The Frontier Post

@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXI | No. 316 | Regd. No. 241 | JAMADI US SANNI 06 1446 --MONDAY, DECEMBER 09 2024 | PESHAWAR EDITION | 12 PAGES | PRICE. 30

PA Speaker meets PM

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Sunday and discussed with him country's overall situation as well as the Punjab provincial government affairs. Advisor to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah also met the premier.

President condoles

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari expressed his heartfelt condolences on the passing away of sister of National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Asif Zardari extended his sympathies to Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and the bereaved family. He prayed for the grant of eternal peace to the departed soul and for strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss with courage.

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, NDMA dispatched relief assistance for flood affectees of Malaysia through charted flight.

PM urges people to play role in ensuring a corruption-free future

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed the government's commitment to root out corruption at every level, urging the people to play their role in the government's quest for a corruption-free future.

"On this International Anti-Corruption Day, let us stand together, united in our resolve to build a Pakistan where public resources are utilized efficiently for the welfare of our people," the prime minister said in a message.

"Let us work together for a future where the rule of law prevails and where accountability is the bedrock for all", he said.

He said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and other law enforcement agencies were working tirelessly to ensure that those who misuse power and rob the hard-earned public revenues face the consequences of their actions. "We recognize the hard work of our institutions and stand with them in this important task to root out corruption from society", he added.

He highlighted that the 9th of December marked the International Anti-Corruption Day, a reminder of the global efforts to confront one of the greatest challenges facing our societies - corruption. "This year's theme "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity" rightly highlights the important role that our youth can play in the fight against corruption. Our younger generation deserves a future where they can thrive free from corruption," he added.

Today, he said Pakistan joined the international community to renew its commitment to transparency, integrity, and accountability for now and for future generations.

He emphasized that corruption was a corrosive element that undermined economic development and destroys the social fabric of societies.

"It robs nations of their potential and prevents people from enjoying the benefits of fair governance and equal opportunities. It also distorts public services, diverts resources meant for development, and perpetuates inequality that impacts the lives of ordinary citizens. Corruption is therefore a major reason for distrust between the governments and its citizens," he remarked.

However, he said the government alone could not win the fight against corruption. He said that it required the collective effort of every citizen, every community and every institution.

He also urged the media to play an active role in exposing malpractices. "This day demands active participation from all who believe in justice and integrity. Each one of us must take responsibility for building a transparent and accountable society," he added.

Founder of PTI has no future: Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has no future, and ensuring protection of minorities' rights remains the government's foremost priority.

Speaking at a Christmas cake-cutting ceremony at the Bihar Colony church ground here on Sunday, he criticised the PTI's failed plans to storm Islamabad. He also declared that the country's economy was now on the right track and that any attempts at a civil disobedience movement would fail miserably.

He stressed that the PTI and its leader's politics of chaos and violence had been rejected by people, adding that the party had no interest in addressing public issues and had only promoted a culture of unrest and destruction.

"The PTI's attempt to stage a sit-in in Islamabad failed badly, and now they are threatening a civil disobedience movement, which, like their past propaganda, will flop," he added.

Tarar also extended heartfelt Christmas wishes to the Christian community, pledging to stand with them in their joys and sorrows. "A magnificent Christmas tree will be installed in this area, and I will personally come to light it," he said, lauding the sacrifices and contributions of minorities in Pakistan's creation and progress.

He highlighted the roles of notable figures such as Haroon William, who sacrificed his life for the nation while serving in the Pakistan Army, and Cecil Chaudhry, who represented Pakistan internationally. "The Christian community has produced some of the world's best fighter pilots, and like all communities, they have contributed significantly to Pakistan's development," he added.

The minister reaffirmed his commitment to raising his voice for minorities' rights and standing against any form of oppression or violence.

About the economic situation, Attaullah Tarar praised the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, stating that positive government policies had put the economy on the right track. "Foreign exchange reserves have increased, inflation is now below 4pc, and foreign investors are showing interest in Pakistan, which will reduce unemployment and boost exports," he noted. He also assured his constituency's residents of his dedication to their well-being, recalling that their votes had made him an MNA and a federal minister. "I always introduce myself as belonging to this constituency, home to 70,000 Christians," he shared.

Responding to a question about PTI's allegations, he dismissed them as baseless and called PTI's founder's actions shameful. "People want employment, electricity, and gas, not chaos and unrest," he said.

Regarding the National Action Plan, Tarar confirmed its implementation and criticised the KP government for its lack of seriousness in maintaining law and order.

He concluded by appreciating the Pakistan Army's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, reiterating the need for collective efforts to safeguard and develop the nation.

CM reaches China on 8-day official visit

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif arrived in Beijing on her 8-day China visit.

She was accorded a warm reception at the Beijing airport upon her arrival. Six senior officials of the Communist Party of China were present at the airport to welcome her. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi and his wife also welcomed her.

A high-level delegation of the Communist Party of China called on the CM. The head of the Chinese delegation, Lin Tao, thanked CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif and her delegation upon their arrival and welcomed them. The Chief Minister said, "Pak-China friendship is moving towards greater heights. We want to take Punjab to economic and financial heights with the cooperation of China. On behalf of the Punjab government and the people of Punjab, I would like to extend my gratitude to the people of China."

Deputy Director General of the Communist Party of China Lin Tao, Consular South Asian Affairs Mrs. Li Zhenyao, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Southeast Chen Zhenbo, South Asian Affairs Attaché, Seng Guoyu and Miss Chen Yubo and Miss Zhou Chenyu accorded her a warm reception. Other officers of the Pakistan's embassy were also present at the airport.

Senator Pervez Rashid, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Information and Culture Azma Zahid Bokhari, Provincial Ministers Bilal Akbar, Ashiq Kirmani and others accompanied her.

The official engagements of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's 8-day visit will commence tomorrow.

South Korean opposition plans new impeachment push

SEOUL (AFP): South Korea's main opposition party said Sunday it will try again to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol after his declaration of martial law.

Meanwhile police arrested the defense minister in charge of the martial law operation, and the interior minister resigned. Both they and Yoon are being investigated for alleged insurrection.

Yoon averted impeachment late Saturday as huge crowds braved freezing temperatures in another night of protests outside parliament to demand the president's ouster.

Opposition parties proposed the impeachment motion, which needed 200 votes in the 300-member parliament to pass, but a near-total boycott by Yoon's People Power Party (PPP) doomed it to failure.

Lee Jae-myung, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party (DP), said Sunday that they will try again on December 14.

"Yoon, the principal culprit behind the insurrection and military coup that destroyed South Korea's constitutional order, must either resign immediately or be impeached without delay," Lee told reporters.

"On December 14, our Democratic Party will impeach Yoon in the name of the people."

In exchange for blocking his removal from office, Yoon's People Power Party (PPP) said that it had "effectively obtained (Yoon's) promise to step down."

"Even before the president steps down, he will not interfere in state affairs, including foreign affairs," PPP leader Han Dong-hoon said Sunday after a meeting with Prime Minister Han Duck-soo.

This will "minimize the confusion to South Korea and its people, stably resolve the political situation and recover liberal democracy," Han told reporters.

But Lee and the National Assembly speaker Woo Won-shik, both from the opposition Democratic Party (DP), on Sunday called the arrangement illegal.

"For the prime minister and the ruling party to jointly exercise presidential authority, which no one has granted them, without participating in constitutional processes to address unconstitutional martial law, is a clear violation of the Constitution," Woo said.

"The power of the president is not the personal property of President Yoon Suk Yeol," said Lee. "Isn't this another coup that destroys the constitutional order?"

ALEPPO: People gather at Saadallah al-Jabiri Square as they celebrate, after Syria's army command notified officers on Sunday that President Bashar al-Assad's 24-year authoritarian rule has ended.

PTI constitutes committee to negotiate with govt

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, currently imprisoned in Adiala Jail, has constituted a negotiation committee comprising Asad Qaiser, Omar Ayub, Salman Akram Raja, Ali Amin Gandapur, and Hamid Raza to initiate talks with the government.

According to reports, Omar Ayub during a press conference, revealed that on December 5, he had an extended meeting with Imran Khan in jail but was arrested again despite securing bail.

Ayub stated that Imran Khan has directed PTI members to hold a prayer and Jirga session on December 13 in Peshawar, inviting all political parties to participate. Additionally, PTI's international chapters will host events in their respective countries on December 15.

Omar Ayub shared that the primary agenda of the negotiation committee is to secure the release of detained PTI workers.

Syrian rebels topple President Assad's regime

AMMAN/BEIRUT/CAIRO, (Reuters): Syrian rebels declared they had ousted President Bashar al-Assad after seizing control of Damascus on Sunday, forcing him to flee and ending his family's decades of autocratic rule after more than 13 years of civil war.

In a seismic moment for the Middle East, the Islamist rebels also dealt a major blow to the influence of Russia and Iran in Syria in the heart of the region - allies who had propped up Assad during critical periods in the war but were distracted by other crises recently.

The rebels said they had entered the capital with no sign of army deployments. Thousands of people in cars and on foot congregated at a main square in Damascus waving and chanting "Freedom" from a half century of Assad family rule, witnesses said.

People were seen walking inside the Al-Rawda Presidential Palace, with some leaving carrying furniture from inside.

"We celebrate with the Syrian people the news of freeing our prisoners and releasing their chains," the rebels said.

Leading rebel commander Abu Mohammed al-Golani said there was no room for turning back.

"The future is ours," he said in a statement read on Syria's state TV after his forces took over Damascus.

The pace of events stunned Arab capitals and raised concerns about a new wave of instability in a region already in turmoil following the spread of conflict after the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, and the ensuing Gaza war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Assad's fall was a direct result of blows that Israel has dealt to Iran and its ally Hezbollah.

French President Emmanuel Macron said "the barbaric state has fallen" and paid tribute to the Syrian people.

DAUNTING TASK AHEAD

When the celebrations fade, Syria's new leaders will face the daunting task of trying to deliver stability to a diverse country with competing factions that will need billions of dollars in aid and investments to rebuild.

Syria's long civil war, which erupted in 2011 as an uprising against Assad's rule, turned cities to rubble and killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Stakeholders range from Turkey to the United States to Islamists to Kurds.

One possible challenge could be a resurgence of Islamic State which imposed a reign of terror in large swathes of Syria and Iraq and directed external operations during its prime.

Underscoring the lightning changes, Iran's embassy was stormed by Syrian rebels, Iran's English-language Press TV reported.

Iran, whose elite Revolutionary Guards have faced deadly Israeli strikes in Syria, gave a measured response. Its foreign ministry said Syria's fate is the sole responsibility of the Syrian people and should be pursued without foreign imposition or destructive intervention.

Lebanese-based Hezbollah, which provided crucial support to Assad for years, withdrew all of its forces from Syria on Saturday as rebel factions approached Damascus, two Lebanese security sources told Reuters on Sunday.

Assad, who had not spoken in public since the sudden rebel advance a week ago, flew out of Damascus for an unknown destination earlier on Sunday, two senior army officers told Reuters.

His whereabouts now - and those of his wife Asma and their two children - were unknown. The Russian Foreign Ministry said Assad had left office and departed the country after giving orders for a peaceful handover of power.

The Syrian rebel coalition said it was continuing work to complete the transfer of power in the country to a transitional governing body with full executive powers.

"The great Syrian revolution has moved from the stage of struggle to overthrow the Assad regime to the struggle to build a Syria together that befits the sacrifices of its people," it added in a statement.

Throughout the civil war, security forces held hundreds of thousands of people seized into detention camps where international human rights organisations say torture was universal practice. Families were often told nothing of their loved-ones' fate.

Bewildered and elated prisoners poured out of Syrian jails on Sunday, shouting with joy as they emerged from one of the world's most notorious detention systems.

Newly freed prisoners ran through the Damascus streets holding up the fingers of both hands to show how many years they had been in prison, asking passers-by what had happened, not immediately understanding that Assad had fallen.

Prime Minister Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali called for free elections in a country where Assad's opponents faced barrel bombs.

Jalali also said he had been in contact with Golani to discuss managing the transitional period, marking a notable development in efforts to shape Syria's political future.

The collapse of Assad's rule followed a shift in the balance of power in the Middle East after many leaders of Hezbollah, a lynchpin of Assad's battlefield force, were killed by Israel over the past two months.

Russia, a staunch Assad ally, intervened decisively in 2015 to help Assad during Syria's civil war. But it has been tied down by the Ukraine war.

US TO MAINTAIN PRESENCE

The Syrian civil war dragged in a string of outside powers, created space for jihadist militants to plot attacks around the world and sent millions of refugees into neighbouring states.

The frontlines were dormant for years. Then Islamists who had once been affiliated with Al Qaeda suddenly burst into action in late November.

Western governments, which have shunned the Assad-led state for years, must now decide how to deal with a new administration in which a globally designated terrorist group - Golani's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) - looks set to have influence.

The United States will continue to maintain its presence in eastern Syria and will take measures necessary to prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East Daniel Shapiro said at a conference in Manama on Sunday.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said "terrorist organisations" must not be allowed to take advantage of the situation in Syria and called for caution. HTS, which spearheaded the rebel advances across western Syria, was formerly an al Qaeda affiliate until its leader Golani severed ties with the global jihadist movement in 2016.

Continued on Back Page

Pakistani nationals are safe in Syria: FO

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office on Sunday said all Pakistani nationals were safe in Syria and had been advised to exercise caution. "We are closely monitoring the evolving situation in Syria," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a statement. The satatement added that the Embassy of Pakistan in Syria was open for support and advice.

As of now Damascus Airport is closed. Our embassy remains in contact with stranded Pakistani nationals including Zaireen. It will facilitate their return once the airport opens, it added. Pakistan has always supported unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, and there is no change in our principled position, the Spokesperson said.

PM lauds PCB's principled stance on Champions Trophy

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has lauded the principled stance of Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi's stance over holding of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan.

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at his residence on Sunday and briefed him about the recent developments regarding the ICC Champions trophy.

The tournament is due to be held in Pakistan in February-March next, but the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) refused to send its team to Pakistan after non-issuance of no-objection certificate (NOC) by its government to travel to Pakistan.

The BCCI has demanded to play the tournament on a hybrid model with Indian team's matches and the final to be played in some other country like the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Mohsin Naqvi asked the ICC to allow a similar concession to Pakistan in all the ICC events to be played in India.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said that Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi's stance reflected the voice of Pakistanis, adding that Naqvi had represented sentiments of the 240 million Pakistanis before the ICC.

"Pakistan's prestige is the first and foremost while everything else is secondary," the premier stressed.

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi, who also holds the portfolio of country's interior minister, said the PCB is fully prepared to conduct the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan and all preparations were in place.

He assured that the PCB wants Pakistan and cricket to be the winners, adding that the nation will receive a good news on the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Blind Action Committee meets with DEPD

F.P. Report

KARACHI: In the wake of ongoing protest of Blind persons outside, Karachi Press Club, Mr. Tauha Ahmed Faruqui, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has said that the Blind Action Committee, representing a section of the blind community, recently held two meetings with the officials of the DEPD.

During these discussions, the Committee raised a demand for the provision of 500 regular government jobs for blind individuals, in accordance with a list they intended to provide.

The representatives of Blind Action Committee were also informed that the department is also being approached from other representative bodies of persons with disabilities for jobs and their demands are also required to be taken into consideration as per law through DRCs.

The Secretary DEPD added that the representatives of Blind Action Committee were second time apprised that as per legal requirements and direction of Hon'ble Court, jobs in grade 1 to 4 are to be provided through District Recruitment Committee (DRC) concerned and they need to submit their applications to DRCs as and when announced by the DRCs concerned for consideration and finalization in accordance with job quota.

However, the representatives of Blind Action Committee were adamant to their demand for providing jobs to 500 persons whose list to be provided by them without going through the legal/DRC procedure.

They instead said to stage a sit-in protest in front of Karachi Press Club with extended participation and march towards Chief Minister's house if their demand for providing 500 jobs out-right are not met. It is brought to the record that the Government of Sindh had provided 156 jobs to the blind persons on a contingent basis last year and advised them to apply to DRC concerned for regular jobs.

It is also pertinent to point out that a sizable number of blind and other persons being disabled have been provided regular jobs through DRCs. He further added that, for the greater welfare of blinds, the Government of Sindh through Department of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) has been extending grant-in-aid to the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working for the cause of blinds in the province like, Pakistan Association of Blind (PAB), Pakistan Disabled Foundation (PDF) and Ida Rieu etc. In addition, the services of free braille courses are provided to the blinds.

He added that the definition of Disabled quota covers different categories of disabilities and is not restricted to blinds only. However, the blind are equally deserved for employment against job quota. For meeting their demand, the Blind Action Committee is again emphasized upon/requested to adopt the course of legal procedure and submit their applications for jobs to the respective DRCs. The Government of Sindh will, however, continue to strive for the well-being of persons with disabled including blinds and take every possible effort to meet their lawful demands.

Friends of Palestine & Kashmir meet

ISLAMABAD (INP): A high-profile meeting of the Friends of Palestine and Kashmir was held in Islamabad under the chairmanship of former Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Siraj-ul-Haq.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the gathering brought together leaders from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and notable figures from Pakistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), and international representatives of the Palestinian cause.

The APHC delegation, led by Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, included senior Hurriyat leaders such as Farooq Rahmani, General Secretary Pervez Ahmad,Haji Muhammad Sultan, Mushtaq Ahmad Butt, Imtiaz Ahmad Wani, Zahid Safi, Muhammad Ashraf Dar and Syed Gulshan Ahmad. AJK's delegation featured leaders like Dr. Mushtaq Khan, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami AJK/Gilgit-Baltistan, former Ameer Abdul Rashid Turabi, Secretary General of Azad Kashmir Jamaat-e-Islami Jahangir Khan and Raja Zaheer Khan. Bilal Al-Astal, Director General of Friends of Palestine and Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, head of its Political Bureau, also participated.

Briefing the gathering, Bilal Al-Astal and Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais highlighted the steadfastness of the Palestinian resistance, describing the ongoing Tofan Al-Aqsa movement as a pivotal moment in exposing Israel's genocidal actions since 1948. "We have successfully shown the world the oppressive face of Israel, which has led many nations to recognize the Palestinian state. We urge the free people of the world to acknowledge our right to freedom," they said.

They emphasized the parallels between the struggles of Palestinians and Kashmiris, stating, "The brave Kashmiri people understand our pain, as our struggles are deeply connected." Speaking on the occasion, Siraj-ul-Haq reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Palestine and Kashmir.

"The 220 million people of Pakistan stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the oppressed peoples of Kashmir and Palestine in their quest for freedom.

MDCAT Retake exams conducted in Sindh

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: MDCAT Retake Exam has been conducted successfully across Sindh on 8th December 2024 today. On the directives of the Honourable Sindh high Court, Karachi the IBA University Sukkur was assigned the task to conduct the retake MDCAT exam across Sind.

The president PM&DC Prof.Dr.Rizwan Taj in a statement issued by PM&DC apprised the media that the exam was held in seven (07) centers in five (05) divisions including Karachi, Hyderabad, Shaheed Banazirabad, Sukkur and Larkana.

Total 38684 candidates appeared in the retake exam. He added that as the IBA University Sukkar was given the task to conduct the MDCAT retake exam, PM&DC assigned officers to observe the MDCAT retake exam at all the centers on the request of IBA University Sukkar. The examination commenced at 11:55 a.m. simultaneously across Sindh and was successfully concluded after a duration of three hours and 30 minutes.

He added that he visited all examination centers in Karachi during the MDCAT exams and met with Mr.Sakandar Asif Sheikh Vice chancellor of IBA University Sukkar and Secretary of Health Sindh. PM&DC officers were also present at all the centers for supervision.

He added that the provincial, divisional and district authorities including security agencies, FIA and I.B were also deputed for necessary support. IBA Sukkur authorities gave fool-proof arrangements for the smooth conduct of the test.

The President PM&DC also had a high high-powered vigilance committee meeting a day before the MDCAT examination with key stakeholders to discuss the preparations and security arrangements. Among the participants were the Secretary Health Sindh, the Secretary universities and boards, special Secretary Home department and Vice-Chancellor of IBA University sukkar and Director of examination PM&DC. The discussions focused on enhancing coordination, streamlining examination logistics, and addressing any challenges faced by candidates during the process.

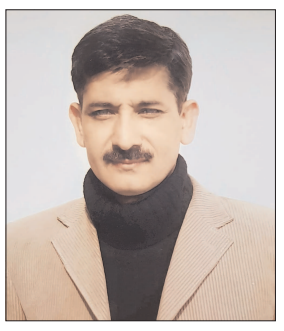
He emphasized the collaboration among provincial authorities, educational institutions, and examination bodies to maintain the maximum standards in medical education.

Prof.Taj highlighted that PM&DC is committed for ensuring uniformity and transparency in future examinations across the country. To achieve this, a dedicated committee of experts has been meeting regularly at PM&DC to develop a comprehensive plan for upcoming exams, emphasizing fairness and consistency in the evaluation process.

Combating Corruption

Ansarullah khilji

There will be hardly anyone who is not acquainted with the term "corruption" as the recent decades have witnessed unprecedented attention being paid to the phenomenon.



The term corruption is as old as is the human history and there have always been corrupt practices throughout the human history in different forms and shapes. In the recent past corruption not only has increased manifolds but has been emerging in different forms owing to human intelligence as well as technological advancement.

There are numerous definitions of the term corruption but not every definition comes up to the satisfactions of all alike nor each definition covers all the aspects of corruption. However if we go through various definitions of corruption made by different people and organisations, one can easily comprehend that corruption is a dishonest and unethical behaviour involving the misuse of powers, authority or resources for personal gains.

There might be dozens of shapes corruption can energe in, however generally it can be seen and observed in the following forms.

1: Bribery.

This refers to offering or accepting bribes to get particular decisions influenced.

2: Embazzelment.

It is simply stealing or abusing funds or assests entrusted to one's supervision or care and responsibility.

3: Nepotism.

Favouring near and dear ones in official, professional or business matters is called nepotism.

4:Cronyism.

Its also a kind of favour done to friends and associates without proper regard to their qualification and merit.

5: Extortion.

It is a kind of corruption where money, property or other services are demanded or obtained through coercion or threats.

6: Abuse of power.

It is using one's powers or authority to exploit or harm others.

General perception about corruption is that it happens in government organisations only but the fact is that confined to a particular sector or sphere of life and can occur in govt, private, non-profit, national or international organisations and business places.

Any unethical and corrupt practice has far reaching negative affects on the entire system and the most significant hazards, corruption can bring about economic instability and inequality thus resulting in poverty and class conflict.

Similarly corruption also leads to social injustice and human rights abuse whereas all these negative impacts finally lead to political instability, distrust between the state institutions and masses, posing a serious threat to democracy.

Gauging corruption.

Corruption is a complex issue and therefore gauging corruption as well is an uphill task. Since different people or groups have different modus operandi involving various secret or hidden ways and activities of corruption, therefore there is no specific mechanism that can be helpful in gauging corruption in all its manifestations however there are some ways and means used to identify and gauge the level or nature of corruption.

1: surveys.

Conducting surveys among citizens, businesses, or public officials to gather information about their experiences and perceptions of corruption can be helpful in making an assessment of the corruption in a particular environment.

2. Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI): The CPI, published by Transparency International, ranks countries based on their perceived levels of corruption.

3. Bribe Payers Index (BPI): The BPI, also published by Transparency International, measures the likelihood of companies from different countries to bribe abroad.

4. World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI): The WGI provides a comprehensive assessment of governance, including corruption control.

5. Global Corruption Barometer (GCB): The GCB, published by Transparency International, provides a global snapshot of corruption.

6. Expert assessments: Gathering information from experts, such as academics, journalists, or anti-corruption activists.

7. Financial audits and investigations: Conducting audits and investigations to detect and measure corruption in specific contexts.

8. Open data and transparency initiatives: Analyzing open data and transparency initiatives to identify potential corruption risks.

9. Whistleblower reports: Collecting and analyzing reports from whistleblowers to identify corruption cases.

10. Media and civil society reports: Monitoring media and civil society reports to identify corruption cases and trends.

These and such like more methods can provide valuable insights into the prevalence and nature of corruption. However, it's essential to note that owing to diverse nature of corruption, different methods adopted for identifying and measuring corruption may yield different results.

Curbing the menace of Corruption

Being aware of the hazardous consequence of corruption, each govt or private organisation wishes to put an end to this menace but it is an uphill task and can not be accomplished without a.multifaceted approach involving governments, civil societies,private sectors and individuals.

Govt. Initiatives.

. Government needs to ensure strengthened institutions, establish independent Anti Corruption Agencies, judiciary and legislative bodies.

. The government needs to pass and enforce robust Anti Corruotion Laws including the whistleblowers protection.

. Increased Transparency.

Imolementation of freedom of information laws, open data initiatives and transparent budgeting can help reduce corruption to a reasonable extent.

. Public Financial Management.

Strengthened Financial Management system with high standards of accounting and Auditing can also be helpful in controlling corruption.

2: Civil Societies and Community Engagement.

. Citizen's education about the negative impacts of corruption is a a must as it will promote and encourage a culture of integrity.

. Encouraging whistleblowing.

Encouraging, rewarding and protecting whistleblowers will encourage the general masses who will play their due role in combating corruption.

. supporting Anti Corruption Agencies/ organisations

Collaboration with NGOs, community groups and media outlets to promote accountability can also be helpful in bridling the monster of corruption.

. Citizens Engagement.

To put an end to corruption , citizens must be educated and engaged in decision making so that they can hold the leaders accountable.

3: Private Sector

*In order to control corruption, private sector must put Robust Anti Corruption policies and procedures.

*Due Diligence.

Reforms through background checks on employees, management, partners, suppliers and service providers.

. compliance program.

Strict compliance programs to detect and prevent corruption must be implemented.

*Reporting Corruption.

Employees be encouraged to report corruption and a robust complaint redressal system must be put in place to combate corruption.

4: Individual actions.

*Individuals must refuse to engage in corruotion.

*personal commitment to uphold integrity to refuse to be a part of the corrupt system or practices.

. supporting Anti Corruprion Efforts.

Individuals must participate in anto corruption seminars, conferences, debates and voluntarily support organisations wirking against corruption.

. Demanding Accountability.

Each individual must be aware to ask for transparency and hold leaders accountable for their deeds.

5: Technology Based Solutions.

While making a good use of the technology, governments or organizations working against corruption must utilize digital plateforms Like open data portals and budget tracking tools for increased transparency.

Similarly anti corruption software's, mobile apps and block chain technology needs to be made a good use of, for curbing the menace of corruption.

Being a religious society, religious scholars can also be very helpful in shopping peoples perception about corruption, therefore religious scholars should be engaged in a manner to highlight the problem in their sermons on regular basis wheras teachers and parents also need to play their role in educating the young generation and instilling in them the spirit of fighting all the social ills including corruption.

Bakhtawar Cadet College hosts drill competition

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Bakhtawar Cadet College for Girls (BCCG) organized a highly anticipated drill competition on 02 December 2024, which witnessed the participation of all five houses.

The event was graced by the presence of Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Shoaib Goraya PN Adjutant at Cadet College Sanghar, as the Chief Guest.

The competition commenced with the inspection of the contingents of all five houses. The Chief Guest reviewed the drill of each house, assessing their precision, discipline, and teamwork. After a keenly contested competition, Marui House emerged as the winner, while Bilqees House secured the title of Runner-Up House.

The ceremony concluded with a motivational address by the Chief Guest, Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Shoaib Goraya PN. He congratulated the winning houses and appreciated the efforts of all participants.

He emphasized the importance of discipline, teamwork, and perseverance, and encouraged the cadets to strive for excellence in all aspects of life. He also shared valuable advice on leadership, integrity, and responsibility, inspiring the young cadets to become future leaders.

Tessori meets Italian ambassador

KARACHI (PPI): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori hosted a meeting at Governor House with Italian Ambassador Ms. Marilina Armellin and Senior Advisor of the Italian Ministry of Defense, Francesco Mario Talo to boost bilateral ties.

According to a statement issued from the Governor House on Sunday, the Italian Consul General in Karachi, Dalino Giurdanella, and Deputy Head of Mission Augusto Palmieri were also present during the meeting.

Key discussions centered on enhancing bilateral trade, fostering investment, and exploring opportunities for delegation exchanges between Pakistan and Italy. The Sindh governor underscored the strong and historic ties between the two nations and invited Italian investors to tap into the potential of Sindh's diverse sectors. He highlighted Sindh's commitment to strengthening trade relations with Italy.

The Senior Advisor of the Italian Ministry of Defense expressed Italy's keen interest in various development opportunities within the province.

During their visit, the Italian delegation toured Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's historic room and praised Governor Tessori's initiatives, such as the ongoing ration drive and IT skill development courses.

In a symbolic gesture of environmental cooperation, the Italian ambassador and the senior advisor participated in a tree plantation drive at Governor House.

The visit also included a ceremonial flag-raising event featuring the national anthems of Pakistan and Italy, symbolizing the strong diplomatic bond between the two countries.

To commemorate the occasion, Ms. Marilina Armellin penned her remarks in the Governor House guestbook. Earlier, the Italian dignitaries were welcomed with a Guard of Honor, underscoring the significance of the visit.

اطلاع عام

بذریعہ نوٹس مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ مکان نمبر 231 بیکٹر نمبر 1، رقبہ 6.5 مرلہ واقع ٹیر KDA-1 کوہاٹ کے مالک عبدالنان ولد محمد رمضان سکنہ کوٹ کوہاٹ کی وفات کے بعد نادرہ سے جاری لیٹر آف ایڈمنسٹریشن کی روح سے ظاہر شدہ زاھد حسین نے مذکورہ مکان کی لیگل ھیئر ٹرانسفر اپنے نام کروانے کی درخواست گزاری ہے۔ اور بیٹل ٹرانسفر ڈیڈ نہ ہونے کی بناء پر ڈوپلیکیٹ ٹرانسفر ڈیڈ بنانا مقصود ہے۔ اگر کسی ادارے، فرم، شخص یا بینک کو کوئی اعتراض ہو یا کوئی دیگر شخص اپنے آپ کو عبدالنان ولد محمد رمضان کا وارث ظاہر کرنا چاہتا ہو یا مذکورہ لیٹر آف ایڈمنسٹریشن پر کوئی اعتراض ہو یا مکان کی بابت مختیار نامہ وغیرہ رکھتا ہو یا حق مہر میں دعویداری ہو تو 15 یوم کے اندر اندر ہاؤسنگ آفیسر UADA کوہاٹ سے تحریری طور پر بمعہ ثبوت رابطہ کریں۔ بصورت دیگر مذکورہ مکان کی ڈوپلیکیٹ ٹرانسفر ڈیڈ جاری کر کے زاھد حسین کے نام ٹرانسفر کر دی جائے گا۔ اور بعد میں کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

منجانب:۔ ڈائریکٹر اربن ایریا کوھاٹ
ڈیویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کوھاٹ۔

اطلاع عام

بذریعہ نوٹس مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ پلاٹ نمبر 85 بیکٹر نمبر E-3، رقبہ 10 مرلہ واقع ٹیر KDA-2 کوہاٹ کے مالک نواب گل ولد غنچہ گل سکنہ توغ سرائے ضلع ھنگو کی وفات کے بعد سینئر سول جج گارڈین جج کوہاٹ کی عدالت سے جاری شدہ لیٹر آف ایڈمنسٹریشن کی روح سے فرھاد گل۔ نوشاد گل اور غفار گل پسران جبکہ سائیہ خاتون اور حمیدہ خاتون دختران جبکہ ریحانہ بی بی بیوہ کی حیثیت سے ظاہر ہو چکے ہیں ریحانہ بی بی بھی فوت ہو گئی ہیں اُن کا بھی ڈیتھ سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہو چکا ہے۔ متوفی کے وارثان نے مذکورہ پلاٹ کی لیگل ھیئر ٹرانسفر کی درخواست گزاری ہے مذکورہ پلاٹ کی بابت نوشاد گل نے اپنے حصے کا مختیار نامہ عام اپنے بھائی غفار گل کو دیا ہے جو کہ سب رجسٹرار کوہاٹ کے پاس وثیقہ نمبر 458 کی بہی نمبر 4 کی جلد نمبر 293 پر مورخہ 08-10-2024 کو رجسٹرڈ ہے۔ اگر کسی ادارے، فرم، شخص یا بینک کو کوئی اعتراض ہو یا کوئی دیگر شخص اپنے آپ کو نواب گل کا وارث ظاہر کرنا چاہتا ہو یا مذکورہ مختیار نامہ پر کوئی اعتراض ہو یا کسی کے حق مہر میں ہو یا کسی بھی قسم کی دعویداری ہو تو 15 یوم کے اندر اندر ہاؤسنگ آفیسر UADA کوہاٹ سے تحریری طور پر بمعہ ثبوت رابطہ کریں۔ بصورت دیگر مذکورہ پلاٹ وارثان کے نام ٹرانسفر کر دیا جائیگا۔ اور بعد میں کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

منجانب:۔ ڈائریکٹر اربن ایریا کوھاٹ
ڈیویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کوھاٹ

Hospitals directed to release bodies of deceased patients

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a landmark decision, the Islamabad Health Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has issued policy directives instructing hospitals in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to immediately release the bodies of deceased patients, prohibiting the practice of withholding them over unpaid medical bills.

This announcement has been met with widespread public appreciation, marking a much-needed intervention in a practice that has long caused distress to grieving families.

For years, families of deceased patients in Islamabad faced the distressing situation of hospitals refusing to release the body until all medical bills were paid.

This caused immense emotional and financial strain as loved ones had to manage funeral arrangements while dealing with the pressure of outstanding charges.

Many families, already burdened by medical costs and grief, were forced to settle bills upfront before receiving the body.

This issue was particularly common in private hospitals, which often charged high advance fees.

Citizens said when patients passed unexpectedly or after prolonged illnesses, families struggled to gather the funds, risking delays in burying their loved ones.

They said the directives from IHRA's newly appointed board have brought immense relief to the public, with many taking to social media and public forums to voice their gratitude.

Haider Ali, a resident of Islamabad, shared his experience, "This decision is a blessing for families going through the toughest time of their lives."

He said, "I recently lost my father to a sudden heart attack, and I was forced to run from pillar to post to pay bills before we could bury him. It was traumatic. I am so relieved to see this change."

Advocate Imran Ali appreciating this move said, "This was long overdue. Families are already shattered by loss, and to add the financial burden of 'paying for the body' is inhumane."

He said, "I hope this new rule helps prevent this exploitation. Hospitals shouldn't use death as a business transaction."

Medical professionals, too, have expressed support for the move, with many acknowledging that it would ease the pressure on families while encouraging hospitals to adopt a more compassionate approach in such sensitive circumstances.

Professor Dr Nasir Ali, a cardiologist at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), commented on the new directives, stating, "While it's essential for hospitals to cover their operational costs, we must ensure that families are not exploited during their most vulnerable moments.

PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

OPEN TENDER NOTICES

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED BY THE FOLLOWING BASES / UNITS FOR THE SUPPLY / PURCHASE / REPAIR / OVERHAULING OF MENTIONED ITEMS.

DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI

S. NO	IT No.	Description of Stores	No of Line Item	U/I, Qty	CAT	Opening Date	Time Period for Performance of Contract	Closing + Opening Time
01	415225/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of ASU for SDR BLK-II	01	EA 29	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 08 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
02	424519/P-42	Hardware for HPC Facility	06	EA Various	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 04 weeks after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
03	424552/P-42 (Re-Tender)	Superseder Battery Charger Analyzer	01	EA 04	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
04	437004/P-43	Proc of Trend Micro Sandbox (Deep Discovery Analyzer (DDAN) License Renewal	01	EA 01	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
05	437006/P-43	Proc of SLA for LTE Sites (Core & 26 Sites)	02	EA Various	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 12 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
06	437007/P-43	Proc of Video Conference System	02	EA Various	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
07	437008/P-43	Proc of IDEVS required for Mushaf, Masroor and Minhas	01	EA 03	Pak Rs	26-12-24	Within 08 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
08	448415/P-44	Truck 3/5 Ton	01	EA 16	Pak Rs	26-12-24	As soon as possible but not later than 30 June, 2025	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
09	448416/P-44	Double Cabin	01	EA 16	Pak Rs	26-12-24	As soon as possible but not later than 30 June, 2025	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
10	448404/P-44 (Re-Tender)	B-6 Level Armoring of VIP Carrier	01	EA 06	Pak Rs	26-12-24	As per IT Documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
11	467300/P-46	Diesel Fuel (HSD) Petrol (RON 90-92) Petrol (RON 95-97) (HOBC)	03	LTR 14040000 LTR 3207494 LTR 158287	Pak Rs	26-12-24	w.e.f 01-07-25 to 30-06-28 As and when required basis	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs

Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 ADP-41 (051-9281361), **For S. No 2 to 4** ADP-42 (051-9281362), **For S. No 5 to 8** ADP-43 (Pre) (051-9527715), **For S. No 9 to 12** ADP-44 (051-9281364), **For S. No 13 to 20** ADP-46 (051-9281366)

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE

S. NO	IT NO.	Description of Stores	Amendment in Opening Date FOR	Amendment in Opening Date READ	PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
01	**415213/P-41 (Extension)**	Overhaul of IL-78 Aircraft	03-12-24	**17-12-24**	Daily "K-2" & "Pakistan Observer" Dated: 04-11-24	Opening dates extended
02	**415222/P-41 (Extension)**	Repair of XD/XF items for C-130 Aircraft	03-12-24	**17-12-24**		
03	**424556/P-42 (Extension)**	Tester Debug 1553	03-12-24	**10-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 02-12-24	Opening dates extended
04	**436996/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Antenna DME-960	03-12-24	**12-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan"Dated: 18-11-24	Opening dates extended
05	**436973/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Spares for Repair of Simulator Projectors	04-12-24	**12-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 02-12-24	Opening dates extended
06	**436974/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Hardware for Replacement of Obsolete Spares of MT Simulators	04-12-24	**12-12-24**		Opening dates extended
07	**436979/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Timing Module / High Dynamic Satellite Receiver	04-12-24	**11-12-24**		Opening dates extended
08	**436984/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Link Integration Gateway (CYG-II)	04-12-24	**11-12-24**		
09	**436991/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Spares for HZN	05-12-24	**10-12-24**		
10	**436992/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Telecom / Wired Comm System Spares for OA&M of Comm Equipment	05-12-24	**12-12-24**		Opening dates extended
11	**436993/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Spares for Life Cycle Support of JF-17 full Mission Simulator	11-12-24	**17-12-24**	Daily "Ausaf" & "The Nation" Dated: 11-11-24	Opening dates extended
12	**448408/P-44 (Extension)**	Fabrication of Base Vehicle into EOD Rapid Response Vehicle	04-12-24	**11-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 18-11-24	Opening dates extended
13	**467293/P-46 (Extension)**	Cloth Camo Combat Dress (2022)	05-12-24	**17-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 18-11-24	Opening dates extended

CANCELLATION OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE

S. NO	IT NO.	Noun	Amendment in Opening Date FOR	Amendment in Opening Date READ	PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
01	**424414/ISS/RE/P-42 (Cancellation)**	Tensile Testing Machine	19-11-24	**Cancelled**	Daily "K-2" & "Pakistan Observer" Dated: 04-11-24	Case has been cancelled
02	**424301/GTS/RE/P-42 (Cancellation)**	BEFAB Barrier Spares (HP-24 Net Assembly)	04-12-24	**Cancelled**		
03	**424333/GTS/RE/P-42 (Cancellation)**	BAK-12 Barrier Spares	04-12-24	**Cancelled**		
04	**436963/P-43 (Cancellation)**	Procurement of ILS / TACAN-453 Spares	10-12-24	**Cancelled**	Daily "Ausaf" & "The Nation" Dated: 11-11-24	Case has been cancelled

1. Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders as per the prescribed SBD and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" 'General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers' (for guidelines to participate in tenders) and 'Latest Advertisement' (for tender Invitation documents)
2. If Required ITs not found on PAF Website, concerned ADsP may be approached via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk).
3. Firms, un-registered/un-indexed with DGDP interested to participate in the competition on Earnest Money are required to provide financial capability (minimum 6 months Bank Statements) proof of go down and manufacturer / stockist, 02 photocopies of NIC of the owner in case of FOR tenders and agency agreement with OEM along with the request. Request for issuance of IT will be entertained 07 days before opening date of tender.
4. A treasury Challan of Rs 2,000/- debitable to Main Head XLVII Main Head XII Sub Head A is required to be submitted by the un-registered/un-indexed firms along with the request.
5. Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk.

NO 107 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 021-99547321

6125PK0006516 Superseder Battery Charger Scope of Work: Repair / Upgraded of Nextek Universal Battery Charger Controller Card, 120-08011-0000 LSI DME Range CKT (KTU-709 Transceiver), 5820NL-1146.3100.03 Analogue Audio Board (UPV Audio Analyzer), 5961NL-EL415- 20449308501MXC Latching Relay, KW-ML-4-214S 7 Segment Display (Multi Digit) (Fuel Flow Ind), 5962-9308501MXC EE PLD Programable Logic D, 6625PK0217401 Module (RF/1F) (Handheld Spectrum Analyzer), 6350/PK-HP-PLC01 Mini PLC Interface Board (X-Ray Baggage Scanning Machine), 6350/PK-BH-DIOT3 X-Daq Enet Diode Interface Board(X-Ray Baggage Scanning Machine), 5805NL-6001-963 Filter Block Assy (Ventilator), 6625NL-84102912 Fluorescent Tube Blue (Infant Warmer), 6625NL-1556880 Interface Board (Infant Incubator), 6625PK021799 Sys Board 50 MHZ (Infant Incubator), 6515PK0017322 DUU Board D950 (Multiparameter Monitor),6515PK0017464 Controller PCB (Infant Warmer) 5637A Switch SPDT CRT OFF (Up Front Control Panel), 6625NL-M100 Rechargeable Battery (Anesthesia Work Station),6625NL-299052 Filter, 6515PK0289418 Power- 2002 Assy PH (Ventilator),6515PK0289392 Power Supply Unit Assy (Infant Incubator), 6625NL-01.02.008.012 Drive Board Assy (Infusion Pump), 6625PK0217129 Control Board (Yag Ophthalmic Laser), 6625PK0217122 LCD, 6625PK0217128 D100 Board, 6625NL-A0101-SB01 Ultrasound Probe, 6515PK0017696 Incubator Filter (Infant Incubator), 6625PK0217060 Main Board (Anesthesia Work Station With), 6625NL-014-1-0026-ECurrent Power Amplifire (Electro Surgical Unit), 6625NL-41615-71000 Control PCB Unit (Infant Incubator), 6625NL-NU-53001 Air Regulator Assy (Ventilator), 6515PK0289361 Patient Probe (CTG Machine), H1608 IC, BT-77DBK PCB Guide Metal, 015-00084-0000 Battery Lithium, HTCC-220V Ceramic Heater Element, H1616 IC, JT1 Electrical Flight Timer, 6625PK0217408 Card Oscillator, 5805PK0017383 DC Card (AC), 110D/1ARD- R60C471K97 Metal Oxide Varistor ZNR 3-5, 5805NL/ AUTOMAG-MGT-412 PCB Magento Board (Automag) 5820NL-GPS 170 Satellite Receiver. 21BA/4120PK0007423 Air/ Cond Split 2 Ton Reversible, 21BA/4120PK0007424 Air/Cond Split 1.5 Ton Reversible, Note: - Separate technical & financial quotation is required for each single line item, Validity of offer must be 90 days, Warranty period should be clearly mentioned on quotation, For further technical information, specification and company make, model, please contact Tel phone No 021-99547321, 99547397

NO 101 ALC, PAF BASE FAISAL (LP) 021-99547040

Part No: 5820NL-6201.0979.00 Noun: RF Connector for LLC Qty: 80, Part No: 3540NL-CS-1 20052 Noun: Corrugated Sheet Pressing Machine Qty: 01, **NOTE**: - Two envelopes (01 Technical and 01 Commercial) for each line item is required with detail specification. (Picture / Diagram / Make / Manufacturer / Model / sites installation information) of above mentioned items can be collected from No 101 ALC, PAF (LP Section), Phone No: 021-99547040. Details specifications may be obtained from (LP Section) No 101 ALC

PAF BASE MINHAS (LOG) 057-9533887

Local Purchase of Machine Wire Bending, Roti Plant, {APC Smart - UPS SRV6KI Uninterruptible Power SuPP1Y (SRT6KXLI/SRT6KRMXLI INPUT 50 to 60 HZ VAC 220 to 240 HZ Max AMP/PHASE 30 OUTPUT 50 to 60 HZ VAC 220 to 240 HZ MAX AMP/PHASE 28)}, Underwater Acoustic Beacon (Dk120/90) All types of ACs (AC Split 1.5 TON Rev, AC Split 2 TON Rev) LEDs all sizes, Media converter 4 & 8 Channel, Switch 48 & 96 Port, Under Vehicle Searching System, Hydraulic Road Blocker, Hydraulic Drop Barrier, Drop Arm Barrier, One Way Barrier (Road Spike), Under Vehicle Searching Mirror, Borescope, Road Divider Cone, Mega Phone, Elbow Knee Pad, All types of Engine oil, Hydraulic oil, Differential & planetary oil, Gear oil, Transmission oil, Brake oil, Greases/Lubricants, Including Oil Eng (API CK-4 SAE 15W-40), (DIESAL CI-4 15W-40) / (AP1:CE, SAE 15W-40), OIL Eng (AP1:ILSAC, SAE 10W-40), Oil Gear AP1: GL-4, SAE 75W;90, Grease GP, Oil Steering (AFT) Dexron-ll, Oil Eng (AP1 :CC, SAE 20W-50), Oil Eng (SAE 10W-40) and Hiring of civil Transport from PAF Base Minhas to all Cities of Pakistan and all Cities of Pakistan to PAF Base Minhas, Note: Specifications/ Scope of work may be obtained from Log Sqn Minhas, Tel: 057-9533887 / 0323-9414715

PAF BASE ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505556

Solid State Disk (Ssd) 960 GB, Inrow Precision AC (L/R) , KVM Switch 16 Port With 17" LCD, 12 V DC Power Supply, 28 V DC Power Supply, 5 V DC Power Supply, XP Power Supply 115/230-24DC/2, Belt Pouch Gunmen, Tact LBV Black Gunmen, Thigh Tact Holister Gunmen (As Req), Note:- Separate Quotation (Technical and Financial) for each line item is required), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Phone No: 0323-9408714, 051-9505556, Email: Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk

PAF BASE RAFIQUI (LOG) EXT 2277

IMPRESI-ON 3000 MAH CE Battery (Ea As Req), Wood Kail (8x9x12) (CF As Req), Adhesive RTV3145 Grey CAT (Ea As Req)

NO 103 ALC PAF BASE NUR KHAN 051-952-7081

CODEXP23 Thick Petrolatum, LANOLIN(1KG) Lanolin (Kg As Req), DCEA/614 Special "F" Petrol (CN As Req), QZ11B Wax Partin Agent (Ea As Req), C200 Anti-Seizing Lubricating Varnish (BX As Req), For any query or additional Information, please contact Tele (051-952-7081 -82)

PAF BASE SHAHBAZ (LOG) 0722-670454

Engine Assembly Overhaul (ISUZU D/Cabin D-Max) (L/R) Specs: 4JJ-TC HI D-MAX 3000CC, Major Anti Corrosion Treatment of Water Bouser (Capacity 10000 Ltr), Lubricants (All Grades), Technical & commercial quotations must be packed separately and sealed properly. Specs may be obtained from Log Sqn at 0323-9439712; 0309-8925565 & Office No 0722-670454 Ext 2257

PAF COLLEGE LOWER TOPA 051-9547117

Provision of 02 Interactive LED Smart Board 86" for Class Room along with all advance Lab and Teaching Software at PAF College Lower Topa (02 Ea), Detailed specification can be collected from O i/c IT PAF College Lower Topa Murree. Tel: 051-9547117 Squadron Leader Asif Javed (Contact Timing 0900 am to 1330 pm)

NO 105 AED, PAF BASE, MALIR 021-9953-7323

Modification of Ground Equipment (Adopter Bracket Assembly for Booster) (As Req), Note: (Quotations must be inclusive of all taxes), Contact Ph No 021-9953-7323, Cell No. 0321-5074516

NO 108 AED PAF BASE NUR KHAN (LOG) 051-9527268

15962NL-581R712H01 Integrated Circuit (555 Timer IC) (TPS-43 As Req), 1338NL-3MFC-770 Flourinert, 5840NL-25MMPW-CBL Power Cable 3 Phase 4 Wire 25mm (SPADA As Req), 77A602600P1 Local Repair of Netra Spare S7-2 (RDP) (TPS-77 As Req), 1338NL-16100007128 Local Repair of Calculating Node/NDC, 1338NL-16100004205 Local Repair of Server FCC Node, 399852A1 Local Repair of Inverter Module, NA1200146AA Local Repair of Switch Ethernet-1, 1338NL-NA1200144AB 1338NL-NA1200144AB (SPADA As Req), Local Repair of AIR CONDITIONER MODEL NO 3.5 Ton NOUN 4120007020711, "Scope of Work" Complete refurbishment / overhauling of AC Plants (3.5 Ton) is required to be carried out as per following Scope of Work. Mentioned parts needs to be replaced with new one. Duration for completion of Task and warranty period is also required to be annotated please: (a) Compressor (Piston Type) (b) Condenser (c) Magnetic Contactors (d) Bearings (e) Condenser Motor (f) Mechanical Parts (Pulley, Wheels. Blower, Propeller etc.) (g) All Circuit Breakers. Switches, Sockets and Meters (h) Complete Electric Wiring (I) Body Panels (Complete Body Frame with Solid Chassis Replacement of corroded / damaged Parts) (j) Gas Charging (k) Filter Dryer (l) Service and Expansion Valve (m) Painting (Face Lifting) of Complete Assy (n) Control Transformer (RSS As Req), Detail specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn of No 108 AED, PAF Base, Nur Khan or contact on (051-9527268) during working hours

PAF BASE, MALIR (LOG) 021-99533889

LP of LCD / LED 24", 34" 42", 50", 55" and 60", LP of NVR 16 Chnl, LP of Industrial PC (Ea As Req), 4. For detail specifications, please contact Log Sqn on Tel No 021-99533889 & Mobile: 0321-8213869

PAF COLLEGE, SARGODHA (LOG) 821-4906

Local Repair of MT Vehicles (Coaches / Buses & Ambulances) BA No 31365, 31265, 31356, 8064 and 8086. Scope of work - Body work, Anti-corrosion and other Misc repair work is required, Further detail and specification can be obtained from LP Section of Log Sqn Tel No 821-4906 (As Req)

PAF BASE LAHORE (LOG) 042- 99502287

As per PPRA Rule-36(b), single stage 02 envelope sealed / tenders (Technical and Commercial in separate sealed envelopes) bearing bid validity of 90 days are invited from reputed GST registered firms for Repair of Bullet Proof Posts (Anti Corrosion treatment fresh camouflage paint, denting/painting/welding, Electrical repairing (wiring/bracket fan/exhaust fan), AC repair/Gas communication system repair, Installation of two-way communication system), controller Module (TPS-43), Repair of Toro Reel Master, Repair of Modification of Vehicle (Installation of double grooved pulley on Crew System. Interested firms are requested to collect IT documents encompassing complete scope of work/guidelines from Logistics Squadron Any additional details, as required may be sought at Tel No 042-99502287, 0323-9428715 during Working hours (0800 hrs to1500 hrs) Tender forms complete in all respect are required to be submitted at Log Sqn of PAF Base Lahore (As Req)

NO 120 ALD PAF BASE MUSHAF 048-555-2956

Noun Mono Bromo Tri Fluoro Mothane Commonly known as HALON GAS Part Nos ASTM D5632, MIL-M-12218, Material Liquid 99.6 minimum by weight

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "**www.paf.gov.pk**" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.
2. The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
3. Last date of submission of tenders: **24 DECEMBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
4. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
5. No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
6. Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
7. Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
8. Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
9. Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
10. The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.

http://www.paf.gov.pk

MDCAT retake exam conducted across Sindh

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2024 is being conducted again on Sunday across Sindh. On the directives of the Honourable Sindh High Court, Karachi the IBA University Sukkur was assigned the task to conduct the retake MDCAT exam across Sind.

The president PM&DC Prof. Dr. Rizwan Taj in a statement issued by PM&DC apprised the media that the exam was held in seven centers in five divisions including Karachi, Hyderabad, Shaheed Banazirabad, Sukkur and Larkana.

Total 38684 candidates appeared in the retake exam. He added that as the IBA University Sukkar was given the task to conduct the MDCAT retake exam, PM&DC assigned officers to observe the MDCAT retake exam at all the centers on the request of IBA University Sukkar. The examination commenced at 11:55 a.m. simultaneously across Sindh and was successfully concluded after a duration of three hours and 30 minutes.

He added that he visited all examination centers in Karachi during the MDCAT exams and met with Sakandar Asif Sheikh Vice chancellor of IBA University Sukkar and Secretary of Health Sindh. PM&DC Officers were also present at all the centers for supervision.

He added that the provincial, divisional and district authorities including security agencies, FIA and I.B were also deputed for necessary support. IBA Sukkur authorities gave fool-proof arrangements for the smooth conduct of the test.

The President PM&DC also had a high high-powered vigilance committee meeting a day before the MDCAT examination with key stakeholders to discuss the preparations and security arrangements. Among the participants were the Secretary Health Sindh, the Secretary universities and boards, special Secretary Home department and Vice-Chancellor of IBA University Sukkar and Director of examination PM&DC. The discussions focused on enhancing coordination, streamlining examination logistics, and addressing any challenges faced by candidates during the process.

He emphasized the collaboration among provincial authorities, educational institutions, and examination bodies to maintain the maximum standards in medical education.

Prof. Taj highlighted that PM&DC is committed for ensuring uniformity and transparency in future examinations across the country. To achieve this, a dedicated committee of experts has been meeting regularly at PM&DC to develop a comprehensive plan for upcoming exams, emphasizing fairness and consistency in the evaluation process.

PAKISTAN AIR FORCE
OPEN TENDER NOTICES

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED BY THE FOLLOWING BASES / UNITS FOR THE SUPPLY / PURCHASE / REPAIR / OVERHAULING OF MENTIONED ITEMS.

DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI

S. NO	IT No.	Description of Stores	No of Line Item	U/I, Qty	CAT	Opening Date	Time Period for Performance of Contract	Closing + Opening Time
01	415225/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of ASU for SDR BLK-II	01	EA 29	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 08 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
02	424519/P-42	Hardware for HPC Facility	06	EA Various	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 04 weeks after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
03	424552/P-42 (Re-Tender)	Superseder Battery Charger Analyzer	01	EA 04	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
04	437004/P-43	Proc of Trend Micro Sandbox (Deep Discovery Analyzer (DDAN) License Renewal	01	EA 01	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
05	437006/P-43	Proc of SLA for LTE Sites (Core & 26 Sites)	02	EA Various	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 12 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
06	437007/P-43	Proc of Video Conference System	02	EA Various	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
07	437008/P-43	Proc of IDEVS required for Mushaf, Masroor and Minhas	01	EA 03	Pak Rs	26-12-24	Within 08 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
08	448415/P-44	Truck 3/5 Ton	01	EA 16	Pak Rs	26-12-24	As soon as possible but not later than 30 June, 2025	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
09	448416/P-44	Double Cabin	01	EA 16	Pak Rs	26-12-24	As soon as possible but not later than 30 June, 2025	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
10	448404/P-44 (Re-Tender)	B-6 Level Armoring of VIP Carrier	01	EA 06	Pak Rs	26-12-24	As per IT Documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
11	467300/P-46	Diesel Fuel (HSD) Petrol (RON 90-92) Petrol (RON 95-97) (HOBC)	03	LTR 14040000 LTR 3207494 LTR 158287	Pak Rs	26-12-24	w.e.f 01-07-25 to 30-06-28 As and when required basis	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs

Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 ADP-41 (051-9281361), **For S. No 2 to 4** ADP-42 (051-9281362), **For S. No 5 to 8** ADP-43 (Pre) (051-9527715), **For S. No 9 to 12** ADP-44 (051-9281364), **For S. No 13 to 20** ADP-46 (051-9281366)

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE

S. NO	IT NO.	Description of Stores	Amendment in Opening Date FOR	Amendment in Opening Date READ	PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
01	**415213/P-41 (Extension)**	Overhaul of IL-78 Aircraft	03-12-24	**17-12-24**	Daily "K-2" & "Pakistan Observer" Dated: 04-11-24	Opening dates extended
02	**415222/P-41 (Extension)**	Repair of XD/XF items for C-130 Aircraft	03-12-24	**17-12-24**		
03	**424556/P-42 (Extension)**	Tester Debug 1553	03-12-24	**10-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 02-12-24	Opening dates extended
04	**436996/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Antenna DME-960	03-12-24	**12-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan"Dated: 18-11-24	Opening dates extended
05	**436973/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Spares for Repair of Simulator Projectors	04-12-24	**12-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 02-12-24	Opening dates extended
06	**436974/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Hardware for Replacement of Obsolete Spares of MT Simulators	04-12-24	**12-12-24**		Opening dates extended
07	**436979/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Timing Module / High Dynamic Satellite Receiver	04-12-24	**11-12-24**		Opening dates extended
08	**436984/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Link Integration Gateway (CYG-II)	04-12-24	**11-12-24**		
09	**436991/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Spares for HZN	05-12-24	**10-12-24**		
10	**436992/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Telecom / Wired Comm System Spares for OA&M of Comm Equipment	05-12-24	**12-12-24**		Opening dates extended
11	**436993/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Spares for Life Cycle Support of JF-17 full Mission Simulator	11-12-24	**17-12-24**	Daily "Ausaf" & "The Nation" Dated: 11-11-24	Opening dates extended
12	**448408/P-44 (Extension)**	Fabrication of Base Vehicle into EOD Rapid Response Vehicle	04-12-24	**11-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 18-11-24	Opening dates extended
13	**467293/P-46 (Extension)**	Cloth Camo Combat Dress (2022)	05-12-24	**17-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 18-11-24	Opening dates extended

CANCELLATION OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE

S. NO	IT NO.	Noun	Amendment in Opening Date FOR	Amendment in Opening Date READ	PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
01	**424414/ISS/RE/P-42 (Cancellation)**	Tensile Testing Machine	19-11-24	**Cancelled**	Daily "K-2" & "Pakistan Observer" Dated: 04-11-24	Case has been cancelled
02	**424301/GTS/RE/P-42 (Cancellation)**	BEFAB Barrier Spares (HP-24 Net Assembly)	04-12-24	**Cancelled**		
03	**424333/GTS/RE/P-42 (Cancellation)**	BAK-12 Barrier Spares	04-12-24	**Cancelled**		
04	**436963/P-43 (Cancellation)**	Procurement of ILS / TACAN-453 Spares	10-12-24	**Cancelled**	Daily "Ausaf" & "The Nation" Dated: 11-11-24	Case has been cancelled

1. Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders as per the prescribed SBD and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" 'General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers' (for guidelines to participate in tenders) and 'Latest Advertisement' (for tender Invitation documents)
2. If Required ITs not found on PAF Website, concerned ADsP may be approached via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk).
3. Firms, un-registered/un-indexed with DGDP interested to participate in the competition on Earnest Money are required to provide financial capability (minimum 6 months Bank Statements) proof of go down and manufacturer / stockist, 02 photocopies of NIC of the owner in case of FOR tenders and agency agreement with OEM along with the request. Request for issuance of IT will be entertained 07 days before opening date of tender.
4. A treasury Challan of Rs 2,000/- debitable to Main Head XLVII Main Head XII Sub Head A is required to be submitted by the un-registered/un-indexed firms along with the request.
5. Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk.

NO 107 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 021-99547321

6125PK0006516 Superseder Battery Charger Scope of Work: Repair / Upgraded of Nextek Universal Battery Charger Controller Card, 120-08011-0000 LSI DME Range CKT (KTU-709 Transceiver), 5820NL-1146.3100.03 Analogue Audio Board (UPV Audio Analyzer), 5961NL-EL415- 20449308501MXC Latching Relay, KW-ML-4-214S 7 Segment Display (Multi Digit) (Fuel Flow Ind), 5962-9308501MXC EE PLD Programable Logic D, 6625PK0217401 Module (RF/1F) (Handheld Spectrum Analyzer), 6350/PK-HP-PLC01 Mini PLC Interface Board (X-Ray Baggage Scanning Machine), 6350/PK-BH-DIOT3 X-Daq Enet Diode Interface Board(X-Ray Baggage Scanning Machine), 5805NL-6001-963 Filter Block Assy (Ventilator), 6625NL-84102912 Fluorescent Tube Blue (Infant Warmer), 6625NL-1556880 Interface Board (Infant Incubator), 6625PK021799 Sys Board 50 MHZ (Infant Incubator), 6515PK0017322 DUU Board D950 (Multiparameter Monitor),6515PK0017464 Controller PCB (Infant Warmer) 5637A Switch SPDT CRT OFF (Up Front Control Panel), 6625NL-M100 Rechargeable Battery (Anesthesia Work Station),6625NL-299052 Filter, 6515PK0289418 Power- 2002 Assy PH (Ventilator),6515PK0289392 Power Supply Unit Assy (Infant Incubator), 6625NL-01.02.008.012 Drive Board Assy (Infusion Pump), 6625PK0217129 Control Board (Yag Ophthalmic Laser), 6625PK0217122 LCD, 6625PK0217128 D100 Board, 6625NL-A0101-SB01 Ultrasound Probe, 6515PK0017696 Incubator Filter (Infant Incubator), 6625PK0217060 Main Board (Anesthesia Work Station With), 6625NL-014-1-0026-ECurrent Power Amplifire (Electro Surgical Unit), 6625NL-41615-71000 Control PCB Unit (Infant Incubator), 6625NL-NU-53001 Air Regulator Assy (Ventilator), 6515PK0289361 Patient Probe (CTG Machine), H1608 IC, BT-77DBK PCB Guide Metal, 015-00084-0000 Battery Lithium, HTCC-220V Ceramic Heater Element, H1616 IC, JT1 Electrical Flight Timer, 6625PK0217408 Card Oscillator, 5805PK0017383 DC Card (AC), 110D/1ARD- R60C471K97 Metal Oxide Varistor ZNR 3-5, 5805NL/ AUTOMAG-MGT-412 PCB Magento Board (Automag) 5820NL-GPS 170 Satellite Receiver. 21BA/4120PK0007423 Air/ Cond Split 2 Ton Reversible, 21BA/4120PK0007424 Air/Cond Split 1.5 Ton Reversible, Note: - Separate technical & financial quotation is required for each single line item, Validity of offer must be 90 days, Warranty period should be clearly mentioned on quotation, For further technical information, specification and company make, model, please contact Tel phone No 021-99547321, 99547397

NO 101 ALC, PAF BASE FAISAL (LP) 021-99547040

Part No: 5820NL-6201.0979.00 Noun: RF Connector for LLC Qty: 80, Part No: 3540NL-CS-1 20052 Noun: Corrugated Sheet Pressing Machine Qty: 01, **NOTE**: - Two envelopes (01 Technical and 01 Commercial) for each line item is required with detail specification. (Picture / Diagram / Make / Manufacturer / Model / sites installation information) of above mentioned items can be collected from No 101 ALC, PAF (LP Section), Phone No: 021-99547040. Details specifications may be obtained from (LP Section) No 101 ALC

PAF BASE MINHAS (LOG) 057-9533887

Local Purchase of Machine Wire Bending, Roti Plant, {APC Smart - UPS SRV6KI Uninterruptible Power SuPP1Y (SRT6KXLI/SRT6KRMXLI INPUT 50 to 60 HZ VAC 220 to 240 HZ Max AMP/PHASE 30 OUTPUT 50 to 60 HZ VAC 220 to 240 HZ MAX AMP/PHASE 28)}, Underwater Acoustic Beacon (Dk120/90) All types of ACs (AC Split 1.5 TON Rev, AC Split 2 TON Rev) LEDs all sizes, Media converter 4 & 8 Channel, Switch 48 & 96 Port, Under Vehicle Searching System, Hydraulic Road Blocker, Hydraulic Drop Barrier, Drop Arm Barrier, One Way Barrier (Road Spike), Under Vehicle Searching Mirror, Borescope, Road Divider Cone, Mega Phone, Elbow Knee Pad, All types of Engine oil, Hydraulic oil, Differential & planetary oil, Gear oil, Transmission oil, Brake oil, Greases/Lubricants, Including Oil Eng (API CK-4 SAE 15W-40), (DIESAL CI-4 15W-40) / (AP1:CE, SAE 15W-40), OIL Eng (AP1:ILSAC, SAE 10W-40), Oil Gear AP1: GL-4, SAE 75W;90, Grease GP, Oil Steering (AFT) Dexron-ll, Oil Eng (AP1 :CC, SAE 20W-50), Oil Eng (SAE 10W-40) and Hiring of civil Transport from PAF Base Minhas to all Cities of Pakistan and all Cities of Pakistan to PAF Base Minhas, Note: Specifications/ Scope of work may be obtained from Log Sqn Minhas, Tel: 057-9533887 / 0323-9414715

PAF BASE ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505556

Solid State Disk (Ssd) 960 GB, Inrow Precision AC (L/R) , KVM Switch 16 Port With 17" LCD, 12 V DC Power Supply, 28 V DC Power Supply, 5 V DC Power Supply, XP Power Supply 115/230-24DC/2, Belt Pouch Gunmen, Tact LBV Black Gunmen, Thigh Tact Holister Gunmen (As Req), Note:- Separate Quotation (Technical and Financial) for each line item is required), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Phone No: 0323-9408714, 051-9505556, Email: Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk

PAF BASE RAFIQUI (LOG) EXT 2277

IMPRESI-ON 3000 MAH CE Battery (Ea As Req), Wood Kail (8x9x12) (CF As Req), Adhesive RTV3145 Grey CAT (Ea As Req)

NO 103 ALC PAF BASE NUR KHAN 051-952-7081

CODEXP23 Thick Petrolatum, LANOLIN(1KG) Lanolin (Kg As Req), DCEA/614 Special "F" Petrol (CN As Req), QZ11B Wax Partin Agent (Ea As Req), C200 Anti-Seizing Lubricating Varnish (BX As Req), For any query or additional Information, please contact Tele (051-952-7081 -82)

PAF BASE SHAHBAZ (LOG) 0722-670454

Engine Assembly Overhaul (ISUZU D/Cabin D-Max) (L/R) Specs: 4JJ-TC HI D-MAX 3000CC, Major Anti Corrosion Treatment of Water Bouser (Capacity 10000 Ltr), Lubricants (All Grades), Technical & commercial quotations must be packed separately and sealed properly. Specs may be obtained from Log Sqn at 0323-9439712; 0309-8925565 & Office No 0722-670454 Ext 2257

PAF COLLEGE LOWER TOPA 051-9547117

Provision of 02 Interactive LED Smart Board 86" for Class Room along with all advance Lab and Teaching Software at PAF College Lower Topa (02 Ea), Detailed specification can be collected from O i/c IT PAF College Lower Topa Murree. Tel: 051-9547117 Squadron Leader Asif Javed (Contact Timing 0900 am to 1330 pm)

NO 105 AED, PAF BASE, MALIR 021-9953-7323

Modification of Ground Equipment (Adopter Bracket Assembly for Booster) (As Req), Note: (Quotations must be inclusive of all taxes), Contact Ph No 021-9953-7323, Cell No. 0321-5074516

NO 108 AED PAF BASE NUR KHAN (LOG) 051-9527268

15962NL-581R712H01 Integrated Circuit (555 Timer IC) (TPS-43 As Req), 1338NL-3MFC-770 Flourinert, 5840NL-25MMPW-CBL Power Cable 3 Phase 4 Wire 25mm (SPADA As Req), 77A602600P1 Local Repair of Netra Spare S7-2 (RDP) (TPS-77 As Req), 1338NL-16100007128 Local Repair of Calculating Node/NDC, 1338NL-16100004205 Local Repair of Server FCC Node, 399852A1 Local Repair of Inverter Module, NA1200146AA Local Repair of Switch Ethernet-1, 1338NL-NA1200144AB 1338NL-NA1200144AB (SPADA As Req), Local Repair of AIR CONDITIONER MODEL NO 3.5 Ton NOUN 4120007020711, "Scope of Work" Complete refurbishment / overhauling of AC Plants (3.5 Ton) is required to be carried out as per following Scope of Work. Mentioned parts needs to be replaced with new one. Duration for completion of Task and warranty period is also required to be annotated please: (a) Compressor (Piston Type) (b) Condenser (c) Magnetic Contactors (d) Bearings (e) Condenser Motor (f) Mechanical Parts (Pulley, Wheels. Blower, Propeller etc.) (g) All Circuit Breakers. Switches, Sockets and Meters (h) Complete Electric Wiring (I) Body Panels (Complete Body Frame with Solid Chassis Replacement of corroded / damaged Parts) (j) Gas Charging (k) Filter Dryer (l) Service and Expansion Valve (m) Painting (Face Lifting) of Complete Assy (n) Control Transformer (RSS As Req), Detail specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn of No 108 AED, PAF Base, Nur Khan or contact on (051-9527268) during working hours

PAF BASE, MALIR (LOG) 021-99533889

LP of LCD / LED 24", 34" 42", 50", 55" and 60", LP of NVR 16 Chnl, LP of Industrial PC (Ea As Req), 4. For detail specifications, please contact Log Sqn on Tel No 021-99533889 & Mobile: 0321-8213869

PAF COLLEGE, SARGODHA (LOG) 821-4906

Local Repair of MT Vehicles (Coaches / Buses & Ambulances) BA No 31365, 31265, 31356, 8064 and 8086. Scope of work - Body work, Anti-corrosion and other Misc repair work is required, Further detail and specification can be obtained from LP Section of Log Sqn Tel No 821-4906 (As Req)

PAF BASE LAHORE (LOG) 042- 99502287

As per PPRA Rule-36(b), single stage 02 envelope sealed / tenders (Technical and Commercial in separate sealed envelopes) bearing bid validity of 90 days are invited from reputed GST registered firms for Repair of Bullet Proof Posts (Anti Corrosion treatment fresh camouflage paint, denting/painting/welding, Electrical repairing (wiring/bracket fan/exhaust fan), AC repair/Gas communication system repair, Installation of two-way communication system), controller Module (TPS-43), Repair of Toro Reel Master, Repair of Modification of Vehicle (Installation of double grooved pulley on Crew System. Interested firms are requested to collect IT documents encompassing complete scope of work/guidelines from Logistics Squadron Any additional details, as required may be sought at Tel No 042-99502287, 0323-9428715 during Working hours (0800 hrs to1500 hrs) Tender forms complete in all respect are required to be submitted at Log Sqn of PAF Base Lahore (As Req)

NO 120 ALD PAF BASE MUSHAF 048-555-2956

Noun Mono Bromo Tri Fluoro Mothane Commonly known as HALON GAS Part Nos ASTM D5632, MIL-M-12218, Material Liquid 99.6 minimum by weight

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "**www.paf.gov.pk**" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days. 2. The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN. 3. Last date of submission of tenders: **24 DECEMBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
4. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours. 5. No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
6. Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds. 7. Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
8. Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately. 9. Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned. 10. The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.

http://www.paf.gov.pk

Punjab CM embarks on official visit to China

LAHORE (INP): The Chief Minister (CM) of Punjab Maryam Nawaz has departed to China on an eight-day official visit on Sunday.

Maryam is visiting China at the invitation of the Communist Party of China.

A high-level delegation accompanies Maryam Nawaz. During her visit, the chief minister will visit Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou during her trip from December 8 to 15.

Maryam Nawaz is the first Pakistani woman Chief Minister to undertake an official visit to China.

Her delegation includes Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Uzma Bukhari, Bilal Akbar, and Agriculture Minister Ashiq Karmani.

The visit was initiated upon an invitation from the Communist Party of China, with plans to engage with Chinese ministers, senior officials, and experts.

CM Maryam Nawaz is scheduled to participate in various meetings, events, and conferences aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and exploring opportunities for collaboration in governance, agriculture, technology, and infrastructure development.

Maryam Nawaz left Lahore from Jati Umrah to Old Airport to embark on her historic visit.

Earlier, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz officially launched the Chief Minister Punjab Free Solar Panel Scheme, aimed at providing relief from rising electricity costs to one lakh consumers in the province.

According to an official press release from CM House, the scheme is designed for electricity consumers using up to 200 units per month, enabling them to transition to solar energy without incurring any costs. Applications for the scheme can be submitted via an online portal cmsolarscheme.punjab.gov.pk or SMS, making the registration process accessible and straightforward.

Lost, renewable licences can be renewed from home

City Traffic Police Officer (CTO) Lahore Amara Athar said on Sunday that a lost or renewable licence could be renewed while staying at home.

In a statement issued here, she said that obtaining driving licence services had become easier, under the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz,

She said that citizens could renew their lost or renewable licences while staying at home. Amara said now citizens did not need to go to offices for specific license services, rather they can also renew their international licenses at home.

Citizens will now be able to get a learner license through the Punjab Police app.

PAKISTAN AIR FORCE

OPEN TENDER NOTICES

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED BY THE FOLLOWING BASES / UNITS FOR THE SUPPLY / PURCHASE / REPAIR / OVERHAULING OF MENTIONED ITEMS.

DP AIR C/O PAF BASE NUR KHAN RAWALPINDI

S. NO	IT No.	Description of Stores	No of Line Item	U/I, Qty	CAT	Opening Date	Time Period for Performance of Contract	Closing + Opening Time
01	415225/P-41 (Re-Tender)	Proc of ASU for SDR BLK-II	01	EA 29	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 08 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
02	424519/P-42	Hardware for HPC Facility	06	EA Various	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 04 weeks after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
03	424552/P-42 (Re-Tender)	Superseder Battery Charger Analyzer	01	EA 04	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 06 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
04	437004/P-43	Proc of Trend Micro Sandbox (Deep Discovery Analyzer (DDAN) License Renewal	01	EA 01	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
05	437006/P-43	Proc of SLA for LTE Sites (Core & 26 Sites)	02	EA Various	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 12 months after signing of contract	1100 Hrs 1130 Hrs
06	437007/P-43	Proc of Video Conference System	02	EA Various	Pak Rs	24-12-24	Within 03 months after signing of contract	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
07	437008/P-43	Proc of IDEVS required for Mushaf, Masroor and Minhas	01	EA 03	Pak Rs	26-12-24	Within 08 months after signing of contract	1000 Hrs 1030 Hrs
08	448415/P-44	Truck 3/5 Ton	01	EA 16	Pak Rs	26-12-24	As soon as possible but not later than 30 June, 2025	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
09	448416/P-44	Double Cabin	01	EA 16	Pak Rs	26-12-24	As soon as possible but not later than 30 June, 2025	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
10	448404/P-44 (Re-Tender)	B-6 Level Armoring of VIP Carrier	01	EA 06	Pak Rs	26-12-24	As per IT Documents	1200 Hrs 1230 Hrs
11	467300/P-46	Diesel Fuel (HSD) Petrol (RON 90-92) Petrol (RON 95-97) (HOBC)	03	LTR 14040000 LTR 3207494 LTR 158287	Pak Rs	26-12-24	w.e.f 01-07-25 to 30-06-28 As and when required basis	1030 Hrs 1100 Hrs

Contact Person / Ph No for Detail: For S. No 1 ADP-41 (051-9281361), **For S. No 2 to 4** ADP-42 (051-9281362), **For S. No 5 to 8** ADP-43 (Pre) (051-9527715), **For S. No 9 to 12** ADP-44 (051-9281364), **For S. No 13 to 20** ADP-46 (051-9281366)

CORRIGENDUM OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE

S. NO	IT NO.	Description of Stores	Amendment in Opening Date FOR	Amendment in Opening Date READ	PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
01	**415213/P-41 (Extension)**	Overhaul of IL-78 Aircraft	03-12-24	**17-12-24**	Daily "K-2" & "Pakistan Observer" Dated: 04-11-24	Opening dates extended
02	**415222/P-41 (Extension)**	Repair of XD/XF items for C-130 Aircraft	03-12-24	**17-12-24**		
03	**424556/P-42 (Extension)**	Tester Debug 1553	03-12-24	**10-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 02-12-24	Opening dates extended
04	**436996/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Antenna DME-960	03-12-24	**12-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan"Dated: 18-11-24	Opening dates extended
05	**436973/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Spares for Repair of Simulator Projectors	04-12-24	**12-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 02-12-24	Opening dates extended
06	**436974/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Hardware for Replacement of Obsolete Spares of MT Simulators	04-12-24	**12-12-24**		Opening dates extended
07	**436979/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Timing Module / High Dynamic Satellite Receiver	04-12-24	**11-12-24**		Opening dates extended
08	**436984/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Link Integration Gateway (CYG-II)	04-12-24	**11-12-24**		
09	**436991/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Spares for HZN	05-12-24	**10-12-24**		
10	**436992/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Telecom / Wired Comm System Spares for OA&M of Comm Equipment	05-12-24	**12-12-24**		Opening dates extended
11	**436993/P-43 (Extension)**	Proc of Spares for Life Cycle Support of JF-17 full Mission Simulator	11-12-24	**17-12-24**	Daily "Ausaf" & "The Nation" Dated: 11-11-24	Opening dates extended
12	**448408/P-44 (Extension)**	Fabrication of Base Vehicle into EOD Rapid Response Vehicle	04-12-24	**11-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 18-11-24	Opening dates extended
13	**467293/P-46 (Extension)**	Cloth Camo Combat Dress (2022)	05-12-24	**17-12-24**	Daily "The Express Tribune" & "Jehan Pakistan" Dated: 18-11-24	Opening dates extended

CANCELLATION OF ENTRIES PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS / PPRA WEBSITE

S. NO	IT NO.	Noun	Amendment in Opening Date FOR	Amendment in Opening Date READ	PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS	REMARKS
01	**424414/ISS/RE/P-42 (Cancellation)**	Tensile Testing Machine	19-11-24	**Cancelled**	Daily "K-2" & "Pakistan Observer" Dated: 04-11-24	Case has been cancelled
02	**424301/GTS/RE/P-42 (Cancellation)**	BEFAB Barrier Spares (HP-24 Net Assembly)	04-12-24	**Cancelled**		
03	**424333/GTS/RE/P-42 (Cancellation)**	BAK-12 Barrier Spares	04-12-24	**Cancelled**		
04	**436963/P-43 (Cancellation)**	Procurement of ILS / TACAN-453 Spares	10-12-24	**Cancelled**	Daily "Ausaf" & "The Nation" Dated: 11-11-24	Case has been cancelled

1. Instructions / Guidelines for participating in Tenders as per the prescribed SBD and complete specifications can be downloaded from PAF website i.e. www.paf.gov.pk under the heading "Media" "PAF Ads" 'General Instructions DP (Air) Suppliers' (for guidelines to participate in tenders) and 'Latest Advertisement' (for tender Invitation documents)
2. If Required ITs not found on PAF Website, concerned ADsP may be approached via request letter through e-mail address to (pa05@paf.gov.pk).
3. Firms, un-registered/un-indexed with DGDP interested to participate in the competition on Earnest Money are required to provide financial capability (minimum 6 months Bank Statements) proof of go down and manufacturer / stockist, 02 photocopies of NIC of the owner in case of FOR tenders and agency agreement with OEM along with the request. Request for issuance of IT will be entertained 07 days before opening date of tender.
4. A treasury Challan of Rs 2,000/- debitable to Main Head XLVII Main Head XII Sub Head A is required to be submitted by the un-registered/un-indexed firms along with the request.
5. Tender Notice is also available on PPRA website i.e. www.ppra.org.pk.

NO 107 AED PAF BASE FAISAL (LOG) 021-99547321

6125PK0006516 Superseder Battery Charger Scope of Work: Repair / Upgraded of Nextek Universal Battery Charger Controller Card, 120-08011-0000 LSI DME Range CKT (KTU-709 Transceiver), 5820NL-1146.3100.03 Analogue Audio Board (UPV Audio Analyzer), 5961NL-EL415- 20449308501MXC Latching Relay, KW-ML-4-214S 7 Segment Display (Multi Digit) (Fuel Flow Ind), 5962-9308501MXC EE PLD Programable Logic D, 6625PK0217401 Module (RF/1F) (Handheld Spectrum Analyzer), 6350/PK-HP-PLC01 Mini PLC Interface Board (X-Ray Baggage Scanning Machine), 6350/PK-BH-DIOT3 X-Daq Enet Diode Interface Board(X-Ray Baggage Scanning Machine), 5805NL-6001-963 Filter Block Assy (Ventilator), 6625NL-84102912 Fluorescent Tube Blue (Infant Warmer), 6625NL-1556880 Interface Board (Infant Incubator), 6625PK021799 Sys Board 50 MHZ (Infant Incubator), 6515PK0017322 DUU Board D950 (Multiparameter Monitor),6515PK0017464 Controller PCB (Infant Warmer) 5637A Switch SPDT CRT OFF (Up Front Control Panel), 6625NL-M100 Rechargeable Battery (Anesthesia Work Station),6625NL-299052 Filter, 6515PK0289418 Power- 2002 Assy PH (Ventilator),6515PK0289392 Power Supply Unit Assy (Infant Incubator), 6625NL-01.02.008.012 Drive Board Assy (Infusion Pump), 6625PK0217129 Control Board (Yag Ophthalmic Laser), 6625PK0217122 LCD, 6625PK0217128 D100 Board, 6625NL-A0101-SB01 Ultrasound Probe, 6515PK0017696 Incubator Filter (Infant Incubator), 6625PK0217060 Main Board (Anesthesia Work Station With), 6625NL-014-1-0026-ECurrent Power Amplifire (Electro Surgical Unit), 6625NL-41615-71000 Control PCB Unit (Infant Incubator), 6625NL-NU-53001 Air Regulator Assy (Ventilator), 6515PK0289361 Patient Probe (CTG Machine), H1608 IC, BT-77DBK PCB Guide Metal, 015-00084-0000 Battery Lithium, HTCC-220V Ceramic Heater Element, H1616 IC, JT1 Electrical Flight Timer, 6625PK0217408 Card Oscillator, 5805PK0017383 DC Card (AC), 110D/1ARD- R60C471K97 Metal Oxide Varistor ZNR 3-5, 5805NL/ AUTOMAG-MGT-412 PCB Magento Board (Automag) 5820NL-GPS 170 Satellite Receiver. 21BA/4120PK0007423 Air/ Cond Split 2 Ton Reversible, 21BA/4120PK0007424 Air/Cond Split 1.5 Ton Reversible, Note: - Separate technical & financial quotation is required for each single line item, Validity of offer must be 90 days, Warranty period should be clearly mentioned on quotation, For further technical information, specification and company make, model, please contact Tel phone No 021-99547321, 99547397

NO 101 ALC, PAF BASE FAISAL (LP) 021-99547040

Part No: 5820NL-6201.0979.00 Noun: RF Connector for LLC Qty: 80, Part No: 3540NL-CS-1 20052 Noun: Corrugated Sheet Pressing Machine Qty: 01, **NOTE**: - Two envelopes (01 Technical and 01 Commercial) for each line item is required with detail specification. (Picture / Diagram / Make / Manufacturer / Model / sites installation information) of above mentioned items can be collected from No 101 ALC, PAF (LP Section), Phone No: 021-99547040. Details specifications may be obtained from (LP Section) No 101 ALC

PAF BASE MINHAS (LOG) 057-9533887

Local Purchase of Machine Wire Bending, Roti Plant, {APC Smart - UPS SRV6KI Uninterruptible Power SuPP1Y (SRT6KXLI/SRT6KRMXLI INPUT 50 to 60 HZ VAC 220 to 240 HZ Max AMP/PHASE 30 OUTPUT 50 to 60 HZ VAC 220 to 240 HZ MAX AMP/PHASE 28)}, Underwater Acoustic Beacon (Dk120/90) All types of ACs (AC Split 1.5 TON Rev, AC Split 2 TON Rev) LEDs all sizes, Media converter 4 & 8 Channel, Switch 48 & 96 Port, Under Vehicle Searching System, Hydraulic Road Blocker, Hydraulic Drop Barrier, Drop Arm Barrier, One Way Barrier (Road Spike), Under Vehicle Searching Mirror, Borescope, Road Divider Cone, Mega Phone, Elbow Knee Pad, All types of Engine oil, Hydraulic oil, Differential & planetary oil, Gear oil, Transmission oil, Brake oil, Greases/Lubricants, Including Oil Eng (API CK-4 SAE 15W-40), (DIESAL CI-4 15W-40) / (AP1:CE, SAE 15W-40), OIL Eng (AP1:ILSAC, SAE 10W-40), Oil Gear AP1: GL-4, SAE 75W;90, Grease GP, Oil Steering (AFT) Dexron-ll, Oil Eng (AP1 :CC, SAE 20W-50), Oil Eng (SAE 10W-40) and Hiring of civil Transport from PAF Base Minhas to all Cities of Pakistan and all Cities of Pakistan to PAF Base Minhas, Note: Specifications/ Scope of work may be obtained from Log Sqn Minhas, Tel: 057-9533887 / 0323-9414715

PAF BASE ISLAMABAD (LOG) 051-9505556

Solid State Disk (Ssd) 960 GB, Inrow Precision AC (L/R) , KVM Switch 16 Port With 17" LCD, 12 V DC Power Supply, 28 V DC Power Supply, 5 V DC Power Supply, XP Power Supply 115/230-24DC/2, Belt Pouch Gunmen, Tact LBV Black Gunmen, Thigh Tact Holister Gunmen (As Req), Note:- Separate Quotation (Technical and Financial) for each line item is required), For details / specifications / scope of work please contact Log Sqn on Phone No: 0323-9408714, 051-9505556, Email: Lsaq05@Paf.gov.Pk

PAF BASE RAFIQUI (LOG) EXT 2277

IMPRESI-ON 3000 MAH CE Battery (Ea As Req), Wood Kail (8x9x12) (CF As Req), Adhesive RTV3145 Grey CAT (Ea As Req)

NO 103 ALC PAF BASE NUR KHAN 051-952-7081

CODEXP23 Thick Petrolatum, LANOLIN(1KG) Lanolin (Kg As Req), DCEA/614 Special "F" Petrol (CN As Req), QZ11B Wax Partin Agent (Ea As Req), C200 Anti-Seizing Lubricating Varnish (BX As Req), For any query or additional Information, please contact Tele (051-952-7081 -82)

PAF BASE SHAHBAZ (LOG) 0722-670454

Engine Assembly Overhaul (ISUZU D/Cabin D-Max) (L/R) Specs: 4JJ-TC HI D-MAX 3000CC, Major Anti Corrosion Treatment of Water Bouser (Capacity 10000 Ltr), Lubricants (All Grades), Technical & commercial quotations must be packed separately and sealed properly. Specs may be obtained from Log Sqn at 0323-9439712; 0309-8925565 & Office No 0722-670454 Ext 2257

PAF COLLEGE LOWER TOPA 051-9547117

Provision of 02 Interactive LED Smart Board 86" for Class Room along with all advance Lab and Teaching Software at PAF College Lower Topa (02 Ea), Detailed specification can be collected from O i/c IT PAF College Lower Topa Murree. Tel: 051-9547117 Squadron Leader Asif Javed (Contact Timing 0900 am to 1330 pm)

NO 105 AED, PAF BASE, MALIR 021-9953-7323

Modification of Ground Equipment (Adopter Bracket Assembly for Booster) (As Req), Note: (Quotations must be inclusive of all taxes), Contact Ph No 021-9953-7323, Cell No. 0321-5074516

NO 108 AED PAF BASE NUR KHAN (LOG) 051-9527268

15962NL-581R712H01 Integrated Circuit (555 Timer IC) (TPS-43 As Req), 1338NL-3MFC-770 Flourinert, 5840NL-25MMPW-CBL Power Cable 3 Phase 4 Wire 25mm (SPADA As Req), 77A602600P1 Local Repair of Netra Spare S7-2 (RDP) (TPS-77 As Req), 1338NL-16100007128 Local Repair of Calculating Node/NDC, 1338NL-16100004205 Local Repair of Server FCC Node, 399852A1 Local Repair of Inverter Module, NA1200146AA Local Repair of Switch Ethernet-1, 1338NL-NA1200144AB 1338NL-NA1200144AB (SPADA As Req), Local Repair of AIR CONDITIONER MODEL NO 3.5 Ton NOUN 4120007020711, "Scope of Work" Complete refurbishment / overhauling of AC Plants (3.5 Ton) is required to be carried out as per following Scope of Work. Mentioned parts needs to be replaced with new one. Duration for completion of Task and warranty period is also required to be annotated please: (a) Compressor (Piston Type) (b) Condenser (c) Magnetic Contactors (d) Bearings (e) Condenser Motor (f) Mechanical Parts (Pulley, Wheels. Blower, Propeller etc.) (g) All Circuit Breakers. Switches, Sockets and Meters (h) Complete Electric Wiring (I) Body Panels (Complete Body Frame with Solid Chassis Replacement of corroded / damaged Parts) (j) Gas Charging (k) Filter Dryer (l) Service and Expansion Valve (m) Painting (Face Lifting) of Complete Assy (n) Control Transformer (RSS As Req), Detail specifications can be obtained from Log Sqn of No 108 AED, PAF Base, Nur Khan or contact on (051-9527268) during working hours

PAF BASE, MALIR (LOG) 021-99533889

LP of LCD / LED 24", 34" 42", 50", 55" and 60", LP of NVR 16 Chnl, LP of Industrial PC (Ea As Req), 4. For detail specifications, please contact Log Sqn on Tel No 021-99533889 & Mobile: 0321-8213869

PAF COLLEGE, SARGODHA (LOG) 821-4906

Local Repair of MT Vehicles (Coaches / Buses & Ambulances) BA No 31365, 31265, 31356, 8064 and 8086. Scope of work - Body work, Anti-corrosion and other Misc repair work is required, Further detail and specification can be obtained from LP Section of Log Sqn Tel No 821-4906 (As Req)

PAF BASE LAHORE (LOG) 042- 99502287

As per PPRA Rule-36(b), single stage 02 envelope sealed / tenders (Technical and Commercial in separate sealed envelopes) bearing bid validity of 90 days are invited from reputed GST registered firms for Repair of Bullet Proof Posts (Anti Corrosion treatment fresh camouflage paint, denting/painting/welding, Electrical repairing (wiring/bracket fan/exhaust fan), AC repair/Gas communication system repair, Installation of two-way communication system), controller Module (TPS-43), Repair of Toro Reel Master, Repair of Modification of Vehicle (Installation of double grooved pulley on Crew System. Interested firms are requested to collect IT documents encompassing complete scope of work/guidelines from Logistics Squadron Any additional details, as required may be sought at Tel No 042-99502287, 0323-9428715 during Working hours (0800 hrs to1500 hrs) Tender forms complete in all respect are required to be submitted at Log Sqn of PAF Base Lahore (As Req)

NO 120 ALD PAF BASE MUSHAF 048-555-2956

Noun Mono Bromo Tri Fluoro Mothane Commonly known as HALON GAS Part Nos ASTM D5632, MIL-M-12218, Material Liquid 99.6 minimum by weight

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. General terms and conditions are mentioned in tender form (F-528A). Forms and tender notices complete details can be downloaded from PAF website "**www.paf.gov.pk**" or can be obtained from respective Bases/ Log Sqns on working days.
2. The firm must be GST and professional Tax registered having NTN.
3. Last date of submission of tenders: **24 DECEMBER, 2024 (1000 hrs)**.
4. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours.
5. No advance payment will be made and payment will be subject to acceptance of the items by user activity.
6. Officers Commanding of the mentioned Bases/ Units reserve the right to reject any part or the entire tender on technical grounds.
7. Quotations must be valid for 90 days.
8. Sales Tax as applicable must be mentioned separately.
9. Guarantee / Warranty term / period should also be mentioned.
10. The agreement will be governed by official secret act. 1923.

http://www.paf.gov.pk

Ufone 4G Zalmi Women Cricket League concludes

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Ufone 4G Presents Zalmi Women Cricket League concluded with resounding success, showcasing the immense talent and determination of women cricketers from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Organized by Peshawar Zalmi in collaboration with Ufone 4G, the league celebrated the transformative power of sports as a platform for empowerment and societal progress.

The league kicked off with an electrifying opening ceremony that united influential figures from sports and government, including Provincial Sports Minister Syed Fakhar Jahan, Provincial Education Minister Meena Khan Afridi, and Director of Cricketing Affairs Mohammad Akram. The highlight of the ceremony was the much-anticipated trophy reveal, symbolizing the spirit of competition, unity, and women's empowerment. The group stages featured thrilling performances from eight teams, with Hazara Daffodils, Peshawar Thunderbolts, Peshawar All Stars, and Mardan Mavericks emerging as the top four teams to reach the semi-finals.

The semi-finals raised the stakes even further. In a closely contested match, the Hazara Daffodils defeated Peshawar Thunderbolts by 13 runs to secure their place in the final. The second semi-final was a commanding display by the Peshawar All Stars, who overpowered the Mardan Mavericks by nine wickets, showcasing their batting and bowling prowess.

The grand final brought together the Hazara Daffodils and Peshawar All Stars in a gripping contest. The Peshawar All Stars emerged as champions, clinching the trophy with a decisive seven-wicket victory. The final match was a testament to the talent, determination, and competitive spirit of women cricketers in the region.

The league concluded with a spectacular closing ceremony, attended by prominent figures, including the Chief Guest Barrister Saif, Director of Cricketing Affairs Mohammad Akram, and Arshad Khan, Secretary to the Chief Minister.

The closing ceremony of the Ufone 4G Presents Zalmi Women Cricket League celebrated not only the victorious teams but also the exceptional individual performances that defined the tournament. Aleena Shah was named Player of the League for her all-round brilliance, consistently excelling with both bat and ball and making a significant impact on every game she played. Tehzeeb received the Best Batter award for her outstanding run-scoring abilities, showcasing consistency and skill throughout the league. Momina, with her exceptional bowling prowess, claimed the Best Bowler title, proving to be a formidable force for opposing teams. The Best Fielder accolade was awarded to Sherish Qayum, whose agility, sharp reflexes, and game-changing fielding efforts stood out in every match. Behind the stumps, Nayab demonstrated her superior wicketkeeping skills, earning her the title of Best Wicketkeeper. Seema Gul was recognized as the Emerging Player of the League for her promising talent and impactful performances that hinted at a bright future in cricket. Adding to these honors, Saira Jabeen was crowned the Icon Player of the League for her exceptional performance. These individual accolades highlighted the incredible depth of talent and dedication among the participants, further cementing the success of this groundbreaking initiative.

Aligned with UN Women's global campaign, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the initiative emphasized the role of sports in promoting gender equality and addressing societal issues. By organizing the league during this significant period, Peshawar Zalmi and Ufone 4G reaffirmed their commitment to creating a culture of respect, inclusivity, and empowerment for women and girls.

Ufone 4G has played a pivotal role in the success of the Zalmi Women Cricket League through its unwavering commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). As a key partner. By supporting this league, Ufone 4G has reinforced its dedication to fostering gender equality and promoting opportunities for women across Pakistan, aligning seamlessly with its vision for social progress.

Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's support further amplified the significance of the event, demonstrating its commitment to the development of women in sports and their role in societal progress. Through initiatives like these, the government of KP continues to play a key role in empowering women and fostering an environment where they can excel in all fields, including sports.

The Zalmi Women Cricket League holds immense significance as a groundbreaking initiative, marking the first-ever league in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and ushering in a new era for sports and extracurricular activities in the region. This league not only fosters holistic development by encouraging youth participation in extracurriculars alongside academics but also highlights the excellence of the private sector. Through innovative efforts like the Ufone 4G Presents Zalmi Women Cricket League, the Zalmi Foundation continues to lead the way in leveraging sports for social impact. This initiative not only fosters talent development and gender equity but also demonstrates how sports can transcend boundaries and inspire future generations.

Consignment of medicines, essential commodities airlifted to Kurram

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In response to the ongoing medicine shortage in Kurram district caused by road closures, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, on the special directives of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, on Sunday dispatched the first consignment of medicines and essential supplies to Parachinar through a helicopter.

A second consignment of medicines and other necessary items will also be sent to Kurram by helicopter soon, said a press release issued here adding that patients from the region would also be airlifted to Peshawar for medical treatment on the return flight.

This is not the first such effort; earlier consignments of essential medicines were also delivered to Kurram via helicopter under the Chief Minister's orders.

The CM has instructed that continuous deliveries of medicines until the reopening of the road links to the district.

Adviser for Health and Secretary for Health were personally overseeing the supply of medicines to ensure the continuous availability of essential drugs in the region.

"We will ensure the availability of essential medicines at all times," the Chief Minister emphasized, adding that the helicopter service will persist until the full restoration of road connectivity," it added

The provincial government was committed to utilizing all available resources to provide medicines and other essentials to the affected area.

Barbarians at the Gates

Faateh Nasir

MANY a regime has tried to create a fortress of suppression and indifference to secure its position against an unruly population which seeks its replacement through means of peaceful, passive, and violent resistance. Although the present regime is attempting to dissect and dissolve opposition by hook or by crook, it must realise that all roads will ultimately lead to Islamabad as they did to Rome.

History carries valuable lessons particularly in the case of Pakistani politics, whereby leaders have attempted controversial manoeuvres either to sustain their crumbling positions or to satisfy the wishes of foreign powers. Amidst cries from sane corners for suspension of hostilities between the government and rebelling factions (hard to count at this point), socio-political uncertainty appears to dominate every aspect of life in Pakistan. As of now, the Praetorian Guard has been ordered to 'maintain the peace' and the Senate along with Caesar remain behind the doors leading to their Garden of Eden.

Scenes of 'miscreants' and protesters rushing towards Islamabad bear an uncanny resemblance to the events preceding the sack of Rome under the banner of Alaric I. After decades of false promises and humiliation at the hands of the Romans, the Visigoths found common cause and sought to breach the gates of western civilisation in one of the defining and brutal moments of history. Alas, it was Alaric who brought Rome to its knees and not the turncoat caporegimes of Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaaf.

Before the trumpets are blown to herald in the age of 'freedom' one remains sceptical of the motives behind this sudden descent on Islamabad. The PTI camp finds itself wanting of robust leadership as there are so many moving parts and conflicted loyalties that it would be no surprise if this rebellion's success is limited. Their stated aim is to roll back all the events that have transpired this year, which goes against the law of politics: history cannot be undone, decisions are made to alter the future.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar's statement regarding the amplification of riots and protests during state visits picks up on a pertinent tactic deployed by the PTI. The hope is to raise international protest by dominating headlines and underscoring the importance of PTI's plight during any diplomatic exchange. To ex-Prime Minister Khan's credit, this double-edged sword was a major cause of PTI's popularity, its isolation and subsequent downfall. Interestingly, the PTI raised cries and registered severe protest against foreign intervention in domestic politics, yet it spreads its hands before foreign benefactors to secure the release of political prisoners.

Anxiousness hangs in the air of Islamabad as Premier Sharif hosts President Lukashenko as it did during the SCO Summit. Once dubbed the crown-jewel of Pakistan, known for its pleasant ambiance and captivating scenery, the capital built with love and diligence by President Ayub stands reduced to a redoubt of containers to defend against 'separatist elements.' Ideally a cessation of hostilities would have allowed residents of the city to conduct their lives as usual, however, the incessant attempts of the opposition to strangle the very epicentre of our country drew a draconian response from the Government.

Amidst bedlam and conflicting reports of the situation in Islamabad, there may be a greater strategy in play: a feigned retreat. As greater numbers from KP descend on the federal capital and the fire of dissent spreads to other parts of the country, so does the risk of inflicting casualties on security personnel. There are consistent reports of police, rangers, and army personnel being killed by protestors and several injured. It would be prudent for PTI's leadership to exercise severe restraint, as they may not want to give casus belli for further incarceration.

Similarly, in such circumstances one would expect the Prime Minister to take a moment and reflect on any diplomatic measures to quell rebellion. A humble suggestion would be to invite the leadership of the PTI and grace their genuine grievances with the dignity of consideration. As it stands, the combat width has been stretched too far given that the state is dealing with multiple separatist threats and politico-economic instability.

There is a sad yet sombre message for lovers of democracy and freedom. Whatever has been sold in the name of 'haqiqi azaadi' and justice is simply an attempt to hoist the idol of one man in the middle of Islamabad and proclaim him Khagan (Khan of Khans/King of Kings). If justice was on the mind and conscience of those leading this 'tsunami' the people of Kurram would not have been left to drown in the blood of sectarian conflict. Mr Gandapur forgets that he is not only a party member of PTI but also the Chief Minister of KP; his authority and loyalty is owed to all the people of KP and the state of Pakistan.

For those sitting in power and screaming 'barbarians at the gate!' there lay two options: release certain political prisoners who may be palatable for the state as a compromise to regroup and consolidate its resources or to double down on its stance and thwart off the protesters. While historical precedent would make the choice undoubtedly clear.

Muzammil rejects federal govt claims of reduction in inflation

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the KP Chief Minister of Finance and Interprovincial Coordination Mazzmmil Aslam responded to the current inflation reduction and said that the federal government's claim of a 3.57% weekly inflation rate hides fraud and does not reflect market rates.

The decrease in wheat prices was due to the Punjab government's martial law on procurement and transportation, which destroyed the entire agricultural economy.

Mr. Mazzmmil Aslam questions the government's logic in showing a lower electricity unit price of Rs. 6.55 when the average electricity price per unit is Rs. 70 and rest of the country average price is 35 excluding taxes.

He also criticizes the government for not reducing taxes on petrol or diesel, said that prices are down due to global price meltdown what has Prime Minister Shahabaz Sharif to do with it.

Mr. Aslam lists several items that have seen price increases, pulse gram per kilograme Rs. 385 now, Rs. 232 last year, Beef Rs. 1,020 now, Rs. 824 last year while Ghee Rs. 1,406 for 2.5 kg now Rs. 1,333 last year. Such as Potatoes Rs. 110 per kg now while Rs. 100 last year, Firewood per hole Rs. 1,270 now and Rs. 1,131 last year, LPG Rs. 3,437/cylinder now, Rs. 3,221 previous year recorded. He said that Powdered Milk 26 percent price increased while Garlic price increased 17 percent.

Advisor Finance said that the federal government should be ashamed of playing with the emotions of the poor.

He also regrets that the media is hiding inflation facts.

Young Parliamentarians Forum delegation to visit KP Assembly

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Following the success of its visits to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Assembly of Sindh, the delegation of Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF), led by MNA and YPF President Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, is scheduled to visit the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly for a two-day mission from 9th to 10th December, 2024. The delegation's primary objective is to establish a YPF chapter within the KP Assembly, focusing on youth empowerment and capacity-building for young provincial legislators. The delegation will include Members of the National Assembly and officers from the National Assembly Secretariat.During its visit, the delegation will engage in discussions with the Honorable Speaker of the KP Assembly, the Chief Minister, and the Governor of KP. These discussions will primarily address crucial issues such as countering terrorism and enhancing the security framework of the province, as well as tackling the challenges posed by climate change through sustainable development initiatives. A key focus will be on empowering youth, exploring strategies to provide young people with the necessary skills and opportunities to actively participate in governance and societal development. The delegation will also emphasize the importance of integrating young parliamentarians into legislative processes, ensuring their meaningful contributions towards addressing national challenges. In addition, the delegation will work to enhance the legislative capacity of young provincial lawmakers, enabling them to effectively participate in collective-decision making. As part of the visit, the delegation will also tour the KP Assembly Hall and receive a comprehensive briefing on its history.

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister on Anti-Corruption Musaddiq Abbasi talking during a program of Radio Pakistan.

Prof Dr. Syed Nasir Shah: leading KCD to new heights

Sajjad Muhammad Khan

Khyber College of Dentistry was established in 1964 as a small department within the Khyber Medical College Pathology Department. Its founder is Professor Dr. Ahmad Iqbal, who laid the foundation for this institution, which has grown increasingly fruitful and robust in the field of education, benefiting thousands of students to date. In this regard, the Dean of KCD Peshawar, Professor Dr. Syed Nasir Shah, expressed his gratitude in a special interview with The Frontier Post for the current Board of Governors of the MTI for their support in further strengthening the institution's quality and reputation, and praised their revolutionary and reformative measures for the betterment of the institution.

The Dean mentioned that he is also an alumnus of this institution, having graduated in 1996, and he is grateful to Allah for holding the esteemed position of Dean today.

KCD comprises seven clinical and four basic departments. The clinical departments directly interact with patients. Significant advancements have occurred in the clinical side over various periods. As everyone knows, an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery block has recently been constructed, which is a five-story building equipped with all the modern surgical facilities. Qualified and young generation staff has been appointed here.

There is also a department designated for emergency cases, referred to as Operative Dentistry. The third department consists of a pediatric ward known as the Pediatric Department. Orthodontics is another clinical department focused on the treatment of misaligned teeth. In the Periodontics Department, we have qualified trained staff for the treatment of gums.

The seven clinical departments include Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, Oral Medicine, and Radiology Departments. For patients who are born without a tooth or who have accidentally lost an ear, nose, or eye, the services of the Prosthodontics Department are utilized to address their deficiencies.

Professor Dr. Syed Nasir Shah

The Radiology Department is equipped with modern equipment, including cutting-edge X-ray machinery that features digital 3D, known as CBCT, which allows for easy examination of affected teeth from various angles. This technology is used for surgeries and implants. The modern digital X-ray machinery emits very low radiation.

In the pathology lab, blood tests are also conducted using modern techniques. Through research and investigation, students are adorned with the jewels of education, and their minds are illuminated. In this regard, various workshops are also organized.

Professor Dr. Syed Nasir Shah, a distinguished dental educator and administrator, has been at the helm of Khyber College of Dentistry (KCD) in Peshawar, Pakistan, as its Dean. With a remarkable academic background and a wealth of experience in dental education, Dr. Shah has been instrumental in shaping the institution into a center of excellence

Dr. Shah holds a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree, as well as a Fellowship of the College of Physicians and Surgeons (FCPS) in Dentistry. Additionally, he has a Master's degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, demonstrating his commitment to research and academic excellence

As Dean of KCD, Prof Dr. Shah has been driving the institution's mission to deliver outstanding dental education and nurture skilled, compassionate professionals. Under his leadership, the college has established itself as a premier dental institution in the region, offering a range of academic programs, including the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) and postgraduate programs

Prof Dr. Shah's vision for KCD is centered around excellence in dental education, research, and community service. He has been instrumental in developing the institution's research focus, fostering collaborations with national and international partners, and promoting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dean KCD is deeply committed to community service and outreach. Under his leadership, KCD has established a strong presence in the community, providing dental care services to underserved populations and promoting oral health awareness. The institution's affiliated hospital provides a range of dental services, from routine check-ups to advanced specialized procedures

Professor Dr. Syed Nasir Shah is a highly respected figure in dental education, known for his academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to community service. As Dean of Khyber College of Dentistry, he continues to inspire and motivate students, faculty, and staff to strive for excellence in dental education and research.

In brief

Contaminated drinks discarded

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) detected a soda water factory in Ghauspura producing counterfeit beverages under the names of well-known brands. The factory was manufacturing fake bottles, which were intended to be distributed to cold drink corners in the market. A special food safety team raided the facility and seized 450 litres of substandard, health-hazardous drinks. The authorities immediately destroyed the products on-site. Following the raid, the case was got registered against factory owners and one outlaw was arrested by the police. Director General PFA Asim Javed said strict legal action would be taken against those involved in such fraudulent activities.

Man kills nephew

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: A man identified as Rahim Jan 25 was killed while his nephew Muhib Jan 18 was critically injured when Rahim's brother, Hakim Jan opened indiscriminate firing on them at Bambolai village in the jurisdiction of Asbanr police station here on Sunday. Shahi Jan, father of the deceased, told police that one of his sons, Hakim Jan had killed his brother Rahim Jan and injured Muhib Jan over the property division issue. He said the accused lived with his wife at Shawa village and had come to his house to get share in property. The Asbanr police registered a case under section 302 and 324 ppc and started further investigations.

Optical fiber demanded

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Elders and social activists from the Timergara city have demanded the federal government and high ups of the Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) to lay down its optic fibre cable in the city to improve internet speed and other services. Talking to local journalists, the area elders including Muhammad Ishaq, Noor Rehman, Akbar Khan and others complained that the PTCL users were facing a number of problems in this digital era of communication. The elders said the users had fed up with the decades' old fibre cables causing internet breakdown. They said that private companies had installed the optical fiber cables, thus looting the users as the PTCL authorities had left them at the mercy of private companies. The elders said that despite repeated contacts and demands, the PTCL local officials did nothing to fix the problem. The elders said that Timergara city had become a hub of educational institutions and private hostels while the hundreds of students residing in private hostels were facing difficulty in getting online information due to slow internet speed. They demanded the concerned authorities to take notice of the problem and ensure that the PTCL optic fibre cable laid down at Timergara city.

Outlaw arrested

F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: Police have arrested an outlaw in injured condition after exchange of fire in Dhoda area on Sunday. Acting on a tip off, a police party of the city police station was dispatched to the area to arrest a dreaded outlaw Ikramullah wanted in a murder case", said a police official. He said that when policemen reached the area the outlaw came out of a shop and opened fire on them.

KURRAM: Deputy Commissioner Kurram Javedullah Mehsud inspecting the emergency response center at Baggan Degree College.

Govt to compensate the affectees of Baggan: DC

F.P. Report

KURRAM: On the directions of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Deputy Commissioner Kurram Javedullah Mehsud has visited Baggan at Lower Kurram where he made a detailed assessment of the damages caused in the recent riots in the district.

Wing Commander Lt. Col. Waseemullah Baig, Assistant Commissioner Lower Kurram Hafeezur Rahman Shah, authorities concerned of the P&D and Revenue departments and elders of the area were also present on this occasion.

Deputy Commissioner Kurram was given a detailed briefing regarding the damages caused to the houses and shops during the recent riots.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Kurram also ordered to provide food items including NFIs Kits to the affectees of Baggan on emergency basis.

While talking to the elders of Bagan area, Deputy Commissioner said that the government is seriously working to redress the losses of the affectees of Baggan on emergency basis and InshaAllah, all the losses will fully be compensated.

Likewise, he also visited the Emergency Response Center established in Baggan Degree College and directed the concerned staff to spare no moment in helping and serving the affectees and ensure timely supplies to them.

Ancient festival of Chawmoss begins at Kalash

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: The annual historical and ancient festival Chawmoss has commenced in the beautiful Kalash valleys of Bumburet, Rumbur and Birir in Chitral. Following the directives of Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, Tashfeen Haider, the tourism facilitation centers in Chitral city and Upper Dir will provide visitors with all kinds of information and facilities.

Additionally, tourism police personnel have been deployed in the valley to ensure the convenience of tourists. Moreover, enforcement inspectors from the Tourism Services Wing have been assigned duties to regularly inspect various hotels and guest-houses in the valley during the festival, ensuring top-notch services for visitors.

The 15-day-long festival in the Kalash valleys is a scene of celebration. The Chawmoss Festival is observed as a celebration of the New Year, which includes rituals like fox chasing for predictions and festivities for the coming year.

One of the key rituals is Chhooi Nari, in which young boys and girls climb steep sacred slopes, light fires, and engage in a competition to create smoke plumes. The group whose smoke rises higher is declared the winner.

Other important rituals of the Chawmoss Festival include Mandahik and Sharaberak. In the Sharaberak ritual, the Kalasha make various figures, such as a markhor, shepherds, cows, ancestral symbols and other items, using flour.

These are baked in a fire and after preparation, they are distributed among neighbors as gifts, symbolizing prosperity, celebration and the significance of the festival. During this, the Kalasha sing traditional songs to express their joy.

In the Mandahik ritual, members of the Kalash tribe light pinewood torches and observe five minutes of silence in memory of their deceased loved ones.

The unique Chawmoss Festival of the Kalash tribe will conclude on December 22. Every year, thousands of local and international tourists visit the Kalash valleys to witness and enjoy this vibrant festival.

Declamation contest on anti-corruption held

F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: The district administration and education department with the support of boy scouts association held a declamation contest on the anti-corruption theme at Government High School No. 2, in Lakki Marwat.

Students from government schools participated in the competition organized in connection with the anti-corruption week.

In their speeches, the students termed corruption detrimental for the country's economic development and prosperity of the people and stressed the need for promoting self-accountability and joint efforts to eliminate it from society.

In the declamation contest (Urdu category), Hamza Ali Abbas and Muhammad Jibran, students of Government Shaheed Muhammad Ghassan Khan Centennial Model High School got first and third positions respectively while Muhammad Asif of Government High School No. 2, Lakki stood second.

In the English category contest, Muhammad Talha of Government High School No. 2, Lakki grabbed first position followed by Nooruddin of Government Shaheed Muhammad Ghassan Khan Centennial Model High School No. 1, Lakki and Sayyad of Government Middle School Meenakhel who secured second and third positions respectively.

The results were compiled by a two member assessment committee comprising Maulana Tameezuddin and Kifayatullah Khan.

Principal Bashir Khan distributed trophies among the position holder students.

Meanwhile, the teachers and students of the Government Higher Secondary School Tajazai participated in an anti-corruption awareness walk following the directives of local deputy commissioner Zeeshan Abdullah and DEO Abdul Malik.

Led by deputy DEO Shoukat Ali Khan and Principal Khalid Wahab, the walk started from the school building and culminated at the Indus Highway point after marching on the canal road.

Fog fever

Preventive measures stressed to save animals

MULTAN (APP): Divisional Director Livestock Multan Dr Mehmood Ijaz Gorsi, accompanied by Additional Director Livestock Multan Dr Ghulam Nabi, conducted inspections at Alipur Sadat and Jalalpur Pirwala veterinary hospitals.

During his visit to Jalalpur Pirwala, Deputy Director Livestock Dr Jamshed Akhtar briefed the officials on the department's performance and the facilities being provided to livestock farmers.

Dr Gorsi emphasised the importance of preventive measures against fog fever, a potentially fatal disease that affects livestock during the winter season. He urged farmers to ensure timely vaccinations to safeguard their animals from seasonal illnesses.

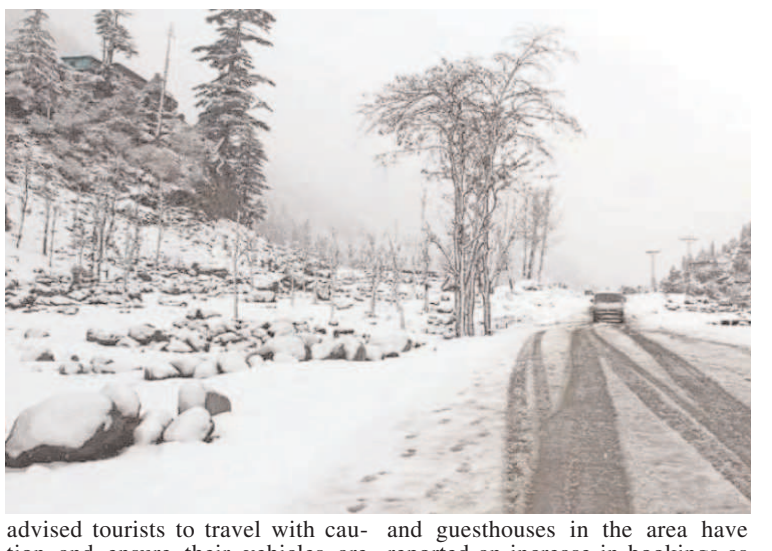
"Vaccination is crucial for protecting livestock from various diseases caused by changing weather conditions. A little negligence could cost an animal's life, which is a valuable asset to farmers," he stated. He also stressed the importance of providing proper shelter for livestock during cold and foggy conditions. He advised farmers to keep animals in covered or enclosed spaces to shield them from the harsh weather. Avoid giving animals cold water and provide fresh, slightly warm water.

Feed animals a mix of dry and green fodder exposed to sunlight, along with mineral supplements and molasses to boost immunity. "Livestock is like cash in hand for farmers. It is an asset that could support them during times of need. Protecting this valuable resource is our top priority," he added.

The divisional director encouraged women to engage in small-scale livestock businesses such as raising poultry and goats to supplement household income. He reiterated the Livestock department's commitment to offering free technical assistance and vaccination services to farmers and livestock traders.

The director urged farmers to strictly adhere to vaccination schedules and ensure the health and productivity of their animals. "By adopting modern farming practices and raising high-yielding breeds, farmers can turn livestock rearing into a profitable venture," he concluded.

Galyat receives first snowfall of winter season 2024



NATHIAGALI (APP): The scenic tourist destination of Galiyat has been blanketed with the season's first snowfall, attracting tourists from far and wide.

The snowfall has added to the region's natural beauty but has also prompted cautionary measures from the authorities.

In response to the changing weather, District Emergency Officer Muhammad Arif Khattak issued directives to place all rescue personnel on high alert. Rescue 1122 teams have been mobilized to ensure the safety and well-being of tourists and local residents during the snowfall.

A spokesperson for Rescue 1122 Abbottabad stated that emergency personnel are fully prepared to provide immediate assistance in case of road blockages, vehicle breakdowns, or any other weather-related emergencies. "Our teams are equipped to deal with all kinds of emergencies during snowfall. We urge tourists to follow safety guidelines and contact Rescue 1122 for any assistance," the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, local authorities have advised tourists to travel with caution and ensure their vehicles are equipped with snow chains. Steps are being taken to keep major roads open, but sudden heavy snowfall can cause temporary disruptions.

The snowfall has turned Galiyat into a winter wonderland, drawing crowds of tourists eager to experience the breathtaking sights. Hotels and guesthouses in the area have reported an increase in bookings as visitors flock to witness the natural spectacle.

Authorities have urged tourists and locals to remain vigilant and avoid unnecessary travel on slippery roads. Efforts are underway to ensure that emergency services remain available around the clock.

WSSCM organizes awareness walk

F.P. Report

MARDAN: To promote a corruption-free society and raise awareness, the Water and Sanitation Services Company Mardan (WSSCM) here on Sunday took out an awareness walk attended by management and staff of the company.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Shahid Khan led the walk. The participants of the walk were carrying banners with the slogan against corruption. Addressing on the occasion, CEO WSSCM Shahid Khan highlighted the importance of public awareness about the ill and serious effects of corruption.

For the transparency in the society, we have to pave the way to eliminate the menace of corruption by promoting merit and self-accountability in order to remove the major obstacle in the development of the country, he added.

He said company has adopted zero tolerance policy towards corruption. He urged the public to report any instances of corruption and financial misconduct to ensure accountability.

Shahid Khan stated that corruption is cancer which destroys societies. For which, we have to raise our voice against corruption and raise awareness at the public level.

GCWUS hosts seminar on Pakistan Navy

SIALKOT (APP): Government College Women University Sialkot (GCWUS) hosted a seminar, in collaboration with the Pakistan Navy Station Sialkot and the Directorate of Student Affairs.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the prestigious Pakistan Navy and its selection process.

The seminar held in the university auditorium was attended by Commander Ahmad Shafi, officer in-charge selection and recruitment centre Sialkot, who delivered an engaging briefing about the Pakistan Navy.

He detailed the process for students to join the Navy through short course and explained the role, challenges, and benefits of serving in the armed forces.

The seminar opened with a warm welcome from Dean Faculty of Business and Administrative Sciences Prof. Dr. Ilyas, chairperson Department of Urdu Dr. Afzaal Butt and DSA Dr. Shagufta Firdous who expressed their gratitude to the Pakistan Navy for partnering with the university.

Students showed keen interest, actively participating in the question and answer session, and displayed enthusiasm for exploring career opportunities in the Navy.

Bajaur Festival to be organized by KPCTA

F.P. Report

BAJAUR: Bajaur Festival will be held on December 14 and 15, featuring activities including cycle race, kabaddi, martial arts competitions, tableaus, traditional Attan dance, musical evenings and food stalls

Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Tourism, Culture, Archaeology and Museums, Zahid Khan has said that the government is initiating tourism and cultural activities in the merged districts to engage the youth in healthy activities. Promoting tourism in these districts and sending a positive message of peace to the world are the top priorities.

In this regard, a two-day festival will be organized in Bajaur on December 14th and 15th at the Bajaur Sports Complex in Khar.

The event will be jointly organized by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, the Tourism Authority's Merged Districts Wing, the Bajaur District Administration and the Bajaur Scouts.

The festival will include activities such as a cycling race, martial arts competitions, and kabaddi and school children's tableaus. Additionally, there will be a play land area for children, comedy skits, poetry recitals, traditional Attan dance performances, musical evenings and food stalls.

The purpose of organizing the Bajaur Festival is to promote sports and healthy activities in the merged districts, boost tourism, engage the youth in productive activities and send a positive message to the world from the province.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority and the Tourism Merged Districts Wing have previously organized various activities in merged districts including Khyber, Orakzai, Wana, Tank, South Waziristan and others. These events successfully promoted sports activities and took measures to enhance tourism in these areas.

Grand Peace Jirga demands end to violence

Shafi ullah

Swat: A grand peace jirga was held in Saidu Sharif, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on December 8, 2024, to address the growing concerns of terrorism and violence in the region.

The jirga, organized by Jamaat-e-Islami north Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, brought together representatives from various walks of life, including national and tribal elders, politicians, social organizations, lawyers, traders, and transport community members.

The jirga paid tribute to the residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, particularly those from Malakand Division, who have sacrificed their lives and property in the fight against terrorism. The jirga demanded that the government take immediate action to stop the ongoing violence and target killings in the region. They also called for the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the murders of prominent figures, including Rehan Zeb, Senator Hedyat ullah, and Jamaat-e-Islami General Secretary Sufi Hameed.

The jirga expressed strong reservations about the check posts in Malakand division and other areas, stating that they are not effective in establishing peace and order but instead humiliate the local population. They demanded that the check posts be dismantled immediately and that the security agencies take responsibility for ensuring peace and order in the region.

The jirga warned that if the government fails to restore law and order and stop target killings, they will announce a peaceful resistance movement. This movement will include a peace million march, closing all highways, including the motorway, and an Islamabad march. The jirga also plans to form a special committee to document the losses, deaths, and casualties in the region and publish the findings in a white paper.

HYDERABAD: A large number of candidates arrive to participate in tests for LUMHS and IBA.

AJK govt withdraws presidential ordinance

MUZZAFARABAD (INP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Sunday withdrawn the presidential ordinance banning peaceful protests.

According to the notification issued here, the AJK government has withdrawn the controversial presidential ordinance following successful talks between the

government and the Joint Public Action Committee (JAAC).

The development came after, a complete strike was observed in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Thursday (December 5).

Educational institutes and shops were closed on the protest call of Jammu & Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC), while transport was also suspended in the region.

Under the presidential ordinance, the government enforced 7-year jail term for the people protesting in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The committee and other civil society groups hold the view that the ordinance infringes on the people's constitutional right to peaceful assembly and expression, raising questions about the balance between maintaining public order and safeguarding civil liberties in the liberated territory.

On Tuesday, the Azad Jammu and Kas-hmir (AJK) Supreme Court suspen-ded the enforcement of 'Pea-ceful Assembly and Public Order Ordinance, 2024', while admitting two appeals against a high court ruling that had upheld the contentious law.

In May, the Awami Joint Action Committee announced to end ongoing protests in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) against soaring inflation a day after the government accepted their demands.

It is pertinent to mention here that Azad Jammu and Kashmir witnessed violent clashes between the police and activists of a rights movement amid a wheel-jam and shutter-down strike across the territory, which left at least three people dead and several others injured.

Ghana's former President Mahama wins election

ACCRA (Reuters): Ghana's former President John Dramani Mahama has staged a political comeback by winning the West African nation's presidential election after his rival Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia conceded defeat on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference from his residence, Bawumia said he had called Mahama to congratulate him, adding that Mahama's National Democratic Congress (NDC) also won the parliamentary election.

"Let me say that the data from our own internal collation of the election results indicate that former President John Dramani Mahama has won the Presidential election decisively," Bawumia said.

"The NDC has also won the parliamentary election. Even though we await final collation of a number of seats, I believe ultimately these will not change the outcome."

Bawumia said he conceded before the official results to ease tensions.

Before his concession, scuffles had been reported in several local constituency centres where results were still arriving from polling stations.

"I am making this concession speech before the official announcement by the Electoral Commission to avoid further tension and preserve the peace of our country," Bawumia said.

"It is important that the world investor community continues to believe in the peaceful and democratic character of Ghana," he added. "The people have voted for change at this time, and we respect that decision with all humility."

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA: Presidential candidate George Simion, the leader of the right wing party AUR, talks to the media during a protest and mock vigil of Romanian democracy on Sunday.

An archbishop's knock formally restores Notre Dame to life

PARIS (AP): Howling winds couldn't stop Notre Dame Cathedral 's heart from beating again.

With three resounding knocks on its doors by Paris Archbishop Laurent Ulrich, wielding a specially designed crosier carved from fire-scorched beams, the monument roared back to life Saturday evening. For the first time since a devastating blaze nearly destroyed it in 2019, the towering Gothic masterpiece reopened for worship, its rebirth marked by song, prayer, and awe beneath its soaring arches.

The ceremony, initially planned to begin on the forecourt, was moved entirely inside due to unusually fierce December winds sweeping across the Île de la Cité, flanked by the River Seine. Yet the occasion lost none of its splendor. Inside the luminous nave, choirs sang psalms, and the cathedral's mighty organ, silent for nearly five years, thundered to life in a triumphant interplay of melodies.

The restoration, a spectacular achievement in just five years for a structure that took nearly two centuries to build, is seen as a moment of triumph for French President Emmanuel Macron, who championed the ambitious timeline — and a welcome respite from his domestic political woes.

The evening's celebration, attended by 1,500 dignitaries, including President-elect Donald Trump, US first lady Jill Biden, Britain's Prince William, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, underscored Notre Dame's enduring role as both a spiritual and cultural beacon. Observers see the event as Macron's, and his intention to pivot it into a fully fledged diplomatic gathering, while highlighting France's ability to unite on the global stage despite internal political crises.

As the cathedral's largest bell, the 13-ton Emmanuel — which was not named after the French leader — tolled into the Paris night, signaling the start of the ceremony, the crowd inside Notre Dame fell into an expectant hush. Emmanuel, a legacy of King Louis XIV, had rung through centuries of French history, and its peal now resonated as a call to witness another epochal moment.

Outside the cathedral's monumental doors, Ulrich raised his fire-scarred crosier. "Brothers and sisters, let us enter now into Notre Dame," he declared. "It is she who accompanies us on our path to peace."

With the congregation of over 2,500 people watching in silence, Ulrich struck the floodlit doors, the base of his crosier reverberating against the wood. Inside, the choir answered with soaring hymns, their voices filling the nave. Illuminations on the cathedral facade heightened the drama. On the final strike, the heavy doors swung open, revealing the glowing interior of restored blond Lutetian limestone.

Adding to the ceremony's visual splendor, Ulrich and the clergy wore vibrant liturgical garments designed by French fashion designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac. Known for his signature pop-art aesthetic, Castelbajac created 2,000 colorful pieces for 700 celebrants, blending modern elements with medieval touches.

Flooded with light and song, the cathedral came alive in a moment of breathtaking spectacle. What had been a silent, soot-blackened ruin five years ago now blazed with renewed vitality, marking the culmination of a nearly $1 billion global effort to resurrect it.

Speaking inside the cathedral, Macron expressed "gratitude" Saturday to those who saved, helped, and rebuilt Notre Dame, his voice reverberating through the nave.

"I stand before you ... to express the gratitude of the French nation," he said, before voices flooded the space with song, harmonies not heard in over five years.

"Tonight, the bells of Notre Dame are ringing again. And in a moment, the organ will awaken," sending the "music of hope" cascading through the luminous interior to Parisians, France, and the world beyond, he said.

The celebration is expected to give a much-needed boost to the embattled French leader, whose prime minister was ousted this week, plunging the nation's politics into more turmoil.

Macron has called Notre Dame's reopening "a jolt of hope." Observers say he hoped the occasion would briefly silence his critics and showcase France's unity and resilience under his leadership — a rare moment of grace in a presidency now facing a grave crisis.

Inside Notre Dame, 42,000 square meters of stonework—equivalent to six soccer pitches—gleamed anew, revealing intricate carvings and luminous limestone. Above, 2,000 oak beams, nicknamed "the forest," restored the cathedral's iconic spire and roof.

The great organ, dormant for over five years, roared back to life like a slumbering giant. With its 7,952 pipes—ranging from pen-sized to torso-wide—and a renovated console featuring five keyboards, 115 stops, and 30 foot pedals, it responded to Archbishop Laurent Ulrich's command: "Wake up, organ, sacred instrument."

The first low rumble grew into a triumphant symphony as four organists pulled out the stops, weaving improvised responses to the archbishop's invocations. Eight times, Ulrich addressed the organ; eight times, its voice filled the nave with breathtaking sound.

Guests marveled at the spectacle, many capturing the moment on their phones. "It's a sense of perfection," said François Le Page of the Notre Dame Foundation, who last saw the cathedral cloaked in scaffolding in 2021. "It was somber then. Now, it's night and day."

The Rev. Andriy Morkvas, a Ukrainian priest who leads the Volodymyr Le Grand church in Paris, reflected on his first visit to Notre Dame in over a decade. "I didn't recognize it," he said. "God is very powerful; He can change things." He expressed hope that the cathedral's revival could inspire peace in his homeland, drawing strength from the presence of Ukraine's president. "I think that will have a big impact," he said. "I hope Notre Dame and Mary will help us resolve this conflict."

The reopening of Notre Dame comes at a time of profound global unrest, with wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East.

For Catholics, Notre Dame's rector said the cathedral "carries the enveloping presence of the Virgin Mary, a maternal and embracing presence."

"It is a magnificent symbol of unity," Olivier Ribadeau Dumas said. "Notre Dame is not just a French monument — it is a magnificent sign of hope."

The international range of dignitaries coming to Paris underline the cathedral's significance as a symbol of shared heritage and peace.

Canadian visitor Noelle Alexandria, who had traveled to Paris for the reopening, was struck by the cathedral's ability to inspire.

Indian defense minister visits Russia to strengthen military ties

NEW DELHI (Arab News): Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh began a three-day trip to Russia on Sunday, as New Delhi seeks to further strengthen its military cooperation with Moscow.

Russia is India's biggest crude oil supplier and the main source of its military hardware, with their bilateral ties spanning over seven decades.

During his visit, Singh is set to commission the Indian Navy's latest warship, a multi-role stealth guided missile frigate INS Tushil in Kaliningrad on Monday, alongside the Chief of the Naval Staff Adm. Dinesh K. Tripathi, the Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

He will also co-chair with his Russian counterpart, Andrey Belousov, a meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation on Tuesday.

"The two leaders will review the entire range of multi-faceted relations between the two countries in the field of defence, including military-to-military and industrial cooperation.

They will also exchange views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest," the statement read.

Singh's visit follows a series of high-level meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier this year, which includes their July meeting in Moscow.

Modi and Putin also met in Kazan in October, on the sidelines of the 2024 BRICS summit.

Putin is expected to visit India early next year, according to reports citing the Kremlin.

The Indian defense minister's visit will "symbolize" how the India-Russia partnership has continued at a time "when other states have turned against Russia," particularly since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, said Amitabh Singh, associate professor at the Center for Russian and Central Asian Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University.

"This visit is in continuation with the annual meeting that (the defense ministers) have. This becomes all the more relevant in the context of ongoing conflict in West Asia and Ukraine," he told Arab News.

New Delhi has abstained from publicly criticizing Russia over the Ukraine war and did not join the chorus of international sanctions slapped on Moscow, despite pressure from Western countries.

While India's dependence on Russian military hardware has decreased over the years as it diversified supply from other countries, Moscow still plays an important role for Indian defense needs, Singh said.

"India has not given up on Russia despite the differences and difficulties that the Russian military supplies are facing," he added.

"We cannot stop our collaboration. We want to reduce our dependence, but we can't simply shrug off our dependence on Russia."

Pope Francis appeals for US to commute death row sentences

VATICAN CITY (Reuters): Pope Francis appealed on Sunday for U.S. authorities to commute the sentences of death row prisoners, in an unusual request during his weekly Sunday prayer in St. Peter's Square.

"Today, it comes to my heart to ask all of you to pray for the prisoners in the United States who are on death row," the pontiff said. "Let's pray that their sentence would be commuted (or) changed."

Francis is a vocal advocate against the death penalty and changed the Catholic Church's teachings in 2018 to specifically call for a ban on the practice.

But the pontiff, as leader of the 1.4-billion-member Church, usually refrains from naming specific countries that continue the practice.

There are about 2,250 prisoners on death row across the U.S., according to the non-profit Death Penalty Information Center. About 40 are federal prisoners.

Some American Catholic groups have been calling on President Joe Biden to commute the federal sentences in his remaining time in office.

Who is Abu Mohammed al-Golani, the leader of the insurgency that toppled Syria's Assad?

BEIRUT (AP): Abu Mohammed al-Golani, the militant leader whose stunning insurgency toppled Syria's President Bashar Assad, has spent years working to remake his public image, renouncing longtime ties to al-Qaida and depicting himself as a champion of pluralism and tolerance. In recent days, the insurgency even dropped his nom de guerre and began referring to him by his real name, Ahmad al-Sharaa.

The extent of that transformation from jihadi extremist to would-be state builder is now put to the test.

Insurgents control capital Damascus, Assad has fled into hiding, and for the first time after 50 years of his family's iron hand, it is an open question how Syria will be governed.

Syria is home to multiple ethnic and religious communities, often pitted against each other by Assad's state and years of war. Many of them fear the possibility Sunni Islamist extremists will take over. The country is also fragmented among disparate armed factions, and foreign powers from Russia and Iran to the United States, Turkey and Israel all have their hands in the mix.

The 42-year-old al-Golani -- labeled a terrorist by the United States -- has not appeared publicly since Damascus fell early Sunday. But he and his insurgent force, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS – many of whose fighters are jihadis -- stand to be a major player.

For years, al-Golani worked to consolidate power, while bottled up in the province of Idlib in Syria's northwest corner as Assad's Iranian- and Russian-backed rule over much of the country appeared solid.

He maneuvered among extremist organizations while eliminating competitors and former allies.

He sought to polish the image of his de-facto "salvation government" that has been running Idlib to win over international governments and reassure Syria's religious and ethnic minorities. And he built ties with various tribes and other groups.

Along the way, al-Golani shed his garb as a hard-line Islamist guerrilla and put on suits for press interviews, talking of building state institutions and decentralizing power to reflect Syria's diversity.

"Syria deserves a governing system that is institutional, no one where a single ruler makes arbitrary decisions," he said in an interview with CNN last week, offering the possibility HTS would eventually be dissolved after Assad falls.

"Don't judge by words, but by actions," he said.

Al-Golani's ties to al-Qaida stretch back to 2003, when he joined extremists battling U.S. troops in Iraq. The Syrian native was detained by the U.S. military but remained in Iraq. During that time, al-Qaida usurped like-minded groups and formed the extremist Islamic State of Iraq, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

In 2011, a popular uprising against Syria's Assad triggered a brutal government crackdown and led to all-out war. Al-Golani's prominence grew when al-Baghdadi sent him to Syria to establish a branch of al-Qaida called the Nusra Front. The United States labeled the new group as a terrorist organization. That designation still remains in place and the U.S. government has put a $10 million bounty on him.

As Syria's civil war intensified in 2013, so did al-Golani's ambitions. He defied al-Baghdadi's calls to dissolve the Nusra Front and merge it with al-Qaida's operation in Iraq, to form the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS.

Al-Golani nonetheless pledged his allegiance to al-Qaida, which later disassociated itself from ISIS. The Nusra Front battled ISIS and eliminated much of its competition among the Syrian armed opposition to Assad.

In his first interview in 2014, al-Golani kept his face covered, telling a reporter for Qatari network Al-Jazeera that he rejected political talks in Geneva to end the conflict. He said his goal was to see Syria ruled under Islamic law and made clear that there was no room for the country's Alawite, Shiite, Druze and Christian minorities.

In 2016, al-Golani revealed his face to the public for the first time in a video message that announced his group was renaming itself Jabhat Fateh al-Sham -– the Syria Conquest Front -- and cutting its ties to al-Qaida.

"This new organization has no affiliation to any external entity," he said in the video, filmed wearing military garb and a turban.

The move paved the way for al-Golani to assert full control over fracturing militant groups. A year later, his alliance rebranded again as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham -– meaning Organization for Liberating Syria -- as the groups merged, consolidating al-Golani's power in northwest Syria's Idlib province.

HTS later clashed with independent Islamist militants who opposed the merger, further emboldening al-Golani and his group as the leading power in northwestern Syria, able to rule with an iron fist.

With his power consolidated, al-Golani set in motion a transformation that few could have imagined. Replacing his military garb with shirt and trousers, he began calling for religious tolerance and pluralism.

He appealed to the Druze community in Idlib, which the Nusra Front had previously targeted, and visited the families of Kurds who were killed by Turkish-backed militias.

In 2021, al-Golani had his first interview with an American journalist on PBS. Wearing a blazer, with his short hair gelled back, the now more soft-spoken HTS leader said that his group posed no threat to the West and that sanctions imposed against it were unjust.

"Yes, we have criticized Western policies," he said. "But to wage a war against the United States or Europe from Syria, that's not true. We didn't say we wanted to fight."

The Frontier Post
Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)
Founder
Bilal Shah Afridi
Chief Executive
Jalil Afridi
Managing Editor
Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.
Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001
Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, *Post Box No.* 573
E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com
Lahore Office: 0335-4026284
Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com
Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253
Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com
Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907
Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com
USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

Syria's new reality must be reckoned with

The new reality taking shape in Syria may be in its infancy but one thing is clear - this is a moment of extreme uncertainty for the country's people and the wider Middle East. The collapse of six decades of Baath Party rule injects further volatility into a part of the region already destabilised by continuing conflicts.

Syrians are processing this historic moment while some are considering the many questions thrown up by this turning point. The end of the government led by President Bashar Al Assad has been met by a great wave of emotion that is sweeping families in Syria itself and refugee and migrant communities around the world. This is understandable; too many Syrians were treated unjustly by the security apparatus of that government, with thousands forced into exile or imprisoned amid myriad reports of inhumane treatment.

Many others in Syria are apprehensive about the future, and they are right to be so. From Lebanon to Iraq and Yemen to Libya, time and again armed militias have proven that they can secure military victories. They have also proven that they often govern poorly. Speaking about Syria at IISS Manama Dialogue earlier today Dr Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the UAE President, was right when he said: "When problems get left unresolved, they get worse ... past events have shown us how important it is to support the national state."

The national state in Syria is changing rapidly and there are new centres of power in this fractured country. The main rebel group that forced Mr Al Assad's departure - Hayat Tahrir Al Sham - now faces an acid test. It claims to be fighting for a just Syria but its roots in political and religious extremism will reassure few people, especially civilians already wary of the fearsome reputation attached to certain armed factions in the opposition coalition.

The National has argued that the Syrian state must be humane, unitary and robust. The nation cannot continue as a collection of cantons under the sway of various militias and their foreign backers. Given that reality, it is incumbent upon those now on the cusp of power to be the change they claim to be - that means going beyond a mere "rebranding" and proving that they can be responsible administrators. There are signs that this may be possible.

Video has emerged of Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Al Jalali leaving his home in Damascus with rebel fighters for what could be the first sit-down meeting between the insurgency's leaders and what remains of the government. The rebels have said that Mr Al Jalali, who is regarded as a technocrat, could play a temporary supervisory role.

If the rebels can work constructively with the country's remaining institutions, thereby avoiding the mistakes seen after the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq - when the entire state and military were dismantled, leaving behind a dangerous political vacuum - then a better Syria is, perhaps, possible. But there is a formidable list of problems and potential threats to be addressed.

Decades-old wounds in Syrian society need healing. Syria's economy is broken, its currency devalued and unemployment is rife. The trade in illegal drugs has flourished for many years. Many Syrians rely on aid to survive and thousands are fleeing across the border into Lebanon, a country that has been attacked and invaded by neighbouring Israel. Potential Israeli moves into Syria would be disastrous. In addition, the UN Security Council heard three days ago that Syria's reported destruction or conversion of chemical warfare agents remains unverified.

Sudden change in Syria is here and must be reckoned with. A renewed war between opposition factions and the Kurdish-led forces in north-eastern Syria, an extremist quasi-administration in Damascus or indiscriminate revenge carried out against government loyalists would all be catastrophic for Syria. Although it is Syria's people who must decide their future, the international community must rethink its policy of disengagement and be ready to support peace and reconstruction efforts.

There must be hope that Syrians are able to take their fate into their own hands again. Now may be a moment of uncertainty, but very quickly the time will come for the serious business of restoring Syria to its rightful place as a peaceful, stable and indispensable part of the Arab world.

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

Solving the Arab world's approaching youthquake

Hafed Al-Ghwell

In the Arab world, where about two-thirds of the region's population is under the age of 30, the acuteness of the socioeconomic development challenge over the next decade cannot be understated. By 2030, consensus among key stakeholders holds that the ability of Arab countries to harness the potential of their youth will define their long-term prosperity and stability. However, with only half a decade left, that window is shrinking fast given the lack of the sort of whole-of-society transformations necessary to tap into the region's most dynamic demographic.

For most Arab youths, meanwhile, the approaching tremors transcend issues typically shoehorned as mere security concerns by the region's governments, demanding often heavy-handed anti-radicalization or counterthreat strategies. Instead, most young people are focused more on battles closer to home, such as better education outcomes, availability of jobs, affordable housing, and greater economic participation, particularly for women.

In other words, the youth bulge in Arab societies is not merely a demographic phenomenon for scholars to litigate in exhaustive research, or for policymakers and regional governments to pensively scratch their heads over given the lack of easy answers. It is the loudest call yet for a comprehensive strategic shift, a fundamental reworking of social contracts to center the most populous demographic in the Arab region's future.

Traditional approaches that focus solely on creating jobs or stabilizing demographics have proven to be just insufficient bean counting. This is typical of the woeful governance failures in the region where leaders prioritize being seen to be doing "something," while sidestepping key decisions and long-overdue reforms. Instead, the region is deeply in need of a multifaceted strategy that addresses the root causes of the systemic issues crippling full empowerment of its youth.

There is no shortage of potential solutions, even in the limited time frame that Arab world governments have to platform, debate, legislate, and implement transformational decisions. First, education and skills development are probably the most immediate need; the currently misaligned educational outcomes and labor market persistently exacerbate the issue of rampant youth unemployment — of which the Arab region has had the highest rate of youth joblessness in the world for over 25 years.

Many graduates earn degrees in oversaturated fields, making it nearly impossible to find jobs that match their education. Such a disconnect not only stifles growth but also wastes human potential, while creating unintended biases that mostly favor employment in an already bloated public sector, draining precious human capital needed to energize private sector growth. Governments should, therefore, focus on vocational training and industry partnerships to provide young people with practical skills directly applicable to the job market, enhancing their employability and aiding development.

The integration of local industries in educational planning can help create curricula that better meet current economic demands, while laying a solid foundation for the transformation of future labor markets. For effective human development, it is essential to address both educational quality and accessibility, ensuring that marginalized groups, particularly young women, receive equitable opportunities. As these reforms take shape, the collaboration between state and private sectors should be characterized by a commitment to not-for-profit education focusing on quality and inclusivity, avoiding the pitfalls of commercialization that can deepen socioeconomic divides.

Second, financial exclusion of youth in Arab economies presents both a challenge and immense opportunity for economic dynamism. In a world where the Arab region has the lowest rate of financial inclusion globally, with only 32 percent of young people having access to financial services, it becomes imperative to dismantle such barriers thwarting youth entrepreneurship. High unemployment rates compound the issue, making it vital to evolve beyond the 9 percent credit allocation to youth-led enterprises and confront regulatory barriers and high costs that stifle enthusiasm for entrepreneurship.

By cultivating a sound financial framework that encompasses microfinance and relaxed regulations, Arab nations can harness the ingenuity of millions poised to enter the labor market — a projected increase of 14 million by 2030. This approach is not only a mechanism to spur growth but also a tangible shift away from youths languishing in informal sector employment, thus charting a course toward sustainable autonomy and prosperity for young innovators eager to contribute to their economies.

Third, gender empowerment is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic economic necessity. With the workforce participation rate of women in the Arab region languishing at less than 20 percent, this potential remains grossly underutilized. Societies that invest in women see transformative benefits, including increased economic productivity and enhanced well-being for future generations. However, disparities in education continue to hinder progress. While some countries have seen improvements in enrolments, a sharp decline in female participation at higher levels reveals enduring societal barriers. Investing in women's education, ensuring their entry into formal labor markets, and supporting their entrepreneurial ambitions are necessary action steps with the power to unlock a significant "gender dividend," guaranteeing periods of sustained growth.

Fourth, reducing the Arab region's informal employment sectors is essential for achieving economic stability and growth. Informal employment, which affects around 50 percent of the workforce in non-agricultural sectors of countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia, is characterized by low wages and unstable conditions, contributing to a cycle of poverty and limited upward mobility. Formalizing these jobs through targeted legislation and incentives can significantly improve worker protections and introduce benefits such as pensions, health and social insurance, creating a secure and motivated workforce. This transition could also enhance productivity and fiscal contributions, addressing the persistent issue of skill mismatches that hobble economic growth.

Restoring dignity across all employment sectors in the Arab region is crucial for shifting societal perceptions that stigmatize manual and service jobs. Recognizing the essential role of every job, from agriculture to construction, can spark a cultural shift that values diverse career paths which also guarantee adequate protections and fair wages. Elevating all forms of labor can stimulate a more inclusive workforce, encouraging youth to embrace various professions without the fear of social exclusion.

In sum, addressing the Arab world's youth challenge should go far beyond traditional methods. It requires new approaches that encompass educational reform, financial inclusion, gender empowerment, labor market formalization, and cultural transformation. By implementing these changes, guided by on-the-ground realities, the region could create a sustainable and prosperous future, leveraging its youthful population as a driver of growth and stability.

The Arab world's approaching youthquake presents an opportunity, not a crisis — one that, if managed wisely, can yield substantial economic and social dividends for generations to come.

Many graduates earn degrees in oversaturated fields, making it nearly impossible to find jobs that match their education. Such a disconnect not only stifles growth but also wastes human potential, while creating unintended biases that mostly favor employment in an already bloated public sector, draining precious human capital needed to energize private sector growth. Governments should, therefore, focus on vocational training and industry partnerships to provide young people with practical skills directly applicable to the job market, enhancing their employability and aiding development. The integration of local industries in educational planning can help create curricula that better meet current economic demands, while laying a solid foundation for the transformation of future labor markets. For effective human development, it is essential to address both educational quality and accessibility, ensuring that marginalized groups, particularly young women, receive equitable opportunities. As these reforms take shape, the collaboration between state and private sectors should be characterized by a commitment to not-for-profit education focusing on quality and inclusivity, avoiding the pitfalls of commercialization that can deepen socioeconomic divides.

'Britain is back' as trade horizons widen

Andrew Hammond

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has been the subject of recent UK media criticism suggesting that he has spent too much time on foreign policy in his first 150 days in office. However, he hit back this week declaring that "Britain is back on the world stage" and asserting, rightly, that this could help drive a new era of domestic prosperity for the nation.

Giving the annual Lord Mayor's Banquet speech in London, a major address on foreign policy, Starmer pledged that renewed, post-Brexit UK international engagement will help drive much-needed domestic economic growth. In coming months, the UK intends to continue a series of business trade missions, including to the Middle East.

One of the biggest, potential longer-term opportunities comes with the UK's accession on Dec. 15 to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, the big trade bloc stretching from the Asia-Pacific to the Americas.

While the UK will be a clear geographical "outlier" among the agreement members, the move makes a reality of aspirations, post-Brexit, to strengthen ties with longstanding allies outside Europe — in effect, trying to create a stronger business "bridge" from Europe to the Asia-Pacific and the Americas.

The CPTPP opportunity is seen most accurately as a long-term opportunity for Britain.

The last UK government's impact assessment declared that the economic gains will be fairly small in the medium term — only around.08 percent of gross domestic product over the next decade.

However, optimists such as UK Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch, who helped promote the deal as a former UK trade and business secretary, argue that the partnership is akin to a "startup". She says that those 10-year estimates do not account for the fact that some members — for example, Vietnam — are rapidly growing in importance in global trade. She also flags that a key perk of the new deal is greater access to all CPTPP markets, including a pledge to eliminate or reduce the overwhelming majority of import charges or tariffs.

It will be some years before it is possible to know if Badenoch is proven right, or not. However, what is much surer already is that CPTPP opportunities for the UK will be heavily country and sector specific, at least to begin with in the 2020s.

One of the most significant country opportunities, in the immediate term, may well be Malaysia, the only CPTPP nation apart from Brunei with which the UK does not have an existing trade agreement. While Malaysia is not in the UK's largest, existing export destination, it is a growing market, and businesses will see some product-specific tariff and non-tariff barriers reduced as a direct result of CPTPP accession.

In terms of sectors, one of the significant opportunities might be in food and agriculture. For instance, with Malaysia and Brunei, UK manufacturers will eventually see removal of tariffs, including more-or-less complete removal on entry into force of Malaysian tariffs on a significant number of manufactured products, such as confectionary items.

UK exports to the other CPTPP members could also become significantly more competitive. In part, this is because the deal cuts tariffs on a range of products, providing more competitive access for UK importers to many ingredients and raw materials used in UK manufacturing that either are not produced domestically or not in sufficient quantities. This includes access to a tariff-free cheese export quota and grain opportunities in Canada; additional access for dairy and cereals in Japan; dairy access in Chile; and the removal of tariffs on chocolate and confectionery, plus better beef and poultry access to Mexico.

CPTPP also provides more flexibility for manufacturers to access tariff-free trade. Rules of origin are the terms and conditions that dictate if a trader is able to access a preferential tariff in a trade agreement. CPTPP includes a single set of rules that offer alternatives for businesses to those in the UK's existing trade agreements, and this may help to unlock additional opportunities for UK exporters.

On the metals and mineral resources front, it is hoped that all tariffs will eventually be eliminated on UK exports to Malaysia. There could also be opportunities in wider markets, too, including Australia, and Chile, which is part of the so-called "lithium triangle," with just under two-thirds of global reserves collectively with Argentina and Bolivia.

Another sector where there might be significant, new UK business opportunities is data flows. Joining CPTPP will help remove remaining barriers faced by UK-based companies, such as data localization requirements, ensuring data can flow between UK and CPTPP members.

CPTPP accession may also help the UK become a significantly stronger international leader in digital trade, with modern rules on data and freer access to bloc-wide services sectors.

Moreover, CPTPP accession could also help UK producers of items such as machinery and medicines — among the UK's most valuable, existing exports to the bloc — by allowing them to expand supply chains across member nations.

Taken together, Starmer is right to argue that deeper UK international engagement, including in the Middle East, Asia-Pacific and Americas, can help boost UK prosperity in the generation ahead. While the CPTPP specifically will probably not yield game-changing economic opportunities in the 2020s, it may prove to be a significant source of UK growth in the second quarter of the 21st century and potentially beyond.

One of the most significant country opportunities, in the immediate term, may well be Malaysia, the only CPTPP nation apart from Brunei with which the UK does not have an existing trade agreement. While Malaysia is not in the UK's largest, existing export destination, it is a growing market, and businesses will see some product-specific tariff and non-tariff barriers reduced as a direct result of CPTPP accession. In terms of sectors, one of the significant opportunities might be in food and agriculture. For instance, with Malaysia and Brunei, UK manufacturers will eventually see removal of tariffs, including more-or-less complete removal on entry into force of Malaysian tariffs on a significant number of manufactured products, such as confectionary items. UK exports to the other CPTPP members could also become significantly more competitive.

Peace dividend: 80 years of US-Saudi relations

Jonathan Gornall

On Feb. 14, 2025, it will be exactly 80 years since King Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia stepped aboard a US warship moored in the Suez Canal for a historic meeting with American President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Roosevelt had a great deal on his mind.

In Europe, where Soviet troops were within 60 km of Berlin, the Second World War was drawing to its bloody conclusion, but in the Far East the conflict was a long way from ending.

As he welcomed King Abdulaziz aboard the USS Quincy in Egypt's Great Bitter Lake, Roosevelt knew that in five days' time thousands of US Marines would die in a costly battle to seize the Pacific island of Iwo Jima.

The storming of the island of Okinawa, the last battle before an anticipated invasion of the Japanese home islands, would follow on April 1. This would prove even more bloody, costing the lives of 100,000 American and Japanese soldiers.

The president, who in 1942 had launched the top-secret Manhattan Project, was wrestling with an epoch-defining decision: whether to end the war by using the world's first nuclear weapons.

But in February 1945, Roosevelt, on his way back to the US from the Yalta conference of the soon-to-be-victorious Allies, made time to meet the man known in the West as Ibn Saud — the enigmatic leader who in 1932 had successfully united the tribes of Najd and Hijaz under the banner of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Roosevelt knew that, even as the Second World War was drawing to a close, in the wings a new world order was taking shape — and that Saudi Arabia was a nation that the US needed to befriend.

The president did not have long to live — in two months' time he would be dead. But the meeting with King Abdulaziz was the first step toward a close relationship between the two countries that has endured for the past eight decades.

Eighty years is a mere blink of the eye of time — there are Saudis alive today who were alive when the president met the king. Yet in that time the Kingdom has developed beyond all recognition, and its influence on the world stage has grown exponentially.

On the eve of a new year fraught with uncertainty, that influence is set to play a pivotal role in the thinking of key players, including the new US president-elect, as the Middle East seeks to turn its back on death and destruction and looks forward with hope to a future of peace and prosperity.

It was not by chance that during his first presidency President Donald Trump's first official overseas trip, in May 2017, was to Saudi Arabia. At the time the visit was portrayed in Western media as a departure from diplomatic norms, but in fact since 1974 no fewer than eight US presidents have followed Roosevelt eastward and walked on Saudi soil in recognition of the reality that the Kingdom is an influential locus of security and stability in an otherwise troubled and unstable region.

It is not yet known where President-elect Trump's travels will take him after his inauguration on Jan. 20. But what is clear is that his administration will be looking toward Saudi Arabia as a key partner in Trump's declared intention to end the war in Palestine and Lebanon swiftly.

The Americans are not alone in looking to Saudi Arabia as a vital partner in diplomacy and commerce, as the recent appearances of British Princess Beatrice at the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh and, with her sister Princess Eugenie, at the World Economic Forum meeting in the city in April testify.

The upcoming visit to the Kingdom of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is further evidence of the extent to which the polarity of the relationship between the two countries has reversed since the days when Britain rather high-handedly considered the Arabian Peninsula to be within its sphere of influence.

Eighty years ago, Roosevelt saw that the postwar world would become increasingly dependent on the emerging oil reserves of Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states.

But his meeting with King Abdulaziz in 1945 had a second purpose — to persuade the most influential leader on the Arabian Peninsula that, in the wake of the Nazi persecution of Europe's Jews, Palestine should become a Jewish homeland.

On this matter the king was adamant, and prescient.

At their meeting, with his words recorded by an American translator, the Saudi ruler had told Roosevelt that "amends should be made by the criminal, not by the innocent bystander.

"What injury have Arabs done to the Jews of Europe?" he asked. "It is the 'Christian' Germans who stole their homes and lives. Let the Germans pay."

King Abdulaziz felt so strongly that a great catastrophe was about to be unleashed on the Middle East that after their meeting he wrote to Roosevelt to press his case again.

"To install Jews from every horizon in this sacred Muslim Arab country," would be "a calamitous and infamous miscarriage of justice," he wrote in a letter dated April 30, 1945.

The Jews, he predicted, "will do wrong to the quiet and peaceful Arabs. The Heavens will split, the earth will be rent asunder, and the mountains will tremble at what the Jews claim in Palestine, both materially and spiritually."

Three years after the historic meeting on board the USS Quincy, on May 14, 1948, Zionist leader David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel, which was recognized by US President Harry S. Truman, Roosevelt's successor, that same day.

The tragic consequences of the Jewish colonial adventure, foretold by King Abdulaziz, are still with us.

It can only be hoped that in 2025 the relationship between the US and Saudi Arabia, begun 80 years ago and alive today in the affinity between Trump and a Saudi leadership committed to sovereignty for the Palestinian people, might yet yield the long overdue dividend of peace, prosperity, and justice for the Arabs of Palestine.

On the eve of a new year fraught with uncertainty, that influence is set to play a pivotal role in the thinking of key players, including the new US president-elect, as the Middle East seeks to turn its back on death and destruction and looks forward with hope to a future of peace and prosperity. It was not by chance that during his first presidency President Donald Trump's first official overseas trip, in May 2017, was to Saudi Arabia. At the time the visit was portrayed in Western media as a departure from diplomatic norms, but in fact since 1974 no fewer than eight US presidents have followed Roosevelt eastward and walked on Saudi soil in recognition of the reality that the Kingdom is an influential locus of security and stability in an otherwise troubled and unstable region.

Weaponized cyber realm could spell unimaginable doom to all

Mohamed Chebaro

Every day I look with fear at news reports of cyber security incidents of hacking, online threats and infrastructure damage — intentional or unintentional — across key regions of the world. Some are said to emanate from hostile states, others from criminal actors on behalf of states or simply committed by gangs intent on theft, blackmail or onward sale of sensitive data to be used by third parties in an increasingly dark side of the tech world and internet.

Not a single day passes without a report of another hack or attempt to steal data and penetrate key infrastructure to test vulnerability and/or to exert pressure, or to simply disrupt or sow chaos. In recent weeks, the US deputy national security advisor for cyber and emerging technology, Anne Neuberger, has confirmed that state hackers have compromised telecommunications infrastructure across the US as part of a massive espionage campaign affecting dozens of countries and a multitude of companies. This is to exploit vulnerability in their system, harvest data or simply enhance penetrability of often civilian infrastructure like telecommunication connectivity or health infrastructure, surely with the aim of using it as a weapon of coercion or maybe even war.

On this side of the Atlantic, the new UK head of the National Cyber Security Centre, Richard Horne, revealed in a report this week that enemy digital operations emanating from Russian "aggression and recklessness" and China's "highly sophisticated" digital operations have trebled.

The NCSC's annual report shows that the wide ranging danger is underestimated by the public as well as private sector. Horne calls for his country "to increase the pace to keep ahead of adversaries."

He said: "There is no room for complacency about the severity of state-led threats or the volume of the threat posed by cyber criminals," and added the "defense and resilience of critical infrastructure, supply chains, the public sector and wider economy must improve." He cites examples of hacks that affected the British library in 2023, and another incident in 2024 when state-sponsored gangs carried out ransomware attacks to disrupt the UK's health service.

But could state and regulatory bodies keep up with and control or limit those threats? And at what cost, in an age of dwindling resources and the continued blurring of lines between what could be considered private sector and sensitive state infrastructure, often built and managed by huge international corporations with government clients?

More dangerous is that such warnings often coincide with reports of serious intentional or unintentional damage affecting critical infrastructure where authorities were often unable to find sufficient proof of malicious intent.

Recently some Baltic undersea telecom fiber-optic communications cables were severed, raising suspicions of sabotage. One was an internet link between Lithuania and Sweden's Gotland Island, and the second was a cable connecting Helsinki to the German port of Rostock. Investigators could not be certain if a Chinese bulk carrier that left a Russian port was responsible, despite the Chinese authorities expressing readiness to cooperate with investigations.

Similar suspicious incidents affected that same region in 2022 and 2023 after the war in Ukraine began. Gas pipelines and undersea cables linking Finland to Estonia were damaged, in addition to the famous incident that damaged the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 undersea pipelines, used to pump gas to Germany, in September 2022.

All the above incidents, exposing the vulnerabilities of the western world, have been hard to pin on one party, along with other specific acts of sabotage. But there are inferences and circumstantial information that could have come from the pages of a spy thriller.

Questions should be posed about whether we are seeing yet another form of warfare developing, and whether or not nations are simply sleepwalking towards the next theaters of confrontation, or even doom for all. Could those committing hostile acts simply not exploit technological loopholes to attack countries and exert maximum pressure for geopolitical gains?

Consequently, events like those must concentrate minds, efforts and will to design and enforce a form of accountability, or to update existing guardrails nationally and internationally, or simply agree to new conventions that could spare those vital — mainly civilian — infrastructures, and push all to abide by international laws.

This is especially needed if there remains a consensus among countries and political leadership that our interconnected societies and open economies are still relevant. We live in a world that still benefits from the advantages of open skies and interlinked connectivity that delivers dividends for nearly everyone despite geostrategic shifts that rise and fall, resulting in changing priorities and competition over ever-shrinking resources.

The world should be able to conclude that the tech realm has had tremendous benefits for all and that digital technology, despite its many advantages, has innumerable downsides. Cell phones enable location tracking that erodes privacy. Data can be manipulated and destroyed. Mechanical systems can be hijacked by those with malicious intent who find loopholes in the many layers of digital defenses.

But as these technologies have become essential in our day-to-day lives and continue to boost economic growth, they remain vital for societal productivity, allowing all to access information at an unprecedented scale.

Should reason therefore not prevail to limit the intrusion and weaponization of those systems for the safety of all? There is a need to neutralize the threats to digital services, tools, and infrastructure through global governance. After all, these are crucial for mankind and its continued existence and prosperity, despite them being attractive soft targets.

Consequently, events like those must concentrate minds, efforts and will to design and enforce a form of accountability, or to update existing guardrails nationally and internationally, or simply agree to new conventions that could spare those vital — mainly civilian — infrastructures, and push all to abide by international laws. This is especially needed if there remains a consensus among countries and political leadership that our interconnected societies and open economies are still relevant. We live in a world that still benefits from the advantages of open skies and interlinked connectivity that delivers dividends for nearly everyone despite geostrategic shifts that rise and fall, resulting in changing priorities and competition over ever-shrinking resources. The world should be able to conclude that the tech realm has had tremendous benefits for all and that digital technology, despite its many advantages, has innumerable downsides. Cell phones enable location tracking that erodes privacy. Data can be manipulated and destroyed. Mechanical systems can be hijacked by those with malicious intent who find loopholes in the many layers of digital defenses.

Seaweed as a workhorse of the regenerative blue economy

Carlos Duarte

As Saudi Arabia positions itself as a leader in the regenerative blue economy, combining sea-based activities with sustainable development, all eyes are turning to a long-overlooked resource: seaweed.

Seaweed represents a group of about 10,000 photosynthetic multicellular species that grow in the lighted zone of the ocean, mostly attached to the seafloor.

While it has provided economic and cultural benefits to Asia-Pacific nations for millennia, most people around the world, including in Saudi Arabia, are only aware of seaweed as an ingredient in sushi or miso soup.

As an indicator of this huge awareness gap, the first legal code governing the deployment of algal farms in Japan actually dates from the times of Prophet Muhammad.

In the 21st century, seaweed is emerging as a valuable commodity for sustainable development, yet there remains massive untapped potential.

Every hectare of ocean can support seaweed farming, with the area that can be farmed sustainably estimated at 48 million sq. km, matching the global land area appropriated for agriculture.

Seaweed farming is, within that ceiling, a regenerative crop, as it removes excess nutrients and carbon dioxide from seawater and provides habitat for marine life, contributing to water quality while mitigating climate change.

Seaweed products are healthy for consumers and are climate-positive, carrying a near-zero water footprint, and a zero-chemical footprint, as synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are not used in this industry.

Seaweed is rising as the Swiss army knife of marine biotechnology. Crops can be processed to yield nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, high-value molecules, polymers displacing synthetic ones, biochar and biofuels.

All these products can be produced concurrently using biorefinery approaches, with their combined value potentially multiplying by at least 50-fold the value per tonne compared to conventional single-product uses. As a result, we are witnessing an algal revolution.

Saudi Arabia's aquaculture program under the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture includes seaweed farming, while Red Sea Global is exploring the potential of this regenerative marine crop.

Research led by the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology has identified a range of promising compounds for pharma, which we named Thuwalallenes, from the Red Sea algae Laurencia.

The Red Sea seaweed Asparagopsis is making headlines as a global climate solution.

Feeding one spoonful of dried Asparagopsis to cows and other ruminants every other day has been found to greatly reduce methane production — something which accounts for 18 percent of global greenhouse gas emission.

Hence, a Red Sea seaweed farming industry can also be a tool to fight climate change at scale. This can be supported by the more than 200 species identified in the Red Sea, of which about 10 percent are unique to the region.

The blue economy of the Red Sea is open for business with huge investment opportunities. This includes regenerative tourism, led globally by Red Sea Global, nutrition, cosmetics, technology and energy.

Seaweed farming can contribute to many of these pillars, as a superfood, a source of material for biotechnology, biofuels, and, although historically overlooked, an intrinsic part of the natural capital of Saudi Arabia.

Seaweed products are healthy for consumers and are climate-positive, carrying a near-zero water footprint, and a zero-chemical footprint, as synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are not used in this industry. Seaweed is rising as the Swiss army knife of marine biotechnology. Crops can be processed to yield nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, high-value molecules, polymers displacing synthetic ones, biochar and biofuels. All these products can be produced concurrently using biorefinery approaches, with their combined value potentially multiplying by at least 50-fold the value per tonne compared to conventional single-product uses. As a result, we are witnessing an algal revolution.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impact on nuclear proliferation

Luke Coffey

Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has led to numerous unintended global consequences.

Among these are heightened concerns about food insecurity, especially in vulnerable regions, and an acute energy crisis in Europe, which is only now being addressed through a complete restructuring of the continent's energy imports. Economic uncertainty and inflation have surged, particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

However, one consequence that has escaped widespread discussion is the impact on efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation.

To understand this issue, it is essential to examine the recent history of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, 15 newly independent states emerged, three of which —Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus — found themselves in possession of sizable numbers of Soviet nuclear weapons. While Kazakhstan and Belarus quickly transferred control of their nuclear arsenals to Moscow, Ukraine's situation was different.

At the time, Ukraine unexpectedly became the world's third-largest nuclear power. This triggered an internal debate about the country's nuclear future. On the one hand, many of these weapons were nearing the end of their operational life, and Ukraine lacked the resources to modernize and maintain them. On the other hand, there was significant support for retaining a nuclear deterrent to ensure the nation's security and defense.

Ultimately, after significant international pressure, Ukraine agreed to relinquish all its inherited nuclear weapons in exchange for substantial economic support and security guarantees from Russia, the US and the UK. This agreement culminated in the signing of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances on Dec. 5, 1994.

This week marks the 30th anniversary of the agreement. According to the memorandum, Russia, the UK and the US agreed to "reaffirm their obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, and that none of their weapons will ever be used against Ukraine except in self-defense or otherwise in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations."

However, as time went on, the Budapest Memorandum became fraught with ambiguities. It meant different things to different parties. Since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Ukrainians have accused their Western partners of failing to honor the memorandum's security guarantees.

From the US perspective, the Budapest Memorandum was a memorandum — not a legally binding treaty. For the US, obligations under such agreements require Senate ratification to carry the force of law. While the US and UK argue that it is Russia, not them, that has violated the memorandum, this distinction remains a sore point for Ukraine.

This week, during a NATO foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha held up the country's original copy of the Budapest Memorandum, as a symbolic reminder to the world of the commitments made three decades ago.

In light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, three significant consequences for global nuclear nonproliferation efforts have emerged.

First, no country currently in possession of nuclear weapons — or close to developing them — will willingly give them up. Ukraine's experience has underscored the risks of disarmament. Had Ukraine retained even a limited nuclear deterrent, it is unlikely that Russia would have invaded in 2014 or 2022. This lesson will not be lost on other countries. States with nuclear ambitions will be emboldened to develop and maintain their arsenals, making global nuclear disarmament a distant goal.

Secondly, the war in Ukraine has inadvertently strengthened the nuclear capabilities of Iran and North Korea. Facing unexpected setbacks in its campaign, Russia has relied on material and manpower support from these allies. North Korea, for example, has provided Russia with artillery shells and ballistic missiles. Recent reports even suggest North Korea has sent thousands of soldiers to fight alongside Russian forces.

This support has not come without a price. It is widely suspected that Russia has offered nuclear or missile technology in exchange. Speaking in Brussels, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte warned that "there's every reason to believe that nuclear and missile technology is flowing into North Korea."

Finally, the possibility of Ukraine pursuing a nuclear weapons program cannot be dismissed. With trust in the Budapest Memorandum shattered and the prospect of NATO membership — and its accompanying security guarantees — still remote, President Volodymyr Zelensky has hinted that Ukraine may have no choice but to reconsider its nuclear options. While there is no evidence that Ukraine is actively pursuing nuclear weapons, experts agree that the country has the technical expertise and resources to do so in the future.

It would be a tragic irony if the Budapest Memorandum, designed to reduce the number of nuclear-armed states, ended up accelerating nuclear proliferation. The memorandum highlights how partial solutions to complex security problems can lead to unintended and far-reaching consequences.

As President Donald Trump prepares to enter the Oval Office next year, he has expressed a desire to negotiate a settlement between Russia and Ukraine. Any such deal must include robust and enforceable security guarantees for Kyiv. Ukraine, understandably skeptical of diplomatic assurances, will demand more than cleverly worded agreements with little practical enforcement.

Historians may one day look back on the Budapest Memorandum and the subsequent war as the moment the global nonproliferation regime began to unravel. Without credible commitments and enforcement mechanisms, efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons may prove futile, leaving the world a far more dangerous place.

In this context, the lessons of the Budapest Memorandum should serve as a cautionary tale. Only comprehensive and enforceable security agreements can prevent the next crisis of trust — and proliferation—from happening in the future.

CNTAC, BOI sign MoU to establish of textile industry park in Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) and Pakistan's Board of Investment (BOI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the 2024 China Textile Conference in Keqiao, Shaoxing.

At present, China's textile industry is at an important juncture of change and transformation. How to take "science and technology, fashion and green" as the guide, constantly cultivate new productivity, and create the future of the industry and the future industry has become a new issue in front of the industry.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi addressed the conference and said that signing a landmark MoU between Pakistan's Board of Investment and CNTAC. The robust framework for developing textile parks in Pakistan would enhance bilateral trade, foster technology transfer, and enhance capacity. Focusing on four core topics "Innovation Environment, Materials, Artificial Intelligence, and Production Processes," the guests discussed leading trends in industry innovation, aiming to promote the transformation and optimization of the global textile supply chain, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

"Secretary Board of Investment and I along with Pakistani leading textile industry representatives attended the annual China Textile Conference organized by China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) in Shaoxing City. Pakistan was given this exclusive privilege for the first time as the only foreign participant. We highlighted why investing in Pakistan's textile & apparel sector was a mutually beneficial proposition", the Ambassador added, noting that Secretary BOI signed an MoU with the Vice President of CNTAC on cooperation in the field of textiles and apparel including the establishment of parks in this important sector in Pakistan. "Grateful to Shandong Ruyi Group for its support".

"The textile sector is the backbone of our economy, a major contributor to our exports. As the second-largest global supplier of cotton cloth, and the fifth-largest exporter of cotton offers unmatched potential for collaboration. Combining strategic location, skilled workforce, and vertical integration, Pakistan is uniquely positioned as an ideal partner for Chinese enterprises," Hashmi stated.

ISLAMABAD: Visitors viewing handmade items on a stall during "Crafts Festival".

PFC stresses vocational training

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) is grappling with an acute shortage of skilled woodworkers and trained artisans, significantly impacting timely despatch of export consignments to their foreign destinations.

Chairing board of directors meeting here on Sunday, PFC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mian Kashif Ashfaq said the scarcity of skilled labour had hindered the manufacturing process, causing delays in fulfilling export orders. He said that Pakistan's furniture industry relies heavily on the expertise of craftsmen, who specialise in traditional and modern woodworking techniques. However, the sector is facing challenges due to a lack of training programmes, diminishing interest among the younger generation, and insufficient incentives to attract and retain talent. As a result, the industry struggles to meet growing international demand while maintaining high-quality standards, he added.

These delays are not only damaging credibility as a reliable exporter but are also causing financial losses to exporters and contributing to reduced competitiveness in the global market. To address this issue, the PFC urges the government and private sector to collaborate on initiatives for establishing vocational training institutes, offering skill development programmes, and providing financial incentives to artisans. A concerted effort is essential to revitalise the workforce, enhance productivity, and ensure timely delivery of export orders, safeguarding Pakistan's standing in the international furniture market, he concluded.

Khurram Zafar appointed CEO of PMEX

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Mercantile Exchange Limited (PMEX) has appointed Khurram Zafar as the Chief Executive Officer, who has already taken charge.

Khurram Zafar joins PMEX with a robust background in business, technology, and capital market leadership in Pakistan, Europe, and the United States.

Prior to his appointment at PMEX, Khurram led a Pakistan focused venture capital fund, founded the LUMS Center for Entrepreneurship, and served on the Board and Digital Financial Services advisory committee of Karandaaz Pakistan.

He has also served as the Chief Information Officer at the Lahore Stock Exchange and has consulted for Merrill Lynch, Visa, and Bank of America during his professional life in the US.

PIAF wants long-term economic management for sustained growth

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has asked the government that its strategies should not only focus on short-term gains but also encompass a long-term vision for sustained progress.

PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol, in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal and vice chairman Tahir Manzoor Chaudhary, emphasized that such transparency from the government is crucial for instilling confidence in the business community and investors.

Faheem Saigol observed that the country has had trouble raising enough money to cover its expenses. Due to the low tax-to-GDP ratio, borrowing and outside help are heavily relied upon to close the fiscal imbalance. There is a recurring budget deficit because the government spends more than it takes in. The national debt burden has risen, as a result, needing substantial financial resources for debt repayment. Both internal and external debt in Pakistan has been constantly rising.

Nasrullah Mughal called upon the government to announce clear and robust economic strategies, as the country has stuck in low economic growth situation, where double-digit policy rate for the last few years has diminished capacity to increase domestic production, and exports, negatively impacting domestic resource mobilization.

Tahir Manzoor Ch said that the new government that comes into office will have its work sharply cut out as far as the economic challenges are concerned. Coming at the back of fast-unfolding climate change crisis and recent Covid pandemic that pushed millions into poverty with little fiscal capacity of government to provide anywhere near close to what was needed in stimulus spending.

Tahir Manzoor stated that then there is acute debt distress, and seriously high inflation at the back of global aggregate supply shock, and accentuated by a world of rising conflicts, mainly in Ukraine, and the Middle East.

Faheem Saigol said that even though Pakistan's economic crisis is a recurring factor in the country's political unrest, it has a history of ignoring the nation's true issues, which include poor governance, a broken judicial system, outdated laws, complicated tax system, lack of transparency, duplication in the government system, ineffective bureaucracy, improper use of our human, natural and water resources, lack of efficient local government, inadequate data for country's planning, and the consistent flaws in policies in execution by the government departments. Pakistan's GDP growth rate has always remained below its potential despite efforts to boost economic growth. He said that the development of important sectors and investment prospects was hampered by inadequate revenue collection, structural problems, and governance issues.

Since it has been causing serious governance and economic issues for years, the cost of goods, food, petrol, and other necessities has increased, and inflation has almost reached 45 per cent, which is not bearable for the common man. On the other hand, there has been an increase in dissatisfaction among the public that no state institution is performing well and to save them from the haughtiness and bad administration pervasive in the system. The PIAF Chairman observed that amidst continuous of hike in cost of production in the country, what the Pakistan's economy really needs is persistent and sound economic management.

The Chairman warned the authorities that high inflation can hurt economic growth and a careful policy is required to keep it in control. He said that the pace of inflation is skyrocketing at a time when the economic activity is slowing down.

Tannery owners meet SCCI president

SIALKOT (APP): After constructive meetings with the President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ikram-ul-Haq on November 26, 29 and December 7, 12 tannery owners met the SCCI president to get processed their applications for plot allotment in the Sialkot Tannery Zone (STZ).

They have been assured that after receipt of the cheque on Monday, December 9, allotment letters of all such applications would be processed.

This was possible as a result of repeated contacts and efforts of the President SCCI Ikram-ul-Haq.

The message of the President SCCI is that all tannery owners who have not yet applied in the STZ should contact them and make it possible to obtain a plot according to their needs.

All new applications will be processed as per the rules and regulations of the Government and Sialkot Tannery Zone. The applicant must be a tannery owner or have a leather tanning business before this date.

President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry will receive such applications by December 9 and 10 and will be able to assure plot allotment.

BMP for raising tax-to-GDP ratio as shortfall widens to Rs400b

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) on Sunday advocated the need for raising the country's tax base so that tax-to-GDP ratio improves as the tax shortfall may further widen to almost Rs400 billion at the end of 2024.

The BMP Chairman and FPCCI former president Mian Anjum Nisar urged the trade officers to explore opportunities to diversify exports of goods and services in their respective areas, asking them to meet the challenges faced by Pakistan in European markets.

He observed that against the target of Rs4.64 trillion, the FBR collected Rs4.29 trillion in five months, achieving a growth of 23%. It needs a 40% growth to reach the annual goal of nearly Rs13 trillion. He said that the IMF will assess December's tax collection before deciding on bringing a new tax-loaded budget. So, the condition of IMF to rope in agriculture income in the tax net appeared promising in enhancing the tax collection. Otherwise the whole burden will again be shifted to the industry.

The FPCCI former president said that country's major export markets did not see any significant growth in importing goods from Pakistan in the financial. He also suggested the ministry to devise strategies for promotion of Pakistani products, calling upon trade officers to take advantage of opportunities offered by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He recommended the broadening of tax base through appropriate legislation to ensure that all income earners pay taxes equitably, including agriculture income.

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

The UK has overtaken China to become the second-largest export market for Pakistani products. The US remains the top export market for Pakistan, with exports to the country crossing the $1.3 billion mark in the second quarter. Exports stood at $1.34 billion, compared to $1.34 billion in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year, registering an 12 per cent increase.

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

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

Exports during the July-Oct period of FY25 were recorded at $7.85 billion, compared to $5.92 billion in the same period last year. Textile exports were the largest contributor, totalling $4.75 billion in the first three months of the current fiscal year.

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

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

He expressed dissatisfaction with provinces' delay in passing new agriculture income tax laws. This new legislation is one of the conditions agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund as part of the 37-month $7 Extended Fund Facility.

He said that the federal government have also expressed dissatisfaction with the poor pace of adopting agricultural income tax legislations by Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan. Punjab is the only province that has enacted the bill through its provincial assembly.

He said that it's a long way when the bill will turn into law and the revenue starts supporting the tax net.

Undoubtedly, there is a significant progress, both on fiscal and current accounts, showing surpluses and could lead towards a sustainable point.

He said that culture of amnesty schemes should be eliminated as it discourages the honest taxpayers, besides enacting penalties in the law to punish tax evaders.

"Appropriate laws should be made to enable the government to seize local assets, in equivalent value, or levy appropriate taxes, if any person holds any kind of assets outside the country for which source of income could not be established" he added. He said that export-oriented industries should be facilitated. He was of the view that rules, regulations and procedures for export-oriented sectors should be easy so that it could play its due role in economic stability of the country.

"It is a matter of concern that exports are showing a low growth besides the fact that country has all resources which is not a good omen" he maintained.

Saudia's non-oil sector posts 4.8% growth in Q3: GASTAT

RIYADH (Arab News): Saudi Arabia's non-oil activities expanded by 4.8 percent year on year in the third quarter of 2024, fueled by growth in the wholesale and retail trade, and restaurant and hotel sectors, official data showed.

According to the General Authority for Statistics, wholesale and retail trade, along with restaurant and hotel activities, grew by 5.8 percent in the third quarter compared to the same period in 2023.

Additionally, activities in the financial, insurance, and business services sectors recorded a 5.7 percent increase year on year during the same period.

Bolstering the non-oil sector is essential for Saudi Arabia as it pursues economic diversification in line with the objectives of Vision 2030.

Last month, speaking at the World Investment Conference, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Economy and Planning Faisal Al-Ibrahim noted that non-oil activities now contribute 52 percent to the Kingdom's gross domestic product.

The latest GASTAT report also highlighted that construction activities rose by 4.6 percent in the third quarter, while the transport, storage, and communication sector expanded by 4.5 percent during the same period. In quarter-on-quarter terms, non-oil activities grew by 0.7 percent in the third quarter.

The report added that Saudi Arabia's real gross domestic product grew by 2.8 percent year on year in the third quarter. Quarter-on-quarter, the GDP rose by 0.7 percent.

At current prices, the Kingdom's GDP reached SR1.00 trillion ($270 billion) during the period, according to GASTAT.

"Crude oil and natural gas activities achieved the highest contribution to the GDP at 22.8 percent, followed by government activities at 16.1 percent, and wholesale and retail trade, restaurants, and hotels activities with a contribution of 10.1 percent," said GASTAT.

Government activities saw a 3.1 percent year-on-year growth in the third quarter, though they contracted by 0.3 percent compared to the previous quarter.

Saudi Arabia's oil activities grew modestly, rising 0.5 percent year-on-year in the third quarter and 1.2 percent compared to the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, government final consumption expenditure increased by 6.2 percent year on year but declined by 1.8 percent quarter-on-quarter.

Gross fixed capital formation — a measure of investment in the economy — rose by 3.2 percent year on year in the third quarter and 0.9 percent compared to the previous quarter.

Saudi Arabia's economic diversification initiatives under Vision 2030 are increasingly reflected in the robust performance of non-oil sectors, positioning the Kingdom for sustainable long-term growth.

Exporters extend tour

LAHORE (APP): Pakistani food exporters, delegation currently on a two-week tour to Malaysia, has extended their stay by another week for second consecutive time due to exceptional response received from their Malaysian counterparts.

According to a message received here Sunday from Kuala Lumpur, the leader of the delegation Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman said extension reflects the growing interest and demand for Pakistani food products including high quality international standards various varieties of Nimko in Malaysia.

Several promising business deals are in the pipeline, prompting the delegation to prolong their visit to finalize agreements and establish long-term partnerships. He said the development highlights the potential of Pakistan's food export sector in tapping into the Malaysian market, fostering bilateral trade, and contributing to economic growth.

The delegation's extended stay demonstrates their commitment to ensuring these discussions translate into tangible outcomes. Delegation members comprising leading food industry representatives including Nimko has been actively engaging with local businesses to explore opportunities for strengthening trade ties, he added.

Retail space demand in Riyadh drives 4.2% rent increase in Q3

RIYADH (Arab News): The retail market in Riyadh saw a five-percentage-point increase in occupancy rates, reaching 92 percent by the end of the third quarter, according to a new report by Knight Frank.

The report also highlighted a 4.2 percent year-on-year rise in average rental rates, which reached SR2,845 ($757.24) per sq. meter. This increase reflects the city's growing appeal as part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, aiming to transform Riyadh into a leading business and tourist hub. "Over the last 12 months, the retail market in Riyadh has experienced a steady rise in rental rates, particularly in well-located regional and super-regional malls," Knight Frank stated.

The firm pointed to prime locations like Riyadh Park and Al Nakheel Mall, which have maintained near-full occupancy thanks to their strategic positions, diverse tenant mix, and entertainment offerings.

Meanwhile, the supply of retail space in Riyadh grew with the addition of 22,500 sq. meters, bringing the city's total retail space to 4.3 million square meters by 2026, a 21 percent increase.

"Riyadh's retail market is growing along key corridors like King Fahd Road, Olaya Street, and northern districts, driven by urban expansion and rising consumer spending," Knight Frank said.

In comparison, Jeddah's retail market saw a more modest increase in rental rates of 1.2 percent, reaching SR2,525 per sq. meter. However, occupancy in the city declined slightly by 1 percentage point to 86 percent. The report noted that Jeddah's retail market is undergoing shifts influenced by changing consumer preferences and an increased supply of retail space. Jeddah's retail stock is expected to grow by 475,000 sq. meters by 2026, bringing the total to 3.3 million sq. Meters.

In Dammam, occupancy remained stable at 90 percent, but rental rates saw a slight decline of 0.7 percent, reaching SR2,285 per sq. meter.

In brief

Hockey players receive welcome

SARGODHA (APP): Three young hockey players from Sargodha, who brought immense pride to Pakistan by qualifying for the Junior World Cup, were given a rousing welcome upon their return to their hometown on Sunday. Hamza Fayyaz, Rana Waleed, and Basharat Ali were received amid cheers and applause from thousands of enthusiastic supporters. District Sports Officer Saima Manzoor and Secretary District Hockey Association Chaudhry Fiyyaz Ahmed Hanjra, commended the players for their outstanding performance. Saima Manzoor expressed her pride in the athletes, stating, "They are not only an honor for Sargodha but for all of Pakistan. Their qualification for the Junior World Cup is a testament to hard work and dedication." Fiyyaz Hanjra stressed the importance of supporting hockey players and called upon the government to provide more resources for the sport. "We hope that the government will follow the example set for cricket and provide the necessary support to our hockey players so that Pakistan can regain its lost glory in this sport," he said.

Sports Festival from Dec 10

KARACHI (APP): The 2nd Commissioner Karachi Sports Festival will commence on December 10 and conclude on January 30. The festival will feature ten different sports competitions, including tug-of-war, boxing, kabaddi, wheelchair basketball, rowing, table tennis, badminton (girls and boys), and cricket. The festival will kick off with the tug-of-war competition. The Provincial Minister for Women's Development, Shaheena Sher Ali, will inaugurate the festival on December 10 at 12:00 pm at the Government Girls Degree College in Lines Area. A cultural show will also be held on this occasion. According to a press release issued by Commissioner's office, A colorful ceremony will be organized to distribute awards among the winning players. A special ceremony will be held to award prizes to the players. The Commissioner said that the government is taking steps to provide healthy recreational opportunities for youth in the city. He said that the role of sports-related personalities and non-governmental organizations are key stake holders who are playing an important role in promoting sports in Karachi. The administration will provide maximum support and assistance to organizations and organizers working for the promotion and development of sports in the city.

Man Utd crush Liverpool

LONDON (Agencies): Manchester United wrapped up a comfortable victory over Liverpool in the Women's Super League. Two quick-fire goals from Elisabeth Terland and Leah Galton gave United a 2-0 lead before Dominique Janssen and Melvine Malard sealed the three points in the second half. It was a routine win for Marc Skinner's side, who have struggled for consistency in recent weeks and will not have forgotten their two defeats by Liverpool last season. But Liverpool were not able to effectively compete at Leigh Sports Village this time around - impacted heavily by injuries to key players and a lack of creativity.

Umar Siddiq stars in Lake City Panthers first win

RAWALPINDI (APP): Opening batter Umar Siddiq smashed a brilliant unbeaten 78 and all-rounder Amad Butt grabbed three wickets as Lake City Panthers routed Engro Dolphins by eight wickets to open their account in the Bahria Town Champions T20 Cup in Rawalpindi on Sunday.

Siddiq's aggressive 53-ball knock was spiced with four towering sixes and eight boundaries. He gave Lake City Panthers a rollicking start with 33 coming in the first three overs and by the tenth over they had reached 86 for the loss of Sharjeel Khan 14.

Siddiq and stand-in skipper Haider Ali, deputising for unfit Shadab Khan, added a rapid 101 for the second wicket to bring their team within 23 runs of victory. Mubasir Khan, who scored 16 not out, hit the winning six as the 161-run target was achieved in 16 overs. Haider's 28-ball 46 contained five boundaries and two sixes.

Engro Dolphnis' total of 160-8 showed most of the batters got starts but did not make it big, with promising youngster Mohammad Huraira the highest scorer with a 32-ball 37 that contained four boundaries and a six.

Mohammad Suleman struck two sixes and a boundary in his 27-ball 34 while Muhammad Ghazi Ghori (27, 16b, 3x4s, 1x6) and Shayan Sheikh (20, 12b, 4x4s) chipped in with useful contributions as 55 runs came in the last five overs. For Panthers, all-rounder Amad Butt was the pick of the bowlers with 3-19 while Mohammad Ibtisam finished with 2-30.

Scores in brief:

Match 3 – Lake City Panthers beat Engro Dolphins by eight wickets, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

Engro Dolphins 160-8 in 20 overs (Mohammad Huraira 37, Mohammad Suleman 34, Muhammad Ghazi Ghori 27, Shayan Sheikh 20; Amad Butt 3-19, Mohammad Ibtisam 2-30)

Lake City Panthers 161-2 in 16 overs (Umar Siddiq 78 not out, Haider Ali 46)

Player of the match - Umar Siddiq (Lake City Panthers)

Tomorrow's fixture: Allied Bank Stallions vs Nurpur Lions, 12pm, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

DUBAI: Bangladesh Under-19 players celebrate their second successive Asia Cup title with their fans, Bangladesh vs India Under-19 Asia Cup final.

Rayyan wins 16th Redtone Int'l Junior Squash C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Muhammad Rayyan Zaman has made the nation proud by winning the 16th Redtone International Junior Squash Championship 2024 in the Under-9 category.

According to information received here on Sunday, Rayyan, the grandson of former World Squash Champion Qamar Zaman and son of former champion Mansoor Zaman, defeated Malaysia's Sai Nideesh 3-0 in the final, with a score of 11/7, 11/5, and 11/7.

Rayyan's win is also a reflection of the hard work and dedication of his coaches, trainers, and family members who have supported him throughout his journey.

The 16th Redtone International Junior Squash Championship 2024 was a highly competitive tournament that brought together some of the best young squash players from around the world.

Rayyan's victory in the Under-9 category is a significant achievement, and it highlights his potential to become a top-ranked squash player in the future.

Australia thump India at Adelaide to level series

ADELAIDE (AFP/APP): A resurgent Australia thumped India by 10 wickets to win the second Test on Sunday and level their blockbuster five-match series 1-1 after a batting and bowling masterclass at fortress Adelaide Oval.

Chasing just 19 for victory, openers Usman Khawaja and Nathan McSweeney steered the hosts to the meagre target without loss on day three of the pink-ball clash.

The visitors resumed at 128-5 after their hopes were left in tatters during a final fiery session on Saturday at the hands of an Australian pace onslaught. They only boosted the total to 175 before meekly surrendering.

Danger man Rishabh Pant failed to negotiate the opening over from Mitchell Starc and was out without adding to his overnight 28 while Pat Cummins accounted for Ravichandran Ashwin (7) then Harshit Rana (0). Allrounder Nitish Kumar Reddy made a plucky 42 before he fell to Scott Boland, who then removed Mohammed Siraj (7) to end the innings. Skipper Cummins ended with 5-57 while Boland grabbed 3-51. Starc took eight wickets for the match.

"That's a great week. We were far from the team we want to be in Perth but this was good," said Cummins, whose side was well beaten in the series opener. The captain reserved special praise for Travis Head after his match-winning century. "He loves batting here, again one of those momentum-shifts, it could have gone either way when he walked out to bat," Cummins said.

"The ball does a bit more under lights, but the big thing was getting a big lead." Defeat was another painful memory of Adelaide for India, who also crashed within three days in 2020 when they were bundled out for 36 -- their lowest-ever Test score.

Victory capped a fighting turnaround for Australia after being crushed by 295 runs in the first Test, which sparked fierce criticism over whether the top-ranked but ageing team could still produce the goods.

While Khawaja and Steve Smith were again notable flops with the bat, the hosts largely silenced the critics -- at least until the next Test at the Gabba in Brisbane from Saturday.

Australia were always odds-on favourites in Adelaide despite the Perth calamity, boasting far more experience of day-night Test cricket.

They have now won 12 of their 13 games played under lights, including a perfect 8-0 record in Adelaide.

In contrast, India have a 3-2 win-loss record in the format, with both defeats to Australia in the South Australian capital. "Disappointing week for us. We didn't play well enough to win the game," said India skipper Rohit Sharma. "There were times when we could have grabbed the opportunity but failed, which cost us the game. "What we did in Perth was great but every game throws a new challenge. Looking forward to the next Test and we will see what we did well in Perth."

- Game-changing -

India's problems began on the first ball of the match, when a menacing Starc trapped hot-shot young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal -- a century-maker in Perth -- lbw. They never recovered, all out for 180, with Reddy top-scoring on 42 and Starc ending with a career-best 6-48. India's pace attack were then unable to make the best use of the new pink ball when Australia battled through a difficult phase till stumps for the loss of just Khawaja on day one.

The visitors' bowling coach Morne Morkel pinpointed a failure by their young attack to find the right lines and lengths. The next day Head made them pay with a rollicking game-changing 140 while Marnus Labuschagne hit 64 to propel Australia to 337 and an ominous 157-run lead. In contrast to India, Australia then drew on their experience to decimate India's top order when they took the new ball at dusk on Saturday. It left them with just five wickets to mop up Sunday, which they did with minimum fuss.

England thrash New Zealand in 2nd Test

WELLINGTON (AFP/APP): An aggressive England dominated from start to finish to thrash New Zealand by 323 runs on Sunday in the second Test and emphatically win the series with a match to go.

Joe Root scored a century before England's bowlers knocked over New Zealand for 259 in the final session of day three, clinching a series on New Zealand soil for the first time since 2008. As with their eight-wicket loss in Christchurch, New Zealand were outplayed for long periods, although Tom Blundell showed some late resistance with a century as he fought bravely in the unlikely pursuit of a winning target of 583.

The wicketkeeper was dismissed for 115 soon after tea, caught brilliantly by slip Ben Duckett off spinner Shoaib Bashir to spark a tail-order collapse. Nathan Smith (42) and Matt Henry (4) both fell to Ben Stokes (3-5) before the England skipper removed Tim Southee (8), caught in the deep in the game's final act.

Former skipper Root set the tone by posting his 36th century in a flashy start to the day before being dismissed for 106, prompting a declaration half an hour after the resumption with England 427-6.

New Zealand limped to 59-4 at lunch in response but their innings gained some respectability in the middle session through the efforts of Blundell, Smith and Daryl Mitchell (32). Despite his team's plight Blundell was prepared to play shots, compiling 13 fours and five sixes as he achieved a fifth century to end a lean run of form with the bat.

Earlier, the blustery conditions didn't bother England's new-ball attack, with veteran Chris Woakes (2-20) thriving into a strong wind. He clean-bowled out-of-form opener Devon Conway without scoring before claiming the prized scalp of Kane Williamson for four, caught behind.

Brydon Carse (2-53) dismissed Tom Latham for 24 with a sharp, one-handed caught and bowled, before enticing Rachin Ravindra (6) into a loose shot which was snicked. Before that, Stokes was 49 not out when he made his declaration, having put on 100 for the sixth wicket with Root off just 13.2 overs.

They added 49 to their overnight score, allowing time for Root to complete a classy ton. Root, who resumed on 73, reached three figures with a spectacular reverse lap shot which flew over Blundell's head off paceman Will O'Rourke. The 33-year-old was dismissed later in the same over, edging a catch to Blundell. The third and final Test starts in Hamilton on Saturday.

West Ham's Antonio suffers lower limb fracture

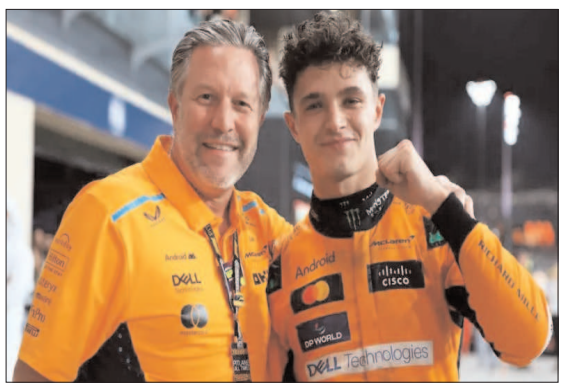
LONDON (AFP): West Ham said forward Michail Antonio has undergone surgery on a lower limb fracture after a serious car accident on Saturday.

The 34-year-old was transferred to a central London hospital where he will continue to be monitored. "West Ham United can confirm Michail Antonio has undergone surgery on a lower limb fracture following a road traffic accident on Saturday afternoon," the Hammers said on Sunday. West Ham issued two updates on Antonio's condition on Saturday, saying he was conscious and communicating, after unverified images of a heavily damaged Ferrari began to circulate online.

Essex Fire Service also confirmed firefighters had attended the scene and released a man trapped in his car. A number of Premier League clubs and players posted their support for Antonio. "Everyone at the Club wishes Michail a speedy recovery and wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the football family at large for the overwhelming support shown since yesterday's news," West Ham's latest statement added.

"As well as extending a heartfelt thank you to the emergency services and first responders who attended to Michail in the immediate aftermath of the incident, and the medical team who continue to aid him in his recovery." The London-born Jamaica international joined West Ham in 2015 and has scored 83 goals for the club in 323 games. He has scored once in 15 appearances for the Hammers this season, in a 4-1 victory at home to Ipswich in early October. The former Nottingham Forest and Sheffield Wednesday striker won the Europa Conference League with the club in 2023.

Norris wins in Abu Dhabi, McLaren seal constructors' title



ABU DHABI (AFP): Lando Norris coolly claimed victory in a tense, emotional and incident-filled Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday to deliver McLaren's first constructors' championship in 26 years as Lewis Hamilton finished a remarkable fourth in his final race for Mercedes.

The 25-year-old Norris came home 5.832 seconds ahead of Carlos Sainz and his team-mate Charles Leclerc to end Ferrari's title challenge on a night of accidents, penalties and tantrums under the floodlights at the Yas Marina Circuit. "Papaya on top!" said Norris on his slow-down lap after the season-closing race. "Congrats to everyone. Incredible. So proud of you all. You all deserve this. It's been a special one. Next year is going to be my year too."

McLaren had not won the teams' title since 1998, the year before Norris was born, and started the day with a lead of 21 points and a front row lockout, but saw Oscar Piastri sent spinning in a clash with newly-crowned four-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull at the first corner.

This encouraged Ferrari, with Leclerc starting 19th on the grid, and they mounted a defiant if vain bid for glory, finishing second and third ahead of Hamilton, who passed team-mate George Russell on the final lap.

Russell came home fifth ahead of Verstappen, who was one of several drivers to be handed a 10 second penalty for his crash into Piastri, and Alpine's Pierre Gasly with Nico Hulkenberg taking eighth for Haas. Fernando Alonso was ninth for Aston Martin and Piastri, after a battling drive, 10th in the second McLaren.

'Stupid idiots'

In hot, dry and clear conditions, Norris made a clean start from his eighth pole of the year to lead into Turn One where Verstappen attacked Piastri on the inside and made contact with his car to send both spinning. Piastri waited to rejoin in 20th and last, but Verstappen squeezed back into 11th as team-mate Sergio Perez's miserable season concluded with a spin out at Turn Six after contact with Valtteri Bottas's Sauber.

Leclerc, with a scintillating surge on the opening lap, rose from 19th to eight. Verstappen was given a 10-second penalty for his 'dive bomb' move on Piastri, who reported "yep, move of a world champion there" on McLaren team radio.

After a brief Safety Car intervention, Piastri hit the rear of Franco Colapinto's Williams, forcing the Argentine to pit with a puncture. Piastri also pitted for fresh hards before being given a 10-second penalty, as was Bottas for his part in ending Perez's race. At the front, Norris led Sainz by 2.7 seconds ahead of Gasly and Russell as Leclerc climbed to sixth by lap 10 when Hamilton, having started 16th as the only man on hards, was up to 12th. For Norris, knowing a win was essential for McLaren, the pressure was on.

Haas began the pit stops on lap 12 with others following to lift Hamilton to fifth on lap 21. Sainz pitted from second in 2.2 seconds after 26 laps, gifting Norris a lead of 26.2 before he pitted, ahead of Russell, and rejoined with a one second advantage on the Spaniard. Verstappen, yet to stop, was third before pitting, taking his penalty and emerging 11th.

"Could we ask for 20 seconds?" asked Verstappen with sarcastic venom. "Stupid idiots." Bottas and Magnussen, a duo in their likely final F1 races, then collided on lap 31. "Isn't that just great?" said the Dane. He pitted and rejoined on softs while the Finn retired.

'Lewis, it's hammer time'

On lap 34, Hamilton, dreaming of a podium, finally pitted from third for his mediums, taking seventh ahead of Alonso and Verstappen, a trio of 13 title wins. Norris led Sainz by 3.2 seconds with Leclerc third.

With 20 laps to go, Hamilton's race engineer Peter 'Bono' Bonnington, for the final time, told his driver "Lewis, it's hammer time". Hamilton asked for the gap time and was told 14 seconds. "You can do it," chimed in his team chief Wolff before he took Gasly for fifth.

At the front, Norris was the embodiment of cool, 5.9 clear of Sainz and managing his race with detached precision despite struggling in 'dirty air' as he lapped most of the field, including Piastri in the final laps, when Hamilton closed within a second of Russell before snatching fourth.

Jokic records career-high 56 points

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Nikola Jokic's career-high 56 points was not enough to seal victory for the Denver Nuggets as they lost 113-122 to the Washington Wizards.

Three-time MVP Jokic recorded the second-most points in a game in the league's history - behind David Thompson's 73-point performance in 1978.

But the Wizards, who led from the first half, were able to hold off the Nuggets and Jokic to end their 16-game losing streak at the Capital One Arena.

Wizards shooting guard Jordan Poole scored 39 points and hit a career-high nine three-pointers, while Justin Champagnie scored 23 points and Jonas Valanciunas finished on 20 points, 12 rebounds and five assists.

The Wizards, who had not won since 30 October, were without Alexandre

Sarr, while the Nuggets travelled to Washington without injured Jamal Murray (hamstring) and Aaron Gordon (calf).

In addition to scoring 56 points, Serb Jokic also added 16 rebounds and eight assists. His career-high tally comes two days after he surpassed NBA legend Earvin 'Magic' Johnson on the all-time list for triple-doubles with 139 - the third-most in the league's history.

The defeat leaves the Nuggets ninth in the Western Conference, having lost 10 of their 21 matches. Elsewhere, Evan Mobley scored a career-high 41 points for the league-leading Cleveland Cavaliers in a 116-102 victory over the Charlotte Hornets.

The Memphis Grizzlies beat reigning champions the Boston Celtics, the Detroit Pistons overcame the New York Knicks and the Dallas Mavericks claimed victory over the Raptors in Toronto.

In brief

Gilani condoles

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Sunday expressed profound sorrow and extended condolences over the passing of the elder sister of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. In his condolence message, Gilani offered prayers for the departed soul, saying, "May Allah grant the deceased a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bless the family with the strength to endure this irreparable loss." Expressing his sympathies, Gilani said, "In this moment of grief, I stand with you and share your sorrow." He prayed for the elevation of the deceased's rank in Jannah and patience and resilience for the bereaved family.

84,400 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 84,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 42,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1483.92 feet and was 85.92 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 21,900 cusecs and 43,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1148.95 feet, which was 98.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 4,500 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa , Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 29,500, 46,700, 37,700 and 7,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

12 held for violation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have carried out search operations in the jurisdiction of different police stations and arrested twelve persons on violation of renting laws. According to a police spokesman, the search operations were conducted in order to maintain law and order and flush out suspects following the directions of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani. He informed, senior police officers and police personnel including women police took part in the search operations. Police checked houses, shops, hotels, tenants and a large number of individuals during the search operations. Police apprehended those while during operation were identified as Azam, Saeed, Umair, Yasir, Bilal, Amjad, Imran Nazir, Naseem, Qaistan ullah, Omar, Noor Khan and Wajid. The purpose of the search operations to keep a close watch on criminal and law-breaking elements and bring them to justice. Rawalpindi Police is always busy for protecting the lives and property of citizens and maintaining law and order, spokesman added.

2 held for street crimes

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two members gang involved in street crimes and recovered three stolen motorcycles, one AC outer, stolen amount Rs 6,800 from their possession during a crackdown on Sunday. Police have also recovered weapons used in crimes. According to a police spokesman, Bani Police held two members gang involved in street crimes who were identified as Noman and Moeez. Police have registered separate cases against both of them and further investigation was in progress.

PTI's final 'missed call' ends in failure: Ihsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan Sunday lambasted the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's recent protest call in Islamabad, labelling it a "flop" and a "missed call" that ultimately exposed the party's blackmailing agenda.

In an interview with a private news channel, he warned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, accusing them of misleading the nation and employing blackmailing tactics against the state, adding that this blatant disregard for the nation's well-being will no longer be tolerated.

The government has consistently kept the doors open for negotiations, but the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has shown no willingness to engage in serious discussions on any agenda that prioritizes the country's welfare, he said, adding, instead, the PTI's sole focus is on securing a National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) for Imran Khan, which is a clear indication of their self-serving interests.

Responding to a query, Rana Ihsan strongly criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, stating that they are deliberately pushing the country towards instability and inflation.

He emphasized that the PML-N-led government has successfully controlled inflation and the people are witnessing a significant positive change.

Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan praised the seriousness and dedication of the current government in addressing the country's economic challenges.

He highlighted that the government's efforts to control inflation are yielding results, and the public is taking notice of the positive impact. In contrast, he condemned the PTI's actions as destructive and harmful to the nation's well-being.

To another question he strongly condemned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, asserting that they are responsible for the current uncertainty, uncivilized behaviour and extremist mindset prevalent among the youth.

He attributed this to the PTI's reliance on fake statements and propaganda, which has contributed to the toxic environment.

ISLAMABAD: Visitors viewing handmade items on a stall during the "Crafts Festival" celebrating 40 years of Nomad Art Gallery Empowering the Indigenous Arts & Artisans at court bazaar local hotel. —APP Photo

Quality education, health top priorities

RAWALPINDI (APP): Member National Assembly (MNA) and Chairman of the District Coordination Committee Rawalpindi, Engineer Qamarul Islam Raja, has emphasized that education and health are top priorities for Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

He highlighted the government's commitment to bring out-of-school children into the education system while addressing a dinner hosted by the All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association (APESCA), Rawalpindi District.

Speaking on the occasion, Qamarul Islam praised the role of private educational institutions in improving the standard of education in the country. He called on private schools to actively support efforts to enroll out-of-school children. "The problems faced by private schools will be addressed on a priority basis," he assured.

During the event, CEO Education Rawalpindi, Amanullah Khan, pledged to resolve registration issues for private schools promptly. He encouraged APESCA to establish a help center to guide unregistered schools through the registration process.

Amanullah Khan also commended APESCA for making school registration an online process, calling it a significant achievement.

APESCA leaders briefed attendees on their organization's objectives and achievements, highlighting their dedication to improving private education. Information Secretary PML-N Rawalpindi Division Qais Qayyum Malik, General Secretary PP-10 Nazia Ilyas Kayani, District President of the All Pakistan Clerks Association Raja Aftab, and other notable figures were also present at the dinner.

Snowfall spells cheer for Pakistan's tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The winter season has brought a surge in tourism to the snow-covered mountains of Pakistan, with thousands of enthusiasts flocking to the slopes to experience the thrill of winter sports, where the mountains, blanketed with a thick layer of snow, have transformed into a breathtakingly picturesque winter wonderland, captivating the hearts of tourists and locals alike.

A report on PTV News Channel has revealed that snowfall has brought a significant boost to Pakistan's tourism industry, establishing the country as a top winter destination for tourists. Social media users and vloggers took to their platforms to share stunning pictures and videos of the snow-covered landscapes.

According to the report, the snow-covered mountains, frozen lakes and picturesque landscapes have attracted a large number of tourists from across the globe. The report highlighted that the tourism industry in Pakistan has witnessed unprecedented growth, with hotels and resorts in popular destinations such as Swat, Azad Kashmir, Hunza and other Northern parts of the country reporting full occupancy.

The report also quoted tourism officials as saying that the government is taking steps to further promote winter tourism in Pakistan, including improving infrastructure and providing facilities for tourists.

In Azad Kashmir, people were seen celebrating the snowfall, with many taking to the streets to enjoy the winter wonderland. "It is a beautiful sight," said Muhammad Iqbal, a resident of Muzaffarabad. "The snowfall has brought a new life to our city. We are thrilled to see tourists enjoying the snow-covered landscapes," said another local.

Rukhsana Bibi, a local shopkeeper in Neelum Valley said, "The snowfall has been a blessing for us. Our businesses have flourished and we are earning a good income. We welcome tourists with open hearts and hope they enjoy their stay in our beautiful valley."

"We are committed to developing the tourism industry in Pakistan," said a spokesperson for the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation. "We are working to improve the infrastructure, provide better facilities to tourists, and promote our beautiful country as a top tourist destination, he added."

"Woke up to a winter wonderland in Hunza! The snow-covered mountains and frozen lakes are a sight to behold." Instagram user. "Exploring the snow-covered streets of Muzaffarabad and it's like a dream come true! The people, the food, the scenery everything is just perfect." Facebook user.

RDA speeds up operation against illegal housing societies

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of the Divisional Intelligence Committee, has accelerated its ongoing operation against illegal housing societies, said a RDA spokesman.

He informed that the Task Force is conducting regular operations against illegal housing schemes and taking action in accordance with the law against the rules violators.

The RDA Enforcement Squad conducted operation against the Life Residencia, an illegal housing scheme located in mouza Mohri Khatran, Rawalpindi.

During the operation, the team demolished entry barriers, security office, removed advertisement boards, panaflexes, hoardings and sealed site offices of the illegal housing scheme.

Earlier here the other day, the RDA, Enforcement Squad conducted operations against three illegal housing schemes namely Ring Road Enclave (A Project of Jawahir City Pvt. Ltd.), Hurtus Floare and Countree Farmhouse and Resorts located in Mouzas Chokar, Gahi Sayedan and Ramdy, Tehsil and District Rawalpindi took action in accordance with the law.

The operation led to the sealing and demolition of site offices, boundary walls, guard rooms, road infrastructures and road dividers of the illegal housing schemes, the spokesman informed.

Despite warnings, the illegal housing societies continued to operate booking offices and development activities in violation of the rules. The DG RDA Kinza Murtaza said that under the Commissioner's guidance, the crackdown on illegal housing societies would continue and strict action would be taken against the rules violators.

She urged the citizens not to invest in illegal housing schemes.

ANF recovers over 300 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover over 300 kg drugs worth Rs 20 million and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that in an operation, 2 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested in Al-Asif Square area, Karachi.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In another operation, 245 kg hashish was recovered from Jiwani area in Gwadar.

34.8 kg hashish and 7.2 kg opium were recovered from secret cavities of a vehicle intercepted near Barki Road Lahore and 2 suspects were arrested during the operation.

6 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle near Pashtkhara Chowk on Ring Road Peshawar and a suspect was rounded up during the operation.

In 5th operation, 3 kg ice was recovered from the secret cavities of a vehicle checked near Glutian Mor, Daska in Sialkot and a suspect was netted.

A total of 1.9 kg ice was recovered from two suspects rounded up on Margalla Road, Islamabad.

In 7th operation, 500 grams heroin and 500 grams ice were recovered from the possession of a suspect arrested near Burhan Toll Plaza, Attock.

Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Narcotics Control Act and further investigations are under process.

Citizen grievances will be addressed on priority

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

A official told APP that during the khuli katchery, IG listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives to senior police officers on the spot for timely resolution of their concerns.

He said that resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Citizens facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. "My office is always open for my citizens", the IGP said.

IG Rizvi further directed the officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office. He directed all SDPOs and SHOs to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues.

On this occasion, the IG said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added.

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

ICT hospitals directed to release dead bodies

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a landmark decision, the Islamabad Health Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has issued policy directives instructing hospitals in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to immediately release the bodies of deceased patients, prohibiting the practice of withholding them over unpaid medical bills.

This announcement has been met with widespread public appreciation, marking a much-needed intervention in a practice that has long caused distress to grieving families. For years, families of deceased patients in Islamabad faced the distressing situation of hospitals refusing to release the body until all medical bills were paid.

This caused immense emotional and financial strain as loved ones had to manage funeral arrangements while dealing with the pressure of outstanding charges. Many families, already burdened by medical costs and grief, were forced to settle bills upfront before receiving the body.

This issue was particularly common in private hospitals, which often charged high advance fees. Citizens said when patients passed unexpectedly or after prolonged illnesses, families struggled to gather the funds, risking delays in burying their loved ones. They said the directives from IHRA's newly appointed board have brought immense relief to the public, with many taking to social media and public forums to voice their gratitude.

Haider Ali, a resident of Islamabad, shared his experience, "This decision is a blessing for families going through the toughest time of their lives." He said, "I recently lost my father to a sudden heart attack, and I was forced to run from pillar to post to pay bills before we could bury him. It was traumatic. I am so relieved to see this change."

Advocate Imran Ali appreciating this move said, "This was long overdue. Families are already shattered by loss, and to add the financial burden of 'paying for the body' is inhumane." He said, "I hope this new rule helps prevent this exploitation. Hospitals shouldn't use death as a business transaction." Medical professionals, too, have expressed support for the move, with many acknowledging that it would ease the pressure on families while encouraging hospitals to adopt a more compassionate approach in such sensitive circumstances. Professor Dr Nasir Ali, a cardiologist at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), commented on the new directives, stating, "While it's essential for hospitals to cover their operational costs, we must ensure that families are not exploited during their most vulnerable moments.

He said, "This directive strikes a crucial balance between financial sustainability and preserving the dignity of the deceased." He recommended that hospitals should set aside funds for such emergencies, as they generate substantial revenue year-round, and deaths, though tragic, are relatively infrequent.

He highlighted the issue of holding death certificate by the hospitals to clear their dues which he thinks, is against our religious, social and moral values. This decision aligns with similar practices in many countries worldwide, where the ethical considerations surrounding the release of deceased bodies have taken precedence over financial transactions.

In the UK, the National Health Service (NHS) ensures hospitals cannot withhold bodies over unpaid bills, prioritizing dignity for the deceased and compassion for families. Similarly, in Canada and Australia, hospitals and funeral homes release the deceased without delay, even without full payment, with outstanding bills settled later through insurance or payment plans.

While the new directive has been praised, experts warn that hospitals will need a sustainable model to recover costs. They said private hospitals, relying on upfront payments, may face challenges, requiring better financial support and regulation.

Citizens were of the view that IHRA's decision was a significant step towards a compassionate healthcare system in Islamabad, ensuring the immediate release of deceased bodies. They said balancing hospital finances and patient welfare will be challenging, the public support highlights the demand for more humane healthcare practices. The notification, issued by the board of IHRA reads, " In adherence to patients' rights and ethical standards, all hospitals in Islamabad are hereby directed to refrain from retaining or holding the body of any deceased patient on account of outstanding financial payments."

Uzbekistan: A historic gem of Islamic heritage, a growing partner for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Uzbekistan, nestled in the heart of Central Asia, stands as a beacon of Islamic heritage, showcasing a rich history which spans centuries.

With its ancient cities, grand mosques and enduring cultural traditions, the country remains an indispensable destination for the Islamic world.

Recently, its ties with Pakistan have reached new heights, emphasizing shared history, faith and growing bilateral cooperation. The inauguration of a direct flight between Tashkent and Lahore stands as a testament to the flourishing relationship between the two nations.

This initiative is expected to not only boost trade and economic ties but also foster greater people-to-people connections, enabling both nations to explore their rich historical and religious heritage together.

Uzbekistan is home to some of the world's most iconic Islamic landmarks. Cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva are treasure troves of Islamic architecture, culture and scholarship.

The jewel of Central Asia known as the "Crossroads of Cultures," Samarkand is a UNESCO world heritage site. The city's Registan Square, flanked by three majestic madrasas, stands as a testament to the golden age of Islamic learning and it is also home to the Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum, the resting place of the great conqueror Amir Timur (Tamerlane), and the Bibi-Khanym Mosque, a masterpiece of Timurid architecture.

A spiritual epicente Bukhara, a city over 2,000 years old, has been a center of Islamic spirituality and learning. The Kalon Mosque and Minaret, the Ark Fortress, and the Lyab-i Hauz complex are must-visit sites. Bukhara's role as a hub for Islamic scholars, including Imam Bukhari, has cemented its place in the annals of Islamic history.

A living museum, the ancient walled city of Itchan Kala in Khiva preserves the essence of medieval Islamic life. Its labyrinth of mosques, madrasas, and caravanserais transports visitors back in time.

For Muslims worldwide Uzbekistan offers a unique spiritual journey. The Imam Bukhari Complex, near Samarkand, draws scholars and pilgrims to honor the legacy of the compiler of Sahih al-Bukhari, one of the most authentic collections of Hadith in Islam. Other significant sites include the tomb of Imam Termezi and the memorial of Sheikh Naqshband in Bukhara.

In recent years, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have fostered a robust partnership, rooted in shared faith, cultural heritage, and mutual economic interests.

Pakistanis hold Uzbekistan's Islamic heritage in high regard, with scholars and historians often highlighting the historical connections between the two regions. Uzbek leaders have also acknowledged the role of Pakistani scholars in preserving Islamic traditions.

The two nations are enhancing trade and connectivity, particularly through initiatives like the Trans-Afghan Railway Project, which aims to link Uzbekistan with Pakistani ports. This project promises to transform the economic landscape of Central and South Asia.

High-level visits, such as those by Pakistan's Prime Minister to Tashkent and Uzbekistan's President to Islamabad, have strengthened bilateral ties. Agreements on trade, education, and cultural exchange underscore the growing partnership.

Uzbekistan has actively promoted itself as a destination for Pakistani tourists, emphasizing shared Islamic heritage.

Uzbekistan's preservation of its Islamic heritage serves as an inspiration for other nations. With its breathtaking architecture, spiritual significance, and a commitment to interfaith harmony, the country is a must-visit destination for the Islamic world.

As Pakistan and Uzbekistan deepen their ties, the partnership sets an example of how shared history and faith can pave the way for a prosperous future. For travelers and historians alike, Uzbekistan beckons with open arms, offering a journey through the timeless splendor of Islamic civilization.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Jamadi Us Sanni 06, 1446 — Monday, December 09, 2024

Collection of 98m reported

TALUQAN (BNA): Takhar Mines Directorate has reported the collection of 98 million Afghanis in revenue over the past nine months, which has been deposited into the state treasury. The revenue was generated through contracts for the extraction of gypsum, salt, and coal with private companies. Mawlawi Sardar Wali Zakir, the Director of Mines in Takhar, highlighted the Directorate's focus on maximizing lawful mining practices and ensuring transparent collection of revenues.

DAB to auction $16m

KABUL (BNA): Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) has announced the auction of $16 million scheduled for Monday, December 9, aiming to stabilize the Afghan currency against the US dollar. Eligible money exchangers and commercial banks are invited to participate in the auction. Winning bidders are required to settle their payments in full by the end of the day, either in cash or via transfer. The bank has clarified that partial transactions are not permitted.

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

Kyrgyz leader urges world to recognize current Afghan govt

KABUL (Ariana News): Kyrgyzstan's President Sadyr Japarov has called one European countries and the United States to recognize the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) as the government of the country.

"Currently, they are in near-total isolation. We, as the global community, must understand one crucial thing: isolating Afghanistan from the rest of the world will not solve the problem. On the contrary, the longer this situation persists, the more the afghan people will endure difficult days," Japarov said in an interview with Turkish TV channel TRT.

He also called for the return of the frozen assets for the future of the Afghan people.

"These funds could help the current Afghan government not only rebuild its infrastructure but also provide affordable loans to citizens through local banks, develop agriculture, and create opportunities to improve the lives of those living in poverty. Right now, the afghan people are suffering from hunger," he said.

Japarov said that Afghanistan's leadership could be invited for a working visit to one or two European countries. "If they visit so-called developed countries and see firsthand how people live in various parts of the world, it could positively influence their governance experience. If we continue to isolate them, there won't be any positive outcomes, even after 50 years."

He also said that if European countries or the United States are willing to provide technical assistance to Afghanistan through various projects or specialized programs, Kyrgyzstan is ready to help implement these initiatives.

Kabir meets Logar elders to address local issues

KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, emphasized the importance of solving citizens' problems and developing the country during a meeting with representatives from 80 villages in Kharwar District, Logar Province.

According to the ARG's statement, the meeting, held at the Sapidar Palace, included commanders, tribal elders, and scholars from Kharwar. The residents expressed satisfaction with the establishment of the Islamic system and assured their full cooperation and support. They also urged authorities to prioritize developmental projects, including constructing roads, clinics, and dams to address local challenges.

In response, Mawlawi Abdul Kabir stated that the success of the Islamic system and the victory of jihad were achieved through public support. He stressed that now is the time to focus on solving the nation's problems and advancing its development. He also assured attendees that he would instruct relevant authorities to address the issues raised by the residents of Kharwar District.

Baradar leads Economic Commission on major plans

KABUL (BNA): The Economic Commission, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, held its regular session at the Marmarin Palace. The meeting addressed various significant matters on the agenda related to Afghanistan's economic progress.

The session included a detailed discussion on the Islamic Emirate delegation's recent working report to the UAE concerning the DP World Company contract.

Additionally, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat presented updates regarding the CASA-1000 project, highlighting developments and challenges.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Public Works' Directorate of Railways submitted its report on the Afghan-Trans project, while Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat provided a comprehensive review of the Managi Hydropower Dam.

Furthermore, a proposal to digitize driving permits and licenses was also introduced for consideration.

Following in-depth deliberations, the commission approved the Afghan-Trans project report presented by the Directorate of Railways and directed relevant ministries and agencies to implement necessary measures.

Decision to ban medical education for women in Afghanistan indefensible

KABUL (Ariana News): US charge d'affaires for Afghanistan, Karen Decker, criticized reports of a decision to close medical educational institutions to women, saying the decision was "indefensible in any language, culture, or religion."

Decker said on X that the leadership of the Islamic Emirate in Kandahar has already risked the future of Afghanistan by preventing girls from becoming teachers or engineers.

"They would now destroy it completely by preventing girls from becoming doctors or midwives. Babies will not be born. Mothers will die. All the Afghan people will suffer. This decision must be reversed to prevent unnecessary misery," she said.

Decker added that it is difficult to see the value of the IEA diplomacy abroad "if this is what they are selling."

Recently, there have been reports that the supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate ordered the closure of medical institutes for women. The Islamic Emirate has not yet officially commented on the matter.

Turkey detains 60 refuges

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Turkish Coast Guard has detained around 60 refugees, including 27 Afghan children, who have now been transferred to a deportation center. In a separate incident, seven Afghan nationals have been arrested on charges of "human trafficking."

Turkish media reported on Saturday that the Coast Guard "rescued" the refugees after receiving a report about a boat engine breakdown.

Turkish police have accused the seven Afghan citizens of sheltering migrants who had entered the country "illegally."

Turkey has accelerated the identification and deportation of Afghan nationals, detaining and deporting hundreds of Afghan refugees in recent months.

Additionally, multiple reports have surfaced about violence against detained Afghan refugees by Turkish police.

Turkey now operates 32 repatriation centers with a combined capacity of nearly 20,000 people. According to Ali Yerlikaya, Turkey's Interior Minister, these centers are "our greatest infrastructure strength for deportation."

The plight of Afghan refugees in Turkey reflects the broader regional challenges faced by displaced populations.

With heightened deportation measures and limited asylum opportunities, Afghan refugees often face dire conditions, including overcrowded detention centers and inadequate legal support.

The international community is being urged to address the escalating refugee crisis and ensure that host countries uphold human rights.

1st non-alcoholic beverage factory launched in Farah

FARAH (TOLOnews): A private production company has started manufacturing non-alcoholic beverages and food products for the first time in Farah province.

The head of the company stated that they produce 75,000 beverage packages monthly and plan to begin food production in the near future.

This factory, established recently by a businessman in Farah, was launched with an investment of over $200,000.

However, the lack of electricity remains a major challenge, hindering the factory's operations.

Jawad Ghafoori, the factory director, urged the Islamic Emirate to address this issue, saying: "Our biggest challenge is electricity. We request the Islamic Emirate provide electricity so that we can continue our production and manufacture our raw and initial materials ourselves."

Some workers at the factory also called on other businessmen to invest within the country to create more job opportunities for young people.

Mohammad Asif, one of the workers, said: "My request to businessmen is to invest in Afghanistan, especially in Farah province."

Rahim Gul, another worker, said: "Now that security has been established, the country's businessmen should invest so that young people are not forced to leave the country."

Hafiz Shamsulhaq Ajmal, the director of Industry and Commerce in Farah province, stated that efforts are underway to resolve the electricity shortage in the province.

He explained: "The electricity supply survey from Turkmenistan to Farah has been completed, and in the short term, Farah will benefit from electricity."

According to statistics from the Farah Directorate of Industry and Commerce, more than 40 production factories are currently operating in the province. These factories are engaged in producing food and non-food items, providing livelihoods for hundreds of workers and their families.

900,000 migrants returned in 8 months

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations has reported that in the past eight months of the current solar year, more than 900,000 Afghan migrants have returned to the country from Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan.

Abdul Mutalib Haqqani, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations, told TOLOnews regarding these figures: "In the past eight months, approximately 970,000 Afghans have returned to the country. About 88,000 of them came from Pakistan, 5,000 from Turkey, and the rest from Iran."

Meanwhile, Abbas Ali Mohammadian, the Chief of Tehran Police, stated that 700 to 800 Afghan migrants are detained daily and deported from Iran.

According to Mohammadian, so far, 70,000 undocumented migrants have been deported from Iran, and around 70,000 others have voluntarily left and returned to their country.

The Chief of Tehran Police added: "Approximately 170,000 individuals have been rounded up so far, and we collect 700 to 1,000 people daily."

Some migrant rights activists emphasized the need for host countries to provide better facilities for Afghan migrants.

Nazar Nazari, a migrant rights activist, stated: "Migrants are eager to return to their country, but their concerns revolve around shelter and the lack of basic living necessities. At present, host countries should focus their attention on addressing these crises."

Earlier, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported an 18% increase in the deportation of Afghan migrants from Iran compared to last year. According to statistics from this organization, Iran has deported nearly 560,000 Afghan migrants in the first nine months of the current year.

IEA officials stress unity, educational progress at event

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Deputy Minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs Mohammad Ali Jan Ahmad stated at an event in Kabul that Western countries, during their 20-year presence in Afghanistan, made every effort to weaken Islamic culture.

Mohammad Ali Jan Ahmad also said that in the past there was a significant gap between universities and religious schools; however, this gap has now been eliminated. He emphasized the expansion and further development of educational services in the country, adding that the Islamic Emirate is committed to providing a suitable environment for modern education for youth.

The Deputy Minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs said: "The Islamic Emirate is committed to ensuring that those children who remain loyal to Afghanistan and religion will be given opportunities to serve. I assure you of this."

Mohammad Ali Jan Ahmad further stated that the era of coercion and promoting ethnic and regional issues in the country has come to an end.

The Deputy Minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs said: "This is the shared home of all Afghans. Today, there is no division, tribalism, or coercion. We dedicate our lives to the principles of the Islamic Emirate and religion."

Abdul Basit Haqqani, head of the education department of Kabul, also stated during the event that the Ministry of Education is working to provide better opportunities for education.

The Head of Education department of Kabul added: "The Ministry of Education, the Islamic Emirate, and the Ministry of Borders, along with all their officials and leadership, are striving to provide educational opportunities for citizens."

"A student's demand is that job opportunities should be provided. This must be made available to us," said Yousuf, a student.

These remarks were made during an event celebrating the graduation of 650 students from Khushhal Khan, Pir Mohammad Kakar, and Rahman Baba schools, as well as an institute affiliated with this ministry.

National archive to be restored

KABUL (TOLOnews): Officials from the Ministry of Information and Culture have announced the commencement of the National Archive restoration project at a cost of 4.6 million afghani. The aim of the restoration is to protect the documents and storage facilities of the National Archive from damages caused by climate change.

The National Archive building, widely known by this name among citizens, was built more than 130 years ago by Amir Abdur Rahman Khan as a guesthouse for his son, Amir Habibullah Khan. During the era of Daoud Khan in 1973, the site was dedicated to housing the National Archive.

"The documents preserved here include royal decrees from various periods, starting from the time of Ahmad Shah Baba, Timur Shah Durrani, Amir Dost Mohammad Khan, Amir Sher Ali Khan, and Amir Abdur Rahman Khan," said Homayoun Nikzad, an expert in historical documents at the National Archive.

Khabib Ghofran, spokesperson for the Ministry of Information and Culture, stated: "This project is one of the most significant undertakings of the Ministry of Information and Culture. Considering the importance of the National Archive as one of the country's historical landmarks, implementing this project will help protect historical documents from natural and seasonal damages."

National Archive officials expressed gratitude for the restoration initiative by the Ministry of Information and Culture, underscoring the importance of preserving the nation's historical and archaeological sites.

"This building is over 132 years old and was in need of repairs. It is very important for us that this restoration has begun," said Haron Noori, head of the manuscripts section of the National Archive.

3 people killed, as many injured in Afghanistan last week

KABUL (Pajhwok): Last week, girls' medical education and training suspended but only examination allowed, Norway downgraded diplomatic relations with Afghanistan, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) regretted the decision by Oslo, European Union (EU), Switzarland and Saudi Arabia announced $24 million assistance with Afghanistan.

Casualties:

Three people were killed and as many injured in Afghanistan last week.

Three people, including two women, have been injured in a hand grenade attack on a house in northwestern Faryab province, officials said.

In Kunduz, a man killed his father while in Uruzgan a man killed as a result of a land dispute.

An armed robber was killed during a clash with security forces in western Herat province, the provincial police chief said.

Three people killed and as many injured in Afghanistan in the previous week.

Before the regime change in 2021, hundreds of civilians, insurgents and security personnel would be killed and maimed every week.

Expansion of bilateral ties:

Mawlavi Abdul Salaam Hanafi, deputy prime minister for administrative affairs, last week travelled to Uzbekistan and during meetings with Uzbek official he committed the promotion of bilateral ties between the two countries in different area.

During a meeting with Afghan business persons, Mawlavi Hanafi asked them to invest in mining, energy, agriculture and production sectors.

Afghanistan, Norway relations:

According to report, Norway downgraded diplomatic relationships with Afghanistan and refused to approve new ambassador of the IEA.

The acting Afghan government has voiced disappointment over Norway's decision to downgrade diplomatic ties with Afghanistan.

Abdul Qahar Balkhi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman, said the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) believed such decisions should not be tied to internal affairs of other countries.

The source said Norway considered international law as the foundation of relationship with the world and on the bases of these laws it could reject the IEA envoy.

"We hope such decisions are not tied to the internal relationship of the countries."

Suspension of girls' medical education and training:

Girls' education at medical institutes has been suspended, but students can to take final exams. However, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has yet to comment on the issue.

The decision has sparked reaction:

Former President Hamid Karzai has asked the caretaker government to repeal the decision to ban girls from medical institutions and open the doors of schools and universities to them, so that Afghanistan could be put on the path to prosperity and development through education.

UN Human Rights Commission also expressed concern in this regard and asked the IEA government to reverse this decision.

Doctors without borders termed the decision to ban girls' medical training and education would have bad outcomes because there was high demand for medical personnel in Afghanistan and should be fulfilled by training medical cadres.

Iran extradict 500 Afghan prisoners:

Iran last week, shared the list of 500 Afghan prisoners to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) for identification and extradition purpose, a media report said on Tuesday.

Askar Jalalyan, deputy head of the Iranian Justice Ministry's Human Rights and International Affairs Department, told Isna News that as part of the prisoners' extradition, Iran shared the list of 500 prisoners with the IEA.

The purpose of sharing this list was the acknowledgement of Afghan prisoners' identity, he added.

According to Jalalyan, over 8,000 foreigners are imprisoned in Iran in which most are Afghans. Most of these individuals had been imprisoned in connection to drugs and related crimes.

Continuation of assistance:

Last week, the European Union announced it would provide $15.8 million in aid to Afghanistan, Austria has allocated five million euros to help Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia is providing three million dollars to help fight polio in Afghanistan.

Russia also said it had sent a fifth humanitarian aid shipment to Afghanistan at the demand of its President Vladimir Putin.

Gandapur reviews ADP schemes in DI Khan

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A meeting to review the developmental portfolio of district D.I. Khan under the Provincial Annual Development Program was held here on Sunday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair.

Senior officials from the divisional and district administration of D.I. Khan attended the meeting whereas Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Ikramullah Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Abid Majeed, and administrative secretaries of relevant departments attended the meeting from Peshawar via video link.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister was briefed on the progress of ongoing and new projects across various sectors in D.I. Khan, and it was approved that work is underway on 19 major projects across sectors like health, education, communications, sports, irrigation, industry, tourism, social welfare, relief, and livestock.

These projects, with a total cost of PKR 70 billion, have an allocation of PKR 6.1 billion for the current fiscal year, out of which PKR 724 million has already been released.

It was further told that 25 new projects worth PKR 23.8 billion have been included in the provincial annual development program for D.I. Khan, with an allocation of PKR 1.4 billion in this year's budget.

Among these, 12 priority projects have been shortlisted, including the establishment of a Girls Cadet College, a satellite center of the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology, a burn center, and a cath lab.

Other key initiatives include the construction of flyovers, the establishment of a Girls Commerce College, a new building for the education board, and the relocation of the Tank bus terminal.

The meeting was informed that Rs. 357 million have been released for the construction of flyovers in the district, a summary of Rs. 233 million for expanding the Girls Commerce College and purchasing equipments has been submitted, whereas Rs. 209 million have been proposed for the establishment of Girls Cadet College.

Similarly, revised PC-I for establishing a cath lab is underway, while PC-II for the satellite center of the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology has been prepared at a cost of Rs 25 million; and PC-I for setting up burn center at Mufti Mehmood Teaching Hospital is under preparation.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction with the overall progress and directed authorities to ensure timely implementation of these welfare projects. He emphasized equal development across all divisions and prioritization of underdeveloped and merged districts in planning and funding.

The Chief Minister also instructed divisional commissioners to monitor development activities in their respective divisions and ensure the availability of required funds.

He urged line departments to communicate their financial needs promptly to the finance department and avoid unnecessary delays, ensuring the timely completion of projects for public benefit.

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Ameen Khan Gandapur chairing a meeting to review ADP schemes in DI Khan

Trump says Zelensky is ready for 'deal' with Russia

PARIS (AFP): US president-elect Donald Trump said on Sunday that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is keen on a "deal" to end the war with Russia, after the pair met in Paris to discuss the future of the conflict.

French President Emmanuel Macron hosted three-way talks with Zelensky and Trump at the Elysee Palace on Saturday, as fears grow in Kyiv about the position of the incoming US administration.

Trump has openly scoffed at the billions of dollars in military assistance being sent to Ukraine and once boasted he could end the conflict in 24 hours.

"Zelenskyy (sic) and Ukraine would like to make a deal and stop the madness," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"There should be an immediate ceasefire and negotiations should begin. Too many lives are being so needlessly wasted, too many families destroyed, and if it keeps going, it can turn into something much bigger, and far worse."

Hours after the trio's meeting, the outgoing administration of US President Joe Biden announced a new $988-million military assistance package for Ukraine.

The package features drones, ammunition for precision HIMARS rocket launchers, and equipment and spare parts for artillery systems, tanks and armoured vehicles, the Pentagon said.

'Just' peace

In Ukraine there is concern that Trump may urge domestically unpopular concessions to bring about peace. Zelensky insisted any settlement with Russia had to be equitable.

"We all want peace. But it is very important for us… that the peace is just for all of us and that Russia, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin or any other aggressor has no possibility of ever returning," Zelensky said according to the presidential website.

"And this is the most important thing — a just peace and security guarantees, strong security guarantees for Ukraine," he added.

But Zelensky also thanked Trump for his "unwavering resolve" describing the talks as "good and productive".

Zelensky's meeting with Trump, just before both attended the re-opening ceremony of the Notre Dame cathedral, was his first face-to-face encounter with the tycoon-turned-politician since his US election victory.

It also offered a unique chance for Macron to gain insights into how a second Trump presidency will look when he takes office in January.

The trip to Paris is Trump's first international visit since his November 5 election win.

'Going a little crazy'

Trump and Macron embraced and shook hands several times on the steps of the French presidential palace.

Trump was given a full guard of honour despite not yet being in office.

"It seems like the world is going a little crazy right now and we will be talking about that," Trump told reporters as he prepared to sit down for the talks with Macron.

Despite tensions between the two men during his first term, Trump hailed his ties with the centrist French leader, saying: "We had a great relationship as everyone knows. We accomplished a lot."

Macron told Trump it was "a great honour for French people to welcome you" for the re-opening ceremony at Notre Dame, which was devastated by a blaze in 2019 during Trump's first term.

"You were president at that time and I remember the solidarity and the immediate reaction," Macron added, speaking in English.

In his own reaction to the discussions, Macron wrote on social media: "Let us continue our joint efforts for peace and security."

European allies have largely enjoyed a close working relationship with Biden on the crisis in the Middle East, but Trump is likely to distance himself and ally the United States even more closely with Israel.

Dar, Turkish FM discuss Syria situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday held telephone conversation with the Foreign Minister of Turkiye, Hakan Fidan on the unfolding situation in Syria.

During the conversation, the deputy PM shared the details of the efforts by the Government of Pakistan for the safety and security of its nationals in Syria.They also discussed possible cooperation between the two countries for the safety of the Pakistan nationals, a press release issued by the Foreign Office said.

Joe Biden monitoring events in Syria

WASHINGTON (AFP/AP): US President Joe Biden is keeping a close eye on "extraordinary events" transpiring in Syria, the White House said late Saturday, after a war monitor said President Bashar Assad fled the country and rebels declared they have taken the capital.

"President Biden and his team are closely monitoring the extraordinary events in Syria and staying in constant touch with regional partners," National Security Council spokesman Sean Savett said in a statement on social media.

President-elect Donald Trump earlier said Saturday that the US military should stay out of the escalating conflict in Syria as a shock opposition offensive closes in on the capital, declaring in a social media post, "THIS IS NOT OUR FIGHT." With world leaders watching the rapid militant advance against Syria's Russian- and Iranian-backed president, Bashar Assad, Biden's national security adviser separately stressed that the Biden administration had no intention of intervening.

"The United States is not going to … militarily dive into the middle of a Syrian civil war," Jake Sullivan told an audience in California.

He said the US would keep acting as necessary to keep the Daesh — a violently anti-Western extremist group not known to be involved in the offensive but with sleeper cells in Syria's deserts — from exploiting openings presented by the fighting.

Insurgents' stunning march across Syria sped faster Saturday, reaching the gates of Damascus and government forces abandoning the central city of Homs. The government was forced to deny rumors that Assad had fled the country.

Trump's comments on the dramatic militant push were his first since Syrian militants launched their advance late last month. They came while he was in Paris for the reopening of the Notre Dame cathedral.

In his post, Trump said Assad did not deserve US support to stay in power.

Assad's government has been propped up by the Russian and Iranian military, along with Hezbollah and other Iranian-allied militias, in a now 13-year-old war against opposition groups seeking his overthrow. The war, which began as a mostly peaceful uprising in 2011 against the Assad family's rule, has killed a half-million people, fractured Syria and drawn in a more than a half-dozen foreign militaries and militias.

Sindh, Italy explore new avenues

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah met with a high-level Italian delegation led by Mr. Francesco Maria Talò, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Defence, along with Ambassador E. Marilina Armellin and other key diplomats. The meeting focused on strengthening ties in trade, education, culture, and other sectors to foster mutual growth and development.

According to a statement issued from CM House on Sunday, the Chief Minister highlighted the potential for Italian experts to support Sindh's infrastructure development and boost local industries through international collaboration. He emphasised opportunities in sectors such as textiles, leather, and agriculture, where Sindh's and Italian industries could forge strong partnerships to drive economic growth.

Italy's expertise in supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was also discussed, with Shah stating, "Italy's support for SMEs could significantly boost Sindh's economy."

The meeting explored opportunities for Sindh's students to access scholarships at Italian universities and participate in collaborative vocational training in fields like fashion, design, and engineering. These initiatives aim to equip students with advanced skills to excel in their careers.

Shah underscored the importance of Italy's world-class expertise in cultural preservation, which could help revitalise Sindh's historical sites. Plans for joint festivals and cultural programmes were also discussed to celebrate the rich heritage of both regions and enhance mutual understanding.

The delegation discussed Italy's advanced capabilities in security, counter-terrorism, and disaster management. Chief Minister Murad Shah highlighted the potential for training Sindh's law enforcement agencies and enhancing urban disaster response systems.

Italy's support in tackling climate challenges, such as urban flooding and promoting sustainable agriculture, was acknowledged as a crucial area for collaboration. These efforts align with Sindh's need for solutions to pressing environmental issues.

Both sides expressed a commitment to humanitarian initiatives, particularly those aimed at supporting differently-abled children and vulnerable communities. This shared vision underscores the social dimension of the partnership.

The discussions generated optimism about future Italian investments in Sindh's infrastructure, renewable energy, and transportation sectors. The meeting also laid the groundwork for potential memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and joint projects.

"This partnership could usher in a new era of progress and prosperity for both Sindh and Italy," said the Chief Minister, reflecting the hopeful spirit of the dialogue.

Addition of 8 Hangor class submarines to bolster Navy's 'offensive punch'

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Sunday said the addition of eight Hangor submarines would boost the combat capabilities of Pakistan Navy besides bolstering its "offensive punch".

Pakistan Navy, he said, always laid special emphasis on its submarine force and added that the ongoing submarine project in collaboration with China was testimony to this fact.

The Naval Chief stated this in his message on the Hangor Day where the Pakistan Navy submarine Hangor, 53 years ago, created history by sinking Indian Navy's INS Khukri and Kirpan. This was the first successful engagement of a warship by a submarine, post World War-II, and the only such engagement by a conventional submarine.

"We cannot forget this day and neither can the enemy," he said, adding that the event was not only part of a tactical battle executed perfectly, but also a strategic demonstration of Pakistan Navy's resolve to repulse enemy aggression and defend the maritime frontiers, notwithstanding numerical asymmetry.

Admiral Ashraf said the day was a reminder of the courage, tenacity and grit of the Hangor crew, according to the message issued here by the Directorate General Public Relations of Pakistan Navy.

He termed the achievement as Almighty Allah's blessing and a true measure of the professionalism and selfless devotion of Pakistan Navy's veteran submariners, who played an inspirational role in establishing historic legacies.

"Through professional excellence and dedication, we can fight against all odds, and continue to enrich our proud heritage," he said.

The Naval Chief also paid tribute to the martyrs of PNS/M Ghazi who laid their lives while defending the motherland in 1971.

He expressed confidence that the Pakistan Navy's submarine squadron would continue to draw inspiration from the sacrifices of their predecessors and also from the exemplary feat of legendary PNS/M Hangor.

Doctors say Israeli shells hit Gaza hospital

CAIRO (Reuters): Israeli shelling hit a hospital in northern Gaza, wounding several people, damaging equipment and disrupting surgeries, Palestinian health officials said on Sunday, but Israel's military denied carrying out strikes in the area.

Hussam Abu Safiya, director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in the town of Beit Lahiya - one of only three barely operational on the northern edge of the enclave - said the facility was struck by about 100 tank shells and bombs late on Saturday.

"The situation is extremely dangerous. We have patients in the intensive care unit and others awaiting surgeries. Access to the operating rooms is only possible after restoring electricity and oxygen supply," Abu Safiya said in a statement.

The hospital is currently treating 112 wounded people, including six in the intensive care unit, he said.

Israel's military said it had conducted a review and found that its forces had not struck in the vicinity of the hospital or damaged any of its essential equipment. "The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) is in continuous coordination with hospital officials to provide humanitarian assistance to the hospital and maintain a consistent liaison," the military said.

The health ministry of Hamas-run Gaza said a doctor was killed with his family in an Israeli airstrike near the hospital on Saturday night.

Residents said the military blew up clusters of houses on Sunday in the northern Gaza areas of Jabalia, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, where Israeli forces have operated since October.

Later in the day, an Israeli airstrike killed five Palestinians in the heart of Gaza City, taking the number of people killed in separate military strikes across the enclave to 11, medics said. Palestinians say Israel's operations on the northern edge of the enclave are part of a plan to clear people out through forced evacuations and bombardments to create a buffer zone. The Israeli military denies this, saying it is fighting Hamas.

The war in Gaza has been raging for over 14 months, with much of the enclave laid to waste and more than 44,000 Palestinians killed, according to Gaza health authorities, as Israeli forces continue their drive to wipe out Hamas and rescue hostages taken by the militant group.

The deadliest Israeli-Palestinian violence in decades began when Hamas stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages back to Gaza.

Europe's economy needs help

Political chaos in France and Germany means it may be slower in coming

BRUSSELS (AP): Even before the French and German governments collapsed, Europe's economy had enough difficulties. Tepid growth and lagging competitiveness versus the U.S. and China. An auto industry that's struggling. Where to find billions for defense against Russia? And now Donald Trump threatening tariffs.

Solutions will be harder to find while the two countries that make up almost half of the eurozone economy remain stuck in political paralysis well into 2025.

Where once there was the so-called French-German axis to push Europe ahead, now there's a vacuum. French Prime Minister Michel Barnier resigned Thursday after losing a vote of confidence, and while President Emmanuel Macron will appoint a successor, the new head of government will lack a majority. Elections are not constitutionally permitted until at least June.

Germany's coalition led by Social Democratic Chancellor Olaf Scholz with the Greens and pro-business Free Democrats fractured in November, triggering an early election on Feb. 23. Talks to form a new government could last into April.

At least Germany's likely new chancellor, conservative opposition leader Friedrich Merz, appears open to loosening constitutional restrictions on borrowing to enable pro-growth spending and investment, said Mujtaba Rahman, managing director Europe at Eurasia Group. France, however, could be facing "complete paralysis on the economic question," Rahman said.

"It's highly unlikely they're going to get a political equilibrium that has a mandate to implement a credible fiscal course correction."

"And that's obviously a problem for Europe because it means the great potential of the European economy is not what it otherwise should be, because you don't have France and Germany firing on all cylinders," he said.

Then there's Europe's lagging business environment, dissected by former European Central Bank head Mario Draghi in a report that contains recommendations such as common borrowing to support public investment; EU-wide industrial policy; and integrating financial markets to help startups raise capital. Yet "nothing can move in Europe without Franco-German alignment," Rahman said.

Meanwhile, Europe's auto industry has sought a review of tough EU emissions standards in 2025 instead of 2026, saying slackening demand for electric cars means they won't be able to avoid heavy fines and that the money would be better used to develop new electric vehicles.

Anne-Laure Delatte, a French economist and head of research at the National Center for Scientific Research, said financial markets remain cautious but are not overly alarmed by France's political instability. But economic weakness in France and Germany could have broader implications for the European Union.

"This could either weaken Europe's position globally or shift power and influence to other European countries like the Netherlands or Spain, which are performing well at the moment," she said.

France is expected to see growth of 1.1% this year and 0.8% next year, while Germany's economy is expected to shrink 0.1% this year, the second consecutive year of contraction, and rebound modestly with 0.7% next year. Germany faces headwinds from a shortage of skilled labor, excessive bureaucracy and higher energy prices, and efforts to address those issues have been stalled by squabbling in Scholz's coalition.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, head of the EU's executive arm, is equipped with serious powers, especially on trade, a key EU authority delegated to Brussels by member countries. But there's only so much von der Leyen can do without political backing from the two biggest member countries, whose national budgets are bigger than the EU's.

Syrian rebels topple

Continued from Front Page

"The real question is how orderly will this transition be, and it seems quite clear that Golani is very eager for it to be an orderly one," said Joshua Landis, a Syria expert and Director of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma.

"They are going to have to rebuild ... they will need Europe and the U.S. to lift sanctions," Landis added.

HTS is Syria's strongest rebel group and some Syrians remain fearful it will impose draconian Islamist rule or instigate reprisals.

Countries like the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, both close U.S. allies, see Islamist militant groups as an existential threat, so HTS may face resistance from the regional heavyweights.

In the Manama conference, Anwar Gargash, the diplomatic advisor to the United Arab Emirates president, said a main concern for that country is "extremism and terrorism."

Israel said it had deployed forces in the U.N.-monitored buffer zone with Syria and at a number of points necessary for defence.

Suspected Israeli strikes hit Mazzeh district of Damascus, one Lebanese and one Syrian security source said on Sunday.

Jets believed to be Israeli bombed the Khalkhala air base in southern Syria that was evacuated by the Syrian army overnight, two regional security sources told Reuters.

The Israeli government had no immediate comment on the reported strikes, which one of the sources said appeared to be aimed at preventing weapons falling into the hands of radical Islamist groups.

China closely follows situation in Syria: Chinese Foreign Ministry

APP adds: China is closely following the situation in Syria and hopes that stability will return as soon as possible, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Sunday.

It is reported that Syria's anti-government forces have entered Syrian capital Damascus and declared the fall of the Syrian government.

In a statement, the spokesperson said the Chinese government has been actively helping Chinese nationals who wish to leave the country to do so in a safe and orderly way, and staying in contact with those Chinese still in Syria and offering them advice on how to stay safe.

"We urge relevant parties in Syria to ensure the safety and security of the Chinese institutions and personnel in Syria," the spokesperson said.

The Chinese Embassy is still up and running and carrying out its duty in Syria. We will continue to make every possible assistance to Chinese nationals in need, the spokesperson added.

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar. Managing Editor Jalil Afridi. Phone 0300 9009001