

ECP fines JI Ameer
F.P. Report

KARACHI: The ECP on Thursday imposed fine on Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Hafiz Naeemur Rehman after he was found 'guilty' of violating the election code of conduct. District monitoring officer Saleem Abbasi had asked Hafiz Naeem, who is also a UC Chairman of North Nazimabad's UC No. 08, to appear before the election watchdog or submit reply through his counsel on November 6.



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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony of laying a foundation stone of Ramday University, Thogas, Ghanche.

KP govt to file an FIR against IGP Islamabad

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr. Saif criticized the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), particularly Maryam Nawaz and Khawaja Asif, for deleting their previous posts opposing Donald Trump after his success in the recent US elections.

He stated that the decision of the American public is their personal matter, and Trump's victory is a reflection of the trust the American people have shown in him. However, Dr. Saif expressed surprise that PML-N leaders continued to meddle in US affairs and shared posts against Trump, despite having no direct involvement in the matter.

He further accused the PML-N leadership of constantly seeking external support to prolong their illegal hold on power. Dr. Saif suggested that the party had placed hopes on Kamala Harris, but she was unable to provide the expected assistance. He made it clear that this "fake government" is living on borrowed time, and its days



in power are numbered.

These views were expressed by Barrister Dr. Saif during his interaction with journalists at the Peshawar Press Club, where he was present to congratulate the newly elected cabinet of the Khyber Union of Journalists. He commended their democratic approach in securing the trust of their colleagues and extended best wishes on behalf of himself, the Chief Minister, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to Kashif Uddin, the newly elected president, and his team.

During his address to the journalists, Barrister Dr. Saif strongly condemned the actions of Islamabad Police, led by IG

Islamabad, which resulted in extensive property damage in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa house Islamabad. The police destroyed doors, valuable furniture, and caused significant damage to vehicles, leading to financial losses amounting to millions of rupees. Additionally, Dr. Saif highlighted that government officials, provincial assembly members, and their families were subjected to harassment and mistreatment during the attack.

Dr. Saif made it clear that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would not tolerate such illegal actions and vowed to take strong legal measures against those responsible. He confirmed that the provincial government had instructed the Advocate General to file an FIR against IG Islamabad and other responsible officials. Dr. Saif emphasized that under the law, an FIR can be filed in any part of Pakistan, citing examples such as the FIR filed in Lahore for an incident in London. He assured that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would pursue all legal avenues to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice.

Four jawans embraced Shahadat, five terrorists killed

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Fire exchange took place between the Security Forces and Khwarij in general area Karama, South Waziristan District. Resultantly, five Khwarij were sent to hell due to effective engagement by own troops.

However, during the intense fire exchange, four brave sons of soil, Naib Subedar Taib Shah (age: 38 years, resident of District Tank), Lance Naik Gulab Zaman (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak), Lance Naik Muzammil Mehmood (age: 30 years, resident of District Karak) and Lance Naik Habibullah (age: 28 years, resident of District Orakzai), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharij found in the area as Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the security forces for killing five terrorists of Fitna al-Khawarij in Karama area of South Waziristan.

In their separate messages, the acting president and the prime minister also expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of soldiers of the security forces Naib Subedar Tayyab Shah, Lance Naik Gulab Zaman, Lance Naik Muzammil Mehmood and Lance Naik Habibullah. They saluted the security personnel who sacrificed their lives while fighting against the Fitna al-Khawarij in defense of their homeland.

They said the sacrifices of the brave soldiers will never go in vain. They also prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in Jannah and for grant of patience to their families to bear the loss with equanimity.

Governor KP, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of four security personnel during exchange of fire between security forces and terrorists in Karama area of South Waziristan Upper.

Biden promises an orderly transfer of power

Kamala concedes to Trump

WASHINGTON (Reuters): United States President Joe Biden on Thursday said he would ensure a peaceful transition of power on January 20 — the day President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration will take place. US President Joe Biden urged Americans to "bring down" the temperature as he addressed the nation after Republican Donald Trump won the White House.

"You can't love your country only when you win. You can't love your neighbor only when you agree. Something to hope we can do, no matter who you voted for, is see each other not as adversaries, but as fellow Americans. Bring down the temperature," he said. "I also hope we can lay to rest a question about the integrity of the American electoral system. It is honest, it is fair and it is transparent. It can be trusted, win or lose."

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"I also hope we can lay to rest a question about the integrity of the American electoral system. It is honest, it is fair and it is transparent. It can be trusted, win or lose." Biden said Tuesday's election had proven the integrity of the US electoral system and said he would preside over an orderly transfer of power — an implicit rebuke of Trump, who sought to overturn his 2020 defeat to Biden and raised baseless claims of fraud this year as well.

"We lost this battle. The America of your dreams is calling for you to get back up," he said. Some Democrats

WASHINGTON: Vice President Kamala Harris has sought to reassure her supporters that, while they did not win the United States presidential election this year, the fight is far from over. "The outcome of the election is not what we wanted, not what we fought for, not what we voted for," she said in a concession speech to a crowd of students and supporters at Howard University in Washington, DC, her alma mater.

"Hear me when I say the light of America's promise will always burn bright as long as we never give up and as long as we keep fighting." Her address on Wednesday afternoon was the first time Harris had spoken to her supporters since Republican candidate Donald Trump won the race. Many had waited outside in tears on the university grounds on Tuesday night as the election unfolded. But an expected late-night speech never materialised: Her campaign director emerged to tell them that Harris was going to wait until more results came in. By early Wednesday, the race had been called for Trump, who passed the threshold of 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency. The mood on Wednesday afternoon was decidedly more upbeat when Harris spoke, with huge cheers and screams emanating from the crowd. "I know folks have a range of emotions, I get it," Harris said with a laugh. "I spoke with Trump and congratulated him and told him we will help him with the transition and engage with a peaceful transfer of power." Harris then made a pointed dig at Trump who campaigned on his refusal to concede that he lost the 2020 presidential election to President Joe Biden. "It's a fundamental principle of a democracy that when we lose an election, we accept the result," she said. But Harris added that did not mean she was giving up. "While I concede this election I don't concede the fight that fuelled this campaign," she said. "To the young people, it is OK to feel sad and disappointed. Please know it will be OK." She added: "On the campaign, we say when we fight we win, sometimes the fight takes a while ... It doesn't mean we won't win." Harris ended her speech by thanking her husband Doug Emhoff for his support. "I know many people feel like we are entering a dark time, but for the benefit of all of us, I hope that is not the case," she said. — Aljazeera



have blamed Biden, 81, for Harris' defeat, saying he should not have sought reelection. Biden only dropped his reelection bid in July after a disastrous TV debate with Trump raised alarm bells about his mental fitness.

The former president will face far fewer limits on his power in his second White House term, as the head of a Republican Party that he has

remained in his image over the last eight years. Republicans wrested the US Senate from Democrats in Tuesday's vote, ensuring Trump's party will control at least one chamber of Congress next year. Republicans also held an edge in the battle for the House of Representatives, though 38 of the 435 races still had no winner.

Shehbaz stresses further deepening Pak-Turkiye trade, defence coop

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressing satisfaction at the growing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye, stressed the need to further deepen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and defense sectors. The prime minister said this in a meeting with newly-appointed Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu, who called him at the PM House.

The prime minister welcomed Ambassador Neziroglu, who presented his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari on October 28, 2024, and said that he looked forward to working closely with the ambassador to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, according to a PM Office press release. Recalling the historic, longstanding and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, the prime minister expressed gratitude for Turkiye's consistent support to Pakistan on Kashmir and said that Pakistan would also continue to lend its strong support to Turkiye on its core interests.

The regional situation, particularly in Gaza and the Middle East also came under discussion. The prime minister conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and reiterated his invitation to the Turkish President to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience. Ambassador Neziroglu thanked the prime minister for warmly receiving him and assured him of his full commitment and support to further strengthen the strong and historic bonds of friendship between both countries.

PM lays foundation stone of Ramday University: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif laid the foundation stone of Ramday University to be constructed in Thogas, district Ghanche of Gilgit Baltistan. The ground breaking ceremony was held in Islamabad. Ramday University is being built under a Trust, with construction set to be completed through the donations of the overseas Pakistanis.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister extended his heartfelt felicitations to Justice (ret'd) Khalil ur Rehman Ramday and his all friends on the establishment of Ramday University. "The efforts of all individuals and the institutions who contributed to the establishment of Ramday University are appreciable," he added. The prime minister said today the foundation had been laid down collectively for a bright future for the children here.

He said, "The establishment of an institution of higher learning in a remote area like Ghanche in Gilgit-Baltistan is highly encouraging." He expressed his confidence that this university, located at an altitude of 11,000 feet in Thogas, will reach the peak of modern knowledge and research standards. "The role of the private sector in the promotion of education in Pakistan is extremely important", he said adding that graduates from private educational institutions had made Pakistan proud in every field.

PM Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that the development of Gilgit-Baltistan and the welfare of its people were among the government's top priorities adding that yesterday, during his visit to Gilgit-Baltistan, 62 affected families from the floods were handed over homes.

Furthermore, he said that a 100-megawatt solar energy project had been launched in Gilgit-Baltistan, which would help meet the region's electricity needs.

During his recent visit to Gilgit Baltistan, the prime minister said he also announced the Gilgit-Baltistan Education and Endowment Fund, which would benefit deserving and talented students from the region, enabling them to play a role in the development of Pakistan as constructive members of society. On the occasion Justice (ret'd) Khalil-ur-Rehman Ramday said that Ramday University was being established in the Thogas area of Ghanche district, Gilgit-Baltistan, on a 200-kanal area of land. "Ramday University will be one of the highest universities to be built at one of the world's highest altitudes," he said adding that the university would offer education in subjects such as environmental studies, climate change, hydrology, minerals, and others. Meanwhile the students of Asfandiyar Wali School in Ghanche performed the national anthem who participated in the event via video link.

Meanwhile, the outgoing Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House. During the meeting, the prime minister stressed that Pakistan valued its friendly relations with Nepal. While fondly recalling his meeting with Nepalese Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli on the margins of the UNGA in New York in September this year, the prime minister underscored the need to expand bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade and investment.

PM to visit Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan next week: FO

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan next week to attend the Second Joint Arab Islamic Summit being held in Riyadh and World Leaders Climate Action Summit in Baku. The prime minister will visit Saudi Arabia to participate in the Second Joint Arab Islamic Summit being held in Riyadh on November 11, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said.

Being convened at the initiative of the Saudi government, the summit will be a follow-up to the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit held on November 11, last year in Riyadh to discuss the situation in Gaza and

other occupied territories, she said at her weekly press briefing. The heads of state and government and senior officials from Arab League and OIC member countries are expected to participate in the summit.

She said that at the summit, the prime minister would reiterate Pakistan's full support for the Palestinian cause and call for an immediate end to the genocide in Gaza, an urgent and unconditional ceasefire, and an immediate cessation of ongoing Israeli adventurism in the region that endangers the security of countries in the Middle East. Pakistan will also call for international protection for the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine on the borders of 4 June 1967,

with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, she added.

On the sidelines of the summit, the prime minister is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with leaders from other Arab League and OIC member states. Prime Minister will also visit Baku, Azerbaijan, to participate in the World Leaders Climate Action Summit being held on November 12-13 as part of the 29th UN Climate Change Conference.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, other cabinet members, and senior officials will accompany the prime minister who will make a robust call for climate solidarity and climate justice based on the established principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

lives for peace and security.

The meeting emphasized the need for continued joint efforts by all the stakeholders including the civil government, security forces, and the general public to combat terrorism. It was decided to give the police a leading role in maintaining law and order in certain districts. The participants agreed on enhancing the capacity of the police and civil administration and decided that police force would be provided with bulletproof vehicles on priority basis and immediate recruitment would be carried out to fill vacant positions.

As acknowledgement of the sacrifices of the security forces, the Chief Minister decided to give special package to the heirs of 178 martyrs of Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps (FC) belonging to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who were martyred over the past six months. As per the decision, families of martyred soldiers will receive Rs. 1.00 million, while families of martyred officers will receive Rs. 2.00 million.

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Additionally, it was also decided to provide employment opportunities to the children of Pakistan Army and FC martyrs in the police and other government departments on priority basis.

The committee gave special consideration to the current law and order situation in Kurram district, thor-

oughly reviewing the existing situation there, its root causes, and underlying factors. It was decided that all available options would be utilized to restore peace, protect the lives and property of people, and establish government writ in the area.

The forum also stressed the need of

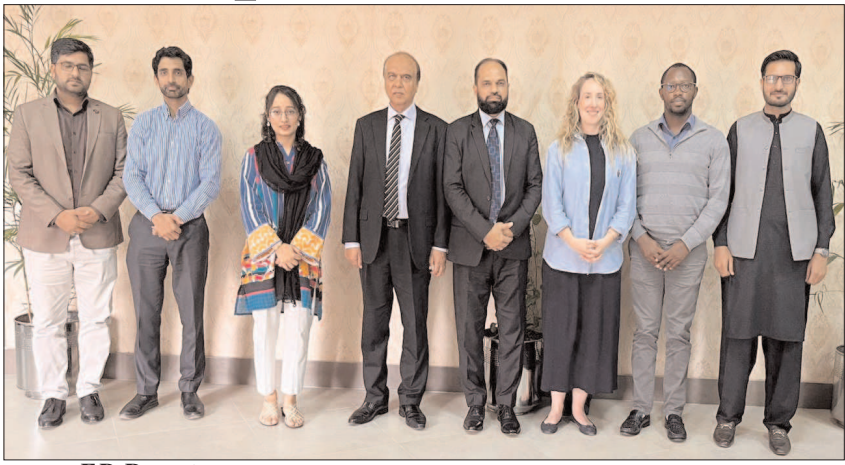
special focus on improving the living standards of people in the merged districts. The forum underscored the role of public support in achieving sustainable peace and highlighted the importance of a unified efforts of all stakeholders, including the government, military, police, and administration; and

asserted that the provincial government has sought the assistance of the security forces under Article 245 of the Constitution for anti-terrorism operations, adding that security forces, in coordination with Police and Civil Administration, are making tireless efforts to curb the menace of terrorism in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said that peace is the top priority, and there will be no compromise on it, and added that the civil government, administration, and military are on the same page, to fight terrorism and they will continue their joint efforts until the issue is resolved forever. Ali Amin Gandapur remarked that uprooting terrorism and restoring peace are common objectives, describing the fight against terrorism as a collective battle that can only be won through joint and unified efforts. He appreciated the Pakistan Army's efforts and cooperation with the government in restoring peace in the province.



Interpol team visits Wafaqi Mohtasib Sectt



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: An Interpol Team headed by Ms. Gabriela Javera Chamorro Concha, Criminal Intelligence Officer, Interpol Crimes against Children Unit, visited the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat here on Thursday and was given a comprehensive briefing by the Grievance Commissioner for Children on this Office's efforts for ameliorating the lot of children in the country with particular reference to curbing the cyber-crimes against children.

The Team was informed that a series of initiatives was taken to achieve the objective, which included appointment of a full-fledged Grievance Commissioner for Children, keeping watch over the state of children in

the country, monitoring of media reports to identify cases of violence against children, supporting parliament for legislative reforms, addressing systemic issues through consultation with key stakeholders, carrying out research and advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building.

He said that the Office of the Grievance Commissioner for Children (OGCC), functioning in this Secretariat, has vigorously pursued the issue of cyber-crimes against children at different levels and has identified some of the key areas for intervention like awareness raising, sensitization of media, advocacy and capacity building alongside the legal reforms. The Team was further informed that the

active lobbying with the relevant stakeholders has enabled proactive robust responses on awareness raising campaigns. Public services messages are being disseminated through PEMRA, PTV, PBC, PTA and social media sources, he added. The team was also apprised of the Zainab Alert and Response and Recovery Act 2020 in this regard.

The Team commended the efforts being made for the welfare of children in the country and lauded efforts to curb cyber-crimes against children. It also underlined the need for promoting cooperation and greater sharing of experiences to mutual advantage. The visit of the team was part of initiatives to combat online child exploitation.

Sindh actively working to promote tourism: Memon

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that a negative propaganda campaign was maliciously launched against the People's Party, attributing inaction and negativity to its governance. He emphasized that there are many areas where the Sindh government excels. The healthcare facilities introduced by the Sindh government serve not only the people of Sindh but also citizens from across the country and neighboring countries, who are benefiting from these services.

A delegation of journalists from Islamabad met with Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon, at the Directorate of Electronic and Print Media in Clifton, Karachi. Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon warmly welcomed the visiting journalists. After touring various districts in Sindh, the journalists praised the Sindh government's development initiatives in health, education, and other sectors during their meeting with the senior minister.

Addressing the delegation, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that journalist friends from Islamabad had come to

Karachi at the special invitation of the Sindh government, and they were warmly welcomed. He added that journalists from KP and Lahore had also been invited previously to inform people in other regions of the country about the facilities provided by the Sindh government.

He noted that people previously had to travel to India for lung transplants. However, thanks to the efforts of the People's Party and the Sindh government, this facility is now available in Pakistan, where transplants are provided free of charge.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto empowered the women of this country and initiated the Lady Health Workers program. Initially, in many backward areas, women did not even have identity cards. However, when President Asif Ali Zardari launched the Benazir Income Support Program, people began to understand the importance of identity cards, and women actively started obtaining their own.

He stated that the roads managed by the Sindh government are among the best. Since all of Pakistan's goods pass through the Sindh section of the National Highway,

the federal government should focus on maintaining the National Highway.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the lives and health of the people are the top priorities of the People's Party and the Sindh government. The Sindh government is investing billions of rupees in various sectors, including health. He mentioned that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had advised Ahsan Iqbal to take lessons from Sindh's initiatives.

He said that the Thar Coal project was initially launched by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto but was later halted. When President Asif Ali Zardari

came into power, he revived the project. Today, thousands of megawatts of electricity are being supplied to the national grid from Thar Coal, benefiting the entire country. He emphasized that there could be no greater service than contributing thousands of megawatts to the national grid. "We have been elected by the people to serve them," he added. Economists believe that Thar coal is the key solution to the energy crisis. The Sindh government has invested over one billion dollars in the infrastructure of the Thar Coal project.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the



People's Party has done the most for the minority community, building temples, churches, and community centers for them. He also highlighted that the Sindh government is actively working to promote the tourism sector. He said that an impression was created that the law and order situation in Sindh is poor, but in reality, the situation is very good. He pointed out that our journalist friends traveled by road from Sukkur to Thar at night, demonstrating the safety and security in the region.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and President Asif Ali Zardari are eager to establish an NICVD (National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases) in Balochistan. He added that the Sindh government is ready to assist wherever KP and Punjab require help for similar projects.

He stated that the People's Party government at the federal level has been short-lived, which has led to a shortage of resources for Sindh. Despite these limitations, the Sindh government has continued to serve the people to the fullest.

Senior Minister Sharjeel

Inam Memon stated that the People's Party has always strived to discourage the politics of bigotry and hatred. He emphasized that there is no bias on the ground, but a few individuals foster prejudice for their own malicious purposes. These individuals want others to speak in a biased manner, and when they do, the situation escalates, to which the People's Party responds.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the Sindh government is also focusing on environmental issues. He noted that while floods have occurred in other provinces as well, the Sindh government is building houses for 2.1 million families. Additionally, the Sindh government is providing solar systems for 200,000 houses to ensure a continuous electricity supply, and these families will never have to pay electricity bills. He emphasized that only the Sindh government is addressing the real problems of the people and working for their welfare. He said that Pakistan's first eco-friendly electric (EV) buses were introduced by the Sindh government under the leadership of the People's Party.

LHC bans smoke emitting commercial generators

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has issued a ban on the operation of smoke-emitting commercial generators in designated 'green lock-down' areas to address air pollution. Justice Shahid Karim, presiding over petitions filed by citizens, including Haroon Farooq, to curb smog, ordered the installation of pollution control devices in commercial generators within the next seven days.

The court's written order of the previous day's hearing emphasizes that such generators should be sealed until these devices are installed to reduce harmful emissions. Justice Karim also ordered the removal of encroachments in hot spot areas to improve air quality and reduce congestion-related pollution.

The court lauded the actions taken by the present government and the director general of environment, noting that they would contribute positively to environmental conditions. The court mentioned in the written order that the public prosecutor said that super-seeds had been distributed to farmers as part of a strategy to curb crop burning.

Furthermore, the Lahore Division commissioner has been directed to submit a report on the operations of Kasur tanneries within 15 days, while the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) DG was instructed to implement findings from an inquiry report regarding underpass renovations. The hearing has been adjourned until Friday.

Tessori invites Azerbaijani investors

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori extended an invitation to Azerbaijani investors to explore investment opportunities in Sindh during an event in Islamabad celebrating Azerbaijan's historic victory in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

According to a statement issued from the Governor House today, Tessori assured the investors of full support and assistance, emphasizing that all necessary cooperation would be provided to facilitate their ventures. Upon his arrival at the ceremony, the Governor Sindh was warmly received by Azerbaijan's Ambassador Khazar Farhadov and other diplomatic officials. He congratulated the Azerbaijani nation on their landmark victory, highlighting the decades-long bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.



BOARD OF INTERMEDIATE & SECONDARY EDUCATION KOHAT

Bannu Road (Near Indus Highway Junction) Kohat.
Ph # 0922-554619, 554620, 554621 Fax # 554622

NOTICE INVITING TENDER/ADVERTISEMENT

The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Kohat invites sealed bids under National Competitive Bidding for "Hiring of Security Guard services" from registered contractors/service providers, who are duly registered with Income Tax, Sales tax and are reflected on Active Taxpayer List of FBR on "single stage two envelopes procedure" as per KPPRA Rules 2014.

S.No.	Tender description	Tender fee	Tender submission last date & time	Tender opening date & time	Pre bid meeting
01	Hiring of Security Guard services	Rs.2000/- Non-refundable	10:30 AM 26/11/2024	11:30 AM 26/11/2024	10:30 AM 19/11/2024

Tender documents (SBDs) can be obtained from the admin section on depositing of RS.2000 non-refundable in NBP bank within the jurisdiction of BISE Kohat in favor of BISE Kohat. No tender document will be issued on tender opening date.

The bid security in the shape of Call Deposit (CDR) at least two (02%) be deposited in favor of Chairman BISE Kohat at any scheduled bank in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Pay Order (PO) and any other format will not be accepted. Rule 37(A) of KPPRA Rules necessitates the registration of Bidders with KP Revenue Authority (KPRA).

The Procuring Entity has the right to reject all bids under Rule 47 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (KPPRA), Procurement Rules, 2014 and amended from time to time.

Secretary

INF(P) 2950/24

Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Kohat

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA COMMUNICATION AND WORKS DIVISION DIR UPPER

NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

(Single Stage Single Envelope E-Bidding System)

The C&W Division Dir Upper, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites Electronic Bids from Eligible firms/ Contractors in accordance with KPPRA Rules 2014 amended up to 10.05.2022 & 22.08.2022 on Single Stage Single Envelope procedure for the following works.

S. No.	Name of Work	Required Category of PEC	Bid security	Tender Fee @ 0.03%	Period of completion	Last Date of Submission and Time	Date of opening and Time
1	AOM&R to all Govt: Shingle/ Black Topped Roads & Bridges in District Dir Upper during 2024-25 Sub Head: Sub Division Kohistan PK-11 Dir Upper (i) Construction of Suspension Bridge at Darwazo Lamoti Kohistan Dir Upper. (ii) Restoration of Approach Road Jandrai Lamoti	C-6	Rs. 540000/-	Rs. 7500/-	As Per Work Order	26/11/2024 AT 12:00 PM	On Same Day at 12:30 PM
2	AOM&R to all Govt: Shingle/ Black Topped Roads & Bridges in District Dir Upper during 2024-25 Sub Head: Sub Division Dir PK-13 Dir Upper i) Kair Dara Main Road ii) Hattan Dara Main Road iii) Rokhan Road iv) Dobando Road v) Chukyatn Muslim Abad Road	C-6	Rs. 490000/-	Rs. 6750/-	--do--	--do--	--do--
3	AOM&R to all Govt: Shingle/ Black Topped Roads & Bridges in District Dir Upper during 2024-25 Sub Head: Sub Division Wari PK-12 Dir Upper i) Nehag Dara Phase-I Road ii) Nehag Dara Phase-II Road iii) Sultan Khell Dara Molvi Road iv) Roghano Dara Jilar Road v) Karo Dara Road	C-6	Rs. 490000/-	Rs. 6750/-	--do--	--do--	--do--
4	AOM&R Restoration of C&W Roads & Bridges infrastructure of Emergency basis in Kohistan internal Roads & Bridges adjoining tourist areas Tehsil Kalkot C&W Division Dir Upper	C-5	Rs. 640000/-	Rs. 9000/-	--do--	--do--	--do--

- Bid Documents including instruction to Bidders can be downloaded from C&W website (www.cwd.gkp.pk) before the submission date/time.
- The bidders should submit their e-bids as per KPPRA Notification No. S.R.O (14) Vol:1-20 / 2021-22 dated 10.05.2022 and Notification No. S.R.O (15) / Vol:1-25 / 2022-23 Dated 22.08.2022.
- Complete Details of Bid Security in Shape of CDR i.e Bank Name, CDR Number(s) and Date(s) must be submitted electronically along with E-bid on the E-bidding System.
- All bidder are required to be registered with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority under Finance Act No.XXI of 2013.
- Venue of Bids opening is Office of the Executive Engineer C&W Division Dir Upper.

INF(P) 2963 / 24

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C&W DIVISION DIR UPPER



GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA COMMUNICATION & WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

(Single Stage Two Envelope E-Bidding System)

Executive Engineer Highway Division Swabi, (C&W) Department Govt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites sealed E-Bidding Online Tender title Firms/Contractors in accordance with KPPRA Procurement Rules 2014. Amended upto 10/05/2022 on single stage two envelope procedure for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Required category of PEC	Tender Fee	Bid Security	Period of completion	Last date and time of submission E-Bids	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids
A	District Development Initiatives In Haripur and Swabi " ADP No# 240316 (2024-25) SH:						
1	Repair/Reh of Main Gadoon Road From Karkhano To Gandaf (1.00 km)	C-6 & Above with relevant code	0.03% of E/Cost	02% of E/Cost	As per work order	25/11/2024 At 12:00 PM	25/11/2024 12:30 PM
2	Const/Repair of main khota Road with poles shifting (1.00 km)	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
3	Black toping of Road and street pavement at Murghuz	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
4	Construction and BT of Road at UC Sard Cheena 1 km	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
5	Construction and BT of Road at UC Jalbai 1 km	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
6	Construction and BT of Road at UC Jalsai 1 km	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
7	Construction and BT of Road at UC Yar Hussain 1 km	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
8	Construction and BT of Road at UC Asta 1 km	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
9	Construction and BT of Road at UC Tarkai 1 km	C-5 & Above with relevant Code	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
10	Repair of couseway at UC KSK 1km	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-

- Bid Solicitation Documents and Instructions to Bidders can be obtained from the office on any working day or can be downloaded from C&W website (www.cwd.gkp.pk) before the submission of date/time. Bids submitted without documents will not be processed.
- copy of technical proposal in the required format is mandatory to be submitted in hard form in the office of the undersigned within due date and time and to be uploaded as a part of E-bid before submitting Financial Bid. (3). All bidders are required to be registered with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority, under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act, 2013 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act No. XXI of 2013). (4). The bidder should submit their E-bids as per KPPRA Notification No. S.R.O(14)vol: 1-24/2021-22 dated: 10-05-2022. (5). Original Copies of Call Deposit for Bid Security and Tender Fee should be enclosed in the Technical Proposal and shall reach to the Office before closing date/time. (6). Legible Scanned copy of bid security shall be submitted electronically along with the bid on E-bidding system. (7). All bidders are required that bid security shall be kept sealed in Financial Proposal. In addition keep an original affidavit in the technical proposal stating that a bid security in percentage of the estimated without indicating the figure. (8). Venue of bids opening is office of the Executive Engineer C&W Highway Division Swabi. (9). Firm must be having PEC Renewal and C&W Renewal along with updated FBR status and valid audit report.
- Firm with relevant experience, Staff and machinery capacity needed for project.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

(Single Stage Two Envelops E-Bidding System)

- Technical bid/ proposal should accompany the following:
 - Bid security in the shape of call deposit (original).
 - Enlistment Order of C&W Department (photocopy)
 - Renewal of registration for CFY 2024-25 (Photocopy)
 - National Identity Card (CNIC Photocopy)
 - Valid Pakistan Engineering Council registration copy for current calendar year.
 - Form-H of the Company / Firm (g). Documents showing general capabilities, financial soundness, general and relevant experience record, personnel capabilities with proof, equipment capabilities registration with KPRA and Income Tax/NTN Certificates, etc.
 - Any other documents to support the technical bid.
- A copy of the technical proposals in the required format it mandatory to be uploaded as part of E-bidding before submitting Financial Bids. Scanned Copy of bid security shall be submitted electronically along with technical bid on E-bidding system. (3). Non refundable bidding entry fee@ 03% of tender cost alongwith 02% E/Money and stamp duty in Shape of Call Deposit separately may be furnished (in original) to this office as recommended by the Sub-committee of the cabinet notified vide Section Officer (Confidential) Chief Minister's Secretariat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar No. SO(C)/CMS/KPK/2020-21 dated: 21/04/2021. (4). The Contractor quoting their bids up to a limit 10% below Engineer Estimate shall submit bid security @ 2% only of Engineer Estimate. (5). The Contractor quoting their bids more than 10% below up to 20% below on Engineer's Estimate shall submit alongwith their bids 08% additional security of Engineer's Estimated Cost in addition to 02% bid security. If the bid is not accompanied with the required amount of additional security then it will be considered as non-responsive and the 02% bid security shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly.(6). (Similarly, a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineer Estimated Cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineer's Estimate alongwith detail rate analysis). In case of more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the detail rate analysis and / or required amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted along with such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favour of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered accordingly. (7). In case detail rate analysis submitted with the bids is, in view of the procuring entity, Non-convincing, the head of the procuring entity may declared such bid as non-responsive without any forfeiture of bid securities and record reasons thereof. (8). The Procuring Entity may offer the contract to next lowest bidder after due diligence in the context of financial difference between such two bids or may advertise procurement opportunity afresh. (9). Technical proposals should be in sealed envelope clearly marked "Technical Proposal" and in sealed envelope with signed BOQ clearly marked "Financial Bid". Technical proposals and financial bids shall reach the Bids opening venue before closing time. (10). Financial bid shall be filled online. Complete bids must reach the concerned offices on or before the fixed date/time. (11). Technical evaluation will be carried out with pass/fail threshold. Passing Criteria, include PEC Registration, Enlistment with C&W Department, Tax payer proof, Relevant Experience in past 05 years, performance, Technical Personnel, Required Equipment, Financial status, Auditor report, Managerial capabilities, Litigation status etc, as mentioned in application forms 1-9. (12). Any Electronic bidders who provide incorrect/incomplete information shall stand non responsive. (13). Any Electronic bidders who submit fake or forged documents or information shall stand de-barred. (14). Time allowed for the completion of the work as specified in the NIT shall start from the issuance of LOA. (15). Electronic bids validity period is 90-days. (16). Successful Bidder should sign the agreement with the department within Twenty Eight (28) days after issuance of LOA. (17). Call Deposit of Scheduled Banks shall be acceptable and must be stated in an original affidavit stating its authenticity. (18). If the evaluated electronic bid costs of two or more than two bidders are equal then the successful bid will be declared through draw. (19). Technical Bids will be opened after 30 minutes of closing time in the presence of bidders/ their representatives who choose to be present. (20). Financial electronic bids will be opened after approval of Post-Qualification from the competent authority. After receipt of post-qualification approval, post-qualified bidders will be intimated by the undersigned for financial bids opening on due date & time. (21). The employer has the authority to reject any bid or all the bids assigning cogent reasons. (22). Bid security of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd lowest electronic bidder for the specific work will be retained by the Department till the approval of bids. (23). Firm must provide original affidavit for non Blacklisting (24). Firm must provide original affidavit for proving non involvement in litigation.

INF(P)2951/2024

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Trout in Peshawar: Winter recipe for food lovers

PESHAWAR (APP): Renowned for its historical significance and unparalleled hospitality, Peshawar is also a culinary hotspot that attracts foreign and domestic tourists alike with its diverse and delicious food offerings especially during winter.

As winter sets in, the city's gastronomic scene shifts into overdrive, with the cold season bringing with it an array of sought-after varieties of food specialties—none more so than the delectable trout fish.

A prized winter delicacy, trout fish has found its place in the hearts of food lovers in KP especially Swat, Makakand, Hazara and Peshawar as these cities grow increasingly known for popular dishes like the iconic Chappli Kabab, Sri Paye, Rice-Polao, Beef Nehari and BBQs.

However, it is the trout, often brought from the cold waters of Malakand and Hazara divisions, that truly shines during winter in Peshawar.

As the chill in the air heightens, locals and visi-

tors alike find themselves drawn to the famed Qissa Khawani and Namak Mandi bazaars at Peshawar. The unmistakable scent of sizzling Chappli Kabab and deep-fried fish wafts through these bustling streets, attracting visitors in droves.

“As special winter offer, we have received sufficient trout stock from Swat and Mansehra districts keeping in view Peshawarties’ pressing demands,” said Barakat Shah, the owner of a famous fish outlet at Qissa Khwani bazaar while talking to APP.

He said, “The recipe of trout fish is very simple and cost as well as time-efficient. We prepare trout in oil after its proper water wash and cutting. Later, varieties of spicy sauces, pomegranate seed powder, salt and other species ingredients are properly mixed. Before making it fry on medium flame, the fish is properly marinated for about two hours to ensure that all sauces are intact and color is unchanged and later served to customers with chips,

sauses (Chitnis), salad and naans.” Barkat, who remained associated with the fish business for 20 years said that most people wanted deep-fried fish, some liked ‘tawa machhi’ and wanted grilled and baked trout fish for eating at shops as well as taking the parcel for their loved ones. Vendors, with their expertise, also prepare trout in a variety of ways—grilled, fried, or simmered in rich, aromatic spices, making it an irresistible feast.

Notably, the fish markets around Ghanta Ghar, Peshawar’s central fish trading hub, play a pivotal role in supplying this winter delicacy.

Here, both the rainbow and brown trout varieties are sought after, with fish-mongers and restaurateurs offering an expansive selection that includes the rare Mushka, Raho, Simon, Pomfret, Mahsher, and even brown trout.

“Trout is my favorite seafood as its meat is full of proteins and vitamins besides easily digestible,” said Fayaz Khan, a retired teacher while talking to

APP.

He said, “Normally on every weekend, I visit Peshawar to enjoy trout fish with my family. But today, I rushed to the famous Qissa Khwani to enjoy my favorite food to beat the severe cold that gripped Peshawar Valley for the last few days.”

“When I was young, I frequently visited Swat with my father to enjoy the freshwater brown trout due to its aromatic taste and spiciness amid snowfall. This year, I did not go to Swat due to availability of the grilled and baked brown trout fish at Peshawar,” he added.

The trout fish’s popularity during this time is not merely a reflection of local taste but also of its nutritional benefits, which are particularly appreciated in the colder months.

Dr Riaz Khan, Children Specialist, Government Hospital Pabbi Nowshera said there was an additional burden on the heart, brains, joints and lungs of weak people and children due to persistent cough, nausea and frosts in winter. He said consumption of the

fish was the best and easily available choice to help reduce risks of these diseases.

Terming fish as the best source of proteins, vitamins, omega 3 fatty acids, phosphorus, iron and iodine, he said, consumption of seafood help improve digestion, protects skin from dryness and relieves joints’ pains.

Usman Ali, General Secretary of Swat Trout Fish Farming Association said that business of trout farmers have shined in winter following increase in demands of consumers and hotel industry from across the country. He said about 150 trout farms existed in Swat that engaged extra laborers to meet the placed orders.

He said about 2,500 people were directly associated with trout farming in Swat and urged the government to announce a special package for trout farmers keeping in view of their substantial economic losses during COVID-19 pandemic. “In case of vulnerability of temperature, the mortality ratio of trout remained high and fisher-

men suffered great economic losses,” he added.

Usman said one kilogram trout in the open market was being sold at Rs 2000 to Rs 2500 per kilogram.

“Trout farming is a highly profitable business. Any farmer having 35 marla land and proper water inflow and outflow system can produce 2,250 kg trout by earning about two million rupees profit after 15 months saring,” he added.

He said that Pakistan can earn substantial revenue by giving special incentives to trout’s farmers besides construction of new trout lakes especially in Malakand and Hazara divisions due availability of plenty of cold water reservoirs and ideal climate conditions for trout farming.

Dr Riaz Khan, Principal Medical Officer at Govt Hospital Pabbi Nowshera said that fish is rich in protein, and a variety of essential vitamins, adding trout is not just a delicacy but also a source of health, offering warmth and sustenance during winter’s harshest days.

The Spokesman of Fisheries Department said that Trout Village Project (TVP) in Hazara and Malakand Divisions has been launched under which 93 small and large trout fish farms were established under a 50:50% cost sharing formul contributed by the KP Government and farmers mostly in Swat and Mansehra districts.

The official said a model trout hatchery has been established at Salathanar valley in Upper Swat on 15 kanal with capacity to produce six million fish seeds per year.

Another project ‘development of cold water fisheries resources’ was a joint venture of Federal and Provincial Governments having 40:60pc cost sharing basis, was underway in Malakand and Hazara divisions under which 297 trout lakes were being established.

The KP government has approved ‘development of reservoirs for uplift of fisheries resources under which 67 carp fish farms and model hatchery on 179 kanal at Swabi would be established from where

fish seedlings would be provided to private hatcheries and Turbella dam.

With completion of these projects, he said KP’s fish production would likely increase to 740 metric tons from the existing 400 metric tons in next few years.

Work on a new project “development of fisheries resources in merged areas” has been commenced, he said adding that model coldwater research centre was being established at Madyn Swat with a facility of a fish hatchery where academia and young researchers would be facilitated to conduct researches on different issues of aquatic resources.

The experts termed water pollution and climate change as a big threat to trout farming, the official suggested a comprehensive mechanism for disposal of hotels waste in Malakand and Hazara divisions.

Throwing of plastic pollution and hotels effluent drains directly into River Swat and Kunhar are extremely harmful for freshwater trout, they concluded.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr. Saif in a group photo with the newly elected cabinet of Khyber Union of Journalists. Muhammed Imran, DG Information & PRs and President of Peshawar Press Club Arshad Aziz Malik along with other senior journalists are also present.

Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar held at KMU

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a remarkable gathering to promote awareness and solidarity, KMU Institute of Public Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences successfully hosted the Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar. The event focused on the theme: “We are stronger when we stand together whether as survivors, supporters, or advocates for change.” Guest Speakers Dr. Zainab Jan and Dr. Asad Zamir from IRNUM Peshawar, provided an impactful session on the urgency of breast cancer awareness. They presented global statistics on breast cancer, emphasizing that early detection is life-saving. Covering symptoms, detection challenges, and barriers faced in low- and middle-income countries like Pakistan, they highlighted the urgent need to address these issues to improve health outcomes. The speakers discussed risk factors such as lifestyle habits, obesity, and family history, and encouraged attendees to adopt protective practices including regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, and breastfeeding. They also discussed the significance of annual screenings—such as mammograms and clinical breast exams—as essential tools for early detection. A particular focus was placed on debunking myths and misconceptions around breast cancer, equipping attendees with reliable information for informed health choices. Furthermore, treatment options like chemotherapy and surgery were explored, with a reminder that survival rates are highest when cancer is diagnosed at an early stage, with Stage 1 survival approaching nearly 100%. Adding a psychosocial perspective, Dr. Huma Atta, HOD of the Institute of public Mental Health, discussed the link between mental health and cancer recovery.

Symposium on promoting sustainable urban development held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Oxford Policy Management’s Sub-National Governance (SNG) Programme hosted a symposium focusing on sustainable urban development through land-use reforms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The event, titled “Promoting Sustainable Urban Development: Lessons Learned from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Land-Use Reforms,” gathered a distinguished group of policymakers, local government officials, urban planning experts, and civil society representatives to discuss the transformative role of KP’s Land Use & Building Control (LU&BC) Act in guiding structured urban growth.

The symposium highlighted the KP LU&BC Act as a pioneering legislative achievement in Pakistan, aimed at preventing illegal construction, preserving agricultural lands, and fostering organised urban expansion. KP was the first province to enact this legislation, which addresses critical land-use challenges by setting clear guidelines for residential, agricultural, and industrial land use.

Dr. Raheel A. Siddiqui, Program Team Leader for SNG, opened the event by emphasising the role of the KP government’s LU&BC

Act in curtailing haphazard urban growth and prioritising sustainability. This landmark legislation, developed with technical support from the FCDO funded SNG Programme, is an important step toward establishing a well-defined legal framework for urban planning across KP.

Mr. Arshad Ayub Khan, Hon’ble Minister for Local Government, Elections, and Rural Development (LGERDD), delivered a keynote address, applauding the proactive steps taken by the KP government to address urbanisation challenges. “The KP LU&BC Act reflects our commitment to creating sustainable urban spaces that balance development with environmental conservation,” he noted. He also thanked FCDO and SNG Programme for providing active support to the Land-Use reforms of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On this occasion, Nadir Rana, Special Secretary

(Establishment), LGERDD emphasised that Government of KP has pioneered various interconnect components of Land Reforms regime, in shape of KP Urban Policy, LU&BC Act and the KP Housing Policy.

Panel discussions followed, featuring experts including Muhammad Zubair Asghar Qureshi, Director General, Provincial Services Academy; Hifzur Rehman, Member KP Land Use Council; Dr. Shaker Mehmood, UET Lahore, Dr. a

Abdul Majid, University of Haripur, Ms Aimen Iftikhar, District Architect, TMA Swabi. Moderated by Dr. Raheel Siddiqui, the panel explored the operational successes of district-level Land Use Planning Committees and the role of local enforcement units.

The symposium also served as a platform for showcasing the early achievements of KP’s LU&BC implementation.

Supported by SNG’s technical assistance, district administrations have taken proactive roles in land use, with regular committee meetings, compliance inspections, and structured reporting.

“The adoption and implementation of the LU&BC Act across districts mark a significant milestone for KP’s local governments, fostering urban planning practices that protect resources and benefit communities,” said Dr. Vagar Ahmed, Senior Governance Advisor, SNG.

As KP looks to expand and replicate these best practices province-wide, the symposium offered a unique opportunity for stakeholders to exchange insights, address challenges, and strengthen collaborations for future land-use reforms. The SNG Programme remains committed to supporting KP’s journey towards sustainable urban development and empowering local governments to drive meaningful change in land use planning and building control. The seminar was also attended by the students of University of Haripur and Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences) Peshawar. The students actively participated and asked pertinent questions from the panelists on Land Use Reforms.



Hamza Foundation held blood donation camp at Frontier College

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Hamza Foundation Welfare Thalassemia Center and Blood Transfusion Services has arranged one day blood donation camp at Frontier College Peshawar with the help and support of college’s Director Riaz Hussain, on Thursday.

Resource Mobilization officers Hamza Foundation Ateeq ur Rehman and Ibraheem Jan delivered lectures to the students and worthy teaching staff of the said college about different welfare activities of the organization, especially free of cost treatment providing to 1504 registered poor and underprivileged Thalassemia, Hemophilia patients.

They also delivered motivational speech to students about the importance of blood donation. Indeed, it was very successful

blood donation camp. As many as 60 healthy volunteer students donated their blood for saving precious



lives of 1504 registered poor and underprivileged Thalassemia, Hemophilia kids and other blood disorder disease patients of Hamza Foundation.

Founder Chairman of Hamza Foundation and Central Executive Member of Thalassemia Federation of Pakistan Ijaz Ali khan highly appreciated the cooperation and support of the Director, teaching staff and also the dedication and spirit of the students blood donors.

On this special occasion, RMOs of Hamza Foundation presented shield of HF to Director Riaz Hussain and distributed appreciation certificates among the students. Founder Chairman Hamza Foundation Ijaz Ali Khan also thanked the management of the college for the arrangements of such a Successful blood donation camp for the ailing humanity of KP.

CEO WSSP for efficient use of available resources

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Executive Officer, Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP), Yasir Ali Khan has directed concerned authorities to ensure efficient utilization of available resources and funds to complete ongoing projects on time. He emphasized the restoration of drainage systems and removal of obstructions in high-risk hotspot areas. Khan was addressing a monthly review meeting for October, attended by key officials including GM Operations Muhammad Ijaz, GM PMER Zamir-ul-

Hassan, GM Projects Dr. Mehboob Alam, and Zonal Managers Basit Khattak, Tariq Aziz, Anwar-ul-Haq, Amir Gul Khattak, Dr. Maria Shehnaz, and others.

During the meeting, officials acknowledged last month’s progress in revenue recovery. Khan instructed the officials to collect data on commercial establishments, plazas, and centers not yet included in the revenue network, aiming to broaden the revenue base.

The meeting was told that several projects under the Peshawar uplift Program’s second phase and Annual Development

Program are nearing completion, with some set to conclude in the coming days. Rehabilitation work on Shahi Khata will also commence shortly.

October’s achievements included the daily production of 52.4 million gallons of water, 93 quality tests, 13,135 tons of waste collection, cleaning of 4,519 km of roads, 1,620 manholes, 242 km of drains, and dengue prevention sprays at 371 locations.

Of 1,533 complaints received, 1,466 were resolved, reflecting a 95.63% resolution rate, alongside revenue recovery of PKR 25.2 million.

JUIF to protest against delay in road completion

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The completion of the 37 kilometers main Tank-Pezu Road project connecting Indus Highway, is facing significant delays due to the alleged corruption and negligence of Federal Secretary Communications, Ali Sher Mehud.

According to Mehmood Ahmad Khan Bettani, former MPA and leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUIF), Mehud is stalling the release of funds for the road’s completion, reportedly in exchange for kickbacks.

Talking to media, Mehmood Bettani criticized Secretary Ali Sher Mehud for prioritizing personal gain over the development of his own district.

He claimed that despite the approval of key infrastructure projects like Tank-Pezu and Ranwal to Yarak CPEC routes, Mehud redirected the allocated funds for these roads to other districts, leaving Tank’s critical roadworks incomplete.

“The Secretary has allowed the roads in Tank to remain in a dilapidated state, which is leading to frequent accidents and public protests,” said Mehmood Bettani.

He described Ali Sher as a highly corrupt officer, accusing him of embezzling funds in Islamabad and selling them in exchange for commissions.

He said the JUIF has announced its full support for the upcoming protest against the delays in the Tank-Pezu road project.

The party will stage a sit-in in front of Secretary Ali Sher Mehud’s residence on Tuesday here to demand the immediate release of funds for the road’s completion. Mehmood Bettani urged the federal government to immediately replace Secretary Ali Sher Mehud.

Dr. Nabeela Soomro Visits PCP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Dr. Nabeela Soomro, a prominent expert in physical rehabilitation and CEO of the Sindh Institute of Medicine and Physical Rehabilitation Karachi, conducted an in-depth visit to the Paraplegic Center Peshawar (PCP). During her tour, Dr. Soomro visited various sections, including the male and female wards, outpatient department, clubfoot clinic, autism spectrum section, and orthotics manufacturing unit. She was joined by PCP’s Chairman and for-

mer Finance Department Secretary, Zia ur Rehman, Chief Executive Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas and Rehab Director Dr. Amir Zaib.

Dr. Soomro expressed admiration for PCP’s outstanding performance, particularly its unique role in providing specialized treatment and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan. She praised the center as a national model and noted that, beyond rehabilitating individuals with spinal cord injuries, the center empowers them to reintegrate as productive members of society.

Highlighting the center’s ability to locally manufacture customized wheelchairs and mobility aids for PWDs, Dr. Soomro emphasized that using PCP’s products in medical institutions nationwide—rather than relying on imports—could greatly support Pakistan’s local industry and help conserve valuable foreign exchange. Chief Executive Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas echoed her sentiments, commending Dr. Soomro for her valuable contributions toward advancing physical rehabilitation within medical education in Sindh.

Administration launches drive against drug addicts

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Over 150 drug addicts, including women and children, were apprehended from University Road and Hayatabad Industrial Road and shifted to rehabilitation centers.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur, oversees the operation, led by Peshawar Commissioner Riaz Khan Mehud.

The crackdown will continue daily until November 14, targeting city-wide addiction.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Hashim Rao led the special crackdown, assisted by Social Welfare Director, Peshawar City Assistant Commissioner, District Social Welfare Officer, Excise Department, Peshawar Police and volunteers.



In brief

One killed, four injured in firing F.P. Report

PABBI: A man was killed while four others sustained bullet injuries when cross firing took place between two groups of Oil Depot Union in Pabbi tehsil of Nowshera district on Thursday. Police said a clash between two groups of Oil Depot Union left a man dead and injured four others. The dead body and injured were shifted to Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar. Following the firing, a large police force reached the area and collected evidence for investigation, however locals said that intine entry of police could have averted the losses.

DC orders inquiry F.P. Report

WANA: Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan has taken notice of an assault on journalist Aala Khan Wazir in Angoor Adda, ordering action against the perpetrators. Widespread condemnation has come from press clubs and journalist associations demanding justice. According to details, Aala Khan Wazir was attacked by around 30 family members of Maulana Shamsuddin while reporting near Angoor Adda, detained for hours, and his belongings destroyed. He was later treated at District Headquarters Hospital Wana and discharged. District Press Club Wana and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Union of Journalists condemned the attack, demanding the arrest of those involved. Authorities vowed legal action to uphold freedom of expression.

Father, son shot dead in Rustam F.P. Report

MARDAN: A monetary dispute in Rustam tehsil of Mardan district on Thursday led to the killing of a man and his son. Police said the unfortunate incident occurred in the Amankot area of Rustam where a father and his son were shot dead over a monetary dispute. The brother of the deceased told police that his father, Noor Zamin Sha and brother, Ajab Shah were bringing firewood from the fields when the alleged accused, Amrez Khan shot them dead. In a quick response to the report, Rustam police succeeded in arresting the accused within one hour of the crime.

Bikes provided to traffic wardens F.P. Report

KOHAT: As part of the measures, announced by DPO Kohat Muhammad Umar Khan to improve the traffic system in the city on modern lines, traffic wardens were assigned special heavy bikes. In a ceremony held at the traffic headquarters, the in-charge traffic wardens Rauf Khan handed over the keys of the heavy bikes to the traffic wardens. Traffic wardens will swiftly reach the place of traffic jam through these heavy bikes and clear the traffic. This special squad of traffic wardens with heavy bikes will respond immediately to any traffic mess in the district. They will also serve as first responders in case of any road mishap. This special squad of traffic wardens with heavy bikes will ensure traffic flow, assistance to citizens and education on traffic rules.

Two POs killed

FAISALABAD (INP): Two proclaimed offenders were killed in a police shootout near here on Thursday. A police team comprising officials of Jarranwala Saddar and city police raided in Khaddian Warraichan to arrest the proclaimed offenders belonging to Shah Gang.



TANAWAL: Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid inaugurating Benazir Income Support Programme office.

Traders facilitation to boost tourism industry

F.P. Report

MARDAN: The provincial general secretary (GS) of Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajirana said that Pakistan and especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has been blessed by Allah Almighty with natural resources and beauty, which has many opportunities to be introduced to foreign countries. For which the business community of this area needs a lot of facilities so that the business and tourism of this area can be promoted. These views were expressed by Zahir Shah, former president of MCCI Speaking during a meeting with Minister for Trade and Investment (Commercial Attaché) Shafiq Ahmed Shehzad at the High Commission for Pakistan in London on the occasion of an official visit to England.

On this occasion, Zahir Shah while talking to the Minister for Trade and Investment (Commercial Attaché) Shafiq Ahmed Shehzad said that there are a number of opportunities for trade between the two countries which need to be resolved and facilitated. Later (Commercial Attaché) Shafiq Ahmed Shehzad said that our aim is to further develop Pakistan's trade with other countries so that the Pakistani economy can be strengthened by introducing Pakistani products to foreign countries. Zahir Shah added that the main objective of Mardan Chamber is to promote local products and to introduce in foreign countries in a modern way and for this purpose we have visited England to hold meetings with various trade delegations and entrepreneurs business meetings and joint venture based business.

Zahir Shah also presented various suggestions about promotion of trade between the two countries, upon which Commercial Attaché Shafiq Ahmed Shehzad assured Zahir Shah of all possible cooperation from the Pakistani High Commission in London upon which Zahir Shah thanked Shafiq Ahmad Shahzad.

MS commits for public facilitation: Medical Superintendent of Takhtbhai Hospital, Imran Johar, has stated that despite limited resources, the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital (THQ) is providing basic healthcare facilities to the public.

The THQ Hospital ranks second in outpatient services (OPD) in Mardan district, after MMC and DHQ, and also ranks second in emergency and OPD services. The hospital has various machines, including an echocardiogram machine, generator, tube well, and lift, but lacks operators for these.

Additionally, the posts of laundry attendant and prayer leader are vacant. The hospital also does not have specialists in radiology or anesthesia. Despite these challenges, OPD attendance has exceeded 28,000, and the labor room and laboratory are fully functional, providing free services to the public in all wards. There is a sufficient supply of vaccines for rabies and snake bites, and a ward for dengue patients has also been set up, with dengue test kits provided promptly by the provincial government.

Imran Johar urged the public to remember that Takht Bhai Hospital was established by the provincial government for their welfare, and the hospital is committed to providing health services. He shared these remarks during a visit to the Takht Bhai Press Club, where Dr. Ishaq Khan and Health Coordination President Afsar Khan were also present. He emphasized that, following the special directives of the PTI government and the District Health Officer (DHO), they are actively working for public welfare and striving to resolve people's issues at their doorstep.

Imran Johar explained that the hospital continues to operate 24/7 for the public, and is the second busiest in OPD in Mardan district, treating over 28,000 patients monthly. Thousands of tests are conducted in the laboratory, with ultrasound and labor room services fully operational. The hospital team is committed to ensuring that X-ray, ultrasound, lift, and other modern facilities remain in good working condition. He asserted that government resources are a trust from the people and warned that any negligence in healthcare services would not be tolerated. He assured the public that he would address any complaints immediately and encouraged them to contact him directly for issues related to the hospital.

Seminar on media ethics and ethical journalism held

F.P. Report

KARAK: Department of Communication and Media Studies Khushal Khan Khattak University (KKKU) Karak organized a one-day seminar on Media Ethics and Ethical Journalism. The event, held today brought together students, faculty members and experts to delve into the critical role of ethical principles in the field of journalism.

The seminar keynote speaker, renowned journalist Ubaid Yousuf Khan, delivered an insightful presentation on the importance of upholding ethical standards in media. He emphasized the need for journalists to prioritize truth, fairness, and accuracy in their reporting.

Dr. Abdur Rauf, Head of the Communication and Media Studies Department, extended a warm welcome to all participants. The event was attended by faculty members including Dr. Muhammad Anwar, Wajahat Karim, Dr. Muhammad Anwar Khan, Shabeer Ullah and Zahid Aslam.



The seminar provided a platform for engaging discussions on various ethical challenges faced by journalists in today's media landscape. Participants discussed, impact of social media on journalistic ethics, the role of fact-checking and verification in the digital age, the ethical implications of sensationalism and the importance of diversity and inclusion in newsrooms.

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Police fails to arrest cop's killer

F.P. Report

LARKANA: The relatives of Shahnawaz Sheikh who was killed in the firing of armed men a month ago in the village of Kanga police station near Larkana city, protested in front of press club, on Thursday.

According to details, residents of Fatehpur, the deceased's wife, Bashiran Sheikh, Kashmiran, Bashir Ahmad Sheikh and others protested and said that due to a property dispute, our relatives, Larkana police

trained and shot dead my husband who was on duty at Police Training Center Larkana, after which we informed the police.

Unfortunately, the police have not been able to arrest the killers of my husband so far, he requested the Inspector General of Sindh Police and the DIG (Police) Larkana to arrest the rest of the accused involved in the murder and bring them to justice as Justice should be done to us.

TDA commits to modernize rice supply

chains: Trade Development Authority (TDA) Government of Pakistan with the support of Agriculture Extension Department Government of Sindh held a seminar to resolve the problems in the supply of rice, improve the quality of rice to reduce losses and export rice in the country and abroad through modern methods. A seminar was organized in the officers' club of the city to inform about the increase the quality of rice.

Eco-security key for survival of human beings F.P. Report

MARDAN: The 2nd International One Health Conference commenced held at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan (AW-KUM), bringing together national and international experts to discuss the theme, "Long-Term Survival of Human Beings through Eco-security Systems", on Thursday.

The conference, organized by Prof. Dr. Sher Bahadar Khan, Principal, College of Veterinary Sciences at AWKUM, has garnered broad support from various public and private organizations, including the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Pakistan Science Foundation, Dairy Science Park, National Eco-security System Pakistan (NESS-Pakistan), and Poultry Doctors Forum. Key private sponsors include Inshal Pharma, Avicenna of Sarhad Traders, UM Enterprises, MB Marketing, and DMG Pharmaceuticals.

Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, graced the event as the Chief Guest and Fakhre Alam Khan, Secretary for Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperative Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attended as the Guest of Honor. The conference was opened by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zahir Shah, who warmly welcomed the chief guests, esteemed delegates, and participants, expressing pride in AWKUM's commitment to advancing interdisciplinary research and solutions through the One Health framework.

Professor Dr. Zahir Shah also commended Prof. Dr. Sher Bahadar Khan and the organizing committee for their exceptional efforts in arranging this event, which features a dynamic line-up of speakers from Turkey, the USA, Brazil, Iran, and China. These renowned experts will share valuable insights on eco-security strategies and their role in promoting human, animal, and environmental health.

Work on road project inaugurated F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Provincial Minister for Religious Affairs, Auqaf and Hajj Adnan Qadri inaugurated reconstruction work on the Zakaria Masjid to Inzaree checkpoint 8.45 kilometer long most awaited road project on Thursday.

In this connection, a simple gathering was organized at the Zakria Chowk that was attended by Member National Assembly Iqbal Afridi besides officials and a large number of tribal elders and local workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The minister formally unveiled the plaque to formally commence construction work of the road.

Speaking to the media persons, the Provincial Minister Adnan Qadri and MNA Iqbal Afridi said that the project was launched to provide better travelling and communication facilities to the tribesmen. The initiative is part of their government motto to develop rural areas and reduce hardships of the laymen.

Three-day book fair at University of Malakand concluded

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: A three-day book fair concluded at the University of Malakand (UoM) main campus here on Thursday. Hundreds of male and female students, faculty members and administrative staff showed keen interest in the book fair, which was jointly arranged by the Directorate of Students Society UoM, Youth Development Center, UoM and National Book Foundation, Islamabad.

The UoM Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rashid Ahmad, assistant commissioner Adenzai Sohail Khan; Deans and varsity administration officers visited different book stalls and appreciated the organizers on the concluding day.

Besides, a thriving Pashto 'Tappa' Competition was also organized, where twenty students of various departments participated. Mr Nasimullah of the BS Pashto won the competition.

A Pashto Mushaira Contest (poetry session) was also organized on the sidelines of the Book Fair. Prof. Dr. Abaseen Yousafzai, Prof Bakhtzada Danish, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Shakir, Dr. Maqsood ur Rahman Eshrat, Dr. Saeed Ahmad and Prof. Hameedul Haq Khaksar attended the Tappa Competition and Pashto Mushaira.

'Baitbazi Contest' among the varsity students added to the value of the book fair wherein students showcased their literary skills and received applause from the audience. The audience took keen interest in Tappa and Bait Bazi competition.

According to the organizers, more than fifty thousand books were put on display for sale at 50 percent discounted rates for students and other readers.



They told media that about 35,000 books; worth over Rs 6 million; with half of the price, were sold out in the book fair.

A staffer of the NBF told that books' sellers from Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi were invited; and they put on display their books regarding religion, history, science, technology, art and engineering. He said the NBF sold out books to visitors worth Rs 300,000.

Another book seller from Lahore said that visitors took keen interest in the book fair and he was satisfied with his selling at the event. Prof. Dr. Rashid Ahmad, AC Sohail Khan and Dr Maqsood ur Rehman Eshrat, Director Students Societies, presented Shields to the winners of the Tappa Competition, Baitbazi Contest and also distributed certificates of appreciation among the organizers.

Ms Aiman Shad, a BS English literature student, said that such events should be frequently organized at campuses. She said that it was an amazing event and it would boost the habit of book reading among students. Speaking on the occasion the VC pledged that the book fair and literary events showcased the commitment of university stakeholders to enhance the literary skills of students and ignite their passion for book reading. He added to continue the journey of

such literary activities at the varsity.

The Commissioner Malakand Division Amjad Ali Khan along with Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan, UoM Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Rashid Ahmed and Vice Chancellor University of Karak Fida Khattak had formally inaugurated the book fair three days ago.

Open katchery held: Assistant Commissioner Samarbagh, Muhammad Sohail Khan on Thursday chaired an open katchery to address the daily problems of people living in Tehsil Munda. The open katchery was held under Good Governor Public Agenda of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur.

People highlighted the issues relating to local administration, traffic jams, repair of street lights, cleaning of drains, and establishment of vegetable and fruit market in Munda Bazaar. They also urged district administration to ban heavy vehicles in the market during the day, removal of illegal vehicle parking lots and cleaning of garbage heaps in Munda.

Assistant Commissioner issued on the spot directives to solve these issues and instructed concerned departments to timely address problems of complainants. He also stressed for collective efforts to resolve problems and urged public to cooperate with the administration.



SWABI: Adviser to KP CM on Health, Ihtisham Ali and Minister for Education, Faisal Khan Taraqqi visiting MTI Swabi.

KKKUK inspection body visits affiliated colleges

F.P. Report

KARAK: Inspection committee from Khushal Khan Khattak University (KKKU) Karak visited local colleges to assess their academic standards and infrastructure. The committee aimed to ensure quality education and adherence to university guidelines.

The inspection team, comprising esteemed faculty members, administrative officers visited the Government Girls College KDA, Government Postgraduate College (GPGC) Karak and Government Degree College Latamber. During the inspection, the committee thoroughly evaluated various aspects of the colleges, including Faculty qualifications



and experience, laboratory facilities and equipment, library resources, digital infrastructure, classroom facilities, student enrollment, administrative and governance practices. As a result of the detail inspection process, the committee granted affiliation to the Chemistry Department, GGC KDA

Economics and Political Science Departments, GPGC Karak and Botany Department, GDC Latamber. The successful

affiliation of these departments is a significant step towards the betterment of the respective institutions and will further enhance the quality of higher education in the region.

Director of Academic and Research Dr. Fasih ur Rehman and Controller of Examinations Muhammad Rahim were also present during the inspection process, underscoring the university commitment to quality assurance and academic excellence.

KP's largest Neonatal Care Unit inaugurated

F.P. Report

SWABI: The 46-bed, state-of-the-art facility, established with the support of UNICEF Pakistan, includes a Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), Unit, mother-based nursery, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Critical Bay Unit, High Dependency Unit (HDU), and an Isolation Unit.

Hospital Director Dr. Khalid Masud highlighted

key features of the NICU and expressed his gratitude to UNICEF for their vital role in establishing this unit, which was completed for approximately 28 million rupees. He also acknowledged UNICEF's commitment for solarization and enhancing the day-care center at BKMC.

The unit was inaugurated by Mr. Ihtisham Ali, Advisor to the Chief Minister KP on Health, and

Dr. Inamullah Khan, UNICEF Health Team Lead, who jointly cut the ribbon and unveiled the plaque.

Following the inauguration, Health Advisor Mr. Ihtisham Ali, accompanied by former Speaker of the National Assembly Asad Qaisar and other dignitaries, visited the unit and thanked UNICEF for their valuable support in neonatal care.



BEIRUT: Lebanese members working at a site damaged in an Israeli air strike in Barja.

Hurricane Rafael triggers nationwide blackout in Cuba

HAVANA (AFP): Hurricane Rafael knocked out power to all of Cuba on Wednesday as it slammed through the cash-strapped island, which was still reeling from a recent blackout and a previous deadly storm. Rafael strengthened to a major Category 3 hurricane as it made landfall on the Caribbean island of 10 million people.

It hit in western Artemisa province, east of Playa Majana beach, at about 2115 GMT, according to the US National Hurricane Center (NHC). The agency said Rafael swept across the island in two and a half hours before losing intensity as it entered the Gulf of Mexico. US meteorologists had warned of "a life-threatening storm surge" and flash flooding. The Union Electrica national power company blamed "strong winds" caused by Rafael for "the shutdown of the national electricity system," in a post on X.

Nine of Cuba's 15 provinces, including Havana, were placed on storm alert. In Candelaria, a town hard hit in Artemisa province, gusting winds took down tree branches and debris littered the streets. More than 70,000 people were evacuated from their homes in Artemisa and

neighboring Pinar del Rio province on the island's westernmost tip. In Havana, home to two million people, the streets were nearly empty: businesses were closed, several gas stations had their fuel pumps removed and transport services were halted. "I am desperate, I am homeless, the roof is gone and I don't know what I'm going to do," Marta Leon Castro, 57, told AFP. At least five families in her neighborhood had lost all of part of their roofs. The state newspaper Granma said airports in the western part of the country, including in Havana and the resort town of Varadero, had been temporarily shut as a result of the storm. A tropical storm warning is in effect in the Florida Keys.

The storm piled fresh misery on Cuba just two weeks after the island was left without power for four days due to the failure of its biggest power plant and a shortage of fuel to produce electricity. Cuba has for months been suffering hours-long power cuts -- a manifestation of the worst economic crisis since the fall of the Soviet Union, a key ally and financial backer, in the early 1990s. Last month's blackout, which took several days to fix,

coincided with the passage of Hurricane Oscar, which killed eight people in the country. The office of Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said that it was mobilizing the military to help respond to the storm. "We have activated the National Defense Council to provide the maximum attention to the passage of Hurricane Rafael," Diaz-Canel said in a post on X.

"Measures have been taken in each place to protect our people and material resources. As we have always done since the revolution, we will overcome this situation." Ahead of the storm, state television showed workers clearing drains, collecting garbage and cutting back trees. In the village of Alquizar, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of Havana, Liset Herrera, 57, said Wednesday she had been unable to follow the news about Rafael "because there is no electricity." Further south, in the coastal village of Ganimar, Marisol Valle, a 63-year-old farmer, came home briefly to collect some belongings before the water reached her home near the sea. "There didn't appear to be a soul left" after the villagers had been evacuated, she said.

South Africa shuts border crossing with Mozambique over poll unrest

CAPE TOWN (BBC): South Africa has closed one of its busiest border crossings with Mozambique following violent post-electoral protests in the neighbouring country. The protests have led to deadly clashes in several cities following last month's disputed presidential election, won by Mozambique's ruling Frelimo party.

The authorities say there are reports of vehicles being torched on the Mozambican side of the Lebombo port of entry. "Due to these security incidents and in the interest of public safety, the port has been temporarily closed until further notice," the South African border agency said. South African police also fired rubber bullets and stun grenades at Mozambicans trying to enter the country through

the Lebombo border, according to the News24 site.

Lebombo, one of the four busiest land ports in southern Africa, is about 110km (68 miles) from Mozambique's capital, Maputo, and about 440km from South Africa's capital of Pretoria. Travellers have been advised to use alternative crossing points between the two countries. Violence had spread to Ressano Garcia, a small area in Maputo province, near Lebombo, said Michael Masiapato, South Africa's Border Management Authority (BMA) commissioner.

Mr Masiapato said the South African side was not affected, but safety measures needed to be taken. "Some buildings have been set alight. At the moment we are working on securing

the Lebombo border as well as travellers' safety," he said in a statement. "The border will be closed to ensure the safety of travellers."

Reports say protesters on the Mozambican side of the border have burnt down an immigration office in that country. Seven Mozambican officials have requested refuge on the South African side for safety and protection, the authorities said. BMA officials, the South African police and the army have been engaged to stop the protests from spilling over into South Africa. Demonstrations started at the end of October in Maputo after Daniel Chapo, the Frelimo candidate, was officially declared the winner with more than 71% of the vote.

Opposition leader

Snow back on Mount Fuji after longest absence

TOKYO (AFP): Japan's Mount Fuji has seen its first snowfall after going through the longest period without snow since records began 130 years ago. Snow fell on Japan's highest peak about a month later than expected, as the country recovers from one of its hottest summers. The news was welcomed, with locals celebrating and sharing photos of the snow-clad peak.

Mount Fuji is one of Japan's most popular tourist attractions and has inspired centuries of art-work. Snow was spotted on Wednesday, 5 November, by the Japan Meteorological Agency's branch in Shizuoka. As photos of the snowy peak spread on Wednesday, an X user commented, "Oh, I've been waiting for this". Another wrote, "I've never been so excited for the first snowfall this year". "Finally... make-up makes you look even more beautiful," read a third tweet, referring to the white peak.

The weather agency's Kofu office is expected to announce the exact date snow fell. This was the most delayed sighting since 2023 when snow was first seen on the summit on 5 October, according to AFP news agency. The previous record was 26 October -- that happened twice, in 1955 and 2016. Located south-west of Tokyo, Mount Fuji stands at 3,776m (12,460 ft). It last erupted just over 300 years ago and is visible from the capital on a clear day. With temperatures between June and August 1.76C (3.1F) higher than average, Japan had its joint hottest summer on record - the other was in 2003. The warmer-than-usual weath

er continued in September. While it's hard to attribute delayed snowfall on Mount Fuji directly to climate change, it is in line with what experts predict in a warming world.

Russian tank factory employee jailed

MOSCOW (Reuters): An engineer at a factory that makes tanks for Russia's war in Ukraine was jailed for 16 years after being convicted of committing state treason by passing military secrets to Kyiv, weeks after his wife received a similar sentence.

The court in Sverdlovsk region said Danil Mukhametov, who worked at the Uralvagonzavod tank factory, had partially admitted his guilt after being accused of passing unspecified technical military information to Ukraine's intelligence services. The court released a photograph of Mukhametov, 32, listening in a glass courtroom cage as the judge read out his sentence, which he will serve in a maximum-security penal colony.

His wife Viktoria, who worked at the same tank factory, Russia's largest, was handed a 12-1/2 year sentence last month after being convicted of selling technical blueprints to Ukrainian officials for 100,000 roubles or just over \$1,000. She and her husband were arrested in March 2023 by the FSB security service, which published a video of the arrest. It showed her being asked what they planned to do with the money, to which she replied: "Just to live."

Located in the city of Nizhny Tagil around 1,400 km (870 miles) east of Moscow, the Uralvagonzavod factory has been sanctioned by the West. The factory, which is run by a state conglomerate controlled by one of President Vladimir Putin's allies, has publicly said it produces T-90M battle tanks and modernises T-72B3M tanks. According to the Russian Defence Ministry, it plays a crucial role in supplying tanks for Moscow's war in Ukraine, something the authorities call a special military operation. Earlier this year, a Russian court convicted Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich of espionage after accusing him of gathering secret information about the same factory. The US journalist, his newspaper and the US government denied the spying charge. Gershkovich was released on Aug. 1 in a major East-West prisoner swap.

Trump victory will help end Ukraine war

MOSCOW (Reuters): The Kremlin reacted cautiously on Wednesday after Donald Trump was elected US president, saying the US was still a hostile state and that only time would tell if Trump's rhetoric on ending the Ukraine war translated into reality.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 triggered the biggest confrontation between Moscow and the West since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis when the Soviet Union and the US came close to nuclear war. Trump's re-election caps a remarkable comeback four years after the Republican was voted out of the White House and ushers in a new American leadership likely to test democratic institutions at home and relations abroad.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Trump had made some important statements about wanting to end the Ukraine war during his campaign, but only time would tell if they led to action. "Let us not forget that we are talking about an unfriendly country, which is both directly and indirectly involved in a war against our state" (in Ukraine)," Peskov told reporters. Peskov said he was not aware of any plans by President Vladimir Putin to congratulate Trump on his victory and that relations with Washington were at an historic low.

"We have repeatedly said that the US is able to contribute to the end of this conflict. This cannot be done overnight, but... the US is capable of changing the trajectory of its foreign policy. Will this happen, and if so, how ... we will see after (the US president's inauguration in) January." Russian and US diplomats say relations between the world's two largest nuclear powers have only been worse during the depths of the Cold War. Russian officials from Putin down said ahead of the election that it made no difference to Moscow who won the White House, even as Kremlin-guided state media coverage showed a preference for Trump. The Russian Foreign Ministry said Moscow had no illusions about Trump, noting that there was what it called a bipartisan anti-Russian position among the US ruling elite designed to try to contain Russia.

"Russia will work with the new administration when it 'takes up residence' in the White House, fiercely defending Russian national interests and focusing on achieving all the set objectives of the special military operation (in Ukraine)," the ministry said. "Our conditions are unchanged and are well known in Washington." Kirill Dmitriev, the influential head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund, struck a

softer note, saying a Trump victory could be a chance to repair ties. "This opens up new opportunities for resetting relations between Russia and the United States," added Dmitriev, a former Goldman Sachs banker who has previously had contacts with the Trump team.

Trump, 78, has promised to swiftly end the war in Ukraine, though he has not explained exactly how he would do that. Putin has said he is ready for talks, but that Russia's territorial gains and claims must be accepted, something that the Ukrainian leadership has rejected as an unacceptable capitulation. Russian forces are advancing at the fastest pace in at least a year in Ukraine and control about one fifth of the country.

That includes Crimea, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014, about 80% of the Donbas - a coal-and-steel zone - and more than 70% of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Wednesday that Trump's win would probably be bad news for Ukraine, which relies on Washington as its top military backer. "Trump has one useful quality for us: as a businessman to the core, he mortally dislikes spending money on unnecessary hangerson," said Medvedev, now a senior security official.

Myanmar junta chief visits key ally China

BEIJING (AFP): Myanmar's embattled junta chief arrived in China -- his first reported visit since leading a coup in 2021 -- but analysts say the invitation is only a lukewarm endorsement from his key ally and could backfire.

Min Aung Hlaing was in the southwestern city of Kunming for a summit of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) -- a group including China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia -- starting Wednesday. The junta shared photos of the senior general addressing a gathering of Chinese business leaders, and he is also expected to hold talks with officials.

When the military ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's elected civilian government in 2021, Chinese state media refused to describe it as a coup, preferring "major cabinet reshuffle". China has stood by the junta since, even as others shun the generals over their brutal crackdown on dissent which opponents say includes massacring of civilians, razing villages with air and artillery strikes. Richard Horsey, Crisis Group's senior Myanmar adviser, said Min Aung Hlaing had been lobbying for an official invitation ever since the coup, as a public show of support. But Beijing has

stressed the regional focus of the Kunming gathering, saying it wanted to consult "all sides" against "a background of a weakening global recovery and geopolitical turbulence".

"While this (invitation to the summit) still implies recognition as head of state, it does not have the same diplomatic weight as a bilateral invitation to visit Beijing," Horsey told AFP. Ming Aung Hlaing's trip comes with the junta reeling from a devastating rebel offensive last year that seized an area roughly the size of Bosnia -- much of it near the border with China. Analysts say Beijing is worried about the possibility of the junta falling and suspicious of western influence among some of pro-democracy armed groups battling the military. Myanmar is a vital part of Beijing's trillion-dollar Belt and Road initiative, with railways and pipelines to link China's landlocked southwest to the Indian Ocean. "Beijing has now made clear its intentions for the Myanmar military to succeed," said Jason Tower of the United States Institute of Peace.

China has been reluctant to give a clear show of official recognition since the coup. Crisis Group's Horsey said, but this may be changing. "China has pivoted to

greater support for the regime -- not because it is better disposed with the regime or its leader, but out of concern at a disorderly collapse of power in Naypyidaw," he said. But the relationship is wracked by longstanding mistrust. The junta's top brass are wary of China, insiders say -- stemming from Beijing's support for an insurgency waged by the Communist Party of Burma in the 1960s and 1970s. China gave its tacit backing to last year's rebel offensive, military supporters say, in return for the rebels dismantling online scam compounds in territory they captured. Those compounds were run by and targeting Chinese citizens in a billion-dollar industry and major embarrassment for Beijing. But the rebels pushed further and in August captured the city of Lashio -- miles from the scam compound heartland and home to a regional military command.

The fall of Lashio, home to around 150,000 people to the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA) was a step too far for Beijing, said Tower. China has since cut electricity, water and internet services to the MNDA's traditional homeland on the border with Yunnan province, a source close to the group told AFP.

How the UK's 'big brother' role in Africa changing

LONDON (BBC): UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy is coming to the end of his maiden tour of Africa with the aim of resetting relations with the 54-nation continent.

"Our new approach will deliver respectful partnerships that listen rather than tell, deliver long-term growth rather than short-term solutions and build a freer, safer, more prosperous continent," he said as he set out the agenda for his trip to the continent's two biggest powers - Nigeria and South Africa.

Lammy's visit follows his appointment as foreign secretary in the Labour government that took office earlier this year. Since Labour was last in office in 2010, relations between African states and other world powers have changed massively. Today, China is the largest trade partner for many African countries, while Russia has increasingly made inroads, including by offering military support to West African states battling jihadists.

Oil-rich Gulf nations, along with Turkey, have also been increasing their influence on the continent by striking business and military deals. In contrast, UK-Africa relations have been "a lot more lacklustre", says Alex Vines, the head of the Africa programme at Chatham House, a London-based think tank. This is particularly the case between the UK and its biggest trading partner on the continent, South Africa, and the trip is an "attempt to reboot that", he adds. "I want to hear what our African partners need and foster relationships so that the UK and our friends and partners in Africa can grow together," Lammy said.

Britain is no newcomer to the continent. A long - and at times chequered - history underpins many of its relationships with African countries. Almost all its former colonies on the continent are part of the Commonwealth, although countries that did not have this historical link to the UK have joined the group, including Rwanda, Togo and Gabon. Angola has also

applied to join. "The Commonwealth will likely continue to be a key platform," says Nicole Beardsworth, an academic at South Africa's Wits University. As its former colonies gained independence in the middle of the last century, Britain continued to play a sort of "big brother" role.

But this is now changing, Dr Vines says. Africa did not feature significantly in a major document released last year to outline the UK's priorities on the global stage. "There were name checks to countries like Nigeria and South Africa and Kenya in it, but there wasn't much written," he says. Dr Vines adds that he expects South Africa-UK relations to improve under Labour because of its historic ties with the anti-apartheid movement that fought white-minority rule. "That comes from the anti-apartheid struggle and the solidarity that Labour and people that were the Labour movement provided for combating apartheid," he says.

Swiss police catch more than a dozen drug traffickers

GENEVA (Reuters): Swiss police have arrested 15 drug traffickers operating around the Verbier mountain resort as part of the biggest ever swoop in the surrounding Valais canton, police said. A multi-month investigation showed that the 15 French nationals

were involved in trafficking record drug volumes for the canton, police said. They are suspected of selling over 10 kilograms of cocaine as well as smaller quantities of ketamine, ecstasy and cannabis, some of which was seized.

"This marks a first in

terms of the scale of the arrests made and seizures made. Investigations are continuing and should lead to further arrests," the Valais police statement said. Verbier, a French-speaking Alpine village located in the southern French-speaking canton, is

one of the world's most expensive ski resorts, with a party scene as famous as its slopes.

Police said drug use was hardly limited to the Verbier area, noting that cocaine consumption has increased generally across the canton.

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China open to enhancing Sino-US relations

DONALD Trump's pledge during his campaign to end the Middle East and Ukraine crises in a short time became the focus of media reports and commentaries soon after he won the presidential election on Tuesday. But how Sino-US relations will develop during his second term as US president has been the common focus of a broader group of people, because it concerns the common interests of countries around the world.

Despite its claim to stabilize Sino-US relations, the Joe Biden administration has built or tried to build "small yards and high fences" in the fields of trade and technology in an attempt to "decouple" the US and Chinese economies, urge its allies and partners to take provocative actions against Beijing in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait, and form a united front with "like-minded" allies to isolate China from the rest of the world.

Since the new Trump administration will assume office only after he is sworn in as president on Jan 20, if all goes well, the intervening period provides the president-elect with precious time to explore ways to not only address domestic issues but also steer Sino-US relations in a direction that better serves the interests of the two countries.

An objective evaluation of the Biden administration's policy legacy of "competition, cooperation and confrontation" indicates the either win-win or lose-lose nature of Sino-US relations. The development of Sino-US ties since 2017 when Trump began his first term as president should serve to drive home the core message that China and the US gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation.

That's also the core message President Xi Jinping sent Trump on Thursday, congratulating him on his election victory and highlighting the fact that a stable, sound and sustainable Sino-US relationship serves the two countries' shared interests and meets the need of the international community.

It is hoped that the US will uphold the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation to intensify dialogue and communication with China, properly manage differences and expand mutually beneficial cooperation, as Xi stressed in the congratulatory message.

The three principles Xi has put forward for the healthy development of Sino-US ties are down-to-earth guidelines for steering the bilateral relationship toward win-win partnership.

These principles demand that both sides form a correct strategic perception of each other; properly handle pressing issues such as those in the South China Sea and Taiwan; and cooperate to unleash their growth potential for economic development.

China and the US have broad common interests in not only combating climate change but also promoting trade, developing technology and safeguarding peace and stability. So, instead of starting from the position of strength, the US should approach bilateral relations keeping in mind common interests and mutual benefit.

Intensified dialogue and communication will help the two sides to realize that their common interests far outweigh their differences, and that the common interests can be expanded and differences narrowed down through talks.

China and the US, which are partners not rivals, should become a source of peace and stability, and a driver of development for the world. China's US policy has been consistent. While the two countries, as well as Sino-US relations, have undergone great changes over the past years, China remains committed to developing healthy and sustainable relations with the US based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation. It also remains committed to firmly safeguarding the country's sovereignty, security and development.

It's time the US realized that China's development is beneficial for the American economy and people, and vice versa, started seeing each other's development as an opportunity rather than a challenge, and explored together with China the ways to achieve common development.

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Pakistan's Economic Crunch: Fact or Fiction?

Rafi Ul Haq

IN recent years, Pakistan's economy has faced unprecedented challenges that have sparked widespread debate on whether the situation is a genuine economic crisis or merely a temporary setback. The claim that Pakistan's economic crunch is artificially induced is supported by factors such as political instability, external debt, structural inefficiencies, poor policy implementation, strategic interests and mismanagement.

Speculative financial practices, currency manipulation, and hoarding by influential stakeholders have inflated economic distress. Vested political and elite interests often amplify crises to secure favorable loans or negotiate debt relief. The repeated cycles of economic growth and decline show not just real problems but also planned actions where certain groups benefit from economic downturns. Media and political rhetoric can exaggerate the crisis to deflect accountability and create a perception of helplessness, making the situation seem more severe than it is. While real economic challenges exist, a careful examination reveals layers of artificially induced pressures that skew the true state of the economy.

To assess the situation, one must look at key economic indicators. Pakistan's inflation rate has surged to double digits, reaching over 27% in early 2024, significantly affecting purchasing power and increasing the cost of living for ordinary citizens. Food and energy prices are

at record highs, impacting everyday expenses, while the national currency, the Pakistani rupee, continues to lose value against major international currencies. These indicators reflect not only a struggling economy but a society where citizens face financial hardships on a daily basis. Unemployment rates are also alarmingly high, especially among youth, where over 40% of the population struggles to find stable employment.

Another major contributing factor to Pakistan's economic strain is its growing national debt. Pakistan owes billions in external loans, much of which must be repaid within strict timelines. The interest payments alone consume a large portion of the national budget, leaving limited resources for development projects and welfare programs. The heavy reliance on loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), China, and other international donors has created a dependency trap, where Pakistan is forced to borrow more to service existing debt. This dependency hinders economic autonomy and makes the country vulnerable to external influences, which impacts political stability and economic growth.

This crisis is further exacerbated by long-standing structural weaknesses and governance issues. Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio remains one of the lowest in the world, with less than 1% of the population paying income taxes. This weak tax base reduces gov-

ernment revenues, leading to a heavy reliance on indirect taxes that disproportionately affect the poor. Moreover, rampant corruption, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and lack of accountability have stymied efforts to enact much-needed reforms. For decades, successive governments have been unable to overhaul critical sectors, particularly energy and agriculture, which contribute to Pakistan's financial troubles.

The energy sector, for instance, faces a circular debt crisis, with unpaid bills amounting to billions of rupees. This inefficiency results in frequent power outages that disrupt business operations and increase production costs, further discouraging both local and foreign investment. Agriculture, which employs nearly 40% of the population, suffers from outdated practices and limited access to modern technology. As a result, Pakistan often imports essential food items despite having a largely agrarian economy.

Meanwhile, Political instability is a recurring theme in Pakistan's economic narrative. Frequent changes in government, policy reversals, and political infighting have created an environment where long-term economic planning is nearly impossible. Each government faces immense pressure to address short-term issues rather than focusing on sustainable development. This leads to a cycle of borrowing, mismanagement, and policy stagnation. For

instance, the lack of continuity in economic policies discourages foreign investment, which is crucial for economic growth. Investors seek stability, but in Pakistan, they often encounter volatility and uncertainty, which hinders economic progress.

Is There a Way Forward?

Despite the challenges, there is potential for improvement if Pakistan can implement strong, long-term reforms. The country has a young population, vast agricultural land, and a strategic location that could facilitate trade between Central Asia, China, and the Middle East. Addressing structural inefficiencies, reforming tax policies, enhancing accountability and eliminating corruption could lead to greater economic stability. However, these measures require political commitment, strategic planning, and public cooperation. On the other hands, investing in human capital, encouraging private enterprise, and promoting digitalization are areas with high growth potential.

Enhancing exports by focusing on value-added goods and improving energy management can help Pakistan generate much-needed revenue. A serious focus on reducing corruption and improving transparency within government institutions would foster trust among citizens and investors alike, promote sustainable economic growth.

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Why there is no need to fear AI

Peter Harrison

TECHNOLOGY is largely intended to make our lives easier. They made our washing machines automatic so that we no longer had to stand over them. Booking holidays has become something you can do on the screen of your phone while taking a coffee break. Even the weekly shop can be initiated through an app.

And most of us no longer visit a high street bank to await the humiliation of having a loan request turned down, watching as your credit rating plummets in the process.

For most of us, life is a lot better thanks to technology. Even driving is easier, with more technology operating in our vehicles than ever before.

So, why do we fear the very same technology that we know makes life that bit more bearable? And why do people still fear the idea of information being collected?

Data is a valuable resource; it helps technology learn to be better and target the right people with the right services. Targeted advertising means that the adverts you inevitably see are at least related to stuff you have shown an interest in. Business/strategy manager and consultant Tom Little said in 2019 that, if you go online, you are going to see adverts anyway, so they might as well be relevant. And yet people fear that we are living in a real-life "1984," with Big Brother watching us.

The truth is that we are monitored more now than we used to be and, if we do

not like it, it is kind of difficult to avoid, unless you pay cash for everything and never use the internet. If you do not want to see adverts online, you can invest in an ad blocker.

But consider this, when you are using a music app, it will suggest other music you might like. The TV programs you watch help the likes of Netflix, YouTube and the rest to make other recommendations to further your viewing pleasure — and if you do not like the look of what is suggested, then do not watch it.

Technology and data collection is everywhere, although it is not as widely used as you might think.

In 2022, I went to the annual Autodesk conference, where the software giant shows off its latest services for the design, manufacturing and construction industries. One of the features on display was a bridge made entirely from recycled materials, which contained a network of cables, wires and sensors. The purpose of the bridge was to collect data on the stresses it was exposed to, helping improve the way such structures are built.

Equally, sensors are being placed into existing buildings and those that are under construction. The data being collected will help with efficiencies and the ongoing strength of a structure, or lack thereof, and the information being gathered could effectively revolutionize the buildings in which we live, work and shop.

This is important information that can help reduce costs, while improving what is being created and, in some cases, even advising against some of the more ambitious projects.

As Autodesk CEO and President Andrew Anagnost said at this year's event, there is every possibility that artificial intelligence will, in some cases, advise against creating very tall or very long structures. He told Arab News last month: "I don't think giga-projects are going to go away ... but I do think that more often than not AI is going to advise against these projects."

However, contrary to popular belief, there is an enormous amount of data that is being collected in these industries and is still going to waste. Autodesk noted that its architecture, engineering and construction clients quadrupled their data storage from 0.9 terabytes in 2017 to 3.5TB in 2021. But according to the investment banking firm FMI, 95.5 percent of the data that is being gathered by architecture, engineering and construction firms is not being used.

Autodesk is currently mapping vast amounts of what it calls 3D data that previously did not exist. We have known for years of the existence of ancient artifacts, but surprisingly few of these objects have any tangible data stored about them other than two-dimensional photographs.

Design is nothing new. It has been around for millions of years, but very little information has been collected on it. The more information gathered, the greater the learning curve for the AI involved in future construction projects.

Currently, AI is only as good as the information it receives and it is project-specific. AI is already used in multiple industries, even in banking, but only under certain parameters, such as the level of risk in investments. The more information it receives, the more effective AI will be at solving problems.

The concern should not be about AI but who controls the data it sees and the people who send it — that is where the power lies. Of course, not all technology is being used for good.

In April this year, The Guardian newspaper reported that Israel had been using AI to identify and target tens of thousands of people it believed had Hamas connections. But the information gathered by AI was also used to decide where to drop bombs, razing houses to the ground, often with their occupants inside — irrespective of whether or not they had Hamas connections.

Arguably, AI could eventually be used for societal purposes. It could assess the likely outcomes of military action and, if that were the case, maybe one day show us that war is costly and solves little. Ideally, we could jump straight to the compromises that most wars end in.

And if the adverts I see tell me about boats, travel and food, then the advertisers have got it right.

UK Conservatives shift further to the right

Christopher Phillips

WHILE the world's eyes are understandably focused on Donald Trump's victory, a few days earlier a less high-profile election also took place: for the leadership of the UK's Conservative Party. Though less headline-grabbing, Kemi Badenoch's capture of 56.5 percent of Conservative Party members' votes is still an important development. Not only is she the first Black leader of a major UK political party, but her election also signifies a lurch further to the right for Britain's official opposition.

Badenoch's election is history-making. Despite their Labour rivals claiming to be Britain's leading progressives, the Conservatives have a far better record of inclusivity at the top. Badenoch is the

ing back to the center. She argued that the Conservative election defeat was due to a "loss of public trust," because "promises on immigration and on tax were not kept." Though it is early days, such comments suggest Badenoch agrees with those Conservatives who believe the election was lost because they were not right wing enough, hemorrhaging votes to Nigel Farage's populist Reform party. Such an analysis glosses over the fact they lost far more seats to Labour and the centrist Liberal Democrats.

A further sign of this rightward tilt is the front bench team Badenoch has put together. Both Tugendhat and Cleverly declined to join the new shadow Cabinet. With a small pool of MPs to choose from, Badenoch has still populated her team

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Despite their Labour rivals claiming to be

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Conservatives have a far better record of

inclusivity at the top. Badenoch is the fourth

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person from a minority background,

after her predecessor Rishi Sunak became the

first in 2022. Labour, in contrast, has only

ever had white men as its permanent leader.

Moreover, Badenoch has a compelling story

that could help the Conservatives reach new

voters. She describes herself as "a first-generation

immigrant," having been born in

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But, like Sunak before her, Badenoch is keen for her politics to be the story rather than her ethnicity. In this regard, her election points to a move further right for the Conservatives.

In truth, the Tories have been moving rightward ever since the Brexit referendum of 2016, after the previous decade of David Cameron's more right of center leadership. Popular support for leaving the EU convinced successive Conservative leaders that populist anti-immigration and anti-EU policies were the route to electoral success. While this helped Boris Johnson win the 2019 general election, his and his successors' failures in office led to a resounding rejection by the electorate earlier this year, seeing the Tories return their lowest number of MPs in modern history.

However, that defeat will not, seemingly, lead to a reconsideration of this rightward shift under Badenoch.

While some candidates for the leadership were from the more "Cameroonian" center, such as Tom Tugendhat and James Cleverly, both received too few endorsements from MPs. The final two put forward to an all-membership vote, Badenoch and her defeated rival Robert Jenrick, were both right-wingers. During the leadership campaign, Badenoch, who has a reputation as a culture warrior, caused some offence by criticizing maternity pay and support for autistic children in school. Jenrick sought to out-flank Badenoch by offering even more populist policies, pledging to immediately withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights and reduce overall migration to zero.

By resisting similar pledges, Badenoch managed to secure endorsements as the least bad option from some party centrists, such as Cameron's Chancellor George Osborne. Yet, on her election, the new leader showed few signs of tack-

largely from the right of the party and two of the three shadow "great offices of state" available were given to right-wing allies: Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp and Shadow Foreign Secretary Priti Patel.

Patel's appointment is particularly notable. Though she ran for leader herself, she swiftly backed Badenoch when eliminated. An experienced Cabinet minister, having formerly been home secretary and international development secretary, she was fired from the latter role in 2017 for holding 14 unofficial meetings with Israeli ministers, businesspeople and a senior lobbyist during a holiday to Israel. Known as staunchly pro-Israeli and having formerly asked to send UK aid money to the Israeli army for humanitarian work, it seems likely that the Conservatives will line up even more behind Israel when it comes to Middle East policy.

How much real impact this will have is, of course, questionable. Opposition parties, especially those reeling from a historic defeat, have limited influence over UK policy. It is possible that Patel will press the Labour government to be more supportive of Israel but, with an enormous majority in Parliament, Prime Minister Keir Starmer will probably be more wary of the pro-Palestinian voices within his own party than the pro-Israeli voices on the opposition benches. Similarly, it will likely be some time before Badenoch is able to achieve the kind of popularity that puts Starmer under pressure to bend his domestic agenda, if she ever does.

Of course, it is possible that Badenoch will be a huge success, leading a right-wing Conservative government to power. However, history is against her.

The last new UK leader to take a party from defeat immediately back to government within one election cycle was Margaret Thatcher in 1979. A more chastening historical parallel is the fate of the Conservatives when they last suffered a comparable landslide defeat, in 1997, when it took them 13 years and four leaders before returning to power.

They too, like Badenoch, opted to move rightward in response to defeat and only came to power when Cameron brought the party back to the center. Of course, we live in different times today. Badenoch will be hoping that the trends of populism seen in Europe, the US and elsewhere mean her rightward shift will deliver results without having to make such centrist compromises. Trump's recent victory may prove instructive in this regard.

— Arab News

Trump’s victory in the US election should be celebrated around the world

I’VE been an avid follower of US presidential elections for 40 years, and ever since I was a 12-year-old in Jeddah eagerly devouring the coverage of the 1984 contest between Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale, I’ve rooted for the Democratic candidate. But not this time. In fact, I could not be more delighted that Donald Trump has triumphed and the Democrats will soon be banished from the White House.

My reasons are simple. First, like many others, I believe the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris administration has been complicated in a genocidal campaign in Gaza. They could have put a stop to Israel’s wanton killing, maiming and destruction, but instead they enabled it. As a senior regional official in South-east Asia put it to me over the weekend: “They need to be punished. That means supporting Trump.”

Second, there are plenty in East and South-east Asia who think the world could be a much safer place with Mr Trump back in office. Let me explain.

There are numerous territorial and maritime disputes in the Asia-Pacific region, some of which are potential flash-points that could lead to armed conflict between the US and China. The future status of Taiwan, which China views as a renegade province that must reunite with the mainland at some point, is perhaps the best known.

The Democrats, said my friend the official, have been “goading” Taiwan towards declaring independence, specifically citing former speaker Nancy Pelosi’s 2022 visit, which enraged not just Beijing but ordinary netizens in China as well. “We don’t want war,” added the official.

I concurred, as did the Singaporean public intellectual Bilahari Kausikan when he wrote in the ThinkChina e-magazine

earlier this week: “Biden’s four statements clearly supporting Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack ... have bred a sense of entitlement in Taipei is ‘I am the only Chinese democracy so you must help me’.” This, Mr Kausikan added, could lead “Taiwanese politicians to push the boundaries too far”.

The Democrats, said my friend the official, have been “goading” Taiwan towards declaring independence, specifically citing former speaker Nancy Pelosi’s 2022 visit, which enraged not just Beijing but ordinary netizens in China as well. “We don’t want war,” added the official. I concurred, as did the Singaporean public intellectual Bilahari Kausikan when he wrote in the ThinkChina e-magazine earlier this week: “Biden’s four statements clearly supporting Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack ... have bred a sense of entitlement in Taiwan. The attitude in Taipei is ‘I am the only Chinese democracy so you must help me’.” This, Mr Kausikan added, could lead “Taiwanese politicians to push the boundaries too far”. Compared to Mr Trump, he said Ms Harris was more likely to emphasise values in her foreign policy that might encourage Taiwan’s sense of entitlement. Ms Harris has given no signal that she would not follow in the disastrous liberal interventionist-neocon tradition that dominated both the Republican and Democratic parties until the arrival of Mr Trump. His instincts, on the other hand, are clear: he has no desire to fight wars of choice to defend or export American-style democracy. Given that it is hard to overstate just how devastating a superpower conflict in the Asia-Pacific could be, and how easily it could escalate to threaten the lives of billions, Mr Trump’s insistence that he will “stop wars”, not start them, is extremely welcome. That is not to say he is a pacifist. Mr Kausikan also wrote that “[former president Barack] Obama made prettier speeches, but Trump understood – perhaps instinctively – hard power better”. He gave the example of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, who he said in August 2017 “got carried away and threatened Guam with his missiles.

Compared to Mr Trump, he said Ms Harris was more likely to emphasise values in her foreign policy that might encourage Taiwan’s sense of entitlement. Ms Harris has given no signal that she would not follow in the disastrous liberal interventionist-neocon tradition that dominated both the Republican and Democratic parties until the arrival of Mr Trump.

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Sholto Byrnes

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campaigns on his ability to stand up to them.” A fight with Mr Trump, however, “is something he’d want to avoid”.

So it’s entirely plausible that unlike Mr Biden, Mr Trump could choose to insist on a ceasefire, both in Palestine-Israel and maybe in the Russia-Ukraine conflict as well. Deciding to save, rather than expend, lives may be a novel policy for an

American president, but it’s a good one in my book. Now, you don’t have to be suffering from “Trump derangement syndrome” to concede that the President-elect has flaws, that he has tested the limits of his office (and not in a good way), and that he has given the English language new words. (Remember his 2017 tweet? “Who can figure out the true meaning of ‘covfefe’ ??? Enjoy!”) Many profess themselves appalled that a convicted felon could end up in the White House.

But these same people are curiously forgiving of presidents George W Bush, Mr Obama and Mr Biden, who between them are complicit in or responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands in the Middle East. They

are treated as leaders in good standing, and their wars and backing of leaders such as Mr Netanyahu regarded as mere foreign policy “mistakes”. Yes, the consequences were lamentable, but the roads to Baghdad, Benghazi and Baalbek were at least paved with good intentions.

I’m sorry. Which is worse? Having a highly disruptive approach to political, linguistic and legal norms? Or pursuing policies that led to the re-establishment of slavery on the Mediterranean coast in Libya, opened space for the creation of a terrorist entity – ISIS – in Syria and Iraq, and left millions either displaced or dead? If you truly believe Mr Trump’s record was worse, you might need to go for “diversity, equity and inclusion” training to adjust your attitude to the value of non-European or North American lives.

But Mr Trump, who everyone from Bill Clinton to Oprah Winfrey used to court before he entered politics, is different. Perhaps Mr Biden believes that not just his followers but the President-elect, too, is “garbage”. Oh, the echo of Hillary Clinton’s “deplorables” – for these revealing flashes of liberal contempt for the masses, I am also glad that Mr Trump has won, and laughed out loud at his brilliant use of a garbage truck and hi-vis vest to turn the insult to his advantage.

We also saw instances during the campaign of a different Mr Trump to the caricature created by his opponents. Believe it or not, he can be charming, amusing, kind and self-deprecating. The millions of American who voted for him could evidently see through his demonisation.

For them, he needs to deliver on his promise “to help our country heal”. For the rest of us, if he can keep to his words, “I’m not going to start a war. I’m going to stop wars”, that will be more than good enough.

Trump thinks presidents have near-total power: there will be little to stop him in his second term

DONALD Trump believes presidents have almost absolute power. In his second term, there will be few political or legal restraints to check him.

The president-elect’s sweeping victory over Vice President Kamala Harris suddenly turned the theoretical notion that he will indulge his autocratic instincts into a genuine possibility.

When Trump returns to the White House in January as one of the most powerful presidents in history, he’ll be able to take advantage of his own filleting of guardrails during his first presidency, which he continued through legal maneuverings out of office.

It’s not guaranteed that just because Trump has massive power he will spurn constitutional checks and balances. His past behavior doesn’t have to predict the future. But the lesson of Trump’s business and political careers is that he seeks to obliterate all constraints.

He has, for instance, crushed opposition in the Republican Party and driven out political heretics who oppose his “Make America Great Again” creed. This will be increasingly significant since the GOP has already flipped the Senate and still hopes to complete a monopoly on Washington power by keeping the House, which CNN has not yet projected.

No other president has come into office armed with a Supreme Court ruling that grants significant immunity to presidents for official acts. The decision, a direct result of Trump’s effort to challenge his federal indictment for 2020 election meddling, is limited – but he is certain to take an expansive view of its meaning. The ruling emerged from a conservative court majority fashioned by Trump in his first term and that many legal observers now see as a rubber stamp on future power grabs.

A mandate Perhaps most significantly, Trump can claim democratic legitimacy for what is already shaping up as the most intemperate presidency of the modern era, after increasing his vote share across multiple demographics.

“Everybody knew this when they voted yesterday. So yes, the American people voted for basically this unchecked power that the president is going to have,” said former Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger, who alienated himself from his party by standing up to Trump following the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol.

Trump tried to destroy democracy to stay in power after the 2020 election. Four years later, he presented his platform to voters and won an Electoral College majority. He may also bolster his legitimacy by becoming the first Republican president to win the popular vote since 2004.

“America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate,” the former and future president said at his Mar-a-Lago victory party early Wednesday.

Trump has denied that he wants autocratic power, saying his claim he’d be a dictator on day one is a joke and that he is instead the savior of democracy.

Yet millions of Americans chose Trump after his extreme closing argument in which he proposed the biggest deportation operation in US history, mused about using the military against “enemies from within” and vowed to prosecute political opponents and expel Haitian refugees in Ohio who are legally in the country and whom he falsely accused of eating people’s pets.

Ignoring legal attempts to hold him to account

Trump’s willingness to wield unchecked executive power will not only be facilitated by his interpretation of the Supreme Court ruling on immunity. He has already subverted constraints on presidential authority. His two impeachments —

Stephen Collinson

over trying to coerce Ukraine with aid and the Capitol insurrection – didn’t rein in his impulses. And the Republicans’ refusal to convict him in the Senate showed the toothlessness of this crucial constitutional remedy when a political party has chosen to appease an extreme president in return for power.

In Trump’s first term, some Republicans sometimes hampered his agenda. The late Arizona Sen. John McCain, for instance, thwarted an attempt to overturn key provisions of the Affordable Care Act with his thumbs down vote. But Trump ally Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene warned Wednesday that dissent would not be tolerated from GOP members. “I will not let them and neither will the American people who have given us this amazing opportunity to save this country,” the Georgia Republican posted on X.

Kinzinger scoffed at the idea that a GOP Congress would temper Trump. “On paper, it’s a real thing, in practice no,” the former Illinois lawmaker told CNN’s Dana Bash Wednesday. “There is no chance, 0.0% chance, that Donald Trump says something and Republicans in the House buck him anymore.”

Trump, by winning back the Oval Office, has also evaded the constraints of the law. So, in addition to having the Supreme Court’s immunity ruling in his back pocket, why would he be cowed by the possibility of future legal action against him?

Within hours of election night, Special counsel Jack Smith was already talking with the Justice Department about ending two federal prosecutions against Trump — over his efforts to subvert the 2020 election and his hoarding of classified documents — in line with Office of Legal Counsel curbs on prosecutions of sitting presidents. A state election meddling case in Georgia is now imperative. And huge doubts also hang over the pending sentencing of Trump after a conviction in a hush money case in New York.

‘The danger is very real’

The scope for Trump to stretch historic interpretations of his executive power is immense.

“The danger is very real,” said Corey Brettschneider, professor of politics at Brown University, and author of the book “The Presidents and the People: Five leaders who Threatened Democracy and the Citizens who Fought to Defend it.”

Brettschneider cited Revolutionary War hero Patrick Henry’s disquiet about the possibility that the office of the presidency was so powerful that an incumbent with authoritarian ambitions could ascend an “American throne.” While the founders modeled the presidency on the persona of George Washington, Brettschneider explained that Henry proposed this hypothetical: “What if a bad person gets in that office or even a criminal president? And his point is, you know, these supposed checks, because they assume a virtuous person, they’re pretty weak.” Now that America has a convicted felon as its president-elect — and one who has massive ambitions for his own power — that’s no longer a hypothetical.

Trump has plenty of models for his second term. He has frequently praised foreign autocrats like Russian President Vladimir Putin and China’s Xi Jinping, who face no democratic accountability. He admires the rule of his friend, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who has eroded institutions of accountability, including government departments, the court system and the press. “Some people don’t like him because he’s too strong. It’s good to have a strong man at the head of a country,” Trump reflected at a rally

in New Hampshire in January.

Trump’s conception of the presidency was encapsulated by his statement in July 2019 that the Constitution gave him untamed power. “I have an Article II, where I have to the right to do whatever I want as president,” he said. Article II lays out the duties of the presidency — but it does not, in conventional interpretations, at least, suggest blanket executive authority.

Trump’s attitude moved then-federal Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to remark in a 2019 ruling, which ordered compliance by former White House counsel Don McGahn with a congressional subpoena, that “the primary takeaway from the past 250 years of recorded American history is that Presidents are not kings.”

It will take time to rein in Trump

So, are there any constraints?

The greatest inhibition to presidential overreach is the sitting president himself, who can choose to remain within bounds of accepted executive action. But self-restraint is a concept alien to Trump. This is not just a personal trait. Such conduct is endemic to his political appeal — and he was just elected by millions of voters who endorsed his promise to eviscerate a governing system that they believe has failed them. In the past, Trump has sometimes been loath to take steps that might make him politically unpopular — yet he will take office knowing he does not have to appeal to voters ever again since he’s in his second term.

The most effective clamp on Trump’s future power would be a Democratic House majority, which could challenge the new White House with the power of oversight — even if Trump has already mocked the ultimate sanction of impeachment. But with races still outstanding, Republicans are closer to the 218 seats needed for the majority than Democrats.

Then there are the courts. Activist groups are sure to lodge cases against Trump’s immigration moves, as happened over his ban on travelers from certain Muslim nations in his first term. Such maneuvers can tie up a president for months — although the scores of Trump-appointed judges and the conservative Supreme Court majority may give the administration reprieves.

Attempts to prosecute Trump’s political foes on spurious grounds, meanwhile, could theoretically see mass resignations of Justice Department staff. This is one reason why the new administration may roll out plans to sack entire echelons of the civil service to ensure total loyalty to the new president. And the former president is unlikely to make his first-term mistake of appointing officials who confront him — like former chief of staff John Kelly and former Defense Secretary Mark Esper.

Brettschneider argues in his book published this year that an authoritarian president would not present a hopeless situation for US democracy. He examines five commanders in chief who threatened democracy and shows how they spawned protest movements, citizen activism and eventually democratic victories that created restorative presidencies.

Still, such responses can’t often halt presidential acts in their commission, meaning that the fate of the country and its democracy often hinges on the president himself. The founders were “sitting there in the Constitutional Convention and looking at Washington, and they thought to themselves, ‘this is a person of virtue. That’s who they had as a model in mind,’” Brettschneider said. “When you have somebody who’s not a model of virtue, they can really wreak havoc.”

— CNN

Asia must act decisively on climate change

COUNTRIES in Asia are set to experience some of the most severe consequences of the climate crisis and this unique vulnerability underscores the urgent need for proactive and collaborative climate action. Asia’s rapid industrialization and reliance on fossil fuels have accelerated its contribution to global carbon emissions, while geographic and socioeconomic factors make the region especially susceptible to rising temperatures, sea level increases and extreme weather events.

According to a report released last week by the Asian Development Bank, Asian nations are significantly underfunded in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The annual financing requirement for climate adaptation across developing Asian countries ranges between \$102 billion and \$431 billion, yet they received only \$34 billion in 2021-2022. This funding gap reflects the challenge that Asia faces in both reducing emissions and preparing for the inevitable impacts of a warming world.

Asia is the most populous continent, home to approximately 60 percent of the world’s population. Countries like China, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam have high population densities, especially along coastlines, where communities face the dual threats of sea level rises and intensified storm surges. The report noted that, if Antarctic sea ice collapses, sea levels in Asia-Pacific could rise at twice the global average, putting 300 million people at risk.

In addition, many of these populations lack the infrastructure to withstand extreme weather, leaving them highly vulnerable to both loss of life and economic disruption. Asia’s economic structure still heavily depends on fossil fuels, with the Asian

Development Bank report estimating that governments in the region provided nearly \$600 billion in subsidies for fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas in 2022.

The issue is that such subsidies make fossil fuels more affordable, providing less incentive to shift toward cleaner energy sources. Consequently, developing Asia reportedly

Asia is the most populous continent, home to approximately 60 percent of the world’s population. Countries like China, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam have high population densities, especially along coastlines, where communities face the dual threats of sea level rises and intensified storm surges. The report noted that, if Antarctic sea ice collapses, sea levels in Asia-Pacific could rise at twice the global average, putting 300 million people at risk. In addition, many of these populations lack the infrastructure to withstand extreme weather, leaving them highly vulnerable to both loss of life and economic disruption. Asia’s economic structure still heavily depends on fossil fuels, with the Asian Development Bank report estimating that governments in the region provided nearly \$600 billion in subsidies for fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas in 2022. The issue is that such subsidies make fossil fuels more affordable, providing less incentive to shift toward cleaner energy sources. Consequently, developing Asia reportedly contributes nearly half of global emissions, with China alone responsible for two-thirds of this total. This dependence not only hampers Asia’s ability to reduce its carbon output but also increases the risks associated with climate-related health impacts, such as respiratory illnesses from air pollution. This means that, without decisive intervention, the economic repercussions for Asian countries will be severe. If emissions continue to rise unchecked, regional economies may face a 17 percent gross domestic product decline by 2070.

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This means that, without decisive intervention, the economic repercussions for Asian countries will be severe. If emissions continue to rise unchecked, regional economies may face a 17 percent gross domestic product decline by 2070. Higher temperatures are already reducing productivity, as heat stress makes working conditions unbearable, particularly in sectors like agriculture and construction.

In addition, agricultural

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

yields, fisheries and forestry — vital components of many Asian economies — will suffer, further threatening food security and livelihoods. Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia and India could see the most drastic economic downturns.

Asian governments ought to prioritize a transi-

tion to renewable energy to decrease reliance on fossil fuels. Investment in solar, wind and hydropower infrastructure will not only reduce emissions but also create millions of green jobs. The Asian Development Bank estimates that “aggressive decarbonization” could generate 1.5 million energy sector jobs by 2050. Nevertheless, this shift requires regional policies that incentivize renewables, eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and provide tax incentives or subsidies for green energy adoption. In addition, Asian countries need to invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly in coastal cities and rural areas vulnerable to flooding and storms. Constructing flood barriers, creating mangrove forests to buffer against

storm surges and developing robust urban drainage systems could significantly reduce the loss of life and property. Bangladesh’s investment in flood shelters that have drastically reduced storm-related fatalities serves as a model for other nations.

Furthermore, in order to bridge the financing gap, Asian nations must advocate for more substantial

international support and create partnerships with multilateral institutions like the World Bank. Given the scale of the crisis, both private and public sector investments are crucial. Asian countries can explore green bonds and international carbon markets to attract the necessary funds for adaptation and mitigation projects.

Effective climate action demands transparent and accountable governance. It is critical to develop comprehensive frameworks that align with Asian countries’ commitments under international climate treaties. This involves setting clear roadmaps toward net-zero emissions, enforcing environmental regulations and integrating climate considerations into all sectors of national policy. Such governance reforms are essen-

cial to ensure that actions are consistent, measurable and enforceable.

It is worth noting that, although Asia-Pacific is currently the largest emitter, historically, the US and Europe have contributed the most atmospheric carbon. This shared responsibility highlights the need for Western nations to support Asian countries in their climate efforts. Increased financial aid, technology transfer and expertise from the West can accelerate Asia’s transition to sustainable development. Providing these resources would also foster cooperation and goodwill in addressing a challenge that transcends borders.

By acting decisively now, Asian countries, with support from the global community, can protect their people, economies and natural environments from the worst impacts of climate change.



Stock Exchange turns around to bullish trend, gains 499 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 499.05 points, a positive change of 0.54%, closing at 92,520.49 points as compared to 92,021.44 points on the last trading day.

A total of 678,788,064 shares were traded during the day as compared to 889,166,479 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs24,827 billion against Rs30,474 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 449 companies transacted their shares

in the stock market, 257 of them recorded gains and 145 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 47 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 62,920,538 shares at Rs6.57 per share, Kohinoor Spinning with 46,527,930 shares at Rs7.83 per share and K-Electric Limited with 34,718,470 shares at Rs4.80 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs86.32 per share price, closing at Rs8,986.99, whereas the

runner-up was Hoechst Pakistan Limited with Rs48.07 rise in its per share price to Rs2,401.07.

Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs101.45 per share closing at Rs7,305.21 followed by Bhanero Textile Mills Limited with Rs50.09 decline to close at Rs782.05.

Gold prices decrease by Rs5,400 per tola:

The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs5,400 and was sold at Rs276,800 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs282,200 on last trading

day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs4,630 to Rs237,311 from Rs241,941 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs217,535 from Rs221,780, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola decreased by Rs130 to Rs3,300 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs111.46 to Rs2,829.21.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$65 to \$2,662 from \$2,727 last day, the Association reported.

Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce meets Chinese investors

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain here Thursday met Chinese investors' delegation, led by Madam Scarlett Xiang, Head of China Government Investment.

It was agreed upon in the meeting to increase investment and cooperation in health, technical education, agriculture, manufacturing of electric vehicles and other sectors. Chinese investors have shown interest in setting up an electric car assembling plant in Punjab.

The head of Chinese investors' delegation said that China's Huawei Group would start a programme to provide online training to 300,000 people in Pakistan, asserting that an agreement would be made with federal government and TEVTA in this regard. The training

program would be launched from Punjab.

Under the Huawei ICT Talent Programme 2024, 260,000 students will be given ICT skill training. Under this program, 30,000 people will be provided professional and 10,000 government officials with online training in digital economy.

A Chinese investor group has expressed interest in setting up an electric vehicle assembling and chemical plant in Punjab. The China Group will also launch Pakistan Digital Primary Healthcare Improvement Programme worth US \$ 300 million from Gujrat. Under the programme, 3,000 mobile clinics will be built in Pakistan. An agreement would be made with the Ministry of Health Punjab in this regard. Under the programme, people in remote

and rural areas will get better diagnostic and treatment facilities. The Chinese group will introduce high-tech technology projects in the agriculture sector in Pakistan.

Provincial Industries and Commerce Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that many Chinese companies have invested on a large scale in Punjab. "We will welcome more Chinese companies in Pakistan and Punjab for health, agriculture, technical education and training programmes. The Chinese group will set up a Punjab electric vehicle assembling and chemical plant and provide all possible facilities."

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that the labs and courses of TEVTA institutes are being upgraded under a phased programme. Solar technology courses have also been

introduced in TEVTA institutes. CM Punjab has also started air ambulance service in the province.

The Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce said that modern technology will be promoted with the cooperation of China in the agricultural sector. There is a need for cooperation in the seed development program between Punjab and China. Chaudhry Shafay Hussain thanked the Chinese investment group for bringing the Medical City programme in Gujrat.

The Chinese delegation included Deputy Chief Huawei Pakistan Mr. Ray, MD Mr. Hank, CTO Mr. Jayson and others. CEO Punjab Investment Board Jalal Hasan, Senior DG TEVTA Akhtar Abbas Bhawana and other relevant officers were also present.



SINGAPORE: High Commissioner Rabia Shafiq inaugurating Pakistan Pavilion at Singapore Fintech Festival 2024 in Singapore.

Full-Scale Emergency Exercise conducted F.P. Report

MULTAN: The Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) successfully conducted the 2024 Full-Scale Emergency Exercise at Multan International Airport (MIAP) on Thursday. The exercise, held in alignment with ICAO standards, aimed to enhance emergency response coordination, communication, and resource-sharing among all participating agencies.

The exercise commenced with a fuel fire-fighting demonstration by PAA's fire tenders, followed by a coordinated rescue operation with support from EDHI, Rescue 1122, and PAA's own teams. A Triage Area was set up by PAA's medical team alongside healthcare professionals from Nishtar Hospital, Railway Hospital, and Civil Hospital to ensure immediate medical response.

The exercise involved participation from the Airport Security Force, Military Authorities, airline operators including Air Blue and PIA, and service providers such as TGS Handler RAS, SAPS, and GERRY'S DNATA MIAP. Upon conclusion, a debrief session was conducted where observers commended the effectiveness and cooperation displayed by all involved agencies.

SCCI calls for abolishment of Saturday's holiday

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Fazal Moqem Khan has urged the government to abolish Saturday's holiday in government offices to ease difficulties of the business community and facilitate them.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, Fazal Moqem said due to the closure of government offices and commercial banks on Saturday, the business community has

faced severe difficulties, besides trade and economic activities were also being adversely affected.

He was of the view that consumers were paying billions of rupees on head of capacity charges, which has originated that electricity was available additional as compared to demand in the country, despite fact that energy conservation plan, introduced by government in 2011, is still implemented.

Moqem said electricity production has increased during the last 13 years, so

there is justification for the implementation of five days working in a week.

In this regard, he asked the government to immediately withdraw notification and abolish Saturday's holiday and to facilitate the business community.

Fazal Moqem urged the government to take pragmatic steps for provision of facilities to the business community and enhance capacity of trade-related institutions under the vision of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PTC concerned over increasing trade of illicit cigarettes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) on Thursday expressed serious concern over the increasing illegal trade of cigarettes in the country that caused a severe dent to the industry bringing its sales down by 11.26 per cent in the first quarter of the current fiscal year as compared to 2023-24.

"The legitimate tobacco industry in Pakistan faces continued challenges as illicit cigarette sales have reached alarming levels," PTC's Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager, Qasim Tariq said in a media briefing here.

During the period under review, he said the company sold 6.3 billion cigarette sticks against 7.1 billion of the last year.

With illicit cigarette sales reaching alarming levels, he said the PTC noted a staggering decrease of nearly 0.8 billion cigarette sticks for Q1 of the current fiscal year, compared to the same period in the previous year.

This shortfall, the official said, reflected the heavy toll that illicit trade was taking on legitimate businesses and government revenues, which were essential for funding projects critical to Pakistan's growth. "The economic fallout from the rise of illicit

cigarette sales is multifaceted," he added.

He also mentioned the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)'s recent statement in the Senate Standing Committee which revealed 50 percent of cigarettes were being sold in Pakistan illegally.

In February 2023, he said, an unprecedented Federal Excise Duty (FED) increase of more than 150% continued harming the legal sector as higher prices have inadvertently fuelled a shift from legal brands to cheaper, illegal alternatives. "As a result, there is an estimated Rs 300 billion loss to government revenue which is essential for public services, infrastructure and economic development initiatives," he remarked.

Highlighting recent missed opportunities in the international market, Qasim Tariq, shared insights into a critical export loss for Pakistan.

Earlier this year, he said that PTC secured an order to export cigarettes worth US \$20.5 million to Sudan, a deal that would have provided Pakistan with invaluable foreign exchange.

However, Tariq said, despite support from the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and endorsement from the prime minister, the deal was lost due to delays in decision-making by officials in the Ministry of

Health and propaganda from certain anti-tobacco groups.

The order was subsequently awarded to a neighbouring country, costing Pakistan not only an economic opportunity but also valuable foreign reserves that were crucial to the country's fiscal health during challenging economic times. "Certain clauses of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) were misinterpreted and used as the basis to challenge this export order," Tariq explained.

"Ironically, the neighbouring country that ultimately won the contract is also an FCTC signatory, like Pakistan and Sudan. This incident illustrates the harmful effects of misinformation and the economic harm that can arise from the unchecked influence of certain advocacy groups on public policy," he remarked.

PTC acknowledged and commended the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for its recent enforcement efforts against illicit tobacco trade; however, Tariq emphasised that isolated enforcement measures would not be enough to address the problem.

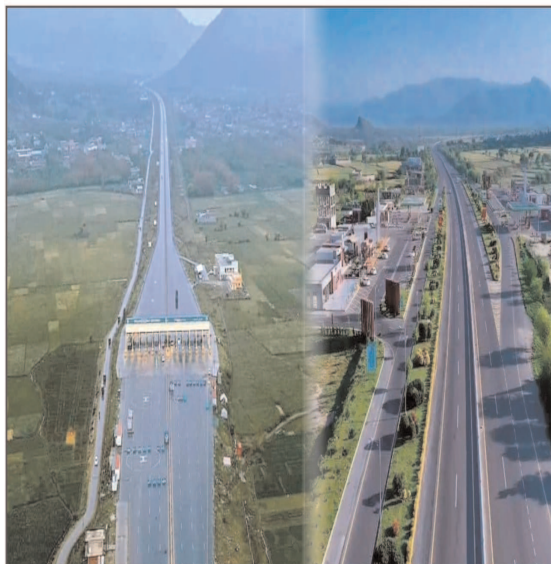
He was of the view that the market for illicit products remained strong due to limited resources of the FBR, and inconsistent enforcement at the retail

level, where illicit cigarettes are widely accessible.

"PTC strongly advocates for the full and consistent implementation of a Track & Trace system in all regions, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), to enable authorities to identify and monitor products, reduce tax evasion and ensure only legitimate products reach consumers," he said.

By: S.K. Sami

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has initiated steps to promote sustainable development,



public welfare, and economic self-sufficiency in the province. Prioritizing peace, social services, employment opportunities creation and economic stability, the KP government has announced a transformative agenda with eight new flagship projects aimed at addressing intensive needs of the province. In a recent high-level meeting, Chief Minister approved these projects, which focus on social protection, economic growth, tourism, industrial expansion, and effective fund management. Projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2027, these initiatives represent a major milestone toward creating a prosperous, empowered society in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Recognizing that around 49% of KP's families live below the poverty line, this initiative aims to provide financial support to bereaved families upon the loss of their primary earner. Each eligible family will receive financial assistance ranging from five lacs to one million rupees, ensuring some economic security in times of crisis.

2. Establishment of Provincial Islamic Takaful Insurance Company:

As the growing demand for Sharia based financial services, KP will establish its own Islamic Takaful insurance company. The company will offer universal health and life insurance while collaborating with other Islamic financial institutions to strengthen an Islamic financial

ecosystem within the province.

3. Solarization Scheme:

In response to rising electricity costs, the government has launched a major solarization program to ease the financial burden on low-income households. Initially, 65,000 deserving households will receive free solar units while moreover 65,000 are offered units affordable on easy installments. Hence, all government buildings will be solarized to acquire a permanent and eco-friendly energy solution.

4. Home Stay Tourism Program:

The KP govt. has introduced the "Home Stay Tourism" scheme, which will allow visitors to stay with locals in scenic, far plunge areas. The



program is designed to boost tourism income for locals while providing visitors with a culturally immersive experience. The government will provide loans to help residents build additional guest rooms, fostering green tourism and job creation for local communities.

5. Peshawar-D.I. Khan Motorway:

With the strategic aim of establishing an international trade corridor, the government has decided the construction of a 365-kilometer Peshawar-Dera Ismail Khan



motorway. This six-lane route consists on 19 interchanges, will link 12 districts and provide direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asia. The motorway is deemed to enhance tourism and commerce in the newly merged tribal districts, while also relieving traffic congestion on the Indus Highway.

6. Provincial Power Transmission Line:

The provincial government urge to install its own 120-kilometer 220 kv power transmission line, connecting Swat and Chakdara. The first phase of the line is 44 kilometers from Matalathan to Madain at Swat. An MoU between the PEDO and a relevant private company has already been signed.

This first phase of transmission line is expected to generate 7 billions per annum to the province and be completed in 1.5 years. Once completed, this project will allow KP to deliver low-cost power to local industries, accelerating industrial growth and generating significant annual revenue.

7. Trade Corridor Hub:

To streamline trade activities with Afghanistan and Central Asia, KP is establishing a Trade Corridor Hub at

Torkham. This includes a trade facilitation center in Peshawar and a freight rail service between Peshawar and Torkham. By simplifying customs clearance and launching a one-window operation, the hub will attract new investment, reduce congestion at the border, and foster regional trade partnerships.

8. Debt Management Fund:

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is establishing a Debt Management Fund, the first of its kind in Pakistan. This fund will allocate 5% of the provincial government's debt to ensure timely repayments and secure financing for major developmental projects. The fund will enhance financial stability,



maintain a balanced debt profile, and investors' confidence in KP's financial management system. Chief Minister Gandapur emphasized the transformative potential of these initiatives, stating that the projects will not only foster financial independence but also enhance citizens' quality of life by creating a foundation for industrial, commercial, and tourism activities. With a comprehensive strategy and innovative approach, the KP government aims to turn the province into an economically self-sufficient and model region, unlocking KP's true economic potential and driving long-term prosperity for its people.

Court Notice

In the Court of Jauhar Ali Safi Civil Judge-I/Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No. 591/1. Institution 2/12/2023. Date of hearing 28/11/2024. Shah Khalid etc Vs. Taj Bar Khan etc. Notice to No. (8) Mst Ulfat d/o Taizar resident of Daggar Jalay Buner, (4/4) Shahid, (4/5) Riaz, (7/3) Mohmad Zeb, (7/8) Mst Khudija resident of Dheray Tehsil Gagra District Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.00 am dated 28/11/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Jawad Bin Dawood Civil Judge-II/Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No. 171/1. Institution 10/7/2024. Date of hearing 11/11/2024. Mian Said Jowhar Vs. NADRA. Notice to No. 3/4. Oman Ali s/o Bakht Mashal resident of Balokhan Tehsil Gadezai District Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.00 am dated 11/11/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Marathopolis, APL Southampton, AU Taurus and Venus carrying Container, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Atlantic Ibis, Southern Unicorn, Bow Endeavor and Aristarchos are carrying Container, Palm Oil, Chemicals and Gas oil, also arrived at outer anchorage on today morning.



In brief

Swiatek eliminated from WTA group stage

RIYADH (AFP): Poland's Iga Swiatek will not successfully defend her WTA Finals title after being knocked out of the season-ending tournament in the group stage on Thursday. Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic beat American Coco Gauff 7-5, 6-4, meaning the 23-year-old Pole cannot now progress from the Orange Group to Friday's semi-finals. Earlier on Thursday, Swiatek had kept her hopes alive by beating Russian Daria Kasatkina 6-1, 6-0. But despite winning two of her three matches in the group, Swiatek's defeat against world number three Gauff on Tuesday ultimately cost her. The WTA Finals in Riyadh was Swiatek's first tournament since she was knocked out of the US Open quarter-finals by Jessica Pegula in September. The five-time Grand Slam winner is expected to end her season by representing her country at the Billie Jean King Cup from November 13-20 in Malaga, Spain. Wimbledon champion Krejickova will take on China's Zheng Qinwen, while Gauff will face world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the semi-finals.

Resurgent Norrie reaches 25th ATP semi-final

LONDON (Agencies): British men's number two Cameron Norrie continued his positive end to an injury-hit season by reaching the Moselle Open semi-finals. The 29-year-old moved into the last four with a 6-3 6-7 (6-8) 6-1 win over Belgium's Zizou Bergs. The former world number eight is playing in only his third ATP event since July because of a forearm injury which ruled him out of the US Open. After being unable to take two match points in the second set tie-break, Norrie recovered to dominate the deciding set against 61st-ranked Bergs. "I should have had the tie-breaker in the second set but he played quicker than me and took a bit more risk," said Norrie, who has dropped to 57th in the rankings. "I was not happy but I managed to reset. He's a good player and had a really good year so it's a really great win for me." Norrie will play France's Corentin Moutet in the semi-finals at about 14:30 GMT on Friday. Moutet, ranked 66th, advanced when Russian top seed Andrey Rublev withdrew after securing his place at the end-of-season ATP Finals next week.

Curry passes Barkley record

NEW YORK (Agencies): Steph Curry passed NBA legend Charles Barkley - a long-time critic - on the all-time scoring list as the Golden State Warriors beat the Boston Celtics 118-112 on Wednesday. The 34-year-old, a four-time NBA Championship winner, registered 27 points on the night, plus a triple double, as he moved to 30th on the all-time list and the Warriors sealed their fifth consecutive win. Curry registered the 23,747th point of his career in the third quarter to surpass 61-year-old Barkley. Barkley, a member of the NBA's Hall of Fame, predicted the Warriors would be "mediocre" this season. Elsewhere, the Cleveland Cavaliers recorded a franchise record nine wins in a row with a 131-122 victory against the New Orleans Pelicans. Donovan Mitchell top scored for the Cavaliers with 29 points. The LA Lakers were beaten 131-114 by the Memphis Grizzlies, despite LeBron James scoring a season-high 39 points. "He played hard," said Lakers coach JJ Redick. "Almost 40 years old and he played the hardest on our team."

Naseem Shah 'confident' of Pakistan's comeback in second ODI against Australia

MELBOURNE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah has stated that the team's spirited performance in the first ODI against Australia has boosted their confidence, which will help them make a strong comeback in the second ODI. Pakistan lost the first ODI by two wickets at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) after a spirited performance with the ball while defending a modest 203-run total. The second match of the series will be played on 8 November (tomorrow) in Adelaide, while Perth will host the third ODI on 10 November. While talking to the media on Thursday

in Adelaide, Naseem shared that the team discussed the shortcomings in the last match and will aim to win the second ODI to level the series. "We have learned a lot from the last game and are working to rectify those lessons in the next game," said Naseem. "The entire team sat down and discussed ways to improve for upcoming matches. We analyzed our batting mistakes and aimed to improve them. Our bowling effort was fantastic, and we plan to enhance it further." For the unversed, Naseem Shah was forced to leave the field after two balls into his eighth over due to cramps during the

first ODI against Australia in Melbourne. He spoke about his current fitness level, emphasizing that muscle cramps are a common occurrence that can strike any athlete, regardless of how fit or well-conditioned they may be. "Alhamdulillah, I am completely fine. Cramps are a common thing; they can happen to anyone, whether a batter or a bowler, regardless of their fitness level," the fast bowler remarked. "Cramps can come up at any time, and they take some time to recover from. But now, I have fully recovered." Notably, the ODI series will be followed by a three-

match T20I series between Pakistan and Australia, scheduled to commence on November 14. Brisbane will host the first T20I, with the next matches scheduled for November 16 and 18 in Sydney and Hobart, respectively. **Pakistan Squad for ODI Series against Australia** Mohammad Rizwan (c)(wk), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha (vc) and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

King, Carty tons as West Indies thrash England



BRIDGETOWN (AFP) : Brandon King and Keacy Carty blasted centuries as the West Indies scored a series-clinching eight-wicket victory over England in the third and final game of their One-Day International series at Kensington Oval on Wednesday. Replying to the visitors' total of 263 for eight, King and Carty featured in a second-wicket stand of 209, the duo making light of what could have been a daunting task following the early loss of Evin Lewis. King fell for 102 with victory in sight but Carty finished on an unbeaten 128 after hitting the winning boundary as West Indies coasted home on 267 for two with seven overs to spare. Carty's maiden ODI century

spanned 114 balls and was highlighted by 15 fours and two sixes. King stroked 13 fours and one six off 117 balls. "I've been getting a few starts without carrying on so I'm grateful that it all came together in such a crucial match," said King. "It was a fantastic innings by Keacy. He started fluently and was batting better than me most times." Earlier, England were indebted to Phil Salt's top-score of 74 as he averted a complete collapse after the tourists slumped to 24 for four after being put in. He finally got support from the lower order as Sam Curran contributed 40 while Dan Mousley stroked his way to 57 in successive 70-run partnerships with the pugnacious opener. Salt's innings off 108

National Women's One-Day Tournament to commence from Friday



KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The five-team National Women's One-Day Tournament 2024-25 will take place from 8 to 30 November in Karachi. Challengers, Conquerors, Invincibles, Stars and Strikers will compete in a double-league format, with each team getting to play eight matches, before two top teams qualifying for the final on 30 November. Each day, two 50-over matches will take place, with HPC Oval Ground and UBL Sports Complex hosting them. The prize pot for the 21-match tournament is PKR 3.3 million, with the winning side bagging a prize money of PKR 1.5 million and runners-up getting PKR 1 million. The matches will begin at 9.30am, with the toss taking place at 9am. Also, the five mentors who worked in the Bahria Town Champions One-Day Tournament 2024 will be involved with the teams in the tournament. Challengers will have the services of Waqar Younis, while Conquerors will be mentored by Misbah ul Haq. Sarfaraz Ahmed will

be available to Invincibles, while Stars and Strikers will have the mentorship of Shoaib Malik and Saqlain Mushtaq, respectively. Additionally, the Pakistan Cricket Board today confirms the 16-member squad of each participating team. Challengers will be led by all-rounder Aliya Riaz, while Conquerors will be captained by national women's team captain Fatima Sana. Wicketkeeper-batter Muneeba Ali will lead Invincibles, while Sidra Amin and former captain Nida Dar will lead Stars and Strikers, respectively. Challengers: Aliya Riaz (captain), Arijah Haseeb, Arim Barkat, Esha Rahupoto, Fatima Shahid, Gull Rukh, Samina Aftab, Maham Manzoor, Momina Riasat, Natalia Parvez, Tehzeeb Shah, Tasma Rubab, Umm-e-Hani, Yusra Amir, Zaib-un-Nisa Niazi, Zamina Tahir. Conquerors: Fatima Sana (captain), Aleena Shah, Dua Majid, Farzana Farooq, Hafsa Khalid, Humna Bilal, Khadija Chishty, Larabi Malik, Mahnoor Aftab,

Mehrab Fatima, Najiha Alvi, Nashra Sundhu, Rehmat Noreen, Rida Aslam, Saira Jabeen, Syeda Aroob Shah. Invincibles: Muneeba Ali (captain), Amber Kainat, Areesha Noor, Ayesha Zafar, Fatima Zahra, Ghulam Fatima, Haleema Dua, Iram Javed, Neha Sharmeen, Noor-Ul-Iman, Omaira Sohail, Saima Malik, Saiqa Riaz, Shabnam Hayat, Tania Saeed, Yusra Ahtesham. Stars: Sidra Amin (captain), Aima Saleem, Aimen Anwar, Anosha Nasir, Huraina Sajjad, Kaynat Hafeez, Laiba Fatima, Laiba Mansoor, Neelam Mushtaq, Rabia Rani, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sidra Nawaz, Soha Fatima, Tuba Hassan, Waheeda Akhtar. Strikers: Nida Dar (captain), Aleena Masood, Aliza Sabir, Amna Bibi, Anam Amin, Ayesha Bilal, Eymen Fatima, Fajar Naveed, Fariha Mahmood, Gull Feroza, Muqaddas Bukhari, Noreen Yaqoob, Sabaq Shahzadi, Syeda Masooma Jafri, Warda Yousaf, Zunash Abdul Sattar.

Asif qualifies for knockout round of Master World Snooker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani cueist Muhammad Asif has qualified for the knockout round of IBSF Master World Snooker Championship 2024 at Doha, Qatar. According to details, the matches played on Thursday, Asif beat Rajat Khaneja of India by 3-0 (117(66)-16, 73-15, 118(105)-6) and Steve Hanna of Australia by 3-0 (104(69)-33, 105-0(65), 72-30), respectively. The knockout round of the championship will kick off on Friday.

Iqbal Day Badminton Tournament on Sunday

ISLAMABAD (PPI) The World Athlon is organizing an Iqbal Day Badminton Tournament on November 10 (Sunday) at the National Coaching Center, Pakistan Sports Board, Karachi, in commemoration of the birth anniversary of the poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal. This event will be held with the support of the Youth Sports Organization (YSO) from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. According to the tournament organizer, Faizan Ahmed, the winning and runner-up players, both men and women, will be awarded cash prizes, medals, and certificates. Faizan Ahmed further stated, "Through our platform, we aim to promote badminton and other sports at the grassroots level, encouraging young men and women to engage in sports and make their country proud."

Mbappe left out of France squad for November internationals

PARIS (AFP): Kylian Mbappe has been left out of the France squad for their upcoming UEFA Nations League matches against Israel and Italy, with coach Didier Deschamps insisting the absence of the Real Madrid superstar "is for the best". It is the second successive France squad from which the national team captain has been absent after he also missed the October double-header against Israel and Belgium. "I have spoken with him and I have made the decision for this get-together because I think it is for the best," Deschamps told reporters at a press conference in Paris. The 25-year-old Mbappe was rested for last month's matches in order to help him recover from a minor thigh injury suffered playing for Real. However, that quickly became a source of controversy when he returned to action for Real days later, before France had even played. Mbappe was absent for France's 4-1 win over Israel in a game played in Budapest and a 2-1 win in Belgium, and instead travelled to Stockholm for a short break with members of his entourage. It was following that trip that Swedish media reported he was being investigated for an alleged rape. Mbappe himself said those reports were "fake news" while his lawyer said the player would take action for libel. A Swedish prosecutor confirmed that an investigation had been opened, without naming Mbappe.



"I am not going to set out my argument, but I can say two things. The first is that Kylian wanted to come," Deschamps added. "The second is that it is not to do with the off-field problems because the presumption of innocence exists." Since last month's controversy, the ex-Paris Saint-Germain forward has made four appearances for his club, scoring one goal. However, he remains short of his explosive best form. "I don't want to say any more about it. I stand by my decision," Deschamps added. France are second in Group A2 of the Nations League, one point behind leaders Italy, ahead of their final two fixtures. They host Israel at the Stade de France next Thursday, November 14, and then play Italy in Milan three days later. France are five points clear of Belgium in third place and the top two teams will qualify for the quarter-finals, which will take place over two

legs next March. The semi-finals and final will be played next June. Veteran midfielder N'Golo Kante, of Al Ittihad in Saudi Arabia, returns to the squad along with Adrien Rabiot of Marseille. Meanwhile, there is a first call-up for highly-rated Lille goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier, who takes the place of West Ham United's Alphonse Areola in the squad. France squad to play Israel and Italy: Goalkeepers: Lucas Chevalier (Lille), Mike Maignan (AC Milan/ITA), Brice Samba (Lens). Defenders: Jonathan Clauss (Nice), Lucas Digne (Aston Villa/ENG), Wesley Fofana (Chelsea/ENG), Theo Hernandez (AC Milan/ITA), Ibrahima Konate (Liverpool/ESP), Jules Kounde (Barcelona/ESP), William Saliba (Arsenal/ENG), Dayot Upamecano (Bayern Munich/GER). Midfielders: Eduardo Camavinga (Real Madrid/ESP), Matteo Guendouzi (Lazio/ITA), N'Golo Kante (Al Ittihad/KSA), Manu Kane (Roma/ITA), Adrien Rabiot (Marseille), Warren Zaire-Emery (Paris Saint-Germain). Forwards: Bradley Barcola, Ousmane Dembele, Randal Kolo Muani (Paris Saint-Germain), Christopher Nkunku (Chelsea/ENG), Michael Olise (Bayern Munich/GER), Marcus Thuram (Inter Milan/ITA).

ICC rates Multan, Rawalpindi pitches 'satisfactory'

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The pitches used in the Multan and Rawalpindi during the recently concluded Test series between Pakistan and England have been rated "satisfactory" by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday. The first Test was played on a flat pitch in Multan, which saw Pakistan post 556 runs in the first innings, however, England racked up a humongous total of 823/7d, courtesy of Harry Brook's triple century and Joe Root's double-century. Pakistan were bundled for 220 in the second innings, succumbing to an innings and 47 runs defeat. The under-fire hosts needed a miracle to fight for the series glory and they made four massive changes to their squad for the remaining two Tests, which marked the ouster of big names like Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah. Consistent domestic performer Kamran Ghulam replaced Babar, while the dynamic spin duo of Sajid Khan and Noman Ali came in as Shaheen and

Naseem's replacement. The hosts not only reshuffled their squad but also revamped their pitch preparation methods for the remaining two matches. The newly formed selection committee, featuring Azhar Ali, Aleem Dar and Aqib Javed, instructed the groundsmen to make dry pitches to support spin bowlers in the remaining. For the second Test in Multan, the hosts reused the first Test's pitch, which underwent a rigorous drying process, utilizing massive industrial fans that whirled at full force, all aimed at crafting a surface that would favour spin bowlers. Meanwhile, for the third Test in Rawalpindi, where the pitch is traditionally flat, the hosts used a similar strategy of using large fans and heaters, accompanied by windbreaks to dry the pitch. The changes worked wonders as Pakistan recovered from 0-1 down to beat England 2-1 and seal their first Test series victory at home since 2021. The spin duo of Sajid Khan and Noman Ali dismantled England in the last two

Tests and picked up 39 out of their 40 wickets, while another late entrant Zahid Mahmood bagged the solitary wicket. The ICC conducted a thorough evaluation of the pitches used in the series between Pakistan and England, resulting in each venue receiving a rating of "satisfactory." This rating represents the lowest acceptable standard that does not incur a penalty, indicating that while the pitches may not have been ideal, they were deemed adequate for play. The ICC employs a comprehensive four-tier rating system to assess pitch quality, which includes the categories of very good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, and unfit. In this system, a pitch marked as unsatisfactory is assigned a demerit point, while a score of unfit incurs a more severe penalty of three demerit points. Venues that accumulate five or more demerit points within a rolling five-year timeframe face significant consequences: they are prohibited from hosting international cricket matches for a period of 12 months.



In brief

ANF seizes 418 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 418 kg drugs worth over Rs 75 million and arrested five accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that during an operation in Mansehra, 900 grams hashish was recovered from an accused. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In another operation, 630 grams weed was recovered from a parcel at a courier office in Islamabad. 296 grams heroin was recovered from the shoes of a Bahrain-bound woman passenger arrested at Islamabad International Airport. 9.6 kg hashish was recovered from an abandoned vehicle checked near Islamabad Toll Plaza. 1.4 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of a drug dealer rounded up near Shershah Toll Plaza Multan and 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from an accused netted near Tonmi Mor in DG Khan. 2.5 kg ice was recovered from a drug dealer travelling in a passenger van near Kandian Mor in Mianwali. 350 kg opium and 50 kg hashish hidden for smuggling were recovered in Mashkil area of Washuk district. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

123,700 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 123,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 55,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1521.76 feet and was 123.76 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 28,500 cusecs and 64,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1179.65 feet, which was 129.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,200 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 63,900, 45,700, 35,100 and 4,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

CDA speedup operations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA), Enforcement Directorate has intensified operation against encroachment and removed over 290 permanent structures from Pothwar Avenue. The enforcement teams actively conducting patrols, surveillance, in a significant push to enhance the appeal of Pothwar Avenue, CDA officials briefed the authority Chairman M. Ali Randhawa on Thursday. The review meeting, attended by key CDA officials, highlighted the substantial progress made in tackling encroachments and advancing beautification efforts. The project's environmental aspects are also in full swing, with large-scale horticulture work underway, including the planting of over 1,413 trees along the thoroughfare. Chairman Randhawa directed the immediate replacement of traditional advertising boards with digital ones, aimed at not only enhancing the aesthetic value but also generating revenue to fund further improvements.

Ahsan directs timely completion of Jinnah Medical Complex

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday directed the quarters concerned to ensure completion of the Jinnah Medical Complex, a state-of-the-art healthcare facility designed to revolutionize healthcare standards in Islamabad, within the given time-frame of three years.

He passed these directives while chairing a meeting to review the progress of the Rs120 billion project, which attended by Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSRC) Dr Nadeem Jan, Health Coordinator Dr Mukhtar, Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Chief Health, DC Health, senior officers from the Capital Development Authority (CDA), and officials from the departments concerned, a news release said.

The master plan for this landmark Rs120 billion project includes a Center of Excellence, Diagnostic and Treatment Podium, Student Housing, Academic Podium, Academic and Research Towers, Physical Plant, Grid Station, Auditorium, Mosque, Emergency Department and a hotel to cater to the needs of medical tourism and patients.

Addressing the meeting, the minister highlighted the necessity of a stringent selection process for hiring qualified staff and credible contractors to ensure the project's successful completion.

To further strengthen efficiency and transparency, the minister directed that the project be executed under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode rather than through regular budgeting.

The government has allocated Rs5 billion in the fiscal year 2024-2025 under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) to start the project. While the CDA has earmarked 200 kanals of commercial land in Sector H-16 for the Jinnah Medical Complex, which underscores the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure.

Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that the project's strategic location in Islamabad, near the airport and national highways, has made it an ideal hub for regional and international medical tourism, adding a steering committee has been established to oversee the project's progress and ensure that all timelines and milestones set forth by the Prime Minister were met.

He further said that the Jinnah Medical Complex must incorporate green design principles, ensuring that it stood as a sustainable and environmentally friendly structure.

The health complex is envisioned as a monumental project for the capital city, featuring a self-contained vertical health tower with comprehensive medical services, and its master plan will optimize land use, building layout, landscaping, site accessibility and traffic management aimed at promoting health tourism and enhancing healthcare infrastructure in the country.

To further enrich the project, the minister instructed the inclusion of vice chancellors from two prominent Pakistani medical universities to provide their expertise. Besides, regular consultative sessions will be held to track progress and ensure the smooth execution of activities, thereby guaranteeing the successful implementation of the project.

Groundbreaking of the Jinnah Medical Complex performed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on July 21, 2024, marking a significant milestone in Pakistan's journey toward a robust and modern healthcare system.

Distt admin crackdown on agent network; arrest 11 in 2 days

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a determined move to dismantle the so-called "agent mafia," Islamabad's district administration has initiated a crackdown and arrested eleven more agents outside the government offices premises and especially the excise department.

According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the district administration was intensifying its efforts to eliminate unauthorized agents operating outside the excise department.

In this regard, the Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Industrial Area, raided nearby areas and arrested 11 unauthorized agents operating around government offices.

To help citizens avoid relying on agents, the district administration has appealed to the public to handle official matters directly with the excise department.

"Citizens should approach the excise office themselves for all official tasks," said the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, emphasizing the importance of public cooperation to help sustain this anti-agent drive.

Additional service counters have been set up at the excise office to manage any increased demand, aiming to reduce the need for third-party intermediaries.

The recent arrests bring the total number of agents detained over the past two

days to 11. This crackdown reflects the district administration's commitment to streamlining government processes and eliminating practices that have previously disrupted official business.

As part of these efforts, DC Islamabad has directed all relevant authorities to ensure effective monitoring of daily operations around government offices, calling for a focused strategy to track down unauthorized agents working in urban areas.

The administration is determined to maintain a transparent and efficient process for citizens seeking services at the excise office, working to root out any agents who interfere in official matters for personal gain.



RAWALPINDI: A street vendor prepares glasses of fresh pomegranate juice to attract customers at his stall.

Public schools show overall improvement, private schools excel in English: Pakistan Institute of Education reports

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) has released an evaluation report on the performance of students in Grade 4 from public and private educational institutions (low-fee schools) in Islamabad.

According to the results, public school students demonstrated improved performance, with 44% of students achieving a score of 41%. Private school students, however, outperformed in English, with an average score of 46%. Public school boys performed better overall, while private school girls showed stronger performance.

On Thursday, PIE held a policy dialogue on improving educational standards, during which the perform-

ance comparison of public and private schools in Islamabad was presented.

Special guest Senior Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Sohail Akhtar emphasized the importance of a comprehensive strategy to enhance educational standards. He stated that the government had implemented several measures, including teacher training, provision of modern teaching materials, and improvements in educational infrastructure.

Sohail Akhtar highlighted the need to reduce class sizes and increase the number of teachers in public schools to ensure that each student receives a quality education. He also stressed the need for a standard framework for monitoring

the quality of education in both public and private institutions to achieve uniformity in educational standards across the country.

Dr. Mohammad Shahid Soroya, Director-General of PIE, explained that the report evaluates the academic performance of Grade 4 students in Islamabad using the latest available data from the National Assessment Test. Additionally, surveys conducted with students, parents, and teachers provided further insights into various educational topics.

The analysis showed that students in public schools in rural areas performed better than their counterparts in private schools, while private school students in urban



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Human Rights Mrs. Saba Sadiq visiting Transgender Protection Centre.

68 alm-seekers arrested in last seven days

ISLAMABAD (APP): Around 68 professional alm-seekers have faced action under a fresh crackdown launched by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration against the professional begging.

The crackdown is aimed at purging the city of the beggars who caused trouble to the outdoor residents.

The action against begging is being taken on a daily basis to purge the city of professional beggars, said the district administration in a news statement.

It said the crackdown against them was launched in line with the directives of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon.

So far, more than 68 beggars have been arrested from across the city during the daily actions by all the Assistant Commissioners.

According to the district administration, steps were being taken to ensure special monitoring on traffic signals to take action against the beggars.

The DC Islamabad has appealed to the citizens to support the district administration in taking action against such elements.

On the other hand, a resident, Muhammad Asif, complained that usually he went outside to dinner every weekend with his family and they encountered alms-seekers especially children who sometimes reacted in anger on refusal.

Similarly, a citizen Hafeez Ullah, pointed out their daily activity of begging in groups at different markets and especially at traffic signals.

He urged the authorities concerned to tackle this issue and it arising daily in our surroundings.

Public holiday announced

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal government on Thursday announced the declaration of public holiday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, to be observed on 9th November, 2024 (Saturday).

According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Division, it was announced that Saturday, the 9th November, 2024 shall be a public holiday throughout the country on the occasion of Allama Iqbal Day.

IG reviews safe city cameras to enhance surveillance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired a meeting with Safe City technical officers at the Central Police Office, on Thursday.

During the meeting, the IGP reviewed the functionality of the Safe City cameras, the use of modern technical resources, and public facilities aimed at crime prevention in the federal capital, a public relation officer told APP.

IG Rizvi also assessed the overall performance related to the provision of new software and advanced technology in Safe City Islamabad.

IG directives to the technical officers regarding the implementation of new targets and an action plan to further improve Safe City's performance. Rizvi instructed them to enhance the services of Safe City Islamabad and expand its scope.

Additionally, IG Rizvi

emphasized that new software should be integrated, alongside improvements to the performance of the existing software.

Furthermore, IG stressed the need to repair faulty cameras at key locations in the federal capital as soon as possible.

IG Rizvi also ordered them for the installation of additional cameras to improve surveillance and help curb traffic violations, including street crime.

DIG Raza, SP Pari Gul hold open court to address women's issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Syed Ali Raza and Superintendent of Police (SP) Sawan Pari Gul Tareen listening attentively and issuing orders for immediate solutions.

DIG Raza and SP Pari Gul said that women's police stations and online police stations have been established to address women's issues. Women can also register their complaints online by calling 1815, while additional complaints and grievances can be submitted to the IGP

He said during the session, women expressed their issues openly, with DIG Raza and SP Sawan Pari Gul Tareen listening attentively and issuing orders for immediate solutions.

DIG Raza and SP Pari Gul said that women's police stations and online police stations have been established to address women's issues. Women can also register their complaints online by calling 1815, while additional complaints and grievances can be submitted to the IGP

Grievance Cell at 1715, they said.

Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that the ICT Police are committed to reaching citizens through multiple platforms and resolving their concerns efficiently. He issued orders to hold Khuli Kacheries across the district.

He ordered all zonal SPs to organize similar open forums in their respective zones, enabling citizens to directly present their concerns to police officials.

Citizens call for action in CDA's 'E-Kachehri'

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a first-of-its-kind online initiative, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Environment Wing hosted an 'E-Kachehri' on Thursday, inviting Islamabad residents to voice concerns and provide feedback on the city's parks and environmental issues.

The virtual session, held on the CDA's Facebook page, allowed citizens to interact directly with CDA officials, highlighting areas for improvement in the federal capital's recreational and green spaces.

Director General of Environment Nazia Abrar Khan and her team engaged in lively discussions with participants, addressing

various grievances and pledging swift action to enhance the city's natural beauty and infrastructure.

The session also underscored CDA's commitment to transparency and accessibility, as citizens were encouraged to share their names, contact numbers, and specific concerns in the comments. A local resident Malik Khadim Awan raised alarm over the decline in facilities at Playland Park, noting, "We visit parks so that our children can enjoy, but CDA seems indifferent to restoring these amenities."

Abdullah Khan suggested imposing heavy penalties on individuals discharging wastewater into

natural streams, a move he believed could reduce pollution and control pest breeding grounds.

Security concerns also emerged as another dweller Babar Hussain appealed for evening patrols, saying that parks now feel unsafe after dark. Some participants lauded CDA's recent beautification efforts for the SCO summit, urging the authority to apply similar beautification to other city areas, including local markets and sub-sector hubs.

The CDA has promised to prioritize public feedback collected from these online forums, aiming to restore Islamabad's recreational spaces and preserve its environmental integrity.

Afghan national shot dead

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Halvash organization reported that an Afghan street vendor was killed by unknown armed individuals on Rudaki Road in Khash city, Sistan and Baluchestan province, Iran. According to the report, the man was shot six times on the evening of Tuesday, November 5, while selling goods on the street. Halvash stated that the victim was a middle-aged Afghan street vendor.

Hibatullah issued new order

KABUL (Amu TV): In a recent decree issued by Hibatullah Akhundzada, the supreme leader of the Taliban, the distribution and use of military equipment will now be subject to his direct oversight and authorization. This order, obtained by Amu TV and confirmed by multiple sources, extends to the stockpiles managed by the Taliban-run Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, and the General Directorate of Intelligence.

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

UNAMA report based on non-Afghan, un-Islamic values, says Ministry

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Vice and Virtue, in response to the recent UNAMA report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, stated that this organization still prepares its reports based on non-Afghan and un-Islamic values.

Saif-ul-Islam Khyber, the spokesperson for this ministry, said that the recent UNAMA report made no mention of the ministry's achievements in areas such as inheritance and the prevention of forced marriages.

The spokesperson for the Ministry of Vice and Virtue stated: "UNAMA's reports and those of its affiliated organizations often diverge from the actual work of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue and are based on values that reflect their own perspectives."

In its recent quarterly report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, UNAMA noted certain sections of the law from the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, stating that this law imposes new restrictions on women.

Part of the UNAMA report stated: "The Law codifies a number of restrictions that had already been issued as decrees, edicts and instructions by the de facto authorities. Law also appears to broaden some preexisting restrictions, and adds new ones."

"When a country drafts a constitution that explicitly expresses global policies and the rights of the people, such issues will not arise," said Shafiq Nasir, a political analyst.

"When we have a valid and strong document like the UN Security Council's resolutions, we are obligated to adhere to United Nations resolutions in areas like education, sports, trade, and other international matters," said Moeen Gul Samkanai, another political analyst.

Earlier, the spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate had also stated that UNAMA's criticism of the methods of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue was unfounded.

Mol disputes UN report on opium cultivation increase

KABUL (BNA): According to a survey by UNODC, the office's latest report indicates a 19 percent increase in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2024 compared to 2023.

The Ministry of Interior, however, categorically rejects the findings of this survey, asserting that it is far from accurate.

They suggest that the survey may have been conducted early in the year, prior to extensive eradication operations by Afghan police forces, which subsequently destroyed all poppy cultivation areas nationwide. As such, the Ministry considers the UNODC report baseless and unfounded.

The Ministry underscored that, under the guidance of the esteemed Supreme Leader, the Islamic Emirate has prioritized combating this destructive phenomenon, strictly banning all cultivation and production of narcotics across Afghanistan. As per Islamic principles, narcotics are considered entirely prohibited, and the Islamic Emirate views this battle as a top priority.

The Ministry noted that its own internal assessments, which conflict entirely with the UNODC findings, indicate a significant decrease in opium poppy cultivation and production compared to previous years.

Anti-narcotics police forces successfully reduced narcotics to minimal levels in 2022 and 2023, and have taken decisive steps in 2024 to further strengthen efforts against this issue.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed that it will continue to take substantial and determined actions to combat narcotics in the future.

Patients demand greater access to treatment



KABUL (TOLONews): Several children with hemophilia have told TOLONews that there is a pressing need for more accessible treatment options for this condition in the country.

Five-year-old Omar has suffered from hemophilia, or a deficiency of white blood cells, since he was eight months old. For the past two years, Omar's family has been visiting the central blood bank for his treatment.

Omar told a TOLONews reporter, "I got sick at eight months old, and I've come here for treatment."

Kamran, another young patient, said, "I am from Ghorband, and it's far. When I come to this hospital, they help me and give me blood." Hayat-ur-Rahman, a caregiver, said, "My request to the public and doctors is to take proper care of patients."

Officials at the central blood bank expressed concern about the shortage of Factor IX and have called on aid organizations for support.

Homayoon Hamdard, head of the hemophilia department at the blood bank, stated, "Our main challenge is the shortage of factors, but we are hopeful that aid organizations will provide more assistance so we can resolve our patients' issues."

Meanwhile, officials at the Ministry of Public Health have stated that centers for hemophilia patients have been established in Kabul and other provinces, and the ministry has been able to supply blood factors for patients at all centers.

Sharafat Zaman Amar Khil, spokesperson for the Ministry of Public Health, said, "Currently, in most regional blood banks and laboratories, we have provided the available resources for hemophilia patients. Blood factors are prepared there and administered to patients."

Previously, officials at the central blood bank reported that 882 hemophilia patients have been registered with them.

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Step toward Afghan textile self-sufficiency

K A N D A H A R (TOLONews): A manager of a textile factory in Kandahar states that in the coming years, Afghanistan will achieve self-sufficiency in textile production.

Rahmat Rashid, the spokesperson for the joint-stock textile factory named Sandos in Kandahar, which is being built at a cost of \$50 million, says that 75% of the work on this factory is complete and production will begin next year.

Rashid adds that with the start of operations, the factory will create job opportunities for 1,500 people.

The spokesperson for Kandahar's textile factory said, "Sandos is a \$55 million joint-stock factory built on 60 acres of land in the Aino Mina area of Kandahar, capable of producing 50,000 meters of textile in 24 hours. Our goal is Afghanistan's self-sufficiency in textile production, and we expect that our products, in addition to meeting domestic needs, will be exported to regional countries as well."

The head of Mines and Industries in Kandahar emphasizes that such fundamental investments are essential for Afghanistan's self-sufficiency and economic progress.

Sayed Sarwar Amani, the head of Kandahar's Mines and Industries, stated, "Such investments are essential for Afghanistan's self-sufficiency and development, and we hope these kinds of investments continue to grow."

Matullah, a resident of Kandahar, said, "We request that more such factories be established to provide employment opportunities for people."

Janan, another resident of Kandahar, stated, "Investors should support such investments and establish more production factories to reduce economic problems in society."

According to officials, the Sandos production factory, in addition to joint-stock shares, also offers small investment opportunities for ordinary citizens.

Senior Indian diplomat meets FM Muttaqi

KABUL (Ariana News): JP Singh, Indian foreign ministry's joint secretary for the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division, has met with Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul.

The two sides discussed political and economic relations between Afghanistan and India, and people's movements, the Afghan foreign ministry said in a statement.

Muttaqi expressed hope that relations between India and Afghanistan would expand in various fields.

He stressed that to develop trade relations, Indian visa facilities should be increased for Afghan citizens, especially businesspersons.

He also thanked India for its humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and called India's pledges in the development sector promising.

According to the statement, JP Singh said that relations with Afghanistan are important for India and have an ancient history.

The Indian diplomat said that along with humanitarian aid to Afghans, India has also started development assistance to Afghanistan and is engaged in technical discussions with relevant Afghan institutions.

JP Singh stressed that the development of relations between the two countries is important, adding that in the near future, negotiations will be held between technical delegations of regional countries including Afghanistan and India on the Chabahar port.

He also promised to increase Indian visa facilities for Afghans.

EU vowed support for agricultural uplift: IEA



KABUL (Amu TV): The Taliban-run Ministry of Economy announced Thursday that Veronika Boskovic Pohar, acting head of the European Union's delegation in Afghanistan, pledged \$100 million in support for humanitarian and agricultural projects during a recent meeting with the Taliban's minister of economy.

According to the statement, Ms. Pohar also indicated that the European Union plans to organize a conference aimed at promoting small-scale economic activities and entrepreneurship in the country.

While the European Union's office in Afghanistan has yet to comment on the meeting, the EU has been one of the largest aid contributors to Afghanistan over the past three years.

This meeting between a senior Taliban official and the EU representative comes amid the enforcement of a new Taliban decree prohibiting non-mahram men and women from meeting in private or holding joint gatherings.

Although Taliban officials have reportedly violated this rule on multiple occasions, the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice has made adherence to the decree mandatory for citizens in many provinces.

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DAB governor calls help streamline banking system



KABUL (Ariana News): The governor of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), Noor Ahmad Agha, has called on global Islamic financial institutions for assistance across a number of areas in the country's banking sector.

Addressing a conference in Bahrain, Agha appealed for help in capacity building, training programs, better management of Zakat and Waqf, and the conversion of conventional banks to Islamic banking systems.

Speaking at the 19th annual Islamic banking and finance conference of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), which was held in Bahrain on November 3 and 4, Agha also appealed for assistance in attaining a sustainable, efficient, and resilient Halal banking system and the establishment of a robust financial and economic sector in Afghanistan.

The conference was attended by the central banks of Islamic countries and nearly 300 representatives from Islamic commercial banks.

DAB governor emphasized the significance of establishing institutions dedicated to better regulating and managing affairs related to Zakat, Waqf, Infaq, and Sadaqah, highlighting the vital role of such institutions in the fair distribution of wealth in society, according to a statement released by DAB on Thursday. He also raised the issue of Riba-based banking, the development of Islamic banking, and the stability of the banking system in Afghanistan.

Riba is commonly used to refer to excessive charges for borrowing money. Charging interest for loans is deemed riba, or an unjust, exploitative gain, and is forbidden under Islamic law.

Salma Dam water released to aid winter crops for Herat farmers

HERAT (TOLONews): Local officials in Herat report that to support farmers with the start of winter planting, water from the Salma Dam has been released for eight districts along the Harirod River.

According to them, over 21 days, Salma Dam water will be gradually distributed to thousands of farmers.

Jalil Ahmad Mohammadi, Director of Water Management for the Harirod-Murghab River Basin, said: "In the first phase, for six days and nights, water will be distributed to the districts of Kohsan, Zinda Jan, and Ghorian. In the second phase, six days and nights will be allocated to the districts of Guzara and Injil."

While some farmers in parts of Herat continue their agricultural activities using deep-well water, many others depend on the Harirod River and lack the resources to dig deep wells or buy solar-powered pumps.

Ghulam Habib Hashimi, head of the Harirod River Water Users Association, said: "All winter or autumn planting in Herat province is irrigated by Salma Dam; there is no other water source. We are currently experiencing drought in Herat province along the Harirod basin."

The release of water from Salma Dam during the planting season has been welcomed by farmers.

Some Herat farmers say that without this water, planting their fields would have been impossible.

Farmer Mir Agha said, "This water fully meets our needs for winter planting. We are grateful to God that He has given us the blessing of the Salma Dam, allowing us to irrigate our fields."

Another farmer, Abdullah Sidi, said, "This is the time for winter planting—for wheat and barley. The land was extremely dry, and all the landowners, as well as the people of Herat, were anxious about how they would irrigate their crops."

Officials state that due to rainfall and strong floods this year, a sufficient amount of water has been stored in the Salma Dam.

According to statistics, nearly 300 million cubic meters of usable water are currently stored in the Salma Dam. This water is delivered via 121 large canals to thousands of hectares of farmland and fruit orchards across eight districts in Herat.

Committees formed to address Durand Line residents' issues

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Borders, Ethnicities, and Tribes states that, based on a directive from the leader of the Islamic Emirate, all challenges faced by the residents along the Durand Line have been identified.

Tasleemullah Haqqani, spokesperson for the ministry, told TOLONews that the acting Minister of Borders, Ethnicities, and Tribes has visited the provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan, Paktia, Paktika, and Khost to address the issues of people along the Durand Line, establishing community committees with the participation of local officials.

Haqqani adds that they are working to resolve these people's issues so that residents can benefit from government services.

Tasleemullah Haqqani, spokesperson for the Ministry of Borders, Ethnicities, and Tribes, stated, "These committees have transparently initiated their activities, and after identifying challenges, they have shared them with the central committee. Soon, from a special budget, the people will benefit from government services."

On the other hand, some residents along the Durand Line consider the establishment of these committees helpful in addressing their issues, but they emphasize that the problems in these areas must be addressed as soon as possible.

Jahanzeb, a resident of the Durand Line, said, "These are remote areas, and the residents lack access to water, education, telecommunications, and roads."

Taweez Khan, another resident, said, "The government has made a good decision, and this is a positive step for us that will provide many facilities for the people."

It is worth noting that, for years, residents on both sides of the Durand Line have faced challenges related to inadequate resources in the fields of education, healthcare, economy, and other sectors.



Turkish police detain 10 Afghan migrants over lack of work permits

KABUL (Khaama Press): Turkish media have reported the detention of 10 Afghan migrant workers for lacking work permits on an agricultural project in the city of Zonguldak. Reports indicate that these workers were hired illegally by a contracting company.

The Turkish media revealed that the police detained several Afghan workers at a work site in the village of Boronkaya in Zonguldak.

According to the reports, the deportation process for these workers has begun, and they are expected to be sent back to Afghanistan soon.

The Turkish police identified these migrants "following public complaints." Turkey does not allow undocumented refugees to work, and even for those with residence permits, obtaining a work permit is challenging.

This incident highlights the struggles faced by undocumented Afghan migrants in Turkey, many of whom take on informal labor due to limited legal employment opportunities.

Afghan migrant workers in Turkey often work under difficult conditions, as their undocumented status leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and deportation.

The Turkish government has increased efforts to identify and deport undocumented migrants as part of its immigration policies.

As Afghanistan faces ongoing instability, many Afghan migrants seek work abroad to support their families, despite the risks of deportation.

The detention of Afghan workers in Turkey underscores the complexities of migrant labor and the challenges faced by undocumented workers seeking better opportunities abroad.

For Afghan migrants, the lack of legal protections and harsh immigration policies create a precarious situation.

The international community's support for creating safer pathways for migration and addressing root causes in home countries like Afghanistan is essential. Such measures could reduce the need for dangerous and illegal labor migration and support more stable lives for migrants.



ISLAMABAD: Brig Gen Hojjatullah Qureshi, Deputy Minister of Defence & Armed Forces Logistics Islamic Republic of Iran called on Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami at Naval Headquarters.

Graduation ceremony at PAF Academy held

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The graduation ceremony of 150th GD(P), 96th Engineering, 106th Air Defence, 26th A&SD, 9th Logistics and 132nd Combat Support Courses was held on Thursday at PAF Academy Asghar Khan, Risalpur. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was also in presence.

A total of 139 Aviation Cadets, 08 Gentleman



Cadets and 02 Naval Cadets graduated during the ceremony. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee performance in General Service Training was awarded to Aviation Cadet Sports Sergeant Imran Raza, whereas, Trophy for the overall best performance in Combat Support Course

was won by Aviation Cadet Usman Rasheed. Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for the best performance in the Air Defence Course was received by Aviation Cadet Sergeant Haseeb Abdul Malik. Pakistan Naval Cadet Sergeant Hafiz Ali Asad, was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for the overall best performance at the College of Aeronautical Engineering. Sword of Honour for overall best performance in College of Flying Training was received by Aviation Cadet, Abdullah Saad Ali.

Tarar, Kundi discuss law, order situation in KP

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, and Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, met on Thursday to call for joint efforts aimed at improving the law and order situation in the province.

During the meeting at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, both

leaders expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and criticized the provincial government's apparent indifference. They discussed potential measures to address and improve the situation. The conversation also touched on the federal government's efforts to promote economic development and involve the youth in positive, constructive activities.

Governor Faisal Kundi emphasized that steps

would be taken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to steer the youth away from anarchic politics and towards more productive pursuits. In response, Minister Attaullah Tarar assured that the federal government was fully committed to providing all possible support to enhance security in the province. Both leaders also agreed on the need for collaborative efforts to improve the education system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Govt increases salaries, allowances of SC judges

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government increased the salaries and other allowances of Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan judges. According to details, the house rent allowance has been raised from Rs. 68,000 to Rs. 350,000, while the judicial allowance has been increased from Rs. 3.42 million to Rs. 10.9 million.

This decision was made after Acting President Yousuf Raza Gilani's approval and notification by the Ministry of Law and Justice. The development follows last year's July increase in the salary of Chief Justice of Pakistan more than Rs. 200,000, bringing it to over Rs. 1.2 million.

The 20 percent increase in Supreme Court judges' salaries was approved through an ordinance by then President Sadiq Sanjrani. According to the ordinance, the salaries of other judges were also raised by 20 percent to over Rs. 1.1 million.

CJP expresses concern over pending terrorism cases: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi expressed concern over the backlog of terrorism cases across the country, emphasising the importance of expediting these cases to ensure justice is not delayed.

A meeting of the Administrative Judges of Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATC) was held at the Supreme Court of Pakistan, chaired by CJP Justice Yahya Afridi, a press statement issued here read. "The meeting reviewed the performance of ATCs and took stock of key challenges to ensure the swift and efficient dispensation of justice in anti-terrorism cases." During the meeting, it was disclosed that a total of 2,273 anti-terrorism cases are currently pending in Pakistan, with a significant portion — 1,372 cases — awaiting resolution in Sindh alone.

KP cabinet okays amends to Universities Act, 2012

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The provincial cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa approved amendments to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Universities Act, 2012, allowing it to be presented before the Provincial Assembly. The Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, presided over the meeting held at the Civil Secretariat Peshawar and attended by Ministers, Advisors, Special Assistants, the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretaries, the Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, and relevant Administrative Secretaries, said an official handout here on Thursday.

Besides some minor changes related to the administrative functions of the universities, the notable amendments included the designation of the Chief Minister as the Chancellor and the appointing authority for Vice Chancellors of these universities. The amendments also set the Vice Chancellors' tenure as four years, subject to a mid-tenure review by a Performance Evaluation Committee to be constituted by the Government. It has also been made mandatory that only women candidates will be appointed to the Vice Chancellor positions in the public sector women's universities of the Province.

The cabinet approved the draft Agriculture Income Tax Act, 2024, which will be presented in the Provincial Assembly for enactment and, if approved, will come into force from January 2025. It is worth mentioning that during discussions with the Federal Board of Revenue and the International Monetary Fund, the need to levy Agriculture Income Tax on companies (both small and others) involved in corporate agriculture was highlighted. Additionally, the introduction of measures such as a "Super Tax" on high-earning individuals and companies, and penalties for mis-declaration and non-submission of Agriculture Income Tax returns, was deemed necessary. To provide legal cover for these measures, it was decided to draft a new Agriculture Income Tax Act, 2024, which will repeal KP Land and Agriculture Income Tax Ordinance 2000.

The cabinet also approved a framework agreement between Provincial Housing Authority Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Pakistan Housing Authority Foundation (PHAF) for construction of low-cost housing scheme at Surizai, District Peshawar comprising 8000 grey structure houses and 5000 apartments over a total area of 8500 kanal.

The Provincial Cabinet approved several key financial allocations and

cost enhancements for various projects and programs. It approved an increase in the project cost from Rs. 243.531 million to Rs. 325.271 million for the "Construction & Repair & Maintenance Workshop for the WSSP Solid Waste Management Equipment and Machinery, Peshawar." The cabinet also approved the cost enhancement for the "Reconstruction of Women & Children Liaquat Memorial Teaching Hospital, District Kohat."

The cabinet sanctioned the provision of funds under the Sehat Card Plus Program, with an initial allocation of Rs. 500 million for the treatment of diseases currently not covered under the program in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Additionally, a Grant in Aid of Rs. 10 million was approved for the Rukhsana Mother & Child Trust Hospital (RMCTH) Peshawar.

The cabinet also approved regular annual funding as a grant in aid for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Blood Transfusion Authority and sanctioned an annual grant in aid of Rs. 10 million for the Fatimid Foundation for the fiscal year 2024/25. It also approved Medical Financial Assistance of Rs. 03.00 million for one Mst. Kausar Samrin to cover her expenses for treatment of SLE LUPS Nephritis Kidneys.

KP CS, Secy helpless against Hangu's DHO

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: Despite multiple orders from the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Hangu's District Health Officer (DHO) remains firmly entrenched in his position, raising concerns over governance and accountability. Chief Secretary KP has issued strict instructions twice for the DHO's removal, yet no action has been taken, leading many to question the authority's effectiveness if it cannot implement directives against a single district official.

Public grievances against the DHO's conduct are mounting, with prominent community leaders and citizens repeatedly call-

ing for his removal due to alleged widespread corruption and negligence. According to reports, the DHO has been implicated in various cases, from theft of hospital equipment and essential medicines to mismanagement within Hangu's medical facilities. Multiple complaints highlight missing hospital machinery and supplies allegedly stolen from doctors' quarters, which is believed to be severely impacting healthcare services in the region.

Previous and current high-ranking officials, including the former and present Commissioners of Kohat, as well as the former and current Deputy Commissioners of Hangu, have all recommended the

DHO's dismissal, issuing letters that remain undressed by the provincial health department. This continued inaction has led to frustration among the public, with many accusing the DHO of using his position for personal gain while Hangu's healthcare facilities face dire conditions.

Locals are now appealing directly to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, urging him to take immediate notice of the situation and ensure accountability for the DHO's alleged misconduct. The public's trust in local healthcare systems and provincial governance, they warn, is at stake if these pressing concerns go unresolved.

PHC grants protective bail to Opp leader

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has granted protective bail to opposition leader at National Assembly Umar Ayub for one month while ordered him to approach relevant high courts for obtaining cases' record, on Thursday.

A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice PHC Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Waqar Ahmed while the lawyer Alam Khan Adenzai advocate expressed concerns about daily harassment and intimidation due to numerous daily court appearances. He expressed concerns about potential harassment when traveling to Punjab.

خوابوں کی تعبیر

ترقی کی ضمانت

خیبر پختونخوا کے عوام کے لیے آٹھ بڑے منصوبے

اختیار عوام کا

صوبائی وسائل

- 2- صوبائی اسلامی بینک انشورنس کمپنی کا قیام
- 4- 120 کلومیٹر طویل 220 کلوواٹ پاور ٹرانسمیشن لائن کی تعمیر
- 6- خیبر پختونخوا کے عوام کے لئے کم قیمت اور آسان اقساط پر شسی توانائی کا منصوبہ
- 8- خیبر پختونخوا قرض انتظامی فنڈ کا قیام

- 1- خیبر پختونخوا کے ہر گھر کے لئے زندگی کی انشورنس
- 3- پشاور سے ڈی آئی خان موٹروے
- 5- سیاحتی علاقوں کی معاشی ترقی اور مقامی ثقافت کے فروغ کے لئے ہوم سٹے سیاحت
- 7- صوبے میں تجارتی راہداریوں کا مرکز

محکمہ اطلاعات و تعلقات عامہ

حکومت خیبر پختونخوا



ہر منصوبہ عوام کی خوشحالی کے لیے