experts demanded special packages for cinema owners, producers and directors to promote entertainment industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They also urged Govt to provide financial relief to dhol players affected by coronavirus pandemic.



In brief

Child killed in Shangla mishap F.P. Report

SHANGLA: In a tragic incident in Puran tehsil of Shangla district, a young boy, Sanan Ahmed, son of Amir Ali, lost his life after being struck by a speeding Datsun at Dheri Sunnilla Chowk. The child was critically injured and was rushed to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital in Aloch, where doctors provided medical treatment and care. Despite their best efforts, they were unable to save his life. The grieving parents were deeply shocked and heartbroken by the incident. However, they chose not to file a formal complaint or take legal action against anyone involved. This heart-breaking incident underscores the urgent need for strict adherence to traffic laws and safe driving practices to prevent such tragedies in the future.

2 brothers killed in Jamrud firing F.P. Report

JAMRUD: Unknown assailants on Monday fired multiple shots on a car, killing two real brothers in Jamrud tehsil of Khyber district. Police said two local brothers, identified as Falak Jan and Abdul Malik were travelling in their Mehran car when unknown assailants fired at their vehicle near Wazir Dhand check post, killing both the brothers on the scene. Area police reached the area and shifted bodies of both the brothers to hospital for medico-legal procedure. Police said the motive behind the killing was yet unknown however, an investigation has been started into the incident.

11 persons hurt in road accident F.P. Report

D I KHAN: At least 11 members of a family were killed including women and children in an accident on Indus Highway on Monday. According to a private news channel, a bus was carrying wedding guests from Pir Adil to Waziristan when it overturned near the Indus Highway and left 11 members of a family injured. Rescue officials reached the spot and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital.

Elders call on AC Bannu F.P. Report

BANNU: Sokri tribes met with the district administration under the leadership of Malik Tafifullah Khan, the head of the Sokri tribe, and demanded that the administration hand over the dedicated cemetery land and immediately end the alleged occupation. Under the leadership of Malik Hazrat Khan, Malik Mehboob Ali Khan, Malik Naeem Khan, Tahsinullah Khan, Shernawaz Khan, Malik Sajid Kamal Khan and other leaders met Assistant Commissioner Bannu Syed Abrar Ali Shah in his office. The leaders of the tribes presented the demand of the nation in front of the Assistant Commissioner Bannu. The former provincial minister of PTI, Malik Shah Muhammad Khan, has taken over and started the construction work. An inquiry has been started, in which notices have also been issued to those who are building on the occupied land, it is actually a property dedicated to the former provincial minister Malik Shah Muhammad Khan, which is dedicated to the cemetery, he said. That the original owners of the land, whose parents had dedicated this land for the burial of the dead, have also confirmed the dedication.

JI chief receives warm reception on arrival to Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Jamaat-i-Islami chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman on Monday urged all political parties to get united for durable peace



in the country. He was talking to the JI workers on his arrival at the Chakdara interchange on Swat motorway.

Earlier the JI workers led by their district chief Maulana Asadullah warmly received the party's central chief on his first visit to the region after his election as party head. The JI chief was on his way to attend a con-

dolence reference in Bajaur.

Hafiz Naeem condemned the killing of Muhammad Hameed Sufi, the JI Bajaur chapter general secretary, who was killed

by unknown attackers in Bajaur a few days ago. He said that it was the responsibility of the government to ensure security of the citizens. The JI chief alleged that another proxy war was being inflicted on Pakistan in its tribal region. He said that it was a suitable time for all political parties to sit together and resolve the

issue of militancy and lawlessness. Later the JI chief left for Bajaur.

DDAC chairman: The chairman district development advisory committee Lower Dir MPA Ubaidur Rehman has said that repair work on the Munda Samarbagh road will start soon. Talking to local journalists at Munda the lawmaker said that he was well aware of the issues faced by the people of PK 17. He said that work on the Shalkandai and Musabad roads would also start soon. Later the lawmaker visited the Munda hospital and inspected its various units and emergency ward.

He said the hospital would be upgraded while modern equipment would soon be installed in it so that local patients could be provided with quality healthcare on their doorstep. The lawmaker said the KP government had prioritized the sectors of education and health and there would be no compromise on its standard.

Civil society distributes winter packages

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Zamung Jazba Welfare Society organized a heartfelt event at the Government Postgraduate College Mardan, where winter packages were distributed to 150 orphaned and underprivileged children.

The event was graced by Director Khpal Kor Foundation, Muhammad Ali, as the chief guest, while District Social Welfare Officer, Jamal Shah Mohmand, presided over the event. Key speakers included Muhammad Pervaiz, Chairman of Zamung Jazba Welfare Society, who shed light on the organization's efforts to

support orphaned children.

He emphasized that caring for these children is a collective responsibility and vowed to continue this mission selflessly. Other prominent attendees included Sher Shah Hoti, Chairman of Pakhtunkhwa Quami Jirga Mardan, and WCCI Aqeela Sumbal, who lauded the Society's efforts and urged public participation in humanitarian causes. The ceremony resonated with a call to action, encouraging the community to extend their support to ensure a brighter future for underprivileged children.

Meanwhile, Additional Assistant Commissioner Sahar Anwar raided the

hazardous jaggery manufacturing factory in Katlang and inspected the factories of those who are playing with the lives of the people who are making hazardous jaggery using chemicals.

The samples of molasses, various chemicals and colors etc. from the molasses manufacturing factory using dangerous chemicals, sugar and other substances were taken into government custody and the owner was arrested and sent to jail against whom legal action should be taken. AAC Sahar Anwar said that the use of this fort can be dangerous for human lives and appealed to the public to identify such businesses.

Residents hold protest in favor of demands

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Badeh Taluka Movement (BTM) took out a protest rally from press club to Town Hall against the non-making of Badeh Taluka, the most populous city of Larkana district. On this occasion, while addressing the rally,

Deputy Convener of BTM Zeib Ali Sario, Hakim Gopang, Comrade Manoor Noinari and others said that the Sindh government has exceeded the limits of making promises to the residents of Badeh city, despite thousands of promises. The city should not be taluka, they said that social evil drugs, hashish, opium, heroin are commonly used in the city.

They demanded from Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chief Minister of Sindh, MNA and MPA to take full practical steps to make Badeh city a taluka and end the unrest among the citizens, otherwise they will protest. The scope will be expanded.

FFC meeting held: An important meeting was organized by Fuji Fertilizer Company (FFC) on the topic of "wheat crop growth" held in Dokri, in which Irfan Jatoi, President of Sindh Abadgar Board, District Larkana, was attended by the guest.

Farmers and farmers participated in large numbers, on this occasion President of Sindh Abadgar

Board Irfan Jatoi appreciated this important step of FFC saying that it is a famous agricultural company to increase production with its fertilizer Sona Urea, Sona DAP. And many other agricultural drugs are very useful. On this occasion, the officer of Agri Services Larkana, Mohammad Waqas, said that awareness was given about the balanced use of fertilizers to get the best yield of wheat.

Explaining the principles, he said that the selection of the best fertilizer and the proper use of phosphorus fertilizers reduce the cost of the farmers as well as increase the production, which also significantly increases his per acre.

Terrorist attacks a move to create unrest: Mir Hassan

F.P. Report

QUETTA: The cowardly attack by terrorists on the Shah Mardan check post of Kalat district of Balochistan is highly condemnable. The elements spreading chaos and unrest in Balochistan are enemies of the people of Balochistan and its development. These views were expressed by the central senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri in his condemnation statement.

He said that such nefarious tactics cannot shake the determination of the government for the development and prosperity of Balochistan. Neither the cowardly attacks of terrorists can lower the morale of the brave Pakistani nation.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that the nation will continue to destroy the evil intentions of Pakistan's enemies with the security forces and the country of the monster of

terrorism. We will continue the war against it until its complete elimination. He paid tribute to the brave personnel who sacrificed their lives while protecting the homeland in the attack and said that the Sons of Nation who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the homeland will always be alive in the hearts of the nation.

Mir Ali Hasan Zehri further said that the enemies and self-interested elements are not happy with the construction, development, prosperity and peace and order situation of the motherland Pakistan especially in Balochistan and they do heinous acts to achieve their nefarious goals, but Alhamdulillah the entire nation, Pakistan Army and other security forces have always crushed the evil ambitions of elements hostile to the country.

They have always played their role to make the protection possible. Addressing the entire nation, especially the youth of Balochistan, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that they should not fall into

the negative propaganda of self-interested leaders following the signals of foreign masters and youth such Play their positive role to crush the negative elements. He said that the youth of Balochistan is talented and it is our responsibility to give them employment opportunities and other facilities. He said that the Pakistani nation is united and on one platform against terrorism and such cowardly incidents of terrorism cannot lower our morale. He prayed that May Allah grant the martyrs a place in His mercy and give the injured a speedy recovery.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri once again expressed his determination that we will not rest until the scourge of terrorism is uprooted. He also paid tribute to the security forces and assured that just as our brave forces and other security forces are protecting the homeland day and night in the war against terrorism, the entire nation is standing by the side of the security forces too.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Jafar Khan Mandukhel speaking during a ceremony at High Court Bar.

PPP leader's son wedding turns into political gathering F.P. Report

PABBI: The wedding ceremony of Mian Muhammad Tariq's son, a prominent businessman, turned into a grand political gathering. The event was attended by high-profile politicians, including President Asif Ali Zardari's political advisor, PPP's former provincial president Senator Sardar Ali Khan, Awami National Party's provincial president Mian Ifthikhar Hussain, and former Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali.

Other notable attendees included Provincial Minister for Excise and Taxation Mian Khalilur Rehman Khattak, former Nazim of Nowshera Dawood Khan Khattak, and MPA Ashfaq Ahmed Khan. The ceremony also drew a large number of people from various walks of life, including local leaders, police officials, and citizens.

The wedding ceremony of Mian Muhammad Awkash, son of Mian Muhammad Tariq and former candidate of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam PK-89, Mian Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was held at the Grand Palace wedding hall. The event brought together leaders from various political and religious parties, civil society, and government officials.

Mian Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Mian Muhammad Tariq, Mian Amjad Ali, and Mian Muhammad Naseer warmly welcomed the guests. Mian Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto expressed gratitude to the people for attending the ceremony and making it a memorable event.

No harm in using VPN, says Sana

FAISALABAD (INP): Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah said here was no harm in use of VPNs and it had nothing to do with religion.

Speaking about the criticism swirling around regarding ban on use of VPNs, he said the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) should have given the decree after consultation. Speaking at a private news channel's programme, Sanaullah said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) planned protest would meet the same fate as their previous "failed ventures".

He said the PTI had set "unrealistic goals" and lacked the logistical capability to mobilise a massive procession. "Neither such misadventures can be allowed nor does the country afford them," he said. He also criticised PTI founder's approach, stating that "political dialogue is not in the party leader's nature". Despite multiple attempts to engage him in political dialogue in the past, the PTI founder consistently refused to engage in dialogue, he said.

F.P. Report

ATTOCK: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) launched an inspection operation against big-wings of wedding halls in Attock 12 marriage halls were checked while 08 with hefty fines for violating rules in the district.

According to news release issued by PFA spokesman, On the special

Seeds, fertilizers provided to farmers

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa program Awami Agenda wheat seeds, fertilizers and required medicines for crops protection against diseases were provided to the 400 farmers in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, Tehsil Council Kohat and Kohat Kisan Council under the supervision of Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah and Deputy Commissioner Abdul Akram in a grand ceremony at Tehsil Gumbat, here.

The ceremony beside the Tehsil Mayor Gumbat Sajid Iqbal was also attended by the large number of progressive farmers. Commissioner Kohat, while narrating the salient features of

the "Awami Agenda", assured the farmers that the government would provide them all possible support to achieve the best yield. He also talked about the plans for planting different types of plants in selected areas for the upcoming spring tree plantation Campaign.

Referring to the farmer-friendly policies of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, Commissioner Kohat also informed the farmers about the facilities for raising livestock. The farmers were further informed that the divisional and district administration, with the help of the Agriculture and Livestock Department, will organize continuous programs in every Tehsil to raise awareness and support farmers and landowners. Similarly, all possible support will be

provided in timely treatment of livestock diseases and prevention of diseases, he added.

Representing the farmers, the President of the Kisan Council thanked the government for the farmer-friendly activities under the "Awami Agenda" and said that large-scale tree plantation will be done in the upcoming tree plantation campaign. He assured of voluntary services. Meanwhile, Commissioner Kohat also chaired a meeting on the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project (KPCIP), which was attended by the Chairman DDAC Kohat Shafi Jan MPA, Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram, authorities concerned of the WSSC Kohat and UADA and related departments.

Consultation a key to redress political crisis: JI

F.P. Report

ATTOCK: Naib Emir Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Liaqat Baloch has said that it is time that all stakeholders must give up ego, obstinacy and stubbornness. He said it is the national duty of the national political leadership to find a political solution to political crises through national dialogue.

Talking to the media representatives in Attock, Liaqat Baloch said that the country's political, economic and security conditions are constantly deteriorating while the situation is not being improved and instead of improving it, it is causing more instability, mistrust, insecurity and more complications, he deplored.

Liaqat Baloch said the institutions of the state, the federal and provincial governments and the national political leadership are not ready to take any serious measures to address the seriousness of the situation and to end the political instability. Due to neglect, carelessness and political apathy, political instability

is becoming more worse, he added.

The civil-military establishment has become more powerful through constitutional amendments, malicious legislation, and undermining the independence of the judiciary, Liaqat Baloch said and added the National, Provincial Assemblies and the Senate have become ineffective, slaves and rubber stumps while there is a worse condition of politics and democracy in the country.

ANF recovers different contrabands in various areas: During its ongoing wide range crack downs against the menace of drugs, Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country including near Burhan interchange Attock recovered 37 kg drugs worth Rs 4.2 million from the possession of 13 drugs traffickers. ANF spokesman says on Monday.

He informed that in an operation, 90 grams hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Islamabad. The arrested accused con-

fessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In another operation, 8 kg hashish was recovered from the secret cavities of a car intercepted on GT Road in Mansehra and an accused was also arrested. A total of 4.4 kg hashish was recovered from 2 suspects rounded up near Burhan Interchange, Attock.

Another operation near a hotel in Mansehra was conducted and 7 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle besides netting an accused. 5 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects held near University Road in Sargodha. 3.6 kg hashish and 1 kg ice concealed in a truck near Shaheen Chowk, Gujarat were recovered and an accused was arrested during the operation. 4.1 kg hashish and 1 kg opium were recovered from two suspects travelling in a passenger bus near M-1 Toll Plaza, Islamabad. In 8th operation, 1 kg opium and 100 grams ice were recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up on Wazirabad Road, Sialkot.

Admn crackdowns against over-loading

F.P. Report

BUNER: Additional Deputy Commissioner relief Kashif Qayum. He added the DC was directed a complete ban on passengers on top and sides of vehicles and boarding more than 14 passengers with edible items not more than weight 50 kilograms. He warned strict actions against the drivers who violate the by-laws which the administration has taken in larger public interests.

ADC while talking to this Journalist soon after conducting meeting with Chaghorzai bound vehicles stands managers,told the

managers were informed of the decision taken by the deputy commissioner Kashif Qayum. He added the DC was directed a complete ban on passengers on top and sides of vehicles and boarding more than 14 passengers with edible items not more than weight 50 kilograms. He warned strict actions against the drivers who violate the by-laws which the administration has taken in larger public interests.

ADC continued the Chaghorzai bound vehicles stands managers were informed there would be no transportation of construc-

tions and others materials in the passengers bound vehicles rather a separate transport would be arranged for carry loads. He repeated the district administration was extremely worried about safety of precious human lives and valued vehicles as every day a major road accident on Chaghorzai roads and loss of dozens precious lives sometimes from same families and damages to valued vehicle a concern and the administration was seriously taking actions to safeguard precious lives and worthy vehicles, he concluded.

Eight wedding halls fined in Attock

F.P. Report

ATTOCK: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) launched an inspection operation against big-wings of wedding halls in Attock 12 marriage halls were checked while 08 with hefty fines for violating rules in the district.

According to news release issued by PFA spokesman, On the special

direction of PFA Director General, the food safety teams launched an inspection drive of the marriage halls in the district.

During the checking, the teams conducted the inspection of 12 marriage halls and found that 08 marriage halls were involved in violation of authority's rules. Fines of about 3 lakh 10 thousand were imposed.

Large amounts of expired items are edible.

The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) team dispose of bulk expired food items during checking in marriage halls. Large quantities of expired food items were discarded. Further, the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) inspection team have marriage halls Washroom, in the kitchen area.



Election roadmap after reforms: Yunus

DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus has appealed for the nation's "patience", pledging that general elections would be held after electoral and institutional reforms were completed in a televised address marking 100 days in office.

"I promise that we will hold the much-anticipated election once the necessary and essential reforms are complete," said Yunus, who was tasked with leading the transitional government following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August. The 84-year-old leader vowed that an election commission would be formed "within a few days", but did not provide a specific timeline for elections, citing the need for significant electoral and constitutional reforms.

"I request your patience until then. We aim to build an electoral system that will endure for decades. For this, we need some time." The country's only Nobel Laureate, who is renowned for his pioneering work in microfinance, Yunus has been tasked with rebuilding democratic institutions after Hasina's 15-year tenure. Yunus was appointed "chief adviser" on August 9, following student-led protests that ended Hasina's authoritarian rule.

The deadly protests began in July after college students demanded the abolition of a controversial quota system in government jobs that they said favoured supporters of the governing party. Though Bangladesh's top court scrapped the quota, the protests soon morphed into a wider call for the removal of Hasina's "autocratic" regime, marked by allegations of widespread rights violations. The government's response was one of the bloodiest chapters in Bangladesh's history as security forces beat the protesters, and fired tear gas and live ammunition on peaceful demonstrators, killing more than 1,000 people in three weeks and arresting thousands of others.

Yunus said about 1,500 people were killed in the weeks of protests that brought down the Hasina government, adding that as many as 3,500 may have been forcibly abducted during her 15-year rule. Yunus vowed to investigate all human rights violations, including alleged enforced disappearances while Hasina was in power.

The interim leader said his administration will seek the extradition of the ousted prime minister from India, where she has been in exile since fleeing the student-led mass uprising in August. "We will seek the

return of the fallen autocrat Sheikh Hasina from India," Yunus said. "I have already discussed the issue with Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Karim Khan." An arrest warrant has been issued for Hasina, 77, who fled to India via helicopter as demonstrators stormed her residence. She faces charges of "massacres, killings, and crimes against humanity" and has been summoned to appear in court in Dhaka. The extradition request could strain relations with India, a key regional ally that maintained close ties with Hasina throughout her tenure.

"We should be able to resolve it amicably between India and Bangladesh," Yunus told Al Jazeera in an interview on the sidelines of the November 11-22 COP29 United Nations Climate Change Conference. "We draw attention to the Indian authorities that you are hosting her, that's fine, but please make sure she doesn't create problems for us." Yunus has been talking to political parties including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party headed by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Hasina's main rival, which has sought an election in two to three months.

The party believes it will form the next government as Hasina's Awami League party and its allies face a political debacle following her ouster. "As we move forward, we need to complete a lot of work," Yunus said in his speech. "The train will reach its final station depending on how quickly we can lay down the railway tracks, and this will happen through consensus among the political parties." In his interview with Al Jazeera, Yunus acknowledged the challenges ahead.

"Bangladesh is deep in corruption because of the system that we had for the past 15 years - mismanagement, misgovernance, the destruction of our institutions," he said, adding that rebuilding the system "point by point, sector by sector" will be a "big task". International Crisis Group analyst Thomas Kean has called the challenge facing Yunus "monumental", warning that "cracks are emerging in the fragile alliance" that pushed him into power.

"For now, Yunus and his colleagues have widespread support, but popular expectations are double-edged", Kean's think tank said in a report. "If the interim administration falters in making reforms, the outcome is likely to be an early election with little progress; in the worst-case scenario, the military could assume power." — Aljazeera

Starmer to meet Xi at G20 summit

LONDON (BBC): Sir Keir Starmer is due to meet with President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit this week, with the government saying it wants "stable and pragmatic engagement" with China. The prime minister will say it is right to engage with China on "areas of mutual cooperation" such as international stability, climate change and economic growth.

But Downing Street said he would also "be firm on the need to have honest conversations on areas of disagreement", and that engagement would be "rooted at all times in the UK's national interests". Speaking to reporters on his way to the meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Sir Keir said "shoring up support for Ukraine" was top of his agenda. The summit follows large-scale missile and drone attacks by Russia across Ukraine over the weekend, and will take place as the conflict approaches its 1,000th day.

It also comes amid reports that the US has authorised the use of long-range missiles it supplies to Ukraine to strike Russia - a request Western allies have previously hesitated from granting. The prime minister is expected to call on other G20 nations to step up their support for Ukraine or face the "unfathomable consequences" if Russia is allowed to be victorious. The meeting between Sir Keir and Xi will be the first time a UK prime minister has met the Chinese president in person since 2018. Downing Street said the two were expected to meet on Monday.

Australian senator censured

SYDNEY (BBC): Australian lawmakers have voted to censure an Aboriginal senator who heckled King Charles during his visit to Canberra last month, to express their "profound disapproval" of her protest. Lidia Thorpe shouted "you are not my King" and "this is not your land" shortly after the King addressed the Great Hall of Parliament, in an effort to highlight the impacts of British colonisation.

The Senate's censure, which passed 46-12, described Thorpe's actions as "disrespectful and disruptive" and said they should disqualify her from representing the chamber as a member of any delegation. A censure motion is politically symbolic but carries no constitutional or legal weight. Shortly after the Senate vote on Monday, Thorpe told reporters she had been denied her right to respond in the chamber due to a flight delay. "The British Crown committed heinous crimes against the first peoples of this country... I will not be silent," the independent senator said.

Her protest last month drew immediate ire from across the political aisle, as well as from some prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders. But it also drew praise from some activists who argued that it highlighted the plight of Australia's first inhabitants, who endured colonial violence and still face acute disadvantages in terms of health, wealth, education, and life expectancy compared to non-Indigenous Australians.



MANILA: Houses damaged by Typhoon Man-yi in Viga, Catanduanes province, Philippines.

Police vow to arrest S African miners as standoff continues

JOHANNESBURG (AFP): South African police say they will continue to arrest any illegal miners who emerge from a disused gold mine where hundreds, possibly thousands, of people are in hiding. This follows a court order which said the mine-shaft in Stilfontein, around 90 miles (145km) south-west of Johannesburg, should not be blocked.

Emergency services have been at the site, for several days. Police have been preventing food and water entering the mine to, as one government minister put it, "smoke them out". The miners - who have been underground for a month - have so far refused to exit the mine over fears of being arrested.

Among them are undocumented migrants who also fear deportation. Some South Africans have heavily criticised the government's headline policy and, in recent days, the police have been allowing volunteers to go down to see the miners and some have been taking small amounts of food and water. A court in Pretoria ordered that the mine "shall be unblocked and may not be blocked by any person or institution whether government or private". It also said that any person in the mine should be allowed to exit, and that "no non-emergency personnel may enter the mine shaft".

Three of the miners surfaced, one of whom was taken to hospital for medical treatment. The two others were arrested. Some reports suggest the miners had resorted to eating vinegar and toothpaste to survive.

Volunteers said they pulled a body from the mine.

Police have called in experts to assess the integrity of the mine shafts, to inform a decision as to whether they would conduct a forced evacuation, according to the AFP news agency. Yasmin Omar, an attorney who helped bring the court case, told state broadcaster SABC that the ruling was a temporary order "that will at least allow us to get emergency relief to the people [who] need it". She said a full hearing on the matter would take place.

"These people underground are dying," Ms Omar said, adding that the ruling means officials "must do all that is reasonable to give medical care to the people who are underground". In a statement, the South African Police Service (SAPS) welcomed the court order, which it stressed did not prevent officers from making arrests. It said: "All those who resurface will continue to be assessed by emergency medical personnel on site, as has been the case."

"Those that are in a good health will be processed and detained. Those that require further medical care will be taken to hospital under police guard." The SAPS added that, three of the miners had resurfaced. More than 1,000 miners have already emerged and been arrested. South Africa is a mineral-rich country. According to official estimates, it holds nearly 30% of the world's gold deposits and 88% of all platinum deposits.

But many mines have closed down

in recent years and miners have been laid off, contributing to a black market that costs the South African government hundreds of millions of dollars each year. While gold remains a valuable commodity, rising mining costs - exacerbated by electricity disruptions and deeper deposits - have made the vast majority of mines unprofitable, according to the Minerals Council of South Africa, an industry body.

In a bid to survive impoverished circumstances, miners and undocumented migrants are increasingly entering closed mines to dig up their remaining deposits. Some spend months underground, and illegal mining has spawned a small economy providing food and cigarettes to the miners. However, the authorities are keen to end the practice. Illegal miners are sometimes recruited by criminal gangs and can be armed. The SAPS has previously said that among those to resurface from the Stilfontein mine were individuals from Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

The force has launched a nationwide operation aimed at combatting illegal mining and related criminal activities. On 3 November, it said that at least 565 people had emerged from a mine in Orkney, south-west of Johannesburg. But the South African Human Rights Commission said that it had begun an investigation into the SAPS's handling of the Stilfontein mine incident, following complaints that the blockade may have infringed the miners' right to life.

How long-range missiles striking Russia could affect Ukraine war

LONDON (BBC): The US has for the first time allowed Ukraine to use long-range missiles to strike targets inside Russia. The outgoing Biden administration has told Kyiv it can use US-made ATACMS missiles for limited strikes inside Russia, according to CBS, the BBC's US partner.

Washington had previously refused to allow such strikes because it feared they would escalate the war. The major policy reversal comes two months before President Joe Biden hands over power to Donald Trump, who is sceptical of US military aid to Ukraine. Ukraine has been using the Army Tactical Missile System, more commonly known as ATACMS, on Russian targets in occupied Ukrainian territory for more than a year.

It has used ATACMS to strike airbases in the occupied Crimean Peninsula and military positions in the Zaporizhzhia region. But the US has never allowed Kyiv to use the long-range missiles inside Russia - until now. The Lockheed Martin ballistic missiles are some of the most powerful so far provided to Ukraine, capable of travelling up to 300km (186 miles). Ukraine had argued that not being allowed to use such weapons inside Russia was like being asked to fight with one hand tied

behind its back.

The change in policy reportedly comes in response to the recent deployment of North Korean troops to support Russia in the Kursk border region, where Ukraine has occupied territory since August. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has yet not confirmed the move. But he said: "Strikes are not made with words ... The missiles will speak for themselves." Ukraine will now be able to strike targets inside Russia, most likely around the Kursk region, where Ukrainian forces hold over 1,000 kmsq of territory.

US officials say Kyiv will be able to use ATACMS to defend against an expected counter-offensive by Russian and North Korean troops, which may begin within days with the aim of regaining Russian territory. Ukrainian forces will be able to hit Russian positions in Kursk, including troops, infrastructure and ammunition storage. The supply of ATACMS will probably not be enough to turn the tide of the war. Russian military equipment, such as jets, has already been moved to airfields further inside Russia in anticipation of such a decision.

But the weapons may grant Ukraine some advantage at a time

when Russian troops have been gaining ground in the country's east and morale is low. "I don't think it will be decisive," a Western diplomat in Kyiv told the BBC, requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter. "However, it's an overdue symbolic decision to raise the stakes and demonstrate military support to Ukraine. "It can raise the war cost for Russia."

There are also questions over how much ammunition will be provided, said Evelyn Farkas, who served as deputy assistant secretary of defence in the Obama administration. "The question is, of course, how many missiles do they have? We have heard that the Pentagon has warned there aren't that many of these missiles that they can make available to Ukraine." Farkas added that the ATACMS could have a "positive psychological impact" in Ukraine if they are used to strike targets such as the Kerch Bridge, which links Crimea to mainland Russia. The US authorisation will also have a further knock-on effect: enabling the UK and France to grant Ukraine permission to use Storm Shadow missiles inside Russia. Storm Shadow is a Franco-British long-range cruise missile with similar capabilities to the American ATACMS.

Why it is so difficult to walk in Indian cities

BANGALORE (BBC): In India, if you ask a pedestrian how many obstacles they've encountered on a footpath, they may not be able to count them - but they'll certainly tell you that most footpaths are in poor condition.

This is what Arun Pai says he learnt when he started asking people about their experience walking on the streets of his city, Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore), in southern India. This month he set up a "fun challenge" - called the 'world's longest footpath run' - which invited people to walk or jog on an 11km (8 miles) stretch of footpath and make a note of all the obstacles they encountered, like hawkers, garbage or broken slabs of concrete. Next, they were asked to rate the footpath on a scale of one to five.

"When you have specifics, it gets easier to ask the authorities to take action. Instead of telling your local politician 'the footpaths are bad', you can ask him or her 'to fix specific spots on a street,'" Mr Pai says. Mr Pai, who is the founder of Bangalore Walks, a non-profit that promotes

walking, is among several citizen activists who are pushing to make the country's roads more pedestrian-friendly.

In India's capital, a tour company called Delhi by Cycle has been advocating for making the city more cycle-friendly and walkable. These walking-enthusiasts are holding awareness walks, building walking apps and lobbying with politicians to make a change. Even in India's biggest cities, proper footpaths are few and far between and they are often overrun by hawkers and shops, parked vehicles and even cattle. In some places, they double up as homes for the poor. Even footpaths that exist are often not built to standard or properly maintained. Navigating roads on foot through crowds and traffic can be a nightmare.

Last month, Walking Project, a citizen's group in India's financial capital, Mumbai, released a 'pedestrian manifesto' ahead of Maharashtra state elections to highlight the poor condition of the city's roads and encourage local politicians to take action. The

manifesto included demands for better parking, designated hawking zones, pedestrian-friendly corridors on arterial roads and to make footpaths more accessible to those with mobility challenges.

"Government statistics show that almost 50% of the city's population relies on walking, which is far greater than the 11% that uses private transport and the combined 15% that uses tuk-tuks and buses," says Vendant Mhatre, convener of Walking Project. "And yet, pedestrians are the most ignored group of users when it comes to framing policies around transport or road safety," he adds. According to the latest government estimates on road accidents, pedestrian fatalities were the second-highest after those of two-wheeler riders. In 2022, over 10,000 pedestrians lost their lives on national highways across the country, with around 21,000 more sustaining injuries in accidents.

"Authorities often resort to band-aid solutions like adding speed bumps or a signal to curb road accidents. But what is really needed is

inter-connected footpaths that can accommodate high footfall," Mr Mhatre says. Studies have found that addressing the problems of this forgotten group of road users can reap benefits for multiple stakeholders. In 2019, researchers in the southern city of Chennai studied the impact the construction of new footpaths on 100km (62 miles) of the city's streets had on the environment, economy and the health and safety of citizens.

They found that the new footpaths encouraged 9% to 27% of the surveyed respondents to walk instead of using motorized transport, which led to a reduction in greenhouse gases and particulate matter. They also learned that the footpaths provided new opportunities for women and lower-income groups, helping them save money as well. The survey highlighted how people with disabilities and women might have nuanced requirements from footpaths and that tailoring improvements to meet their needs could enhance accessibility and equity. "Very often, people don't have

a benchmark for footpath quality, especially if they haven't travelled abroad or been exposed to places that have good facilities for pedestrians," Mr Mhatre says.

He reasons that that's why there isn't enough outrage about the quality or absence of footpaths in the country. He also points out that most people see walking as an activity performed for leisure or exercise. And so, the infrastructure they associate with walking stops at gardens or walking tracks. In reality, however, people walk to various destinations daily, so the scope of walking infrastructure is far broader. "Walking is the most economical and environment-friendly way to navigate one's city and it's high time our leaders paid as much attention to walking infrastructure as they do to public transport," Mr Mhatre says.

Geetam Tiwari, a professor of civil engineering, says that the main problem is that too much focus is given to solving the problem of car congestion on roads.

"To improve the flow of traffic,

authorities often narrow down footpaths or eliminate them entirely," she says. Ms Tiwari says that this approach is problematic because doing so makes it difficult for pedestrians to access public transport systems, like buses and metros, which can take the pressure off the roads. "It might seem counter-intuitive, but allowing the congestion to persist and focussing on improving infrastructure for pedestrians will help solve the traffic problem in the long run," she says.

Ms Tiwari also says that the federal government should make it mandatory for states to implement the guidelines issued by the Indian Road Congress - a national organisation that lays down designing standards for roads and highways. She says that cities can also implement their own Non-Motorised Transport Policy (NMTP) to create better infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians. "At the moment, only a handful of cities in India have experimented with a NMTP but its time more cities step up to the plate," she adds.

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G20 offers a way to end global hunger and poverty

IN the lead up to the G20 summit, which starts in Rio de Janeiro today, host country Brazil has launched the Global Alliance for Hunger and Poverty. Given that the first and second UN Sustainable Development Goals are to end poverty and hunger, respectively, by 2030, this is an important and urgent step.

The G20, which includes the world's 20 largest economies, as well as the EU and the African Union, has over the past quarter century, aspired to play a key role in addressing the world's hot-button issues. The grouping's collective might – it boasts about 85 per cent of the world's gross domestic product, comprises more than 75 per cent of global trade and includes around two thirds of the planet's population – gives it the collaborative power, resources and leadership to tackle some of our most acute crises.

Despite rapid progress being made in diverse fields, including technology and health care, we still live in a world where billions don't have enough to eat. Last year, about 2.3 billion people globally faced moderate or severe food insecurity, according to the World Health Organisation. Of those, more than 864 million people were particularly worse off, facing severe food insecurity, having to go without food for a whole day or more.

The current situation comes after decades-long progress made in tackling hunger and poverty. These efforts stalled recently due in large part to the Covid-19 pandemic, escalating conflicts and climate change. The Global Alliance, then, is an opportunity for the world's richest countries to join forces in an effort to drive necessary funding to nations that are the most severely affected by these debilitating factors.

Leading a delegation representing the UAE, which is a frequent guest at G20 summits given its network of alliances and economic clout, is Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, who will be well versed with these challenges. The UAE has exerted much effort to tackle major challenges like those of poverty, disease, hunger and bolstering food security in the Mena region and beyond.

Coming to a consensus between key member countries despite having divergent interests – most notably between the US, China and Russia – it has proved difficult to resolve some of today's pressing geopolitical issues, namely the wars in Ukraine and the Levant. Surely, however, unanimity is more easily achieved on the development agenda, where interests overlap.

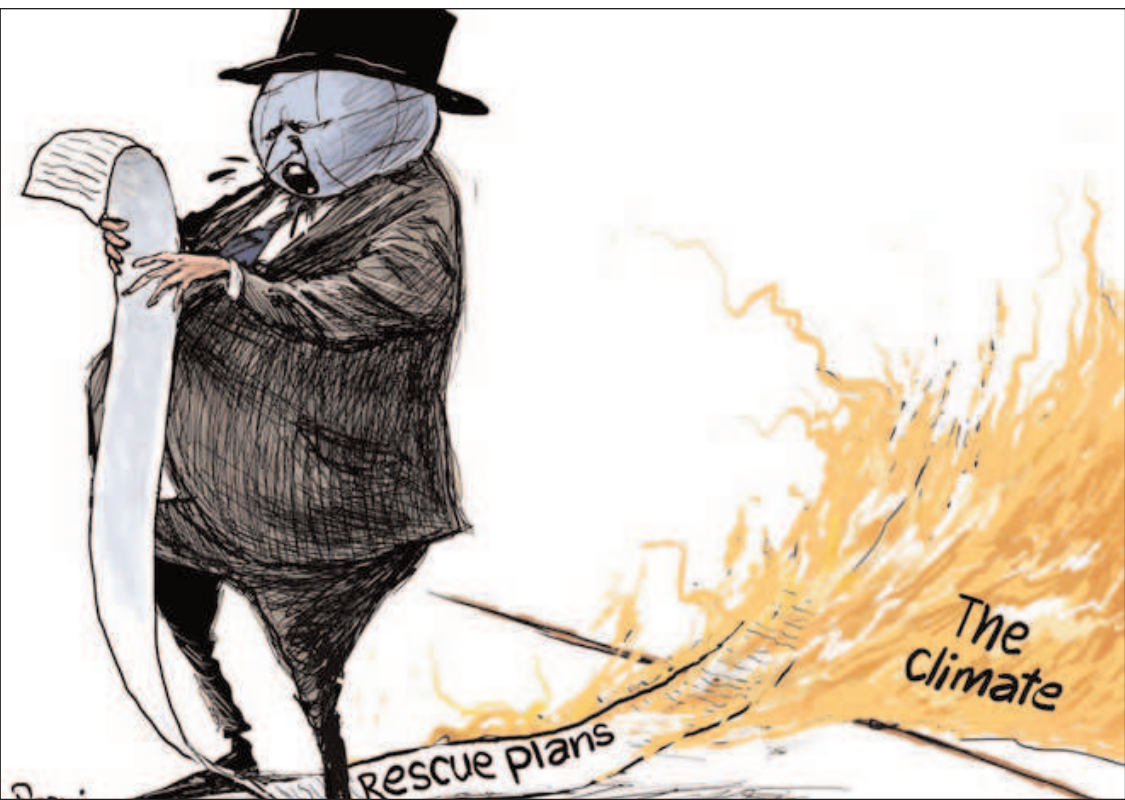
The G20's message of urgency for the world's most powerful countries, including geopolitical rivals, to unite in an effort to attain the UN's sustainable goals, especially poverty and hunger, cannot be overstated. According to a report released by the UN in June, "only 17 per cent of the SDG targets are currently on track, with nearly half showing minimal or moderate progress, and over one-third stalled or regressing".

Brazil's Minister of Social Development, Wellington Dias, told Reuters last week that the issue is not a lack of funds: the world invests about \$100 billion a year to fight poverty and hunger. "The problem," he pointed out, "is that investments are too fragmented and inefficiently allocated."

As leaders meet over the next two days, it is imperative that a part of the mandate for the Global Alliance for Hunger and Poverty, beyond pledging funds, focuses on how those funds are utilised in a holistic manner so that the most vulnerable people in the world begin to see their lives improve.

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Trump's appointments offer clues on Middle East policy

Kerry Boyd Anderson

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has announced several planned appointments for senior positions in his administration that will shape US foreign policy. Some of the nominees do not have a lengthy record regarding their foreign policy views, but it is possible to examine their previous statements to get a sense of how they will approach some issues. In terms of their views of the Middle East, they are united by absolute support for Israel.

Most of the positions will require confirmation by the Senate – at least eventually. A couple of the nominees might face a challenging confirmation process but, with Republicans holding a majority in the Senate, most of Trump's picks are likely to receive the chamber's approval.

Key nominations include Sen. Marco Rubio for secretary of state, media commentator Pete Hegseth as secretary of defense, Rep. Michael Waltz as national security adviser, Rep. Elise Stefanik as ambassador to the UN, businessman Steven Witkoff as special envoy to the Middle East, former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard as director of national intelligence and John Ratcliffe as the head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

When looking through their previous statements on issues related to the Middle East, the clearest commonality is unwaver-

ing support for Israel. Rubio has criticized the outgoing administration for trying to persuade Israel to practice more restraint in how it pursues the war in Gaza, expressed support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and referred to the West Bank as "Judea and Samaria." He recently wrote that "Israelis rightfully living in their historic homeland are not the impediment to peace; the Palestinians are."

Other Trump nominees have expressed similar sentiments. Hegseth hosted a Fox News series called "Battle in the Holy Land: Israel at War," which provided a pro-Israel perspective. Waltz has called Israel "the greatest ally we've ever known" and repeatedly criticized the outgoing administration for pressuring Israel to use restraint in attacks on Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

Stefanik gained media attention for grilling university leaders about campus protests against the war in Gaza and, in a speech in Jerusalem in May, she criticized the White House for providing insufficient backing to Israel. She has used strong language to condemn the UN for its criticisms of Israel, including recently stating that "once again the UN's antisemitic rot is on full display."

Witkoff helped to raise funds from pro-Israel donors for Trump's campaign and has praised

Netanyahu. Gabbard has expressed support for Israel's war against Hamas and Ratcliffe has criticized the outgoing administration for not doing more to oppose Hamas.

Though Trump has not yet named many ambassadors, he has said that Mike Huckabee will be ambassador to Israel. Huckabee is an evangelical Christian who shows religious devotion to Israel, including frequently visiting the country. He opposes a two-state solution and supports Israeli settlement in the West Bank; indeed, he has said that "there is no such thing as the West Bank – it's Judea and Samaria," that "there is no such thing as an (Israeli) occupation," and that "there's really no such thing as a Palestinian."

Beyond support for Israel, it is more difficult to assess the Trump team's likely approach toward the Middle East. Many of the appointees lack deep experience with policy toward the region, so the appointment of other senior officials in the State Department, Defense Department, National Security Council and intelligence agencies will be important in shaping the Trump administration's policies toward the region.

Nonetheless, there are some clues to how the Trump team will approach global issues that directly affect the Middle East. Foreign policy under

Trump will likely include a mix of assertive unilateralism and isolationism and his advisers are likely to often disagree on the appropriate balance between the two approaches.

The nominees tend to share a hawkish approach toward China. Some of them, particularly Waltz, would prefer to focus more resources on opposing China and less on the Middle East – although the last several presidential administrations experienced how difficult that can be to accomplish. Middle Eastern leaders might find it increasingly difficult to balance relations between Washington and Beijing.

Some of the future officials have individual interests and experiences in the Middle East. Waltz called for naming the Houthis a Foreign Terrorist Organization, which the White House later did. Gabbard faced much criticism when she visited Syria and met with President Bashar Assad while she was a member of Congress. Hegseth, Waltz and Gabbard are military veterans who were deployed to the Middle East.

Assuming that the Senate confirms Trump's nominees, they will play key roles in shaping and implementing the president's policies in the Middle East. Much is uncertain about how the president's team will approach foreign policy, but unconditional support for Israel will be an important characteristic.

energy to military service as they did in the past," Pappé argued.

Israel is now under the control of a different breed of politician, one that is armed with a massive and growing super-structure of an equally closed-minded and extremist intellectual base. These people are struggling with a whole different set of illusions, as they continue to convince themselves that they are winning when they are not; that they can impose their will on the Palestinians and the rest of the world when they cannot; and that the continuation of the war would allow them to finish a job – the total destruction of the Palestinian people – that, in their minds, should have been finished a long time ago.

Since this crowd is motivated by extremist religious ideologies, they are unable to abide by any form of rational thinking, even if it emanates from well-regarded Zionist figures inside Israel itself. "This war lacks a clear objective and it's evident that we're unequivocally losing it," former Mossad deputy chief Ram Ben-Barak said in May.

None of this matters to Netanyahu and his right-wing ministers, of course. They continue to reference and recycle old religious dogmas, while fervently praying for miracles. In doing so, they insist on constructing a new "Fantasy Israel," which is also set to collapse, as fantasies often do.

— Arab News

Clearing the Air Bold Steps to Combat Smog in Lahore

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

LAHORE, once celebrated as the city of gardens, is now shrouded in a thick layer of smog each winter, affecting every aspect of life from health to economy. This pollution crisis demands urgent, targeted interventions, particularly in managing vehicle emissions, which contribute significantly to air quality deterioration. Addressing Lahore's vehicle-driven pollution effectively could create a ripple effect, not only safeguarding public health but also enhancing economic resilience.

The number of vehicles on the roads in Punjab is staggering. As of March 31, 2024, there are 7,353,659 vehicles registered in the province, with Lahore alone accounting for approximately 6.2 million. Among these, 4.2 million are motorcycles, which, despite being relatively fuel-efficient, contribute significantly to the city's pollution due to outdated technology and lack of proper maintenance. This overwhelming presence of vehicles plays a major role in Lahore's deteriorating air quality, producing pollutants like particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide that exacerbate the city's smog crisis.

The impact of smog on public health has reached alarming levels. A recent report by the Punjab Health Department revealed that over 1.9 million people were hospitalized in Punjab due to smog in October alone. The report highlighted 1,934,030 cases of respiratory diseases, 119,533 cases of asthma, 13,773 heart-related ailments, and 5,184 strokes recorded across the province.

These statistics underscore the severity of smog as a public health crisis. For Lahore residents, the persistent haze exacerbates respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, particularly affecting children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions. The increasing strain on healthcare facilities reflects the urgent need for measures to mitigate smog and its consequences.

The economic costs of this pollution are equally substantial. Healthcare expenses rise as more citizens require treatment for pollution-related illnesses, and productivity declines as workers take sick leave more frequently. The economic toll extends beyond healthcare: vehicles operating in smoggy conditions often require more maintenance, and fuel consumption increases as engines run less efficiently in congested and polluted environments. For a city already grappling with infrastructure challenges, the added pressure from pollution-related issues strains its resources further.

From a broader economic perspective, Pakistan's reliance on imported petroleum and diesel to power Lahore's massive vehicle fleet aggravates the issue. The financial burden of these imports is significant, impacting Pakistan's trade deficit and draining resources that could be directed towards local development. Reducing fuel demand would alleviate some of this burden, freeing funds for initiatives that foster sustainable growth.

A multi-faceted approach to tackling these issues is essential, and a critical first step could involve suspending the issuance of new driving licenses on a trial basis for one year.

This measure aims to curb the influx of new private vehicles, reducing both road congestion and emissions. Such a suspension would discourage new purchases, thereby decreasing the demand for fuel and contributing to cleaner air. The benefits could be immediate, setting a precedent for how reduced vehicle use can impact air quality positively.

Encouraging the use of electric and hybrid vehicles offers another promising solution. Hybrid and electric options produce significantly lower emissions, and incentives could make these vehicles more accessible to the general public.

Subsidies, tax breaks, or reduced registration fees for such vehicles could drive a cultural shift in Lahore's transport habits, reducing reliance on fuel-intensive cars and fostering an eco-friendly ethos among city residents.

Alongside promoting cleaner private vehicles, expanding Lahore's public transport system with electric or hybrid options could play a pivotal role in reducing pollution. A reliable, energy-efficient public transport system would provide an alternative to private car use, reducing emissions per capita. Such a system would also make commuting more affordable for citizens, especially those who may find the maintenance and fuel costs of private vehicles prohibitive. Public transport investments could reshape Lahore's urban landscape, promoting convenience and sustainability.

Another effective policy could involve changes in government transport practices. If all government employees, from the highest-ranking officials to support staff, were encouraged to use official vehicles for transportation and deduct the associated costs from their salaries, it would optimize vehicle use and reduce overall fuel consumption. This measure would reduce the number of vehicles on the road, easing traffic congestion and lessening emissions. Additionally, it would set an example of responsible resource management, illustrating how strategic policies can curb pollution.

Further, enforcing strict traffic regulations modeled after those in the Middle East or Europe could prove beneficial. For instance, restricting vehicles to carry a minimum number of passengers during peak hours would reduce underutilized vehicles on the road. Ensuring a higher occupancy rate in cars could decrease the number of vehicles in operation at any given time, directly lowering emissions. These regulations, if implemented with consistency and rigor, could dramatically improve the city's air quality over time.

Enhanced traffic enforcement would also be critical to the success of these measures. Traffic police could actively discourage the use of vehicles with fewer than four passengers, imposing fines or other deterrents to discourage unnecessary car usage.

This initiative, when coupled with public awareness campaigns, would encourage citizens to adopt carpooling or alternative transport methods, lessening the strain on Lahore's roads and reducing emissions.

The collective effect of these actions-reducing new licenses, incentivizing electric and hybrid vehicles, promoting public transport, and enforcing stricter traffic regulations—could contribute significantly to alleviating Lahore's pollution crisis. Each measure would reduce the demand for fuel imports, resulting in financial savings that could be redirected toward sustainable development initiatives. Additionally, lowering the incidence of pollution-related illnesses would decrease healthcare costs, further supporting the economy.

In summary, Lahore's smog crisis calls for decisive action, with a particular focus on vehicle emissions.

A combination of immediate interventions and long-term strategies is essential to create a cleaner, healthier environment. By curbing fuel consumption, optimizing vehicle use, and promoting sustainable alternatives, Lahore can move towards a future where economic growth aligns with environmental responsibility. The proposed measures offer a roadmap not only to reduce smog but to build a resilient, prosperous city where public health, economic stability, and environmental well-being reinforce one another.

The journey may be challenging, but the rewards—clean air, healthy citizens, and a stronger economy—make it a path worth pursuing.

It’s time for G20 to take the initiative to help build a fairer world

OUR world is in a spiral of crises. While conventional threats, such as famine, drought, civil war and genocide, continue to loom over humanity in many parts of the world, the race to assume control of new phenomena that have the potential to change the world – such as novel communications and weapons technologies, artificial intelligence and cryptocurrencies – is also gaining pace and posing new threats to our collective wellbeing.

Our current “rules-based” international order”, which was established in the aftermath of World War II to increase global cooperation, generate economic prosperity, prevent wars, and ensure stability, equality and justice is struggling to navigate these complex challenges and falling short of preventing violations of its founding principles. A state of irregularity, which benefits only a handful of powerful countries and interest groups while spelling catastrophe for the masses, is close to becoming the new normal of the global order. Therefore, it is now not a preference but an obligation to make comprehensive reforms to the system to prevent this scenario from becoming reality.

We need a fairer, more stable and just world order.

Today, certain states are stomping on the rules, norms and values at the very heart of the established international system with little care for the far-reaching consequences of their actions. Israel’s ongoing attacks on Lebanon and Palestine are the most striking examples of such blatant violations.

As Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly underlined in every platform for many months, Israel’s aggression must be stopped for regional peace and global stability to be achieved.

But those few countries with undue power over the international system – the “superpowers” of our time – are protecting Israel and allowing it to act with impunity. As a result of such actions, our current system is now unable to fulfil its core purpose.

We need a new system,

shaped and led not by these self-interested superpowers but the global majority. The hypocritical, discriminatory and conflict-fostering actions of these superpowers, especially in the last quarter of a century, have deprived them of the legitimacy to play a leading role in a new order. We cannot have another international system in which the majority of the countries and peoples of the world are exploited to benefit a few superpowers. International organisations and states with a privileged position in the existing system must

We need a fairer, more stable and just world order. Today, certain states are stomping on the rules, norms and values at the very heart of the established international system with little care for the far-reaching consequences of their actions. Israel’s ongoing attacks on Lebanon and Palestine are the most striking examples of such blatant violations. As Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly underlined in every platform for many months, Israel’s aggression must be stopped for regional peace and global stability to be achieved. But those few countries with undue power over the international system – the “superpowers” of our time – are protecting Israel and allowing it to act with impunity. As a result of such actions, our current system is now unable to fulfil its core purpose. We need a new system, shaped and led not by these self-interested superpowers but the global majority. The hypocritical, discriminatory and conflict-fostering actions of these superpowers, especially in the last quarter of a century, have deprived them of the legitimacy to play a leading role in a new order. We cannot have another international system in which the majority of the countries and peoples of the world are exploited to benefit a few superpowers. International organisations and states with a privileged position in the existing system must understand this reality and adjust their strategies for the new era accordingly. In recent years, Türkiye has been one country that has consistently worked towards a fairer, more peaceful and just world. Its constructive efforts in mediation and successes in peacebuilding have demonstrated that a new era of international relations based on justice, understanding and cooperation is possible. Türkiye’s mediation to secure a ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its initiatives to build the Black Sea grain deal, for example, have played a vital role in preventing a global food crisis. As Erdogan repeatedly asserts: “The world is bigger than five” and “a fairer world is possible.” The global community can overcome the many crises facing our world today.

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Fahrettin Altun

for example, have played a vital role in preventing a global food crisis. As Erdogan repeatedly asserts: “The world is bigger than five” and “a fairer world is possible.” The global community can overcome the many crises facing our world today. We have the means, the will and the capacity. But to achieve this result, influential international organisations must urgently take action to start building a fairer and more equitable system.

The Group of 20 (G20), which consists of

itics. The crises and conflicts that our world is experiencing today will determine the future of the G20 and its members. Thus, this year’s G20 summit is an important opportunity for the group’s members to come up with a collective response to these challenges and take important steps towards building a new international order.

First and foremost, the G20 and each of its members can treat this summit as an opportunity to renew their commitments to promoting solidarity, establishing an equitable interest mechanism, and

coming years.

The policies the G20 decides to implement on these and other pressing issues of our time will help determine what future system we will have – one where a small and powerful group of countries maintains its privileges and the rest of the world continues to struggle with crises or one where resources are fairly distributed and common welfare/development mechanisms are established.

The G20 members also need to address the “crisis of truth” that is deepening the crisis in our international system. Today, the future of humanity is at the mercy of technologies – especially communication technologies – it created. The new problems that have emerged in the era of internet and social media, such as online privacy violations, data security problems, cyber-threats, hybrid wars and digital fascism, are all deepening the problems we are having in global politics and the economy.

Unfortunately, so far, humanity has failed to develop effective policies, strategies, responses and ethical codes against the challenges posed by digital technologies. Many technological innovations that have expanded the possibilities for societies and individuals to interact have turned into weapons of mass manipulation at the hands of malevolent forces. As we have witnessed in the past few years, these tools are being used to spread disinformation and to conceal war crimes, massacres and even genocides. The struggle for truth, like the struggle for justice, has become a common issue for all humanity that requires global cooperation.

If it is to play a leading role in bringing an end to the crisis in our current international system and help build a “fairer world” for all, the G20 will have to make addressing the problems relating to communication one of its priorities, and especially join the fight against disinformation.

As our president says, “a fairer world is possible,” but influential international organisations – like the G20 – need to start working towards it now.

— Aljazeera

Trump’s Cabinet picks could be problematic

Michael Jansen

a Gentile (non-Jewish) Zionist who has rejected the two-state solution as the means to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. And, Trump has chosen fellow real estate developer and golf partner Steve Witkoff to be special US envoy to the region. He is a strong supporter of Israel and of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

For secretary of state, Trump has named hawkish Florida Senator Marco Rubio who favours taking hardline with China, Iran and Cuba. He calls for an early end to the Russian-Ukraine war and voted against a \$6 billion aid package for Ukraine early this year. He backs Israel’s war on Gaza and urges Israel to strike Iran in respond to that country’s attacks and to wipe out Hizbollah in Lebanon.

Trump is certain to try to build on his first term regional policies. These included recognising Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, shifting the US embassy there, cutting funding for the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, declaring Israeli settlements legal, and accepting Israeli annexation of Syria’s Golan Heights. During his new term, Trump could back Israel’s closure of UNRWA and accept Israeli annexation of West Bank settlements. He demonstrated earlier that his ultimate aim is to resolve the Palestinian Israeli conflict by eliminating any possibility of the emergence of any Palestinian entity in the expectation that Palestinians will submit to Israeli rule or leave their homeland.

Trump’s more controversial choices include Robert F. Kennedy for health secretary. He could be a disaster because he falsely claims vaccines cause autism in children, HIV is not linked to AIDS, and some antidepressants are tied to school shootings.

He is nephew of the slain US president John Kennedy and son of assassinated US attorney general Robert Kennedy. Since he is critical of processed foods, he could run into interference from McDonalds’ hamburgers and fries.

Pete Hegseth is a contested nominee for defence. He a news anchor on the right-wing Fox channel and a National Guard veteran who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay prison camp where he was a warder. He is a deep conservative critical of the Pentagon’s liberal recruitment policies and is critical of liberal recruitment policies. Trump has nominated

Florida Republican Congressman Matt Gaetz as attorney general, the country’s chief law officer. For this post, he is considered “the worst [choice] in American history.” Trump’s nomination coincided with an investigation of Gaetz by the House of Representatives ethics committee for sex trafficking and sexual misconduct. If confirmed Gaetz will be asked to carry out prosecutions of Trump’s political enemies and critics.

For national security, Trump chose ex-Democratic representative Tulsi Gabbard, a critic of the Biden administration’s backing for Ukraine in its war with Russia, who has no experience in this field although she would have to manage 18 different agencies. She is criticised for meeting President Bashar al-Assad twice during a visit to Syria.

Trump has named South Dakota governor Kristi Noem for homeland security chief. A climate change denier like Trump, she has refused Federal funding to cut pollution and tackle natural disasters in her own state. Noem will take up the challenge of managing US responses to ravages of extreme weather. Instead, of giving priority to global warming, she is expected to focus on migration into the US across its southern border. Trump has promised to halt the flow of migrants and deport millions of “illegals.” She was dropped as Trump’s candidate for vice president due to popular anger over her shooting dead of her “untrainable” hunting dog.

The nominee to take charge of the border, former policeman Tom Homan, had this job during Trump’s first term. He said in July, “I will run the biggest deportation force this country has ever seen.” He previously implemented a policy of separating child migrants from their parents.

Politico website quoted Republican strategist Matthew Bartlett who said that Trump “went from some solid picks [as far as his party is concerned], to some interesting wildcards, to some that are more controversial, no way confirmable.” Trump admirers claim that prompt naming of nominees shows “decisiveness” rather than Senate dodging.

Max Stier, president of a nonpartisan public service think tank, told Politico that Trump has selected candidates who have no experience in running “a multi-trillion dollar, many multi-million-person organisation.” This could be a recipe for chaos.

G20 should help address common global challenges

Zhang Monan

THE international community expects the G20 Summit, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday-Tuesday, to address rising global economic challenges. The existing global economic governance system is faltering against the growing tide of trade protectionism and unilateralism. The World Trade Organization’s dispute resolution mechanism is nearly paralyzed, and reforms are stalled. Fragmentation is increasingly evident across the global trade system, which faces its greatest challenge since World War II.

Many hope the G20 Summit will address these issues and take a major step toward preserving a free and multilateral global order.

The rising trade conflicts, particularly those instigated by the United States and the European Union, are threatening global economic stability. Recent years have seen a proliferation of protectionist tariffs and sanctions, which are disrupting global production networks and fracturing industry, supply and value chains.

The US, a major instigator of trade wars, has continued to escalate tensions not only in trade but also in other areas. Since 2018, when the then US president Donald Trump launched a trade war against China, Sino-US trade relations have deteriorated.

The Joe Biden administration has not only continued with the Trump-era tariffs but also increased them. In particular, this year has seen the US administration impose a series of new tariffs on Chinese products.

On May 14, the administration invoked Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974, announcing new tariffs on China’s strategic industries.

These tariffs include raising the current tariffs on steel and aluminum from 0-7.5 percent to 25 percent, on electric vehicles from 25 percent to 100 percent, on lithium batteries and battery components from 7.5 percent to 25 percent, on solar panels from 25 percent to 50 percent, and on semiconductors from 25 percent to 50 percent.

The EU recently joined the fray by imposing tariffs of up to 45.3 percent on Chinese-made electric vehicles, raising tensions between the two major economies and threatening to destabilize international trade and stall global economic growth.

The WTO’s latest report highlights how global trends — geopolitical competition, regional conflicts and trade sanctions — have eroded the stable foundation of world economic growth over the past 30 years, leading to the fragmentation of the global trade system. According to WTO data, in 2023, the export of global goods was \$23.8 trillion, down 4.6 percent after two years of growth. This downturn represents the slowest growth rate in five decades — not counting global recessions.

Punitive tariffs imposed by the US on Chinese products have disrupted the normal flow of trade, investment and technologies, resulting in severe misallocation of resources and damaging global value and supply chains. The strain on the global industry is palpable; for instance, according to China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing, in July, the global manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index fell to 48.9 percent, marking its fourth consecutive month below the 50 percent threshold, indicating contraction. History shows that pro-

longed trade tensions weigh heavily on global economic growth. During the Great Depression, in 1929, then US president Herbert Hoover imposed tariffs on agricultural imports, and one year later Congress worsened the situation by passing the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which raised duties on more than 20,000 items, with rates reaching nearly 60 percent. This prompted more than 40 countries to impose retaliatory tariffs on US goods, igniting a global trade war that reduced the world trade volume by 66 percent and global industrial output by 33 percent in 1934, bringing the global economy to the brink of collapse.

If the tariff wars continue to escalate today, the global economy could suffer a similarly devastating blow. If the US continues to maintain or even impose more high tariffs on Chinese goods, such moves will drag more economies into a tariff-driven economic struggle, making each one of them a potential victim of the trade war.

Preserving the global multilateral trade system has become a shared challenge for countries supporting free trade. In the face of rising protectionism and unilateralism, the G20-founded as a coordination mechanism to help the world overcome financial crises — must adopt a rules-based multilateral approach.

The G20 has played a crucial role in overcoming financial crises and improving the global trade and investment systems.

The G20 Summit will convene in Rio de Janeiro under “exceptional circumstances”. Addressing trade conflicts and reinforcing the G20’s role as a primary channel for international economic cooperation are complex challenges to overcome.

Once again, it was the economy, stupid

THE famous mantra, “it’s the economy, stupid,” coined by the political strategist James Carville, helped Bill Clinton unseat President George H.W. Bush in 1992, and now it explains another election. The economy played a critical role in the 2024 US presidential race, creating the conditions not only for Donald Trump to trounce Kamala Harris and for the Republicans to gain control of the Senate and the House of Representatives, but possibly also for a counter-elite to usher in a new power structure.

The election’s outcome reflected two seemingly opposing views of the economy, both of which are correct. The interaction between them says as much about the basic economics-related strategies of the two political campaigns, good and bad, as it does about the state of expert economic communication in today’s America.

The message from voter surveys was unambiguous: the economy was one of the two main issues in this election (the other being illegal immigration). When asked for specifics, many said “inflation” and, if pushed harder, they reported being heavily influenced by what they see as excessively elevated

prices and the lack of any sign that they are coming down.

The Trump campaign masterfully exploited voter dissatisfaction with the cost of living. Following Ronald Reagan’s example in 1980, they repeatedly posed variations of the question: “Are you better off today than you were four years ago?”

One reason why Democrats failed to respond is that they were obsessed by another (ironically correct) characterization of the economy. The Harris campaign emphasized America’s “economic exceptionalism,” echoing a point that many professional economists have been making. The Democrats pointed to robust US growth, which has outpaced the rest of the G7, and to recent gains in real wages owing to the decline in the inflation rate. And, of course, there have been multiple record highs in the stock market.

But this approach signaled to many voters that the Democrats simply did not understand what was going on; that they are fundamentally disconnected from pocketbook realities on the ground. On some occasions, they even came across as being full of hubris.

After all, a “K-shaped economy” means that improvements associated with robust growth are not

Mohamed A. El-Erian

evenly shared. Some sectors and households prosper, others struggle. Among those struggling the most are very-low-income households that have exhausted their pandemic savings, maxed out their credit cards, have no financial buffers and, therefore, live with an unsettling degree of economic insecurity.

Michael Spence, the Nobel laureate economist, put it well at a recent lecture at the University of Cambridge’s Judge Business School. Pointing to data illustrating the financial fragility of the bottom half of the income distribution, he noted that such households hearing about economic exceptionalism from the traditional media may have one or more of the following reactions: “the media doesn’t know what it is talking about,” “the media is biased,” or “the media is not to be trusted.” From these starting points, one can easily arrive at a belief that whoever is talking about the economy doing well simply does not understand or represent one’s interests.

The Democrats also lost control of the narrative on inflation. It did little good to tell people that the rate of price increases, while still positive, had fallen sharply from its 2022 high when their concerns were

with the overall price level. The cumulative effect of inflation has added to their cost of living and thus reduced their quality of life.

Similarly, record-breaking equity market runs mean little to households that own few, if any, stocks. Meanwhile, a housing price boom is far from a blessing for those seeking to buy their first home.

But the issue is not just how each party communicated to voters. The traditional expert economic consensus has also been found wanting, not least in its inability to describe clearly and widely the interaction between these two views. Mainstream economists also stood little chance of changing voters’ minds about the other big issue in this election: immigration.

By bolstering the US economy’s supply side, illegal immigration has, in fact, supported growth. But the experts who formulate the consensus economic opinion were never going to be able to communicate this to skeptical voters, particularly because they belong to a club that has taken one credibility hit after another for the past 16 years.

It started with the failure to anticipate the 2008 global financial crisis and subsequent Great Recession, which almost resulted in an even more



Stock Exchange gains 232 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 232 points, a positive change of 0.24 percent, closing at 94,995.67 points as compared to 94,763.64 points on the last trading day.

A total of 765,206,618 shares were traded during the day as compared to 893,170,249 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs23,924 billion against Rs30,811 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 457 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 192 of them recorded gains and 220 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 45 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 85,137,088 shares at Rs9.24 per share,

Fauji Foods Limited with 60,498,160 shares at Rs11.55 per share and K-Electric Limited with 58,382,098 shares at Rs5.17 per share.

Reliance Cotton Spinning Mills Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs61.75 per share price, closing at Rs711.75, whereas the runner-up was Pakistan Services Limited with Rs59.76 rise in its per share price to Rs808.51.

Bhanero Textile Mills Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs85.80 per share closing at Rs774.37 followed by Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited with Rs47.83 decline to close at Rs767.00.

Rupee sheds 19 paise against dollar

Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated 19 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.85 against

the previous day's closing of Rs277.66.

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 48 paise to close at Rs293.01 against the last day's closing of Rs293.49, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.79, whereas a decline of 96 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs350.58 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs351.54.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 05 and 09 paise to close at Rs75.64 and Rs74.02 respectively.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, TSS Amber, Izumo Hermes, Singapore Bulker and Star Crimson scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal and Power Electric Port Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Greentec, Sanmar Raga, Khaipur and Navig-8 Montiel scheduled to load/offload Rice, Chemicals, Mogas and Gas oil are also arrived at outer anchorage on today morning.

Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Golden Sun and Milaha Qatar are left the port on today morning, while four more ships, TSS Amber, Crimson Delight, Xin Xiang He, Kouras Queen and Crimson are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo volume of 125,030 tonnes, comprising 106,393 tonnes imports cargo and 18,637 tonnes export cargo carried in 2,066 Containers (1,750 TEUs Imports & 316 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Ten ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Solar Catie, Sanmar Raga and Yannis Pittas are carrying Container, Chemicals and Coal are expected to take berths at QICT, EVTL and PIBT respectively on Monday, while two more container ship, MSC Branka and MSC Positano are due to arrive at port on Tuesday.

Gold prices up by Rs2,500/tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs2,500 and was sold at Rs269,900 on Monday against its sale at Rs267,400, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs2,144 to Rs231,396 from Rs229,252 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs212,113 from Rs210,148.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs3250 and Rs2,786 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$25 to \$2,587 from \$2,562, the Association reported.

Over 4.8m cotton bales arrive at units

MULTAN (APP): Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over 4.8 million (48,93,948) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till

November 15, registering a decrease of 33.60 percent as compared to corresponding period of last year.

According to a fortnightly report of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued to media on Monday, over 4.5 million (45,06,779) bales have undergone the ginning process i.e converted into bales

Cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded 22,44,880 bales registering a decrease of 34.53 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 34,28,915 bales. Sindh generated 26,49,068 bales registering a decrease of 32.79 percent as compared to corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 39,41,709 bales. Arrivals in Balochistan were recorded at 1,49,900 bales.

Exporters/traders bought 38,000 cotton bales while textile sector bought total 41,39,582 bales. Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has not yet started procuring cotton in 2024-25, says the report.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Textile exports witnessed an increase of 10.44 percent during the first four months of the current financial year (2024-25) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics reported.

The textile exports from the country were recorded at US \$ 6,146.105 million during July-October (2024-

90% of global trade happens through shipping industry, says Minister



F.P. Report

HONG KONG: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, participated in the Global Maritime Trade Summit organized by the International Chamber of Shipping. Expressing his gratitude for the invitation, the Federal Minister thanked the Chairman of the International Chamber of Shipping, Emmanuel Grimaldi, and the Hong Kong Transport and Shipping Department. In his speech, the Federal Minister stated that 90% of global trade depends on the shipping industry. He emphasized that Pakistan's ports have been significantly improved. Due to these improvements, Maersk Line, Mediterranean

Shipping Company, Hutchison, and Abu Dhabi Ports Company have signed memorandums of understanding and agreements to invest in Pakistan's maritime sector and shipping industry.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh invited other international shipping companies to invest in Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan's geographical location is of great strategic importance, as it provides easy access for transporting goods to China, Central Asian countries, and the Middle East. The Federal Minister further mentioned that our deep ports at Port Qasim and Gwadar have significant handling capacity, but the current transportation is less than half of their potential. This is in

contrast to nearby ports like Dubai, Jebel Ali, and Salalah, which are quite busy. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh also highlighted the ongoing rapid development at Gwadar Port, with hopes that it will soon be fully operational. Recently, the federal cabinet directed that 50% of trade will be routed through this port. He emphasized that this port is of immense importance for trade with China, Russia, Hong Kong, and other countries.

During his speech, the Minister for Maritime Affairs further stated that Pakistan is making its maritime sector environmentally friendly in line with the standards set by the International Maritime Organization. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh mentioned

that Pakistan is among the countries with less than 1% carbon emissions globally, yet it is one of the top ten countries most affected by climate change. Despite this, Pakistan is striving to transition to carbon-free ships and is actively implementing a decarbonization policy. He also noted that Pakistan has recently signed the Hong Kong Convention and will make every effort to transition the shipping industry to green energy under this agreement, to minimize pollution. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh reiterated that a new maritime policy will be introduced either later this year or at the beginning of next year. Under this policy, foreign investors will be provided with tax incentives and other facilities.

Current Account records a surplus of \$349 million in Oct 24: SBP

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan's external Current Account Balance witnessed positive improvement for the consecutive third month in October 2024 as Current Account recorded a surplus of \$349 million in the month while Current Account for the first four months of the financial year 2024-25 recorded as \$ 218 million, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported on Monday.

Cumulatively the current account balance for July to October 2024, according to the latest SBP data, has shown significant improvement as a surplus of \$218 million was recorded during the first four months of FY 2024-25 as compared to

the deficit of \$1,528 billion during the corresponding period of last year.

"The external Current Account recorded a surplus of US\$349 million in October 2024, after showing a surplus of US\$86 million and US\$29 million in September 2024 and August 2024 respectively," said SBP adding that accumulative current account balance for July-October 2024-25 also turned into surplus after a deficit of \$131 million in the first three months of the current fiscal year.

According to SBP figures, the merchandise trade deficit has declined on month-on-month as well as yearly basis during October

2024. The balance on trade in goods in October 24 has recorded a deficit of \$1,586 million against the deficit of \$ 2,061 million of September 2024 and \$1,664 million in October 2023, the data shown.

Likewise, the services' trade deficit was recorded at \$261 million during October 24 as compared to the deficit of \$258 million during September 2024 and \$ 206 million in October 2023, the data shown adding that balance on trade in July October FY24-25 was recorded as \$992 million against the \$1,101 million deficit in trade in service during the corresponding period of last year.

The overall trade deficit in goods and services was recorded at \$9,316 million during the first four months of the current fiscal year compared to the deficit of \$,8,101 million during corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the balance on primary income recorded a deficit of \$2,884 million during July-October 2024-25 against a deficit of \$2,640 million of the corresponding period of the last fiscal year, the SBP data stated and added that Balance on Secondary Income during Jul-Oct 24-25 was recorded as \$12,418 million against \$9,213 million of same period of the previous fiscal year.

IDEAS-24: Strengthening global partnership for a safer tomorrow

Hamail Tahir

IDEAS, International Defence Exhibition and Seminar, held biennially in Karachi, represents a major event at the canvas of global defence and security industry; highlighting Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its role as a key player in defense partnerships while focusing on technological advancements. The platform provides opportunities for collaboration between defence industry leaders, government representatives, and military officials.

The upcoming defence exhibitions IDEAS-24 in Karachi will prominently feature a diverse array of land, air, and sea equipment, alongside cutting-edge cyber security and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. At IDEAS-24, scheduled from November 19-22 at Expo Centre Karachi, exhibitors will showcase innovations ranging from advanced military vehicles and naval

systems to aerial drones, highlighting their operational capabilities and integration with AI for enhanced situational awareness and decision-making support. Exhibitors will also demonstrate AI-powered solutions designed to optimize logistics and maintenance operations, ensuring that military forces remain agile and responsive in dynamic environments. These exhibitions will serve as critical platforms for collaboration among industry leaders, military officials, and technology innovators, fostering discussions around the future of defence technologies in an increasingly complex global landscape.

In addition, a seminar and number of side lines conferences will be held exploring avenues of enhancing public-private partnerships to foster innovation and efficiency, thereby enabling the defence industry to meet both domestic and international demands in defence sector. Through the discus-

sions held in seminar and side line conferences, defence experts and policy makers will be able to exchange ideas and discuss the strategic direction of the defence sector. The panelist of these seminars and conferences will include international experts in field of defence industry, as well as defence & security analyst.

The International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) first held in 2000; now holds a significant place at the canvas of global defence industry. The event is held biennially and the inaugural first edition of IDEAS 2000 attracted over 65 national and international defence exhibitors. The IDEAS has grown with each new addition as last edition witnessed over 500 national and international defence companies, 532 companies from 38 countries and drawing 350 high level military delegates from 57 nations. This platform not only highlights advancements in defence equipment

but also fosters international collaboration in defense production and technology. As it prepares for its next iteration in November 2024, IDEAS continues to play a crucial role in promoting Pakistan's defence industry on the global stage.

Ultimately, Pakistan's ambition to be more than just a holding a defence exhibition. It signals a desire to lead in specific areas such as technology, strategic partnerships, and innovation and to foster global security partnership for a safer tomorrow of the world. By hosting an event of this scale, Pakistan leverages its position to attract foreign investors, enhance its export potential, and can cultivate partnerships that go beyond from defence to economic cooperation.

IDEAS-2024 will be a testament of Pakistan's commitment to regional security and pursuit of a more prominent role on the global defence stage.

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SumSum Grand II Project opening ceremony held



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The grand inauguration ceremony of SumSum Group's "Grand II Project" was held, graced by prominent and esteemed personalities of the city. Distinguished attendees included Zaid Khan Tessori, son of the Governor of Sindh; former Federal Minister Miftah Ismail; Mufti Abdul Raheem of Jamia Tur Rasheed Karachi; Chairman of ABAD Hassan Bakshi; and President of DEFCLAREA, Johar Iqbal, among other notable figures from social and business circles.

The event began with a

warm welcome by Asif SumSum, Chairman of SumSum Group, who highlighted the group's achievements and shared insights into their future plans and vision.

A key moment of the ceremony was the recognition of SumSum Group's efforts and accomplishments by the distinguished guests, including Zaid Khan Tessori, Miftah Ismail, Mufti Abdul Raheem, Hassan Bakshi, and Johar Iqbal. They expressed their hope that the Grand II Project would achieve its goals successfully, benefiting not only SumSum Group but also the broader business community.

Highlights of the Ceremony:

Participation of prominent figures, including Mr. Zaid Khan Tessori and former Federal Minister Miftah Ismail.

Attendance of influential social, business, and diplomatic personalities, making the event exceptional.

Acknowledgment of SumSum Group's efforts by Mr. Zaid Khan Tessori in his address.

This ceremony marked a milestone for SumSum Group, signifying the beginning of a new era for the city's business and social communities.

FTT for reforms to save agricultural economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, Fair Trade in Tobacco (FTT) here on

Court Notice

In the Court of Jauhar Ali Safi Civil Judge I/Alaga Qazi Buner at Daggar Buner.Civil Appeal Meselinious No 23/14. Institution 10/2/ 2024. Date of hearing, 4/12/2024. Mst. Bakht Khuda etc VS Abdul Karim etc.Notice to No.1/5. Mohamad Ibrahim .1/6.Mohamad Ashfaq sons of Abdul Karim old name Gul Karim (late) resident of Daggar Kalay Kozha Hujra tehsel Daggar district Buner at present abroad .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 8.30 am dated 4/12/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Jauhar Ali Safi Civil Judge I/Alaga Qazi Buner at Daggar Buner. Suit No 128/1. Institution 19/5/ 2024. Date of hearing, 28/11/2024.Said Ghulam etc VS Dost Mohamad etc.Notice to No.2.Khizar Khan s/o Khazir Khan resident of Shergharh Amazai tehsel Mandar district Buner. 6.Said Mohamad Usman s/o Said Mohamad resident of Jan Abad Malam Jaba district Swat.Wheras 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 8.30 am dated 28/11/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Monday highlighted the importance of policy reform to support Pakistan's agricultural economy and the livelihoods of millions dependent on the tobacco industry.

He urged the government to rationalize excise duties on tobacco products in Pakistan to combat the rising share of illicit trade and protect the legitimate sector from further economic damage, said a news release.

"The legitimate tobacco sector in Pakistan is already heavily taxed," said adding that "Tier-I brands are paying 84% in excise, while Tier-II brands face a 60% excise duty.

However, the illicit sector pays nothing and continues to grow unchecked, depriving the national exchequer of Rs. 300 to 330 billion annually—equivalent to \$1.2 billion. This is a staggering loss for our economy."

He emphasized that the share of illicit trade in

درستگی نام

میراثیاتی کاؤڈمیں درست نام رحمان اللہ والد کرامت اللہ شہید اری ہے جبکہ کاندھاتی کرامت اللہ شہید نامی ہے رحمان اللہ شہید اری والد کرامت اللہ شہید کا ہے، لہذا درستی کی جائے۔ رحمان اللہ والد کرامت اللہ شہید اری سکندر لڑی کوئی ملحق نہیں

میراثیاتی کاؤڈمیں درست نام رحمان اللہ والد کرامت اللہ شہید اری ہے جبکہ کاندھاتی کرامت اللہ شہید نامی ہے رحمان اللہ شہید اری والد کرامت اللہ شہید کا ہے، لہذا درستی کی جائے۔ رحمان اللہ والد کرامت اللہ شہید اری سکندر لڑی کوئی ملحق نہیں



In brief

ICC Champions Trophy reached Abbottabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 tour made a stop in Abbottabad on Monday, bringing cricket fever to the city. The trophy was displayed at key locations, including Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad Public School, Thandiyani, and the iconic PCB Abbottabad Stadium, delighting cricket fans and locals. The event featured a photo-shoot and video session, with one of the highlights being a shoot at the scenic Thandiyani. Fans were invited to take pictures with the trophy, creating a festive and inclusive atmosphere that celebrated the sport. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) team, along with Shaoukat Jadoon, Abbottabad Stadium Manager, and several notable dignitaries, including Hassan Nisar, CEO of Metrix Pakistan, and Ammad Ali, CEO of Ranking Grow, also attended the event. The silverware will journey across the eight participating nations during the tour, providing unique experiences for fans. After its visit to Abbottabad, the trophy will continue its journey to other iconic venues across Pakistan before embarking on its international tour. Tomorrow, the trophy will make its way to the scenic hill stations of Murree and Nathia Gali, where cricket lovers will have the opportunity to get up close with the prestigious silverware.

Van Dijk leaves Netherlands camp

LONDON (Agencies): Virgil van Dijk has been released from the Netherlands squad before their Nations League match against Bosnia-Herzegovina on Tuesday. The Liverpool captain played the 90 minutes of his side's 4-0 victory against Hungary on Saturday which secured second place in Group C and a place in the Nations League quarter-finals in March. Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong has also been released by manager Ronald Koeman after making his first international appearance in 13 months following a series of ankle injuries. "For both Frenkie and Virgil it is better for them to leave the training camp at this moment," Koeman said. "That decision was taken on medical grounds, with of course the interest of the players coming first." Van Dijk has played every minute of Liverpool's Premier League season to help them establish a five-point lead at the top of the table. Arne Slot's side will return to action on Sunday at Southampton.

Kusal out of third ODI

P A L L E K E L L E (Agencies): Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on Monday that in-form batter Kusal Mendis and three others have been given a break from the upcoming third ODI against New Zealand. Sri Lanka, with an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, are eyeing a clean sweep over Sri Lanka in the final match, scheduled in Pallekele on Tuesday. Kusal Mendis, a wicketkeeper-batter, has played a starring role with scores of 143 and an unbeaten 74 in the two previous rain-shortened matches. Moreover, Kamindu Mendis, Asitha Fernando, and Pathum Nissanka have also been released from the squad. "The decision was taken by the selectors to give the above players adequate time to recover and prepare for the upcoming Test series in South Africa," Sri Lanka Cricket said in a release.

PCB urges India to discuss 'concerns' related to Pakistan-hosted Champions Trophy

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Monday urged India to discuss concerns on sending its national cricket team to Pakistan, reiterating that the multi-nation tournament will be held in Pakistan next year. Pakistan is scheduled to host the Champions Trophy 2025 tournament from Feb. 9 to Mar. 19 next year. However, the International Cricket Council (ICC) this month informed Pakistan that India had declined to play any matches in Pakistan, prompting the PCB to seek a clarification from the ICC on the refusal. Officially the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has not informed the PCB of its decision.

India has not sent its cricket team to Pakistan since 2008 due to political tensions between the two countries. Pakistan was forced to agree to a "hybrid" model for the 2023 Asia Cup through which all of India's matches were shifted to

Sri Lanka. Pakistan has said it will not agree to a similar model for the Champions Trophy tournament.

"Right now, all the teams that have qualified for the Champions Trophy are ready to come [to Pakistan] and nobody has an issue," Naqvi told reporters in Lahore. "I will say it today too that if India has any concern, they should talk to us, we will address their concern. I don't think there is any reason because of which the Indian team cannot come here."

The ICC's Champions Trophy tour kicked off on Saturday from Islamabad but did not head to Muzaffarabad in the first leg of its journey. The BCCI had objected to the trophy's original route, which included Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The territory is disputed by the two countries.

The ICC Men's World Cup 2023 trophy was brought to India's Ladakh region in July this year, a territory in Indian-admin-



istered Kashmir disputed by both countries. When asked about the ICC canceling the trophy tour in Muzaffarabad, Naqi said:

"I think the ICC will have to think about its credibility [and consider] that it is a body of all cricket organizations in the world," Naqvi said. "Even now, the tour has not been canceled, it has been rescheduled."

The PCB chairman disclosed that it has appointed former fast

bowler and selection committee member Aqib Javed as the interim white-ball head coach of the men's national squad till the Champions Trophy tournament. He said the decision was taken so that the board does not rush into appointing a new white-ball coach for Pakistan after Gary Kirsten's resignation.

"This is just temporary and we are about to start the process [to appoint] a head coach in the

next 10-15 days so that we can search and bring in a nice head coach," he said.

The development takes place a day after the PCB denied speculation Javed would replace Pakistan's incumbent interim head coach in the Test match format, Jason Gillespie, saying that the Australian will continue to coach the men's side till the South Africa series in December/January 2025.

The white-ball coaching role had become vacant following Kirsten's resignation in October. Red-ball head coach Gillespie had coached the side during the recent white-ball tour of Australia, who will now reinjoin the side for the upcoming Test series in South Africa.

In a separate statement, the PCB said Javed will continue to serve as a senior member of the men's selection committee and will be assigned additional responsibilities following the conclusion of the Champions Trophy tournament.

The Pakistan men's side are scheduled to play three ODIs and three T20Is in Zimbabwe from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5 and as many white-ball matches in South Africa from Dec. 10-22. In the lead up to the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, Pakistan will host New Zealand and South Africa for an ODI triangular series from Feb. 8-14.

Javed rose in influence in the cricket board after he was named to a revamped selection committee featuring Aleem Dar, Hassan Cheema and former batter Azhar Ali. His tactic to turn the batting friendly Multan track into a spin-friendly one helped Pakistan secure a 2-1 series victory over England, after Pakistan lost the first Test by an innings.

Following Pakistan's triumph over England, the South Asian team won their first ODI series in Australia since 2002 by beating the hosts 2-1 this month. The green shirts, however, lost the three-match T20I series 3-0 to the hosts.

Australia win T20I series 3-0 after Stoinis blitz



HOBART (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan rounded-off their Australia tour with another batting collapse as the hosts won the third and final T20I by seven wickets with more than eight overs to spare here on Monday.

After being 61 for one in the seventh over, Pakistan collapsed to 117 all-out in

just over 18 overs – losing their nine wickets for 56 runs in little 11 overs. Australia demonstrated there were no demons in the wicket when they raced to victory for the loss of three wickets in 11.2 overs to wrap-up the series 3-0.

It was a strong comeback by Australia in the

shortest format after Pakistan had outshined and outclassed the 50-over world champions, winning the series by 2-1.

Pakistan had started promisingly, reaching 58 for one after the PowerPlay over with Babar Azam and Haseebullah playing exquisite shots to find the fence

as well as tucking good deliveries for ones and twos. But Haseebullah's departure on the fifth ball of Adam Zampa's first over started the riot as Pakistan collapsed to 117 all-out. Haseebullah scored a 19-ball 24 with three fours.

Babar Azam, who scored a sparkling 41 off 28 balls with four fours before becoming Zampa's second scalp, was the fifth batter to be dismissed at the score 91. Shaheen Shah Afridi's 12-ball 16 helped Pakistan to reach 117.

The young Pakistan batting found things tough against the fast bowlers with Aaron Hardie picking up three wickets for 21 runs and Spencer Johnson bagging two wickets for 24 runs.

In turn, Shaheen and debutant Jahandad Khan removed openers Matthew Short (2) and Jake Fraser-McGurk (18) at the score of 30, before Marcus Stoinis took control of the proceed-

ings to belt five fours and five sixes in a rapid 27-ball 61 not out and steer his side home in 11.2 overs.

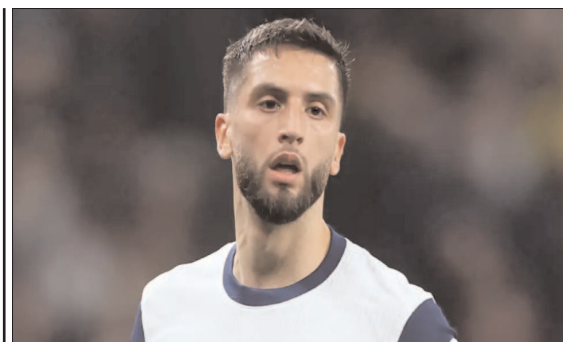
Such was the dominance of Stoinis that he scored 38 runs in the 55 runs third wicket partnership with Josh Inglis, while he scored 23 runs in 33 runs unbroken fourth wicket with Tim David, who contributed only seven off three balls.

The Pakistan cricket team will now depart for Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, for three ODIs and three T20Is. The first ODI will be played on 24 November.

Scores in brief
Australia beat Pakistan by seven wickets, win series 3-0

Pakistan 117 all-out, 18.1 overs (Babar Azam 41, Haseebullah Khan 24, Shaheen Shah Afridi 16; Aaron Hardie 3-21, Adam Zampa 2-11, Spencer Johnson 2-24)

Australia 118-3, 11.2 overs (Marcus Stoinis 61 not out, Josh Inglis 27).



Bentancur banned for seven games over alleged racial slur

LONDON (AFP): Tottenham's Rodrigo Bentancur was Monday given a seven-match domestic ban by the Football Association over an alleged racist remark made about teammate Son Heung-min in a TV interview.

The midfielder was charged by the FA in September in connection with an alleged breach of its rules during the interview in his home country of Uruguay.

The former Juventus player, who has also been fined £100,000 (\$126,000), had been asked in June by a presenter for a Spurs player's shirt.

He replied: "Sonny's? It could be Sonny's cousin too as they all look the same." Bentancur, 27, apologised to the South Korea international but because it was deemed an "aggravated breach", an independent regulatory commission panel was required to either uphold the FA charge or dismiss the case. The panel upheld the charge and Bentancur will have to sit out Tottenham's next seven domestic fixtures, though he will be able to play in Europa League matches against Roma and Rangers.

The FA said in a statement that it was alleged that the incident constituted an "aggravated breach... as it included a reference -- whether express or implied -- to nationality and/or race and/or ethnic origin."

"Rodrigo Bentancur denied this charge, but the independent regulatory commission found it to be proven and imposed his sanctions following a hearing," it added.

Son, speaking in late September, said: "He apologised straight afterwards when we had holiday. I was at home. I didn't even realise what was going on. He sent me a long message and you could feel it was coming from his heart." Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou said Bentancur had acknowledged his mistake and had pleaded for leniency. Bentancur will not return to domestic action until December 26, missing Premier League matches against Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool as well as Tottenham's League Cup quarter-final against Manchester United. The Uruguayan has played 15 times for Tottenham this season, scoring one goal.

Kane keen to carry on beyond 2026 World Cup

LONDON (Agencies): England captain Harry Kane says the 2026 FIFA World Cup may not be his last international tournament. The 31-year-old's future remains uncertain, despite extending his all-time scoring record to 69 goals in 103 appearances for his country when he scored the opener in the 5-0 win against the Republic of Ireland on Sunday.

England interim manager Lee Carsley benched Kane for the 3-0 victory in Greece on Thursday, while he was criticised for his performances at Euro 2024.

But when asked if the next World Cup, to be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico, would be his last shot at glory with England, the Bayern Munich striker told PA: "I don't think so. I think there's a perception when you get to your 30s that you're coming to an end, but for me I'm performing at the highest level I've ever performed and feel as good as I've ever felt, so it's about taking in the moment."

"I don't like to look too far ahead and in my career, I never have, the [2026] World Cup is going to be exciting. "In America it will be an incredible occasion and ultimately it's about trying to win that, looking at where you are, where to improve and it will be no different in a couple of years." Kane was speaking at the unveiling of a statue and a mural of him at the Peter May Sports Centre in east London, where he began playing as a five-year-old for Ridgeway Rovers.

"It's pretty special to be honest," Kane told BBC Newsround. "I played on these pitches as a five-year-old with dreams of playing for England, and I've been lucky enough to achieve that. Hopefully the boys and girls will walk past and be inspired by the story of my journey, my life and hard work."

When asked what it would take to get a statue of him at Wembley Stadium, he added: "I think we need to win a major tournament." England will look to do that under Thomas Tuchel, who will begin his 18-month contract as manager on 1 January after Carsley's temporary spell. Kane played under Tuchel at Bayern last season and is confident the German can end the Three Lions' trophy drought. "He's a fantastic coach and a really good guy as well," he said. "I'm excited to work with him again."

"I know he'll bring bundles of energy, and come March we'll be focused on America and the World Cup, and that's an exciting prospect to look forward to."

England will find out their World Cup qualifying opponents on 13 December, with the first games scheduled to take place in March.



ISLAMABAD: A view of basketball match during girls basketball tournament. —INP Photo

FIH reveals plan to help Pakistan regain past glory

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Tayyab Ikram has revealed that the FIH will launch 'Project Pakistan' to help the country regain past glory in its national game.

"Project Pakistan" is set to kick off in the coming months, focusing on high performance, professionalism and talent development," Ikram said in a morning show of Express News.

The plan, inspired by the success of "Project India," seeks to address the challenges faced by Pakistan hockey and reestablish Pakistan's significance in Asian and global hockey.

Tayyab Ikram emphasized Pakistan's pivotal role in world hockey in the past. "Pakistan is essential for both Asian and global hockey," he said and added "A few years ago, we launched Project India, which significantly elevated the sport's profile there. Now, in the coming months, we're set to roll out Project Pakistan."

He said a similar programme would also be launched in Africa to boost

hockey in the continent.

He highlighted the challenges being faced by Pakistan hockey and underlined the need for a robust financial model. "While twelve countries competed in the Paris Olympics, eight to ten more could have joined if they had adequate financial support and government backing," he said.

Tayyab Ikram emphasized that the revival of hockey in Pakistan was not just a national priority but also critical for the growth of Asian and global hockey.

The FIH, he assured, would continue to provide technical assistance to Pakistan and work towards creating equal opportunities for all member nations. He said the Pakistan government would have to play an active role in ensuring the project's success.

Reflecting on the trust world hockey has placed in his leadership, Ikram called it a great honour and outlined his broader vision of empowerment and engagement.

He stressed the importance of including smaller nations in global hockey platforms, citing the record

viewership achieved during the Paris Olympics as evidence of the sport's growing appeal.

Ikram announced the formation of a task force dedicated to improving the sport's visibility and audience experience.

He also lauded the success of the Hockey Five format, designed to narrow the competitive gap between smaller and larger nations.

He highlighted the event held in January, where smaller countries competed alongside major hockey powerhouses, culminating in Oman clinching a bronze medal. "This format has instilled a new sense of confidence and motivation among emerging teams," he said.

Ikram said that hockey was ahead of several sport disciplines in technological advancements, particularly in ensuring fair play.

He noted the unique challenges of applying technologies like AI in a fast-paced, multi-directional sport like hockey. Nevertheless, he affirmed ongoing efforts to leverage technology for enhancing transparency and precision in officiating.

Federal Female Club Basketball Tournament kicks off

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as eight teams are set to compete for the trophy in the Federal Female Club Basketball Tournament, which kicked off here at Hamidi Hall of Pakistan Sports Complex on Monday.

The event is organized by Right to Play, in collaboration with Alliance Française, under the supervision of the Federal Basketball Association. The opening ceremony was graced by Federal Secretary for Education Mohiuddin Wani, as Chief Guest. Fabrice Disdier, representing Alliance Française, was the Guest of Honour while Ali Khayam, Country Director for Right to Play, and Ouj E Zahoor, General Secretary of the Federal Basketball Association were also present on the occasion.

The event was further honored by the presence of the wife of the Ambassador of France, a former international basketball player, and the wife of the Polish Ambassador, both of whom showed their support for the young athletes, said a press release. The tournament features eight teams from across Islamabad, showcasing the best female basketball talent in the city. The event aims to promote sportsmanship, provide a competitive platform for players, and highlight the growing interest in women's sports in the region.

"We are delighted to see such incredible talent and dedication from our female athletes," said Federal Secretary Mohiuddin Wani during his opening remarks. "This tournament is a testament to the potential of women's sports in Pakistan, and we are committed to supporting initiatives that empower young athletes."

Right to Play and Alliance Française have partnered for this tournament with the goal of fostering greater female participation in sports. Their collaboration with the Federal Basketball Association highlights their shared commitment to creating opportunities for women athletes and providing them with a platform to excel.

ITF Junior Tennis C'ships Local talent shines in boys' singles

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ITF Pakistan World Junior Tennis Championships Leg-2 got off to an electrifying start on Monday at Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Tennis Complex, Islamabad with local players making significant strides in the Boys' Singles category.

The Boys' Singles first round saw some impressive performances by Pakistani players. Ahmad Nael Qureshi showcased his dominance with a convincing 6-1, 6-3 win over Germany's Louis Ellah Kneshe. Muhammad Talha Khan delivered an equally commanding performance, defeating Sri Lanka's Mweckramasinghe Mudiyanse 6-0, 6-1.

Muhammad Salar Khan and Haider Ali Rizwan also emerged victorious with straight-set wins, while Bilal Asim endured a tough three-set battle against Thailand's Ariyaphol Leekul, ultimately triumphing 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Asad Zaman added to the local triumphs with a resounding 6-1, 6-0 win over the USA's Tchegoun Derosa.

However, the Girls' Singles proved to be a challenging battleground for Pakistani players. International players dominated the day, with Karolina Ligai of Kazakhstan crushing Germany's Leyla-Esther Kneshe 6-0, 6-1.

Japan's Haruhi Katsube outlasted Pakistan's Amna Al Qayum in a competitive 6-1, 7-5 match, while Paweenon Nualsri from Thailand, Korea's A Hyun Jo, and Russia's Elizaveta Privalova posted commanding victories against their Pakistani counterparts.



In brief

IRSA releases 108,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 108,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 56,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1508.53 feet and was 110.53 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 25,800 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1168.40 feet, which was 118.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,700 cusecs and 28,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 65,300, 47,800, 39,600 and 5,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 16,700 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police nab 2 snatchers in Sihala

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Sihala station team on Monday apprehended two criminals involved in multiple cases of snatching and theft, recovering cash and valuables from their possession. A public relations officer told APP that the Sihala police team utilized both technical and human resources to capture the suspects, identified as Junaid and Sahib Khan. He said the police recovered stolen cash, a mobile phone, four motorbikes, and a laptop from the accused. The individuals were linked to various snatching and theft activities in different areas of Sihala. Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects, and further investigation is underway, he added. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza directed officers to intensify their crackdown on criminal elements, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding citizens' lives and property. "No criminal element will be allowed to disrupt public peace," DIG Raza said, urging citizens to report any suspicious activity or individuals through the emergency helpline "Pucar-15."

AIOU holds pilot phase workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): A four-day workshop titled "Art of Parenting" was inaugurated at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Monday, aiming to familiarize master trainers with two guides developed by the university, "Aghosh" and "Parwarish". Speaking at the opening ceremony, Dr. Khalid Chauhan, Director General of Research and Development at the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Pakistan, emphasized that Aghosh and Parwarish are crucial books for child upbringing. He encouraged master trainers to engage with the content and disseminate it to the community to realize the dream of an ideal society. Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Raja Rashid Ali recited Amjad Islam Amjad's poem "Mere Betay Ne Aankhein Ek Nayi Duniya Mein Kholi Hain" and highlighted the increasing challenges of raising children in the modern era. He stressed the importance of parents and teachers focusing on children's character building. Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Fazal Rahman stated that tolerance and adaptability are key qualities to instill in children to create an exemplary society.

Pakistan to continue unwavering cooperation to Syria in education, trade, says Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz has said that Pakistan would continue its unwavering cooperation and support to Syria in education, trade, tourism, especially religious tourism.

During a meeting with the Ambassador of Syrian Republic in Pakistan Dr. Ramez Alraee, he said that Pakistan and Syria enjoy historic and brotherly relations, both countries are tied in the bond of shared religion, fraternity, history and culture.

The matters pertaining to bilateral relations and important regional and international issues were discussed in the meeting.

The Speaker stressed the need for unity among the Muslim countries to cope with the challenges confronting to Muslim ummah. He said that the peace in the Middle East is

linked with peace in Palestine. He noted that Pakistan fully supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria and a desire durable peace in Syria.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the importance of Pak-Syria Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) and highlighted the role of PFG in the National Assembly as a significant platform for fostering mutual understanding and collaboration. He lauded the commencement of commercial flight operations of Syrian Airlines between Damascus and Lahore. The Speaker was confident that flight operations of Syrian Airlines would promote people-to-people contact, trade and tourism between both brotherly nations.

He also appreciated the hospitality extended by Syria to Pakistani Zaireen visiting Syria

for Zyaraat of Shrines. The envoy said that Syria values its historic relations with Pakistan and the Syrian Government wants to further strengthen the existing ties through enhanced cooperation in diverse fields.

While apprising the NA Speaker regarding the newly started flight operation, the ambassador said that this initiative would not only facilitate the Pakistani Zaireen & business community but will also strengthen the socio-economic cooperation between both countries. He praised Pakistan's efforts for promotion of peace in the region. He expressed his gratitude to People and Government of Pakistan for supporting Syria in the field of education & religious tourism.

Later on, the Ambassador of the People's Democratic

Republic of Algeria Brahim Romani met with NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at the Parliament House. Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest regarding enhanced cooperation in trade & energy sector and parliamentary diplomacy. Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan and Algeria have deep-rooted historical ties and Pakistan appreciates the unwavering support extended by Algeria to Pakistan on international forums.

He further emphasized the need to increase people-to-people contacts along with parliamentary cooperation through the Pak-Algeria Friendship Group (PFG) and increase interactions among business communities of both brotherly nations as both countries can benefit through mutually beneficial opportunities

in the field of agriculture and trade. While expressing the Pakistan Government's desire to strengthen relations with Algeria in various fields, Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the need to increase bilateral cooperation in the trade and other socio-economic sectors, especially the energy sector.

While noting Pakistan's commitment towards its "Look Africa" policy, he said that Algeria is an important country of North Africa and considers Algeria as an important partner of the policy. The Speaker deplored the severe human rights violations in Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and stressed the international community to play its due role to end the aggression in Palestine and IIOJK.

He also urged the internation-

al community to play its role for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute as per the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and to take immediate measures to stop the Israeli aggression in Palestine. Ayaz Sadiq expressed good wishes for the Speaker of the National People's Assembly of Algeria and extended him an invitation to visit Pakistan along with the Algerian Parliamentary Delegation. The formal invitation letter will be sent soon.

The ambassador thanked NA Speaker for his kind remarks for Algeria and said that Algeria attaches great importance to its brotherly relations with Pakistan. He said that his government wanted to further solidify the existing bilateral relations through enhanced parliamentary and economic cooperation.

Nadir advises PTI supporters to beware of exploitation

ISLAMABAD (APP): A prominent Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Sardar Nadir Nabil Khan Gabol on Monday advised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters to beware of exploitation by their party leaders and issued a stern warning to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, stating that the federal government will not tolerate the misuse of public resources.

In an interview with the PTV news channel, he said that the government has made it clear that it will not tolerate the misuse of government resources for PTI's personal agenda, adding, that the government will closely monitor PTI's actions to prevent any exploitation of public funds or resources for political gain.

Gabol said that the government was making

progress and would not be swayed by PTI's attempts to exploit the situation for their gain.

He urged youth to distance themselves from the PTI protests, adding, that the country's progress and welfare should be the primary focus, rather than getting entangled in political unrest. He emphasized the importance of youth involvement in creating positive change for Pakistan.

AGP to organize seminar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) office is scheduled to organize an awareness seminar on the Provisions of the Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2010 here Wednesday.

The seminar, organized in collaboration with the UN Women would address key aspects of creating safe and inclusive work environments for women, according to press statement.

The event will bring together esteemed speakers and specialists, including representatives from UN Women Pakistan, FOSPAH (Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment), and the Auditor General's Office. Keynote addresses and sessions will focus on gender stereotypes, respectful workplace practices, and international best practices for preventing workplace harassment.

The seminar will kick off with preliminary remarks on the workshop's objectives by Dr. Zahra Kamal, a prominent psychologist and gender specialist from UN Women. Louise Nylén, UN Women's Country Representative, will deliver remarks to set the tone for the day. Other highlights include a presentation on workplace harassment laws by Ms. Meher Jamy of FOSPAH, and an engaging discussion on gender and social norms led by Dr. Zahra Kamal.

The closing sessions will cover concepts and norms of respectful workplaces and international best practices with emphasis on situation in Pakistan by Muhammad Younas Khalid of UN Women. The seminar will also feature an exchange of mementos and conclude with certificate distribution, accompanied by remarks from Abdul Ghufuran Memon, Additional Auditor General of Operations.

23 outlaws arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Monday apprehended 23 outlaws involved in different criminal activities including selling drugs, and possessing illegal weapons recovered a huge cache of drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

A police spokesperson told APP that the Islamabad Police Ramna, Sumbal, Industrial Area, Shamas Colony, Noon, Koral, Bhara Kahu, Bani Gala, Golra, Khanna, Sihala and Bani Gala police station teams took legal action against the accused involved in drug peddling activities and possessing illegal weapons. He said the police team also recovered 1863-gram heroin, 220-gram hashish and 92-gram ice, eleven 30-bore pistols, one SMG gun and dagger from their possession. Moreover, five absconders were also arrested from various areas of the city during the last 24 hours.

SSP Operations said that the Islamabad Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace. Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is the Islamabad Police's top priority.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly awarding Gold Medal to distinguished achievers at 57th Convocation of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan.

Kundi meets British Council leadership to strengthen education programs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi during a meeting here on Monday with James Hampson, the Country Director of the British Council in Pakistan, and the Head of Education at the British Council, reiterated his commitment to advancing education and skills development in the province.

The Governor outlined his priorities, including enhancing the quality of education, empowering youth and women through skill training programs, and forging partnerships between universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and their counterparts in England. These collaborations aim to bring global expertise to KP universities through student and faculty exchanges.

A key topic of discussion was the Governor's vision for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) KP chapter, which he presides over. The Governor emphasized the importance of innovative initiatives and expanding its reach for community service.

He also highlighted the immense potential of arts and design talent among university students in KP, particularly young women, and shared that a formal proposal for collaboration with the British Council on this initiative had already been sent.

James Hampson shared the British Council's plans to establish a high-tech Skills Development Centre for Excellence at IM

University, Peshawar. He invited the Governor to inaugurate the centre in January 2025. The British Council team also briefed the Governor on the recently launched "GOAL" program, aimed at enrolling 250,000 out-of-school girls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including merged districts.

They also discussed other impactful programs, including TVET (Technical and Vocational Education Training) and higher education initiatives being implemented across Pakistan. Both sides agreed to collaborate further for the progress and empowerment of the youth of KP and decided to convene a follow-up meeting soon to formalize upcoming programs.

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Anti-state activities will not be tolerated: Asma

ISLAMABAD (APP): A member of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab Asma Naz Monday said that anti-state elements spreading chaos and confrontation will face swift action and stressed that the PML-N leadership will not allow the youth to be misled by nefarious motives.

In an interview with PTV news channel, she

said that government will take strict action against individuals and groups creating unrest in the country and will ensure the safety and stability of citizens.

She pointed out that PML-N leadership faced imprisonment without substantial evidence, while Imran Khan allegedly exploits the pub-

lic and youth for personal gain.

PML-N led government is making significant strides in restoring relationships with neighboring countries and improving economic indicators, she said, adding, the public is witnessing this positive shift, which is crucial for the country's progress and stability.

Anti-smog symposium calls for sustainable solution

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Monday held an anti-smog symposium to raise awareness about the growing environmental challenges posed by smog and air pollution.

Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa while addressing the event appreciated the initiative and emphasized the critical need for collaborative efforts in tackling the issue of smog and promoting sustainable urban development.

He encouraged all sectors of society to play a role in improving air quality and protecting the health of the public. "Smog knows no boundaries, and it is a shared responsibility to work together to reduce pollution levels in our cities. The steps we take today will benefit generations to come," Randhawa remarked.

Prof. Dr. Naeem Taj, who served as both the chief organizer and supervisor of the event, opened the symposium with a compelling address highlighting the importance of collective efforts to mitigate air pollu-

tion and promote clean, healthy environments for future generations.

"Increased levels of air pollution, particularly during the winter months, pose a significant threat to public health. Our goal today is not only to raise awareness but also to provide practical solutions that individuals, communities, and institutions can adopt to reduce their environmental impact," said Prof. Dr. Taj.

Following the symposium, Chairman CDA along with other participants took part in the Anti-Smog Walk fostering community engagement and environmental responsibility and a Tree Plantation Drive as part of the hospital's ongoing environmental initiatives.

The participants including environmental experts, healthcare professionals and local authorities walked through designated areas around the hospital, carrying banners with messages about air quality, environmental protection, and the importance of clean air for public health. The walk was a powerful demonstration of solidarity

and a call to action for everyone to take responsibility for their environment.

The volunteers, hospital staff, and community members worked together to plant a variety of trees on the hospital grounds, symbolizing a collective commitment to enhancing green spaces and combating the effects of air pollution.

Prof. Dr. Naeem Taj expressed his gratitude to all attendees, sponsors, and participants, saying, "Events like these are critical in raising awareness and inspiring meaningful change. It is through these efforts that we can protect the health of our communities and build a cleaner, greener future."

The event was also graced by other guests including Member Administration, Talat Mehmood; Member Finance, CDA, Tahir Naeem Akhtar; Prof. Dr. Shajee, Head of the Medicine Department at PIMS; Dr. Shazli Manzoor, Pulmonologist; Dr. Imtiaz Paracha, Pulmonologist and Dr. Akbar Siddique Satti, former Head of the Medicine Department.

Forest restoration announced

PANJSHIR (BNA): Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock in Panjshir has announced the restoration of over 100 hectares of forest in the province. Qari Fazlullah Deoband, Director of Agriculture in Panjshir, stated that earlier this year, department planted over 98 kg of seeds from various plant species across the region. These include Russian willow, oak, almond, walnut, pomegranate, and asafetida, aimed at promoting reforestation and environmental sustainability.

3 Afghan citizens executed

KABUL (Khaama Press): Saudi Arabia has executed over 100 foreign nationals, including three Afghan citizens, this year. The number of executions in Saudi Arabia has tripled compared to the past two years. The report highlights that those executed include 21 Pakistani citizens, 20 Yemenis, 14 Syrians, 10 Nigerians, 9 Egyptians, 8 Jordanians, 7 Ethiopians, 3 Sudanese, 3 Indians, 3 Afghans, and 1 individual each from Sri Lanka, Eritrea, and the Philippines.

‘17 schools to be repaired in Zabul’

ZABUL (TOLOnews): Officials of the Zabul Education Department said that 17 schools that were destroyed due to past conflicts and natural disasters will be rebuilt. According to officials, the reconstruction of these schools, located in Qalat city, the center of Zabul, and six districts of the province, will cost 8 million afghani and is expected to be completed within the next two months. Gul Wali Muttaqi, the head of Zabul’s Education Department, stated: “These schools will be reconstruct-

ed in central Zabul, Qalat city, and in the districts, one of which is a Darul Uloom (religious school). With the construction of these schools, many students will have the opportunity to study in a safe environment.” Meanwhile, students and residents of Zabul consider a secure educational environment an important factor in improving the quality of education. “Before, our school did not have doors or windows, and its roof was damaged. Because of this, we couldn’t study properly. Now,

this problem is solved, and I am happy,” said Safiullah, a student. “We urge the Islamic Emirate to build more schools because suitable buildings are very important for enhancing the quality of education,” said Mohammad Hashim Wahdat, a resident of Zabul. In addition to rebuilding school structures, officials of the Zabul Education Department are also working on new ways to strengthen the educational process to improve the quality of education in the province.

Developing railway ties top priority: says Kazemi



KABUL (Khaama Press): Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran’s ambassador and special representative to Afghanistan, has stated that developing railway relations between Iran and Afghanistan is a top priority. Iranian media reported on Monday, November 18, that Kazemi Qomi shared this during a meeting with Afghanistan’s railway delegation. Kazemi Qomi added that steps are being taken regarding the Zaranj-Kandahar and Zaranj-Herat railway projects. Meanwhile, Mohammad Ishaq Sahibzada, the Deputy Minister for Railways at Afghanistan’s Ministry of Public Works, met with Jabbar Ali Zakeri, the Executive Director of Iran’s Railway Authority, during his visit to Iran to strengthen railway cooperation between the two nations. In the meeting, both parties discussed increasing the volume of commercial goods transported through the third segment of the Khaf-Herat railway, enhancing the capacity of Afghanistan’s technical railway staff, and exploring investment opportunities in Afghanistan’s railway sector.

The emphasis on railway development highlights the growing importance of regional connectivity for economic and trade relations between Iran and Afghanistan. Improved rail infrastructure could significantly boost trade and commerce while enhancing transportation efficiency. Such cooperation not only strengthens bilateral relations but also plays a pivotal role in fostering economic stability and development in Afghanistan. Regional partnerships like these underscore the value of shared infrastructure for long-term growth and mutual benefit.

ANDMA signs agreements to aid earthquake-hit, mine-contaminated areas

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) has announced the signing of three agreements to assist those affected in earthquake-hit and mine-contaminated areas.

According to a statement from the authority, these agreements were signed by Nooruddin Turabi, acting head of ANDMA, with the demining organizations HALO Trust, Concern Worldwide, and Hamkari Hai Inkeshaifi, a charity for development cooperation. Based on the statement, the first agreement was signed with the demining organization HALO Trust, with which several mine-contaminated provinces will be cleared with a budget of approximately \$1.6 million. This initiative aims to reduce risks from mines left behind by previous wars. The second agreement was signed with the Hamkari Hai Inkeshaifi to provide services in Zindajan district of Herat province. These services include constructing two retaining



walls, repairing drinking water wells, planting 10,000 saplings to mitigate natural hazards, training on reducing disaster risks, and distributing emergency kits. The allocated budget for this project is \$469,038, and these services are set to be implemented in 50 villages of this district. The third agreement was signed with the Concern Worldwide organization, which will provide finan-

cial assistance for purchasing fuel, winter clothing, and other items for 1,613 affected families in Farkhar district of Takhar province and Tishkan district of Badakhshan province. Afghanistan remains one of the countries still in need of humanitarian support despite receiving international aid. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts, in addition to widespread poverty and

unemployment, have severely affected the lives of millions. In recent years, prolonged wars, climate change, and inadequate infrastructure have increased the vulnerability of people to natural disasters. The winter season, which brings severe cold to many parts of Afghanistan, further complicates living conditions for low-income and vulnerable groups.

Minister meets with Ambassador to Malaysia



KABUL (BNA): Mullah Hedayatullah Badri, Acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum of Afghanistan, met with Naqibullah Ahmadi, Afghanistan’s Ambassador to Malaysia. According to a statement from the Ministry of

Mines and Petroleum, discussions focused on Afghanistan’s mineral resources, large- and small-scale mining contracts, and the current situation of Afghan nationals residing in Malaysia. Ambassador Ahmadi

expressed his readiness to cooperate in various areas, particularly in attracting investors and enhancing the professional capacity of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum’s personnel through initiatives in Malaysia.

Kuwait donates \$500,000 in aid for Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has announced that Kuwait has contributed \$500,000 to address urgent needs and assist vulnerable individuals in Afghanistan. In a message posted on X/Twitter on Monday, November 18, OCHA stated that this is Kuwait’s first humanitarian contribution to Afghanistan in 2024. According to OCHA, over 23 million people in Afghanistan are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. The agency emphasized that an urgent budget of

\$603.5 million is required to address the needs of vulnerable areas in Afghanistan during this year’s winter season. OCHA noted that so far, only a small portion of the requested funds has been secured. Previously, France announced a contribution of 3 million for humanitarian aid in Afghanistan, highlighting the growing international response to the crisis. United Nations agencies have repeatedly warned about decreasing budgets and rising levels of need in Afghanistan, calling for immediate global action.

The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan remains severe, with millions in urgent need of aid amidst dwindling resources. The contributions from Kuwait and France are a step forward, but the funding gap highlights the need for sustained international support. As winter approaches, ensuring timely assistance is critical to preventing further suffering. The global community must prioritize funding and coordinated efforts to address Afghanistan’s humanitarian challenges and provide relief to its most vulnerable populations.

Body convenes to review land allocation for returnees

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry Urban Development and Housing convened a committee meeting to address the allocation of residential plots for homeless returnee and refugee families in Kabul, in accordance with a directive issued by His Excellency Amir-ul-Mu’mineen, the Supreme Leader of IEA. The meeting, chaired by Kabul’s Deputy Governor, Mawlawi Mohammad Noor Khalil, brought together key representatives, including Mawlawi Rahimullah Sadeqi, Director of the Legal Property Certification Directorate of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, officials from the Kabul Department of Refugees, representatives from the Kabul Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock, and delegates from other relevant institutions. During the session, the committee assessed two proposed areas for land allocation, the Arghandi area in Paghman District and the Gousfandarah area in Bagrami District. The Ministry confirmed that the committee will prepare a comprehensive report on the viability of both locations and submit its findings to the central committee for final review and decision-making.

Chinese businessman converts to Islam in Afghanistan

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (BNA): A Chinese trader converted to Islam after reciting the blessed words in the presence of the leader of the Balkh province of Afghanistan. Haji Zaid, the spokesperson for the Balkh provincial government, told Bakhtar News Agency that the trader’s name was Wang Fiki, and his Islamic name has now been changed to Abdullah Mohammad. The spokesperson further added that Abdullah Mohammad, who had cooperated with the Islamic Emirate in the construction of several manufacturing



factories, recited the meeting in the Balkh province and embraced the noble religion of Islam.

for the expansion of this electricity project to other parts of the district. Arabuddin Hamdard, a resident of Sayed Karam, said: “This project is only being implemented in the center of Sayed Karam district. We want it to extend to remote areas as well.” Sabir, another resident of the district, said: “We urge the government to expand this project to other areas, and people hope that electricity will reach all areas.” Meanwhile, local officials of Paktia have announced plans to expand the electricity network. Abdul Rahman Mukhlis,

acting deputy director of operations for Paktia Electricity, said: “The Breshna Directorate [electricity directorate] is striving to provide reliable and sustainable electricity to its customers in Paktia province. We are working to expand electricity projects so that everyone benefits from the light of electricity.” Sayed Karam is one of the eastern districts of Paktia province. Along this route, there are seven other districts whose residents are also demanding the expansion of the imported electricity network to their areas.

Training enhances women’s livelihoods



KABUL (BNA): The Women’s Chamber of Commerce in Sar-e Pol, in collaboration with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), has launched a six-month professional training program aimed at empowering women and improving their economic conditions. The program focuses on shoemaking, sandal crafting, and bag sewing in the province. According to Bakhtar News Agency, Mikail Tasdemir, TIKA’s representative for the northern region, stated that six women are being trained under the supervision of an expert instructor. Upon completing the program, the participants will gain the skills needed to generate income and meet their families’ needs. TIKA has also provided all necessary

equipment, including tools and raw materials, to support their work. DaMullah Mohammad Nader Haqiq, the Deputy Governor of Sar-e Pol, emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship in society. He expressed gratitude to TIKA for initiating the training program and creating job opportunities, urging the agency to expand its activities in the province. Mufti Abdul Shakir Shahab and Mawlawi Gulam Haider Haidari, heads of the provincial Industry, Commerce, and Economy departments, welcomed the initiative. They expressed optimism that the participating women would utilize this opportunity effectively to contribute to family and community economic development. Meanwhile, the manage-

ment of the Women’s Chamber of Commerce and the participants of the training program expressed their satisfaction with the initiative. They affirmed that the skills gained through this training would significantly enhance their families’ economic well-being.

China is not seeking to establish a sphere of influence in Afghanistan. “Afghanistan should become a platform for cooperation among all parties instead of turning into a field for geopolitical competition,” China’s Special Envoy said. Expressing concern over the presence of militant groups in Afghanistan and

the need for an inclusive government, Yue said: “Before the US presence, one or two terrorist groups were active in Afghanistan, but now there are more than 20 terrorist groups operating in the country.” The Chinese envoy also addressed the situation of women and human rights, stating: “The issue of women is only a small part

of Afghanistan’s problems and is not the root cause of its challenges. Furthermore, addressing poverty, hunger, and famine is essential to ensuring human rights.” In the past three years, US officials have repeatedly expressed concerns about China’s influence in Afghanistan. Similarly, Donald Trump, during his

election campaigns, repeatedly claimed that the Bagram airbase had fallen into China’s hands. Yue meanwhile also criticized Western countries for what he called “double standards” and said: “In order to ensure human rights, the issue of poverty, hunger and famine in Afghanistan must be addressed.”

Yue also announced that he is negotiating with the Islamic Emirate to provide humanitarian aid of 1 billion yuan (\$138 million) from China. He said that part of this aid will go to Afghanistan, as well as Pakistan and Iran, so that an arrangement can be made for the return of migrants to their country.

Beijing never interferes in Afghanistan’s internal affairs

India police arrest 23 after violence erupts in Manipur

NEW DELHI: Police in the northeast Indian state of Manipur have arrested 23 people for ransacking and setting fires to the homes of lawmakers and ministers in the capital Imphal as protests erupted on Saturday following the discovery of six bodies.

Protesters are demanding accountability for the attacks in the region after the six deceased, believed to have been kidnapped from the Meitei community, were recovered on Friday. Since May 2023, intercommunal clashes between the Hindu Meitei and Christian Kuki communities have resulted in at least 250 deaths and displaced 60,000 people in the region.

The bodies of a woman and a two-year-old child, believed to be members of a missing Meitei family, were found in a river on Sunday. A Kuki man's body was also found on Sunday, but authorities are yet to confirm the cause of death; however, they said it "could be linked to the violence". Tensions in Manipur flared last week when a 31-year-old woman from the Kuki tribal community was burned alive. Kuki groups have blamed Meitei rebels for the attack.

A senior state police official told the Reuters news agency on Sunday that the situation in the area was "relatively calm today but unpredictable". The police also imposed an indefinite curfew on Saturday and suspended internet and mobile services. Police said they fired tear gas shells to disperse

India's capital shuts schools because of smog

NEW DELHI: India's capital New Delhi switched schools to online classes Monday until further notice because of worsening toxic smog, the latest bid to ease the sprawling megacity's health crisis. Levels of PM2.5 pollutants — dangerous cancer-causing microparticles that enter the bloodstream through the lungs — were recorded at 57 times above the World Health Organization's recommended daily maximum on Sunday evening. They stood around 39 times above warning limits at dawn on Monday, with a dense grey and acrid smog smothering the city. The city is blanketed in acrid smog each year, primarily blamed on stubble burning by farmers in neighbouring regions to clear their fields for ploughing, as well as factories and traffic fumes. The restrictions were put in place by city authorities "in an effort to prevent further deterioration" of the air quality. Authorities hope by keeping children at home, traffic will be significantly reduced. — Agencies

the mob as eight people were injured in the violence that continued for a second day. They added that more security forces were deployed to the northeastern state.

Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Manipur, which has been wracked by ethnic violence for more than a year and a half. Modi has not visited the state since violence erupted last year after Kukis protested against the inclusion of dominant Meitis as a Scheduled Tribe, which makes them eligible for government affirmative-action programmes. "The recent string of violent clashes and continuing bloodshed in Manipur is deeply disturbing. After more than a year of division and suffering, it was the hope of every Indian that the Central and

State governments would have made every effort at reconciliation and found a solution," Gandhi posted on X.

"I urge the PM once again to visit Manipur and work towards restoring peace and healing in the region." The National People's Party (NPP), an ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), announced on Sunday its withdrawal of support from the state government after citing the failure of Manipur's Chief Minister N Biren Singh to resolve the crisis in the area. Internet services were shut down for months in Manipur last year during the outbreak of the violence. The ongoing conflict means Manipur has become divided into two ethnic enclaves: the Meitei-controlled valley and the Kuki-dominated hills. — Aljazeera

Constitutional bench rejects plea

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's seven-member constitutional bench on Monday commenced hearing pending cases before the apex court. The bench, led by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, includes Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

During the hearing, the court dismissed the petition seeking to declare candidates receiving over 50% of votes as successful in elections. The petitioner, Advocate Chaudhry Akram, was also slapped with a Rs20,000 fine for filing a "frivolous" petition. Justice Mazhar questioned under which constitutional provision a candidate must secure 50% of votes to win. He emphasised that election outcomes are determined by the votes cast.

Justice Ayesha asked which fundamental right of the petitioner was violated and which constitutional provisions were being breached. She added that the Supreme Court does not have the authority to legislate new laws. The petitioner argued that Parliament decides the course of people's lives, to which Justice Khan responded that Parliament does not make such decisions.

Justice Hilali remarked that everyone has the right to vote but noted that people often watch television on polling day instead of voting. She stated that if voters fail to cast their votes, it reflects their own shortcomings. Justice Mandokhail inquired if the petitioner had cast their vote in the February 2024 election. When the petitioner admitted they had not, Justice Mandokhail remarked that such behaviour disrespects the Constitution.

The bench then imposed a Rs20,000 fine for frivolous litigation, with Justice Khan dismissing the petitioner's suggestion of a Rs100 billion penalty to reduce the national debt, pointing out the petitioner's inability to pay such an amount. The seven-member bench also heard a plea regarding making it mandatory for independent candidates to join political parties. The petitioner appeared before the bench via video link. Justice Khan remarked that the permission granted to the petitioner to appear on court premises should suffice. The petitioner acknowledged that the matter had already been resolved, rendering their appeal ineffective. Subsequently, the constitutional bench dismissed the petition on the grounds of ineffectiveness.

Philippines, US sign military deal

MANILA: The Philippines and the United States have signed a military intelligence-sharing deal, in a further deepening of security ties between the two defence treaty allies as they seek to counter a resurgent China.

Secretary of Defense Gilberto Teodoro and his visiting US counterpart Lloyd Austin signed the agreement on Monday during a ceremony at the Department of National Defense (DND) in the Philippine capital, Manila. The deal, called the General Security of Military Information Agreement, allows for the sharing of classified information that could benefit a US ally's national defence, and streamlines the sale of certain classified technologies, officials said.

Austin's visit is his fourth to the Southeast Asian country and likely his last before he relinquishes his post in January when former President Donald Trump returns to the White House. In a brief statement posted on X, Austin said the US and the Philippines are "committed to deepening our alliance, strengthening regional security, and upholding our shared values in the Indo-Pacific".

Teodoro did not make any remarks at the signing ceremony, but the DND said the deal was "a critical step to enhance information sharing and deepen interoperability between the Philippines and the US". Security engagements between Manila and Washington have deepened under US President Joe Biden and his Philippine counterpart, Ferdinand Marcos Jr, with both leaders eager to counter what they see as China's aggressive policies in the South China Sea and near Taiwan. — Aljazeera



NEW DELHI: Thick smog engulfs the Mughal-era Red Fort in the Indian capital.

PTI founder to be indicted in May 9 riots case on 25th

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, is set to be indicted in the May 9 riots case on November 25. As per details, the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi has fixed the date for indictment after hearing the arguments. The former PM was presented before the court, which also provided him with additional copies of the challan.

However, his lawyers raised objections, stating that the additional documents were not part of the original challan and were tampered with. The prosecution has so far presented 11 challans in the case, and 120 accused have been provided with copies of the challan. The court has declared 23 accused, including Shebbaz Gill, Murad Saeed, and Zulfi Bukhari, as absconders and ordered the confiscation of their properties.

The court has also directed the Director-General of Immigration to impose travel restrictions on the absconding accused. The hearing of the case has been adjourned until November 25. Earlier, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore granted bail to Imran Khan in four May 9 cases. The ATC judge Arshad Javed the case and approved the pleas filed by the former prime minister Imran Khan.

Prior to this, PTI founder Imran Khan moved Islamabad High Court (IHC) against the transfer of May 9 cases to military courts. The PTI founder filed a plea through his lawyer Aziz Karamat Bhandari. The former prime minister has made the secretary law, secretary home, IG Islamabad, IG Punjab, IG Jails, DG FIA and the federal government respondents. He pleaded with the court not to transfer May 9 cases for military court trials.

Meanwhile, the interim bail for former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the Toshakhana fake receipts case has been extended.

Additional District and Sessions

No inquiry pending against Bushra Bibi at NAB KP

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (NAB KP) has submitted a report to the Peshawar High Court (PHC) stating that there are no corruption cases or inquiries pending against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founding chairman wife Bushra Bibi.

The NAB submitted its report to the court in response to Bushra Bibi's petition seeking details of cases against her. The report, submitted by Special Prosecutor General Muhammad Ali stated that there are no pending cases or inquiries against Bushra

Bibi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's report to the PHC clarified that Bushra Bibi is not required in any case, as there are no pending inquiries or cases against her.

Meanwhile, PHC has fixed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founding chairman wife Bushra Bibi plea for hearing today (on Tuesday) seeking details of cases registered against her.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed will take up Bushra Bibi's petition. Her counsel is expected to request an extension in her

protective bail, granted till 18th November. PHC had earlier directed the federal government, Punjab government, Islamabad administration and other investigative agencies to provide details of the cases registered against Bushra Bibi.

It worthy to mention that Bushra Bibi is convicted by court while currenting released on bail including Toshakhana case alleging of illegal profiting from state gifts during her husband tenure as Prime Minister. In Iddat Case regarding marriage to PTI founding chairman Imran Khan during her Iddat period, violating Section 496 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Court dismisses NAB's plea to withdraw BoP reference

F.P. Report

LAHORE: An accountability court on Monday dismissed an application filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for the withdrawal of the Bank of Punjab (BoP) reference against former BoP president Hameesh Khan, CEO of Harris Steel Industries Sheikh Muhammad Afzal, and others.

The court summoned witnesses to record their statements at the next hearing on November 26. Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani conducted the proceedings on the reference, during which Sheikh Afzal and other accused appeared and marked their attendance.

During the proceedings, Khawaja Haris, representing

BoP, opposed the withdrawal of the reference, arguing that the NAB chairman's directions to withdraw the reference violated the law. He submitted that the NAB chairman did not consult the NAB Prosecutor General, Punjab, for this purpose. He further noted that the reference was not only 17 years old but also that statements from 81 witnesses had already been recorded, leaving only statements from 5 witnesses to be recorded.

He argued that the accused committed fraud and opened numerous fake accounts, while many accused had availed plea bargains for admitting guilt. He urged the court to continue the reference proceedings independently, without prosecution.

Subsequently, the court dismissed NAB's application and summoned witnesses for the next hearing on Novr 26.

Through the application, NAB had given a clean chit to Hameesh Khan, Sheikh Afzal, and others and sought permission to withdraw the reference. The NAB stated that a recent review revealed no substantial evidence of corruption against the accused. The bureau further submitted that the NAB chairman had instructed the withdrawal of the reference against the accused. This case was originally filed by NAB in 2008, alleging large-scale financial fraud involving multiple fake accounts and unauthorized loans totaling billions of rupees.

Qureshi reindicted in Askari Tower attack, May 9 vandalism cases

F.P. Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) reindicted former Foreign Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi along with other accused in connection with the May 9 violence, including the attack on Askari Tower and the torching of Shadman Police Station. The ATC Admin Judge Manzoor Ali Gul held the hearing inside Kot Lakhpat Jail on cases related to the May 9 riots on Monday. During the hearing, the Shadman Police Station arson case saw a fresh charge sheet filed against new suspects, prompting the court to reframe charges against all accused, including Qureshi. It is worth mentioning that according to the channel report on June 26, 2024, the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) investigating the May 9 incidents concluded that Shah Mehmood Qureshi incited violence through social media. The report includes forensic analysis of videos uploaded by Qureshi and claims he gave contradictory statements during questioning at Adiala Jail. A polyforensic test further suggested he was not truthful during the investigation. The JIT submitted its challan to the court, which highlights Qureshi's role in encouraging rioters who targeted sensitive installations like Jinnah House.

Judge Muhammad Afzal Mujoka presided over the hearing, reviewing six pre-arrest bail petitions filed by Imran Khan and one by Bushra Bibi. During the proceedings, Bushra Bibi's request for exemption from appearing in court was granted. However, despite court orders, Imran Khan did not appear via video link.

The court accepted the investigation officer's request to extend the interim bail for both individuals until December 7 and adjourned the case. Both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi are accused in the Toshakhana fake receipts case. Additionally, Imran Khan faces charges in five other cases, including those related to protests and vandalism. Both have filed for pre-arrest bail in these matters.

62 cases registered against Imran Khan at Islamabad police stations: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) was informed on Monday that 62 cases were registered against former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan at different police stations of Islamabad.

Islamabad Police DSP Legal submitted the report in the court. On the last hearing, the police had sought

time from the court for the submission of the report. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the petition filed by Imran's sister Noreen Niazi, seeking details of the cases registered against her brother.

Noreen's counsels Mirza Asim Beg and Shaheena Shahabuddin appeared in the court. Last Tuesday, the Lahore High Court (LHC) was informed that total 54 FIRs had been registered against the former prime minister at different police stations of Punjab. In a report, submitted by Assistant Advocate General, Punjab Muhammad Farrukh Lodhi to the LHC during the hearing of the petition filed by Imran's sister Noreen Khan, seeking details of the cases registered against her brother, it was told that out of these 54 cases, 21 had been registered in Lahore alone. "Similarly, 19 FIRs have been registered against the former prime minister in Rawalpindi division, one in Gujranwala, seven in Sheikhupura and five in Faisalabad," read the report. Assistant Attorney General Sardar Ameer Hamza Dogar also submitted a report in the court, detailing the cases registered against Imran.

Large Gaza food convoy looted

GAZA (Reuters): A convoy of 109 trucks was violently looted on Nov. 16 after entering Gaza, resulting in the loss of 98 trucks in what aid workers say is one of the worst such incidents in the more than 13-month-old war, an UNRWA aid official told Reuters on Monday.

The convoy carrying food provided by UN agencies UNRWA and the World Food Programme was instructed by Israel to depart at short notice via an unfamiliar route from Kerem Shalom crossing, Louise Wateridge, UNRWA Senior Emergency Officer told Reuters. "This incident highlights the severity of access challenges of bringing aid into southern and central Gaza," she said, adding that injuries occurred in the incident.

"The urgency of the crisis cannot be overstated; without immediate intervention, severe food shortages are set to worsen, further endangering the lives of over two million people who depend on humanitarian aid to survive," she said. WFP and COGAT, the Israeli military agency that deals with Palestinian civilian affairs, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The agency says it does all it can to ensure that enough aid enters the coastal enclave, and that Israel does not prevent the entry of humanitarian aid. A UN aid official said on Friday that Gaza aid access had reached a low point, with deliveries to parts of the besieged north of the enclave all but impossible.

Biden fuelling tensions, says Kremlin

MOSCOW (AFP): The Kremlin accused US President Joe Biden on Monday of escalating the war in Ukraine by allowing Kyiv to use long-range missiles supplied by Washington to strike targets inside Russia.

The comments from Moscow came as Ukraine said a fresh Russian strike on the Black Sea port city of Odesa had killed at least eight people and wounded 18, following a massive weekend attack on the country's creaking energy infrastructure. Ukraine has long sought authorisation from Washington to use the powerful Army Tactical Missile System, known by its initials as ATACMS, to hit military installations — and in particular airfields — inside Russia.

Ukraine says it is mainly seeking to use the weapons to prevent Russian aerial bombardments that have levelled entire districts and towns near the front line and decimated energy facilities across the country. A US official speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed the major US policy shift to AFP on Sunday, specifying that the decision had come in response to Russia's deployment of thousands of North Korean troops to aid its war effort.

"It's obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends to take steps in order to continue fuelling the fire and provoke a further escalation of tensions," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in Moscow.

Pak-S Lanka Naval top Commanders discuss issues

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Commodore Asim Sohail Malik of Pakistan Navy, Commander Combined Task Force 150, held a virtual Key Leadership Engagement with Rear Admiral Buddhika Liyanagamage, Director General Operations of Sri Lanka Navy. The meeting focused on reinforcing objectives of Combined Maritime Forces and exploring avenues of cooperation with Sri Lanka Navy in support of CTF-150 mission to counter illicit maritime activities at sea.

During the meeting, Commodore Asim Sohail Malik apprised the Admiral on the operational activities of 13th PN led CTF-150 mission and underscored importance of collaborative approach to combat threats



posed by Non-State Actors. Potential participation of Sri Lanka Navy assets in CTF-150 was also agreed by both sides as CMF collaboration with littoral states is vital to disrupt narcotics trafficking and other illicit activities in North Arabian Sea. Commander CTF 150 also highlighted Pakistan Navy's commitment to maritime peace and stability in the region and

re-iterated support for upcoming command of CTF-154 by Sri Lanka Navy team.

During the meeting Senior National Representatives from Pakistan and Sri Lanka at CMF and key officials from Sri Lanka Navy were also in attendance, further underscoring the strong bilateral commitment to regional maritime security.