

Asfand Kakar resigns
F.P. Report

QUETTA: Member Balochistan Assembly of PPP Asfandiyar Khan Kakar announced on Saturday to step down as Parliamentary Secretary of Quetta Development Authority and Urban Planning with immediate effect, says in media reports. In a statement, Asfand Kakar said "I am seriously thinking to leave Pakistan People's Party as I have serious complaints against the leadership."



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PM launches Rs20b Ramazan package

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday launched Rs20 billion Ramazan package for 4 million deserving families across the country, benefitting about 20 million people.

Addressing the launching ceremony, the prime minister said that a total of 4 million deserving families comprising about two crore people would benefit from this package which would be distributed in the first ten days of the holy month. Each family through digital wallets would get Rs5,000, he said, expressing his satisfaction that the price hike had been reduced this year when compared with the previous figures during the holy month of Ramazan.

"This year, an amount of Rs20 billion has been allocated for the purpose. The relief amount last year was Rs7 billion," he added. The prime minister also lauded all the relevant authorities and institutions including ministries, State Bank of Pakistan, NADRA, BISP and tech companies who worked day and night to devise a digital mechanism.

The federal government's initiative would benefit all parts of the country through a well-devised digital system, he added. He also expressed his gratitude to the foreign partners for

their partnership and support in this noble cause and appreciated their commitment and valuable contributions.

The prime minister said that billions of rupees of the poor nation had been stuck up in litigation for years and expressed the resolve of the government to get expeditious decisions over Rs500 billion cases pending for adjudication in various courts.

He said corruption was being dealt with iron hands. During their previous interim government's tenure, the banks had made windfall profits over fluctuation of dollar rates and got stay orders from the court when the government introduced a legislation in this regard. Referring to a decision of the recent Sindh High Court, he said Rs23 billion were recovered from the disposal of a stay case.

The prime minister termed the corruption in the Utility Stores Corporation as 'worst one' and said that it was being privatized, ending public agonies with a very proactive digital system like the one just launched. He also reiterated to close down other government's entities running into losses. The prime minister expressed his deep grief over a terrorist attack on Maulana Hamid ul Haq at Madrassa Haqqania in which Maulana Haq had embraced martyrdom.

He said that Madrassa Haqqania was a renowned center of Islamic studies, and the yesterday's terrorist incident was heart-wrenching, and highly condemnable. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would immediately bring the perpetrators to book, he said, adding in the year 2018, terrorism was eliminated from the country, and in that fight about 80,000 Pakistanis had laid down their lives, including security forces officers and jawans and all segments of society. Unfortunately, he said the specter raised its head in the recent times and everyone knew the reasons.

With the unmatched sacrifices of the security forces and nation's support, they would eliminate terrorism forever and would not rest till its complete eradication, he added. Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, in his remarks, said the programme was sanctioned in twenty days in which all the relevant authorities played a significant part, enabling them to launch the initiative in the holy month.

He said foolproof mechanism would ensure swift transfer of amount to 4 million deserving families all over the country. Moreover, a total of 600 stalls were being set up at the tehsil level to provide sugar at subsidized price of Rs130 kg.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif launching Digital Wallet with regard to Ramazan package.

Kurdish fighters declare ceasefire with Turkiye

Maulana Hamidul Haq laid to rest in Akora

Syed Waliullah Shah

ISTANBUL (AFP): Outlawed Kurdish militants on Saturday declared a ceasefire with Turkiye following a landmark call by jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan asking the group to disband. It was the first reaction from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) after Ocalan this week called for the dissolution of the group and asked it to lay down arms after fighting the Turkish state for over four decades.

"In order to pave the way for the implementation of leader Apo's call for peace and democratic society, we are declaring a ceasefire effective from today," the PKK executive committee said, referring to Ocalan and quoted by the pro-PKK ANF news agency. "We agree with the content of the call as it is and we say that we will follow and implement it," the committee based in northern Iraq said.

"None of our forces will take armed action unless attacked," it added. The PKK — designated a terrorist group by Turkiye, the United States and the European Union — has waged an insurgency since 1984 with the aim of carving out a homeland for Kurds, who account for around 20 percent of Turkey's 85 million people.

Since Ocalan was jailed in 1999, there have been various attempts to end the bloodshed, which has cost more than 40,000 lives. After several meetings with Ocalan at his island prison, the pro-Kurdish DEM party on Thursday relayed his appeal for the PKK to lay down its weapons and convene a congress to announce the organisation's dissolution.

NEWSHERA: The funeral prayers of Maulana Hamid ul Haq Haqqani and other martyrs offered at the Darul Uloom Haqqania campus. Thousands of people, including scholars, politicians, and social figures, attended the funeral prayer, on Saturday.

Maulana Hamid ul Haq Haqqani was laid to rest beside his father, Maulana Sami ul Haq. The funeral procession was attended by thousands of mourners, including scholars, politicians, and social figures.

Maulana Rashid ul Haq Haqqani, son of Maulana Sami ul Haq Haqqani, was unanimously appointed as the new deputy administrator of Darul Uloom Haqqania. Scholars and elders performed a ceremonial turban-tying ceremony to mark the occasion.

In his address, Maulana Rashid ul Haq Haqqani thanked the guests and appealed to the public to remain patient and calm. He emphasized that the country belongs to them and that their ancestors had made great sacrifices for its survival.

He said, "Our father, Maulana Sami ul Haq Haqqani, and our brother, Maulana Hamid ul Haq Haqqani, also sacrificed their lives for Pakistan. We will continue to follow in their footsteps and will not abandon our mission."

Maulana Abdul Haq Haqqani, son of Maulana Hamid ul Haq Haqqani, was also appointed as his father's political successor. The gathering condemned the incident and demanded a thorough investigation to

bring the perpetrators to justice.

A resolution was passed unanimously by the gathering, which stated that a thorough investigation should be conducted into the incident, and those responsible should be brought to justice. The resolution also demanded that all those involved in the incident should be held accountable.

Meanwhile, the tranquil town of Akora Khattak is in deep mourning following a devastating suicide blast at the Haqqania seminary mosque after Friday prayers that resulted in the tragic deaths of eight individuals, including the seminary's administrator, Maulana Hamidul Haq.

The explosion, which also left more than 20 others injured, has left the entire community in deep shock, grappling with the aftermath of the brutal attack on the peaceful worshippers. The deadly attack, which occurred late Friday afternoon, targeted Maulana Hamidul Haq, a prominent figure in the region's religious circles in Nowshera.

Eyewitnesses and CCTV cameras described chaotic scenes at the seminary mosque as people scrambled to help the injured, while others tried to make sense of the unimaginable horror unfolding before them. DPO Nowshera, Abdul Rasheed Khan, confirmed the tragic toll of the blast, noting that at least eight people died immediately, including Maulana Hamidul Haq, and more than 20 others were wounded, some critically.

The attack took place as

Maulana Haq was leaving the mosque for his home. The DPO said the suicide bomber, disguised as a religious scholar, managed to get close to the Maulana at the mosque's gate before detonating the six kilogram explosives strapped to his body. Maulana Hamidul Haq, the son of the late Maulana Samiul Haq, a respected religious leader and former senator, had succeeded his father as head of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Sami (JUI-S) after his father was tragically stabbed to death in Rawalpindi in November 2018.

The victims of the blast included both seminary students and worshippers who had gathered for prayers. Mohammad Alam, a longtime resident of Akora Khattak, voiced the deep sorrow felt by the residents. "This is a place where everyone came for worship. To see this kind of suicide attack on peaceful worshippers is unbearable," he said.

"We are in deep shock. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who lost their loved ones." While no group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, suspicions are high that militant factions active across the western border may be behind the blast.

In the wake of the tragedy, there has been an outpouring of solidarity from the local community at Akora Khattak. Residents have gathered at local mosques and residences of the victims to offer condolences, and blood donations have been organized to help those injured in the blast.

Mustafa Amir murder case: FIA begins probe

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Federal Investigation Agency has launched money-laundering probe against Armaghan, key accused in Mustafa Amir murder case.

The FIA's anti-money laundering circle and cyber-crime circle jointly inquiring into the probe. The FIA authorities have said that Armaghan's all accounts and properties being ceased for 90 days. "The persons involved in dealings through Armaghan's accounts would also be added to the investigation," officials said.

A letter has been written to the CIA seeking evidence about involvement of the accused in money laundering, officials said. Moreover, forensic tests will be conducted with regard to the evidence about Armaghan's involvement in cybercrimes. The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Interior had ordered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) to investigate the Mustafa Amir murder case on Friday.

The NA body's meeting decided that the FIA Cyber Crime Wing should begin its investigation immediately in the murder case. PPP MNA Agha Rafiullah urged the FIA to take swift action against the suspect, who had opened fire on police officers yet received lenient treatment.

Another MNA, Nabeel Gabol said that the Mustafa Amir murder case involves drug trading and purchases from the dark web, indicating a failure of federal institutions. A high-level meeting at the Chief Minister House chaired by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah discussed progress of Mustafa Amir murder case on Thursday.

Senior officers from the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Anti-Violent Crime Cell (AVCC), and Special Investigation Unit (SIU) brief the chief minister on the progress of the case. Earlier, DIG Javed Alam Odho formed a special investigation committee to address the Armaghan syndicate involved in the Mustafa Amir murder case.

The six-member committee, headed by DIG CIA Muqaddas Haider, includes SSP CTD Irfan Bahadur, SSP AVCC Anil Haider, and SSP Investigation East Alina Rajpar, among others. This committee is tasked with investigating all aspects of the case, identifying the criminal activities of the prime accused, Armaghan, and his syndicate, as well as arresting those involved in Mustafa Amir's kidnapping and murder.

COAS lauds youth's role in contry's future

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), visited Bahawalpur Cantonment where he was apprised about operational preparedness and training aspects of Bahawalpur Corps. While addressing officers and troops, he commended their unwavering dedication, high morale, and combat readiness.

He reiterated that rigorous training remains the cornerstone of a soldier's professional development

and must continue to be the defining attribute of the Pakistan Army in overcoming the challenges of modern warfare.

COAS inaugurated the CMH Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS), Innovista Cholistan and Integrated Combat Simulator Arena; pioneering initiatives aimed at advancing medical education, Information Technology and combat readiness.

While at CIMS, he engaged with students from various universities across Bahawalpur, underscoring

the Army's commitment to nurturing the nation's youth. COAS encouraged students to pursue academic excellence with dedication and equip themselves with the skills necessary to contribute meaningfully to national development.

He lauded the pivotal role of the youth in shaping Pakistan's future and reaffirmed the Army's support for initiatives that empower young talent. Earlier, upon his arrival, the COAS was received by the Commander Bahawalpur Corps.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir interacting with officers during his visit to Bahawalpur Cantonment.

Ramazan begins as moon sighted in Pakistan

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The moon for the holy month for Ramazan was sighted on Saturday in Pakistan, with the first fast to be observed today. With the commencement of Ramazan, people are gearing up for a month of spiritual growth, self-reflection, and community bonding.

Millions of Muslims across the country will observe dawn-to-dusk fasts, engage in spiritual reflection, and perform acts of charity during the blessed month. Markets are bustling with shoppers buying dates, fruits, and other essentials, while mosques are being decorated and cleaned in preparation for the holy month.

The government has announced special arrangements for Ramazan, including reduced working hours and special Iftar arrangements. Traffic and security arrangements have also been put in place to ensure smooth flow of traffic, while special Ramazan bazars have been set up across the country.

Health experts have

advised people to take extra precautions during Ramazan, stressing the importance of staying hydrated and eating healthily. It is pertinent to mention here that the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, a day earlier, had announced that the Ramazan moon was not sighted, and the first fast would fall on Sunday (March 2). Addressing a press conference after the meeting in Peshawar, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad had said no testimony was received about the moon's sighting from across the country.

In a message at the advent of holy month of Ramazan, President Asif Ali Zardari urged the nation to participate in the charity and alms-giving activities during the holy month of Ramazan and take special care of those in need.

"We must go beyond our means to support the poor. These are the principles which play a vital role in building a strong, progressive, and compassionate society. By doing so, we will fulfill the true objectives of Ramazan and attain its rewards," the president said.

He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire Pakistani nation and the Muslim Ummah on the commencement of the blessed month of Ramazan.

He said that Ramazan was a month of mercy, forgiveness and salvation. "It teaches us self-purification, patience, perseverance, compassion, equality, and unity. This holy month provides an excellent opportunity to attain piety, sincerity, and closeness to Allah Almighty. It creates an environment to reform ourselves both at individual and collective levels, thus allowing us to restart our lives with a renewed sense of purpose," he added.

The president further stressed that the sacred month also reminded them of the suffering of the needy and underprivileged. The president prayed to Allah Almighty to grant them the ability of taking benefits from the blessings of Ramazan, to embody patience and piety and to contribute towards the welfare of the Muslim Ummah.

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has reaffirmed his commitment to securing the province's constitutional and financial rights, particularly for the newly merged tribal districts.

Speaking to a delegation from the merged districts at the Chief Minister's House on Saturday, he criticized the federal government for failing to fulfill promises made at the time of the tribal districts' merger.

"The purpose of merging these districts was to bring them at par with developed regions and end their backwardness," Gandapur stated adding that the commitments made to the tribal people have not been honored yet. The chief minister highlighted ongoing efforts with the federal government regarding outstanding payments, including net hydel profit dues, the National Finance Commission (NFC) award share for merged districts, and tobacco cess, and said that if these issues were not resolved soon, then the provincial government will fight on legal front.

He remarked that the federal government owes the province over Rs 2.2 trillion

in net hydel profit, and lamented that despite producing cheap electricity and gas, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is forced to buy them at high rates—and even then, supply remains insufficient. Regarding the NFC award, the chief minister emphasized that with the inclusion

of the merged districts, the province's population has significantly increased. However, its NFC share has not been adjusted accordingly adding that based on our current population, we are entitled to an additional Rs250 billion annually. Gandapur also pointed

out that under the 18th Constitutional Amendment, agriculture is a provincial subject, yet the federal government collects Rs220 billion annually from tobacco cess in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but does not allocate the province its rightful share.

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HYDERABAD: A large number of people offering first Taraweeh of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak at Madia Jama Masjid Latifabad. —INP Photo

NAB holds open court, pledges compensation for victims

LAHORE (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore held its monthly open court session, where hundreds of victims of financial fraud in investment schemes and the housing sector presented their complaints before NAB Lahore Director Muhammad Ahtram Dar.

The victims included those affected by Ponzi schemes such as the Sarmaya Dari Company, Unique Solar Scandal and ForU Real Traders Scandal, along with those impacted by housing sector scams, including Al-Rehman Garden Phase-7, Omega Housing Project, New Lahore City, and Grand Avenue Housing Society Scandal. Taking immediate action on complaints regarding the Unique Solar Scandal, the DG NAB ordered an inquiry against the accused persons. He highlighted that the perpetrators had systematically run a social media campaign to bag investments from general public, warning citizens to remain vigilant against such fraudulent schemes in the future.

Sarmaya Dari Company Scandal, the DG NAB informed them that NAB Lahore has, so far, received claims from 284 victims amounting to Rs 480 million. He assured that NAB Lahore would soon transition the case from Complaint Verification (CV) to the Inquiry stage, enabling large-scale legal action against the perpetrators.

Regarding the ForU Real Traders Scandal, the DG NAB stated that, following the receipt of claims from victims in Punjab, NAB Lahore had increased the number of Investigators into probe team. A dedicated team soon also be dispatched to Karachi to gather claims from victims based there.

In the Omega Housing Scandal, the DG NAB took strict notice of delays in refunding matter and directed the retrieval of complete data of all affected individuals from Society administration. He ordered strict enforcement of the six-month refund policy and instructed that all victims be kept informed about case progress through relevant WhatsApp groups. Addressing the

victims during the open court, DG NAB Lahore Ahtram Dar reiterated NAB's commitment to serving the public, emphasizing that NAB is the people's institution and is making every effort to meet public expectations.

He reaffirmed that Chairman NAB has issued clear directives for immediate and decisive action against fraud cases, and measures are actively being implemented to achieve this goal. Victims participating in the open court highlighted the evolving tactics of fraudsters, who continue to collect investments under new names while promising high returns.

They pointed out that these scams are often promoted through organized digital fraud campaigns on social media. Many attendees urged NAB to launch public awareness campaigns on social media to counter such deceptive practices. The affectees also acknowledged NAB as the only Institution actively recovering funds from fraudsters but urged that NAB should also address smaller-scale fraud cases.

Citizens warned of social media fraudulent elements

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Home Department has launched an awareness campaign to warn citizens against fraudulent elements. The Punjab Home Department issued important instructions to prevent fraud through social media. The department sources told APP that through its warnings' note, it has warned that citizens should use social media and all digital platforms responsibly, adding to never share information with unknown people on WhatsApp and other social media platforms. They said that citizens should not send any money or codes on calls and messages from unknown numbers. Furthermore, the department has guided citizens to not share codes and account numbers for purchasing non-custom paid items with anyone, adding do not send any money on false calls about the kidnapping of a loved one. Citizens have been further instructed not to give their official, personal or family information to any unknown person, while, citizens should avoid opening any suspicious or unknown links on the internet, they added.

CM announces Rs100,000 each cash prize for 4 champs

KARACHI (APP): In a historic and inspiring moment, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah played a chess match against Pakistan's Under-18 National Chess Champion, Mehak Maqbool, who recently secured the title at the National Youth Chess Championship organized by the Chess Federation of Pakistan.

After a few moves, Mehak checkmated the chief minister and won the match, although the CM played quite aggressively as well. The CM announced Rs 100,000 for each of the winners, who included: Mehak Maqbool — 1st place in the U-18 category (SMB Fatima Jinnah Government School, adopted by Zindagi Trust), Yamna Siddiqui — 2nd place in the U-14 category (Govt SMB Fatima Jinnah School), and Alina Siddiqui — 3rd place in the U-12 category (from the same school). Riya Manji participates in the Karachi Under-10 category, and Muhammad Essa Hussain competes in the under-8 and under-9 categories at Sivita School. Champions

from Sindh and Karachi.

Mehak is a student at SMB Fatima Jinnah Government School, which is a Sindh government school adopted by Zindagi Trust. This event represents a significant milestone in recognising the immense talent emerging from Sindh government schools and in challenging stereotypes about intellectual sports in Pakistan.

The event, held at CM House on Saturday, was attended by minister for Education Syed Sardar Shah, Minister Sports Mohammad Bux Mahar, Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary tSports Aleem Lashari, Sulatn Alana of Aga Khan Foundation, Shahzad Raoi of Zindagi Trust and other rising chess champions - Yamna Siddiqui — 2nd place in the U-14 category (Sindh Govt. SMB Fatima Jinnah School) and Alina Siddiqui — 3rd place in the U-12 category (Sindh Govt. SMB Fatima Jinnah School).

These students have made their mark in the national chess arena, prov-

ing that when government school students are given equal opportunities, they can compete with—and even outperform—students from the country's top private institutions.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister shared his pride in the young champions, emphasising that their achievements are a testament to the transformative power of quality education and exposure to strategic disciplines like chess. "Even if I lost today, I couldn't be prouder. Witnessing students from our own government schools excel at the national level is a victory for all of us," he remarked.

During the event, the President of Zindagi Trust introduced a comprehensive chess curriculum designed for students in Grades 3 to 8. This curriculum, available for adoption by all schools across Sindh and Pakistan, aims to establish chess as an academic discipline. It seeks to promote critical thinking, strategic planning, and intellectual development among students nationwide.

Governor Sindh announces Iftar for 1 million people

KARACHI (PPI): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has announced that during the holy month of Ramadan, the doors of Governor House will remain open for the public, and one million people will be provided with Iftar. He urged the public to complete their registration for participation.

Addressing a press conference at Governor House, he announced the establishment of a complaint cell to eradicate drugs from the province. He stated that a letter will be sent to the Chief Justice of Sindh High Court, requesting action against judges who provide relief to drug-related offenders.

Calling the Mustafa Aamir murder case an important opportunity to eliminate the menace of drugs, he urged parents to keep a close watch on their children and advise them not to consume anything from unknown sources. Additionally, he expressed his intention to direct schools and

colleges to conduct drug tests for teachers and students.

Under the Ittehad-e-Ramadan initiative, a historic gathering will be held at Governor House, featuring Iftar, dinner, Taraweeh prayers, Naat recitations, Qawwali sessions, and Sehri. Arrangements for Iftar will also be made in different areas of Karachi, while homeless individuals will be allotted plots through a lucky draw.

Speaking about the rising incidents of dumping truck accidents, the Governor Sindh announced that he will visit the homes of those who lost their lives in such accidents over the next two months and will provide plots to their families. He demanded the formation of a commission to prevent such accidents, asserting that he will continue to raise his voice on this issue.

Governor Sindh clarified that no government funds are used in the Governor Initiative and that all projects are funded through personal resources

and contributions from friends. He also shared that during his 15-day foreign visit, overseas Pakistanis highly appreciated his welfare initiatives and assured further support.

He further stated that efforts were underway to provide education and employment opportunities abroad for Pakistani youth. On security concerns, he announced that letters would be sent to the Minister of Interior and the Secretary of Interior, emphasizing that no individual should be allowed to move around with an excessive number of unregistered security guards.**

Expressing frustration over the lack of response from the provincial government regarding dump truck accidents, he revealed that he had written to the Chief Minister, urging the formation of a commission, but received no response. He warned that if authorities do not take action, he himself will step in to address the issue.

Security plan finalised for Ramazan

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Police have completed security arrangements for the holy month of Ramazan.

While giving details, a spokesperson said that the security plan for more than 36,500 mosques, 2,179 Imambargahs, and 444 minority places of worship across the province, including Lahore, had been finalised.

More than 75,000 police officers, officials and community volunteers will be deployed for the security of mosques, Imambargahs and religious places.

More than 5,000 officers and officials will perform a security duty at mosques, imambargahs and markets in the provincial capital Lahore.

CM to launch special buses for rural women

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that a modern transport system is a fundamental right for women living in rural areas. Chairing a meeting on Saturday, the CM directed the relevant authorities to prepare Punjab's first Women's Transport Solution Plan, aimed at addressing the transportation needs of rural women.

The plan includes the launch of bus services from every rural tehsil to district headquarters, as well as an inter-village transport plan.

The CM said: "Without a proper transport system, rural women face immense challenges." She expressed her concern over the uncom-

fortable conditions rural women endure while traveling on public transport.

"It is disheartening to see rural women traveling under such difficult circumstances. The introduction of a modern transport system will significantly boost the

confidence of rural women," she said.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SANA SHAH CIVIL JUDGE IV SWAT Case NO 10/12/2 Instituted 14/12/24next date Of Hearing 18/3/2025 case title Muhammad Alam etc.versus Aslam Parvez etc Publication against Defendants(1) Aslam Parvez (2) Aslam sons of Abdul Qayyum(19) Rashid Ali Shah (20) Wajid Shah (21) Sajid Shah(22)Begum (23)sadia daughter and sons of Noor Ali Shah residents of Ghaligay Tehsil Barikot, Swat 24 Syed Zafar Ali Shah son of Sahib Ali Bach (25) Syed Muhammad Yunus (26) Syed Muhammad Aslam sons of Syed Zafar Ali Shah (27) Wilayat Bibi (28) Intizar Bibi (29)Ishrat Parveen (30) Jamila Bibi (31) Fazlur Rahim son of Abdul Qayyum Khan 32 Muhammad Ali (33) Aurangzeb sons (34) Fahmidha (35)Shakeela (36) Ismat Bibi daughter of Fazlur Rahim residents of Manyar Swat presently abroad In the case cited above the service of defendants are not possible in easy way , therefore , they are hereby informed through this publication to ensure his attendance personally or through their counsel or attorney on date fixed mentioned above .

اطلاع عام

ہوام اناس کو مطلع کرا جاتا ہے کہ پلاٹ نمبر 1439 بکٹر VII قریب 11.1 مل مرانی تقریباً KDA-1 کوہاٹ کے ماگ بے جہاںظفر ولد خواجہ غلام سنان سید انور علیہ کی موت کے بعد ہمارے جاری شدہ پرائیز آف ایڈیشن کی رو سے محمد جلال خان محمد عمران سید (پہرمان) راہیلظفر خزانہ لاشین رہیںسید(دکتران) ان کی شہیت سے ظاہر ہو چکے ہیں سنے خود کو پلاٹ کی ریجسٹر میں درج عرصہ کار کی ہے وہ خود کو پلاٹ کا اور سیکشن ایسٹ آرڈر سے ملے ہوئے پلاٹ کیلئے آرڈر جاری کرنا چاہتے ہیں مضمون ہے سارگری کوئی اعتراض ہو اور خود کو پلاٹ کی سٹیک برہیں ہو یا کسی کے پاس کری ویپر وہ 15 مارچ 2025 تک اور اندر پلاٹ نمبر UAD پر کوہاٹ سے تحریری اور پلاٹ آرڈر جاری کر کے لکھیں پھر راشٹر کے درج نام پر راشٹر کر دیا جائیگا اور بعد میں کوئی غلطی قبل قتل نہیں ہوگا

غائب : ڈاکٹر شہزاد سنان اور پلاٹ ویسٹ افغانی کوہاٹ

اعلان لاتعلقی

میں اسبے بھائی علی رضا ولد مصدا علی شہنائی کا ورڈ نمبر 7-9336502-17301 کے ساتھ پھر پرائز مانی لاتعلقی کا اعلان کرتا ہوں اس کے کسی فعل ملے گا نہ سوار نہیں ہوں ، لہذا اس کے ساتھ لین وین کر لے والا خود سوار ہوگا

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- Senior Instructor Head and Neck Surgery
- Senior Instructor Medical Oncology
- Senior Instructor Paediatric Oncology
- Senior Instructor Radiology

SKM Fellowship:

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- Fellow in Clinical & Radiation Oncology

CPSP Fellowship:

- Fellow in Medical Oncology

Medical Officer :

- Medical Officer in Surgical Oncology

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HYDERABAD: Sindh senior minister for information & Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon addressing during distribution of solar panels under Sindh solar energy project at Rawal house.

HED holds 2nd joint meeting

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Quality Assurance Cell of the Higher Education Department (HED) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa successfully organized the second joint meeting of all public sector university Vice Chancellors, senior university management, HEC Islamabad, HED officials, and college representatives at the Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Special Secretary HED KP Ghulam Saeed, Deputy Secretary Universities HED Rahmat Ali Wazir, Advisor Quality Assurance Prof. Dr. Shafiq Ur Rehman, Director Quality Assurance Dr. Imran Ullah Marwat, Director General Commerce Colleges Umar Ali Khan, Director Higher Education Dr. Farid Ullah Shah, Director General HEC Regional Center Peshawar Nasir Shah,

Director Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar Prof. Dr. Usman Ghani, Vice Chancellor University of Haripur Prof. Dr. Shafiq Ur Rehman, along with other Vice Chancellors, Registrars, Directors of Finance, Controllers of Examination, Directors of Academics, Directors of Quality Enhancement Cells, Directors of ORICs, and Principals of various government colleges.

The primary objective of the meeting was to align universities and colleges on a unified approach towards good governance, academic improvements, and financial management.

Compliance updates regarding decisions from the previous meeting, particularly on affiliation and examination issues, were discussed.

Additionally, recent reforms in KP's higher education sector were presented, along with a proposed ranking mechanism for universities and colleges and the progress of curriculum review committees.

A detailed consultation was held on the revised uniform assessment and examination system within the semester framework.

Vice Chancellors also shared their financial sustainability plans for their respective universities, in line with the Minister's earlier directives.

Addressing the participants of the meeting, Minister Meena Khan Afridi commended the HED KP for organizing such a consultative session and emphasized that the valuable contributions of all stakeholders will be duly considered as they form the backbone of higher education.

He appreciated the efforts of the Vice Chancellors and HED teams and assured them of the government's commitment to resolving financial challenges.

The Minister further pledged that such consultative meetings will continue, with a structured follow-up mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of key decisions.

Riaz visits disputed zones

PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner Riaz Khan Mehsud here Saturday visited disputed zones of Regi Model Town and held meeting with elders of Kuki Khel tribe.

The meeting was also attended by Director General Peshawar Development Authority, Muhammad Naeem, and officials of district administrations of Khyber and Peshawar.

Commissioner visited zone 1, 2 and 5 of Regi Model Town and inquired the concerns and reservations of Kuki Khel tribe. Revenue Staff of Peshawar Division also briefed commissioner about the land demarcation of the town.

Speaking on the occasion, commissioner reiterated commitment to solve land dispute of Regi Model Town. He also directed to convene meeting of all stakeholders in coming week to find a permanent solution of the issue.



PESHAWAR: Commissioner Peshawar Division Riaz Khan Mehsud meeting with elders of Kuki Khel tribe during his visit to disputed zones of Regi Model Town.

Minister launches tree plantation campaign

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Labour, Fazal Shakoor Khan, formally inaugurated the spring tree plantation campaign at Regi Shahi Bala Family Flats, Peshawar. This initiative is a joint effort of the Labour Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Workers Welfare Board (WWB), and IM Sciences Peshawar. The primary objective of this plantation drive is to conserve water, improve the environment, reduce

carbon emissions, and engage students in tree care to instill a sense of responsibility in them.

Accompanying the provincial minister at the event were Secretary Labour Department KP, Captain (Retd) Mian Adil Iqbal, Secretary WWB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Tufail Khattak, Director Administration, Saifullah, Director Labour, Muhammad Shoaib, Assistant Director Technical Engineer, Salman Ahmad, Assistant Directors Colonies, Azam Zahid, Shahid

Gul, and Deputy Director Works, Asif Majeed.

The provincial minister, along with the Secretary Labour and Secretary WWB, officially commenced the campaign by planting trees.

On the occasion of tree plantation drive students from IM Sciences, technical wing of the WWB, labour department participated in a large number.

On the occasion, the provincial minister urged that this campaign is a significant step toward environmental protection, water

conservation, carbon emission reduction, and the creation of a clean and green KP. He highlighted that combating climate change and mitigating its effects require extensive tree planting efforts, as climate change has become a major challenge for developing countries.

The Provincial Minister also stressed the importance of not only planting more trees but also ensuring their proper care and maintenance to achieve long-term environmental sustainability.



PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi addressing second joint meeting of all public sector university Vice Chancellors.

Establishment of ICS campus welcomed

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Islamia Collegiate School (ICS) Teaching Staff Association welcomed Vice Chancellor decision to establish ICS campus at Charsadda district.

A meeting of Teaching Staff Association held under the chairmanship of President Kafeel Ahmad Khalil. After the recitation of the Holy Quran, the entire cabinet welcomed the announcement of the establishment of Islamic Collegiate School Boys and Girls branches in Charsadda by Vice-Chancellor Islamic College Peshawar, Ali Muhammad

Yousafzai.

President Kafeel Ahmad Khalil and General Secretary Dr. Muhammad Shahzad congratulated the Vice-Chancellor on this achievement, stating that the establishment of Islamic Collegiate School in Charsadda would benefit the local population. They requested the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to provide funds for the school so that the project can be implemented as soon as possible.

Furthermore, they demanded that similar schools be established in every district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They also

requested the Chief Minister to resolve the property issues between Islamic College Peshawar and Peshawar University to maintain a peaceful environment at the college.

The association's meeting was a significant development, as it highlighted the importance of education in the region and the need for the government to support the establishment of new educational institutions. The association's demands are expected to be taken seriously by the government, and it is hoped that the new branch of Islamic Collegiate School will be a success.

Hameed condemn blast

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Former chairman of Assessment Committee Cantonment Board and Trade Alliance Hameed Khan Jadon said in his condolence statement that a time when the month of Ramadan has started, the suicide attack on Darulloom Haqqaniya Akora Khattak is a conspiracy to sabotage the peace and security of the country.

He has demanded that the government immediately investigate the tragic incident and bring the real facts to the nation as to what are the motivations that led to the majority of the province including a well-known religious scholar.



PESHAWAR: Special Secretary Health Abdul Basit giving brief regarding polio eradication during a meeting. Chief Secretary KP Shahab Ali Shah presenting meeting.

Painting, calligraphy and speech competition celebrated

PESHAWAR (APP): Former Vice Chancellor Benazir Bhutto Women University and Member of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission, Professor Dr. Razia Sultana, has said that Pak-China friendship is strengthening with every passing moment.

A clear reflection of this bond is the growing interest of the younger generation, especially students, in various aspects of life, including literature, culture, and language, of the neighboring country, China.

She expressed these views while addressing the prize distribution ceremony of the Inter-School Painting, Calligraphy, and Speech Competition organized at the China Window, the Chinese Cultural Center in Peshawar, in collaboration with Peshawar Model Schools.

The event was attended by distinguished guests, including Chairman of the Pakistan Development Foundation, Muhammad Bilal Sethi, Head of China Window Naz Parveen,

renowned artist Jahanzeb Malik, Chinese language teacher Aslam Khan, and Syyeda Khushbakht.

A large number of students actively participated in the competitions, showcasing their artistic creativity and linguistic skills.

Through beautifully crafted paintings and intricate calligraphy, the students highlighted the significance of the Chinese New Year.

In the speech competition, young participants amazed the audience with their fluency and confidence in delivering speeches in Chinese, a testament to their dedication to learning the language. The remarkable performances of the students from Peshawar Model School, who are regularly learning Chinese, were particularly commendable.

Renowned painter and calligrapher Jahanzeb Malik (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) and Chinese language expert Aslam Khan examined the students' artworks and delivered insightful feedback. They appreciated the children's efforts

and provided them with valuable guidance on painting techniques, further enhancing their enthusiasm.

The competition witnessed an overwhelming display of passion and talent, as students enthusiastically engaged in every category.

The excitement was evident on their faces, as they eagerly awaited the results. Prizes were awarded to the top performers, while all participating students were honored with certificates of encouragement, recognizing their efforts and dedication.

Addressing the ceremony, Professor Dr. Razia Sultana reaffirmed the strength of Pak-China friendship, stating that this historic relationship is a symbol of mutual trust and cooperation.

She noted that examples of Pak-China friendship are recognized worldwide and are further solidified through cultural and educational exchanges.

She emphasized that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), particularly the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC), is a transformative project for Pakistan.

"CPEC is a game-changer that is driving economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing trade prospects.

A strong economy leads to a prosperous nation, and CPEC is playing a crucial role in ensuring that," she stated.

Furthermore, she highlighted China's significant contributions to education in Pakistan, mentioning the numerous scholarships offered by China to Pakistani students.

"It is essential for our youth to take full advantage of these scholarships and learning opportunities, as they open doors to global exposure, knowledge, and professional success," she added.

She commended China Window and Council Treat for organizing a highly meaningful and educational event, stating that such initiatives play a pivotal role in enhancing bilateral relations and fostering people-to-people connections.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Customs clearance agents chanting slogans during a protest.

Collaborative approach for common maritime goals

Naila Hussain

The maritime domain is a critical component of the global economy, with over 90% of international trade being conducted by sea. However, the maritime environment is also fraught with challenges, including piracy, terrorism, illegal fishing and environmental degradation. To address these challenges it is essential that government and non-governmental entities work together to achieve common maritime goals. Government agencies, such as navies and coast guards have the authority and resources to enforce maritime laws and regulations. However, they often

require the expertise and resources of civil government and non-governmental entities, such as shipping companies, ports, and maritime organizations, to effectively address maritime challenges. The non-governmental entities, on the other hand, have the knowledge and expertise to identify and address maritime challenges. However, they often require the support and resources of government agencies to effectively implement solutions.

There are several examples of collaborative approaches between government and non-governmental entities towards achieving common maritime goals. Some of these examples include, the

Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) which is a collaborative effort between government agencies, shipping companies and maritime organizations to prevent and suppress piracy off the coast of Somalia.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that works with government agencies, shipping companies and maritime organizations to develop and implement international maritime conventions and regulations.

Collaboration between government and non-governmental entities towards achieving common maritime goals has several ben-

efits. It improves maritime security by sharing intelligence, best practices and resources. Collaboration can better protect the marine environment by sharing knowledge, expertise and resources to prevent pollution reduce waste and promote sustainable maritime practices.

Pakistan Navy, being the guardian of maritime borders, remains ever vigilant to protect its maritime interests and counter conventional and non-conventional threats. In this context, Pakistan Navy established the Joint Maritime Information and Coordination Center (JMICC) in 2013. The JMICC provides a platform for all stakeholders in the

maritime domain, ensuring seamless information sharing and coordinated responses in case of any maritime incident. Over the time, the JMICC has evolved into a well-organized and sustainable institution, establishing links with 52 national and 11 international stakeholders. Considering the challenges, resource constraints, and inherent complexities of maritime operations, a persistent presence at sea is not feasible for any single agency or organization.

Therefore, continuous coordination and cooperation among national stakeholders is essential which is amicably undertaken by JMICC. To further augment and synergise the efforts of

national stakeholders, Pakistan Navy conducts Exercise SEA GUARD which serves as a catalyst for fostering the desired coordination and harmony among all the national stakeholders in the maritime domain.

The exercise scheduled from 24-28 Feb 25 is the second in the series, following the successful conduct of the inaugural Exercise SEA GUARD in 2024. Exercise SEA GUARD brings together multiple civil and naval departments to rehearse procedures, ensuring a unified response to emergencies at sea. It aims to enhance collective ability to respond swiftly and effectively in emergency

situations, safeguarding lives and property at sea. It focuses on enhancing communication and information sharing among stakeholders, ensuring seamless coordination and execution of operations.

The exercise SEA GUARD also helps strengthen capabilities of participants in ensuring safety and security at sea, protecting maritime interests and environment. Exercise SEA GUARD showcases the Pakistan Navy's role and national commitment to a collaborative approach, fostering partnerships among civil and naval departments to address common challenges, responding to natural disasters and providing

humanitarian aid to life at sea. It also emphasizes the importance of protecting Pakistan's maritime economy, including ports, shipping, and fisheries, to ensure national prosperity.

Despite the challenges, the benefits of collaboration, including improved maritime security, enhanced efficiency, increased compliance and better environmental protection make it a critical component of effective maritime governance. By working together, government agencies and non-governmental entities can address the complex challenges facing the maritime domain and promote safe, secure and efficient maritime trade.



In brief

Drive against encroachments
F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: A grand anti-encroachment operation is underway on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab while deputy commissioner supervises, against illegal land occupation have intensified. In Pirmahal, AC led operations at Plot B are retrieving 8 kanals of commercial land worth Rs 8 crore. Strict security measures are in place, and legal action will be taken against any resistance. The district administration urges the public to report illegal encroachments, reaffirming a zero-tolerance policy against land grabbers. Meanwhile, in line with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's directives, an awareness campaign on early cotton sowing is underway across the district under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Naeem Sandhu. A session, led by Deputy Director Agriculture Dr. Noshir Ali Khan, was organized to educate farmers on the benefits of early cotton cultivation. Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir also participated in the event, highlighting modern agricultural techniques and strategies to enhance yield. Speaking on the Occasion, AC Kamalia Iqra Nasir emphasized that early cotton sowing not only improves yield but also helps in pest control. She encouraged farmers to adopt modern farming techniques and benefit from government initiatives to boost agricultural productivity.

Police arrests drug peddler
F.P. Report

NAWABSHAH: Under the directives of SSP Shaheed Benazirabad, Shabbir Ahmed Sethar, the Shaheed Benazirabad police continues its crackdown against elements involved in drug trafficking. In this regard, the Airport Police Station team, led by the SHO, conducted a successful operation and arrested suspect Asif alias Bablu Mallah. During the operation, 17 bottles of liquor were recovered from the suspect's possession. Meanwhile, in another operation, the SHO of Kadhar Police Station and his team arrested drug dealer Tahir Jamali. The police recovered 40 kg of cannabis from the suspect's possession. A case has been registered against him under FIR No. 30/2025 under Section 9(1) of CNSA. SSP Shaheed Benazirabad commended the police teams for their outstanding efforts and reaffirmed the department's commitment to eradicating drugs from the region. Police have registered a case against the accused under relevant law.

Adulterated milk discarded
F.P. Report

MUZAFFARGARH: Punjab food Authority (PFA) on Saturday discarded 2700 litres of adulterated milk. On this occasion, DG Food Authority Asim Javed with PFA teams conducted raids to ensure provision of unadulterated milk to masses and checked 19 milk supply vehicles at Muzaaffargarh road. The samples of four vehicles were declared failed. Upon confirming adulteration, hundreds of liters of adulterated milk was destroyed and the suppliers were fined Rs. 12,000. The inspection revealed a lack of natural ingredients and water adulteration in the milk. DG PFA urged the citizens to contact the PFA helpline 1223 In case of any complaints.

Sharjeel distributes solar equipment among beneficiaries

F.P. Report

HYDERABAD: The Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, who distributed solar equipment among beneficiaries of the Sindh Solar Energy Project, has expressed hope that the second phase of the project with a target of 200,000 households will also start soon.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony, at the Rawal House in Tandojam here on Saturday, for the distribution of free solar equipment among the project's beneficiaries. The Sindh Minister for Energy, Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah was also present on the occasion and distributed the solar items as well.

Memon congratulated Shah for his efforts with regard to the solarization project and said that the project was being implemented as part of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership's vision. He believed that PPP's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari deserved to be elected as the country's Prime Minister, saying he was working hard for the country's development without having any official position in the center.

He was positive to see Bilawal elected as Pakistan's premier in the next general elections. The Senior Minister said in every election the PPP had faced and defeated electoral alliances in the province and that the same would be done in the next elections.

According to him, under Bilawal's vision, the provincial government was going to build 100 homes in each village

of the province. Memon expressed hope that the government's housing project would be globally recognized as one of its own.

He said the PPP's provincial government had taken unparalleled initiatives in the health sector, which was providing services to the patients from other provinces as well. He maintained that the PPP's provincial government had taken an unequivocal stance against construction on new canals on the Indus River.

He attributed his party for putting to rest the controversial Kalabagh dam due to its persistent opposition to the project. "The National Finance Commission (NFC) award and the provincial autonomy were secured by the PPP," he recalled.

Tacitly referring to the ongoing protests across the province against the new canals, he advised the people not to subscribe to the propaganda against the party. "The love for the PPP can't be removed from the hearts of the people because we believe in serving humanity," he said.

He questioned if the PPP's achievements with regard to democracy and rights were minused from history, what else would be left to be seen. The Provincial Minister Shah said that the ongoing first phase of the distribution of equipment under Sindh Solar Home System was being completed while the second phase would be started soon. He claimed that a merit-based distribution was being ensured among the beneficiaries Shah asserted that despite all the odds, PPP clinched two-thirds majority seats in Sindh in the February 2024 general elections.

Special 'Sahulat' bazaar established for Ramadan

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Deputy Commissioner said that district administration has finalised all security and other necessary arrangements to ensure implement on Ramadan Ordinance and no one will be allowed to open restaurants without prior permission in the district while special steps would be taken to provide quality and cheaper edibles items to fasting people during the Holy Month of Ramzan and special 'Sahulat' Bazaar also established in the district.

He expressed these views while addressing the meeting of District Peace and Interfaith Harmony Committee Hafizabad held at district complex on Wednesday. District Police Officer Muhammad Atif Nazir, local ulema, officers of different departments

and representatives of Christian Community attended the meeting.

DC said that special price magistrates will also be monitored markets and bazaars to keep vigilant eye upon profiteers and hoarders to ensure smooth supply of daily used items and contain artificial inflation during the holy month. He said that the Holy Month of Ramadan is the month of mercy, blessings and priceless gift of almighty Allah and we can achieve forgiveness of sins and success in this world and hereafter to follow teaching of Quran and Sunnah.

He said this month give us lesson of unity, brotherhood, tolerance and help of the poor people especially during the Holy Month of Ramadan, hence, we should collect blessing of almighty Allah. Abdul Razzaq appealed the religious lead-

ers to deliver message of unity, brotherhood, Interfaith Harmony, tolerance and love in their speeches for maintaining peace during the holy month of Ramadan. DPO Muhammad Atif Nazir informed the meeting that foolproof security arrangements have been made for keeping peace in the Holy Month of Ramadan.

D&SJ inspects prisons: District and Sessions Judge Hafizabad Tariq Khursheed Khawaja said that provision of quality food and other necessary facilities under Jail Manual is responsibility of Jail Authority and in this regards no compromise would be made.

He expressed these views while visiting District Jail Hafizabad. Civil Judge Ali Raza and Deputy Prosecutor Rana Sultan were also accompanied by him.



KOHAT: KP Minister for Law, Aftab Alam Advocate addressing during kuli katcheri.

Economic challenges and market exploitation during Ramadan: The Imperative for effective governance

Baseer Ali Rahman Khan

THE holy month of Ramadan encapsulates a profound message of spiritual purification, devotion and communal solidarity. It is a time of self-discipline, generosity, and compassion, that cements Muslims around the world in acts of charity and altruism.

However, in Pakistan, the advent of Ramzan is often marked by exploitative commercial practices that fuels economic hardships for the public. Reports of price hike and hoarding become widespread, as a steep rise in the cost of essential commodities places immense financial strain on lower and middle-income households.

During the holy month of Ramzan, certain traders considerably inflate the prices of basic necessities such as flour, sugar, ghee, oil, milk, lentils, vegetables, and other staple food items. This artificial price surge makes routine purchases increasingly difficult for the average consumer that fall in the

lower strata of society. As families prepare for suhoor (the pre-dawn meal before fasting begins) and iftar (the meal to break the fast at sunset), they find themselves struggling to afford even the most essential consumer items.

For instance, milk, which is usually available at a reasonable price, is often sold at nearly double the standard rate. Similarly, fruits—a key component of iftar—witness exorbitant price surge, while traditional Ramadan delicacies such fritters (pakoras) and Savory fried pastries (Samosas) become unaffordable for many around. This vicious cycle of economic exploitation not only contradicts ethical business practices but also intensifies fiscal imbalances within society.

The provincial government and district administration are to curb the exploitative market trends by implementing stringent regulatory measures to prevent unfair trade practices. Despite frequent announcements by the Authorities for initiatives such as daily price mon-

itoring, warehouse inspections, and legal proceedings against profiteers, the effectiveness of these interventions remain compromised due to inconsistent enforcement regime, inadequate oversight and accountability. Corruption and bribery among certain officials at the helm further encourage the hoarders and price manipulators to evade accountability, exacerbating the financial burden on the general populace.

As the ambers of public frustration over escalating prices ignite, the government has introduced various relief initiatives, including subsidized Ramadan bazaars. Despite the fact these markets are designed to offer essential commodities at reduced/ subsidized rates, complaints regarding substandard goods and limited supplies persist. Also, while financial assistance and subsidies are pledged to the vulnerable segments of society, challenges related to transparency and accessibility remain unresolved. Long queues and supply shortages often render citizens across the

country unable to benefit from these schemes, fuelling scepticism about the sincerity and efficiency of government interventions.

Several exploitative practices contribute to the economic challenges faced by consumers during Ramzan:

1. Artificial Price Hike—Traders deliberately escalate prices, making it difficult for consumers to manage their daily expenses.

2. Hoarding and piling—Business entities stockpile essential goods to create artificial shortages, driving prices even higher.

3. Poor Product Quality—Some vendors inflate prices while lowering product quality, further exploiting consumers.

4. Black Market Sales—Essential commodities are at times sold illicitly at exorbitant rates, depriving consumers of fair pricing.

To effectively address market exploitation during Ramzan, a comprehensive and proactive approach is required. The key measures on part of the regula-

tors include:

1. Enforcement of Price Controls – The government must implement strict regulations, introduce fixed pricing mechanisms, and impose legal restrictions on hoarding.

2. Enhanced Market Surveillance – Regular inspections of warehouses, supply chains, and retail markets can prevent artificial shortages and unethical pricing.

3. Subsidized Ramzan Bazaars – The expansion of government-backed markets offering fair prices can provide relief to consumers and counter-market exploitation.

4. Consumer Awareness Campaigns – Educating the public about their rights and establishing accessible complaint mechanisms can help deter unfair trade practices.

5. Penalties for Violators – Heavy fines and legal consequences for hoarders and profiteers can serve as a strong deterrent against exploitative practices.

6. Tech-Driven Monitoring – Digital platforms for real-time

price tracking and consumer

complaints can enhance market

transparency and accountability.

It all boils down to the fact the economic exploitation during Ramzan stands in stark contrast to the spirit of generosity and compassion that defines this sacred month.

Ensuring fair market practices requires a concerted effort from both government authorities and the business community. Given the appropriate will and clout, the incumbent government has the potential to safeguard the economic well-being of citizens by further augmenting strict regulatory regime, improving market transparency and promoting consumer awareness. Only through effective governance and collective vigilance can the true essence of Ramzan be preserved, allowing all members of society, especially the underprivileged, to partake in its blessings without undue financial duress.

The writer is a bureaucrat serving as Additional Collector, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority.



NEWSHERA: District and Session Judge, Muhammad Asif Khan interacting with inmates during his visit to jail.

Transporters overcharging passengers in Waziristan
F.P. Report

WANA: The passenger vehicles' drivers from Dera Ismail Khan to Wana have reportedly devised a new method to extort money from travelers.

According to sources, before boarding the vehicles, passengers are compelled to swear an oath that they will not report the overcharging to the police or any authorities.

After this forced commitment, they are charged Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 3,500—an amount that is twice the official fare of Rs. 1,500. This unethical and illegal practice was exposed following numerous complaints from passengers who found themselves helpless in the face of such extortion. The scandal has sparked widespread condemnation, with people demanding immediate government intervention.

The revelations have particularly angered the public as they come just before Ramadan, a time when prices of essential goods and services are expected to decrease. Critics have pointed out that while non-Muslim countries offer discounts and reduced fares during special occasions, in Pakistan, business owners and transporters often take advantage of the situation by doubling prices under the pretext of increased demand.

One passenger lamented, "It is disgraceful that during Ramadan, instead of making things easier for people, transporters are making travel unaffordable. This is pure greed and exploitation."

Concerned citizens and travelers have demanded that the government and district administration take immediate action against those involved in this "fare mafia." They insist that authorities must ensure the implementation of official fare rates and put an end to this oath-taking extortion scheme.

The people of Wana have also warned that if strict action is not taken soon, they will be forced to stage protests against this injustice.

Akram Durrani School holds speech competition

F.P. Report

BANNU: Akram Khan Durrani School and College Bannu organized an annual English speech competition. The topic of the competition was Artificial Intelligence.

The event was presided over by Principal Professor Dr. Rukhsar. On this occasion, students from different sections gave comprehensive speeches on AI. Principal, Government College Domail Professor Raz Muhammad was the chief guest, coordinator of the event Abdul Rehman Khan, while Head of Department English Fazal Zaman and other officers were present.

Addressing the event, the chief guest Professor Raz Muhammad, Principal Akram Khan Durrani School and College Muhammad Rukhsar said that this is the era of AI. It is the need of the hour to make the new generation compatible with the requirements of Artificial Intelligence. The world can be fought not with guns but with pen and books.

It has revolutionized educational development. It is an excellent world-class educational institution for



the students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially the southern districts. This institution has produced such young people not only at the national but also international level who are making the name of the country shine.

He said that without education and training, it is not possible to form a peaceful society. Education is the first sign for happiness and development. If someone has succeeded without knowledge, it will not be knowledge but understanding and wisdom.

Govt allocates Rs61 million for TMA: The provincial government has initially allocated a grant of Rs 61 million for the payment of salaries and pensions of Tehsil Municipal Administration employees. The salaries of TMA

employees who have been delayed for the past four months will be paid from Ramadan. With the efforts of TMO Bannu Muhammad Yousaf Khan, the local government department has released a grant of Rs 61 million for salaries and pensions for hundreds of employees of Tehsil Municipal Administration of Bannu district, which will be released later.

According to TMA Bannu PSO Manzoor Khan Mandan, the released grant has been allocated only for salaries and pensions, since the salaries of TMA Bannu are paid in crores of rupees per month. However, due to lack of funds and grants, employees and pensioners were deprived of payment of salaries for several months.

SHC bench approached against leader detention

F.P. Report

LARKANA: The wife of Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi has filed contempt of court petition in the Sindh High Court (SHC) Larkana Circuit Bench, and the filing of a false case.

On the out from court premises, Naveen Jatoi said to the media that despite getting the release order, the police transferred my husband Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi from the hospital to jail and another case of stealing rice has been filed after the score theft case by violating the law.

After filing a case of robbery, another case of theft has been filed. Are we cheating that cases are being filed against us? My grandfather Shah Nawaz Khan Jatoi had the powers of a magistrate during the British era and

now his children are being oppressed. He appealed to the judges of Larkana to do justice to us, otherwise if anything happens to Ghulam Murtaza Khan, our hands will be in the hands of Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar and police officers.

Sindh United Party hold protest: Sindh United Party (SUP) unit 3empire town, hold protest in Larkana against unrest, robberies, thefts and indifference of the police in rural and urban areas of Larkana district. Party leaders protested from Zulfiqar Bagh, passing through various roads of the city, turned into a demonstration in front of the press club.

The demonstrators carried placards and banners and shouted slogans to restore law and order, on this occasion SUP leaders Manoor Ali

Sheikh, Abdul Waheed Bhutto, Ameer Kalhoro and others said that the situation of unrest in Larkana city has become worse, daily robberies, robberies and thefts have become normal, but the police officers are busy in the protocol of bigots, gangsters, politicians and political people, due to which the criminals are fearlessly robbing the merchants, shopkeepers and ordinary people of the city, while they are killed if they resist, but there is no effect on the police of the police stations.

HCBA election held: The election of Larkana High Court Bar Association (HCBA) for the year 2025 was held yesterday, in which two candidates participated for the presidency, in which Athar Abbas Solangi and Inayatullah Moreo were candidates for president.



11 dead in Congo after blasts at M23 rebel leaders' rally

BUKAVU, Congo (AP): At least 11 people were killed and scores injured when explosions in the eastern Congo city of Bukavu struck a rally held by leaders of the M23 rebel group, which took control of the city earlier this month.

Rebel leaders blamed the bombing on Congo's government and said attackers were among those killed in the blasts, with conflicting reports among rebels and local officials about the number of attackers and victims. Congo's president blamed the attack on unspecified "foreign" forces.

"The attack caused 11 deaths and verifications are underway. The author of the attack is among the victims," Corneille Nangaa, leader of the Congo River Alliance (AFC), which includes the M23, told reporters. "There are 65 injured, six of whom are seriously injured and are currently being treated in the operating room." He said that "following today's unfortunate incident, we are obliged to react." Leaders of the M23 rebel group, including Nangaa, were meeting residents when the explosions occurred in the central part of Bukavu. Video and photos shared on social media showed a crowd fleeing the mass rally in Bukavu and bloodied bodies on the ground. M23 accused the Congolese authorities of orchestrating the attack.

"We are accusing and condemning vigorously the criminal regime of Kinshasa, which ... just implemented its plan of exterminating civilian pop-

ulations," AFC said in a statement. "This attack caused several deaths, including a few terrorists from Kinshasa and some injured. Two of them were immediately apprehended by our services." "This cowardly and barbaric act will not be without consequences," it added. Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi called the attack "a heinous terrorist act that was perpetrated by a foreign army illegally present on Congolese soil."

The rebels are supported by about 4,000 troops from neighboring Rwanda, according to UN experts, and at times have vowed to march as far as Congo's capital, Kinshasa, over 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) away. Jean Samy, deputy president of the civil society Forces Vives of South Kivu, told The Associated Press that the attack was "a sabotage."

"Until now, we do not know where these grenades came from," he said by phone. "We have already recorded more than 13 deaths and serious injuries who will have to have their hands and legs amputated. The perpetrators of this act are still unknown." Nangaa was among leaders leaving the podium when two blasts rocked the scene, according to a journalist present at the rally. Nangaa had earlier told the rally that M23 was bringing "change and development" to their city.

Rwandan-backed M23 rebels have swept through the region seizing key cities and killing some 3,000 people in the most significant escalation of conflict in

over a decade. In a lightning three-week offensive, the M23 took control of eastern Congo's main city Goma and seized the second largest city, Bukavu. The region is rich in gold and coltan, a key mineral for the production of capacitors used in most consumer electronics such as laptops and smartphones.

Rwanda has accused Congo of enlisting ethnic Hutu fighters responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda of minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus. M23 says it's fighting to protect Tutsis and Congolese of Rwandan origin from discrimination and wants to transform Congo from a failed state to a modern one. Analysts have called those pretexts for Rwanda's involvement.

Congo's authorities and the UN said \$2.54 billion was needed to fund humanitarian assistance in the country this year. "This funding is crucial to deliver lifesaving assistance to 11 million people - including 7.8 million internally displaced persons, one of the highest displacement figures globally - out of 21.2 million Congolese affected by multiple crises: armed conflict, natural disasters, and epidemics," the UN said in a statement. "All warning signals are flashing red," Bruno Lemarquis, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Congo said. "We stand at a crossroads. Without increased international mobilization, humanitarian needs will skyrocket, regional stability will be further jeopardized, and our capacity to respond will be severely compromised."

China plays key role on climate change

BEIJING (Reuters): China has a very important role to play in tackling climate change and others may look to the Asian country for additional leadership in the field, COP30 President-Designate Andre Aranha Correa do Lago said.

Asked about China's potential role as the United States steps back from climate change efforts, Correa do Lago said China has been playing a big part in providing solutions for a significant number of years. "We have to work harder with China because China has been able to give some fantastic answers to the fight against climate change," he told reporters in an online news briefing held by the Oxford Climate Journalism Network.

Since taking office last month, President Donald Trump has withdrawn the US from the Paris climate agreement, clawed back American global climate finance and severed international climate partnerships. Trump has also pulled the US out of key UN climate change assessments, Reuters reported last week.

Correa do Lago, who is due to lead the COP30 annual global climate summit in Brazil in November, also praised China's solar panel push. The world's largest solar panel producer has ratcheted up production capacity after years of subsidies, keeping global prices low. "They are doing their own thing, and their own thing is benefiting the rest of the world. Reducing the prices of solar panels is one of the most fantastic policies to expand renewable energy in developing countries," he said.

Thailand deports dozens of Uyghurs to China

BANGKOK (AFP): Thailand deported dozens of Uyghurs to China despite warnings from human rights groups that they would face persecution on their return, drawing swift condemnation from the United Nations. Beijing is accused of committing human rights abuses in its northwestern Xinjiang region, including the incarceration of around one million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. It denies the allegations.

Rights groups had warned in recent weeks that Bangkok was preparing to deport a group of 48 Uyghurs being held in immigration centres around Thailand. They said the Uyghurs fled China more than a decade ago and lived in constant fear of being sent back.

Thai national police chief Kitrat Phanphet confirmed the deportations, saying Beijing had requested the return of 40 Uyghurs. "The Chinese government wrote to the Thai government expressing sincerity and their intention to take care of Uyghurs, promising in the letter that they will be looked after, and guaranteed their accommodation and their safety," Kitrat told reporters, adding that the handover went smoothly and the Uyghurs did not resist.

Thailand forcibly deported 109 Uyghurs to China in 2015, drawing a stern rebuke from Washington and the UN, but had repeatedly denied the existence of plans for a new round of deportations. International condemnation was swift. "There is a complete prohibition in cases where there is a real risk of torture, ill-treatment, or other irreparable harm upon their return," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio slammed Thailand, an ally.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms Thailand's forced return of at least 40 Uyghurs to China, where they lack due process rights and where Uyghurs have faced persecution, forced labor and torture," Rubio said in a statement. Germany's foreign ministry warned the deportees face "serious human rights violations" on return. It called on China "to respect and protect the rights of those deported and their families" and on the Thai government to "monitor the living conditions of those deported in China and to work towards their protection."



GAZA: Palestinians shop as they prepare for holy fasting month of Ramazan in Khan Younis.

EU top diplomat rejects Trump closing NATO door to Ukraine

BRUSSELS (AFP): The EU's top diplomat said that NATO offered the best security guarantee for Ukraine, accusing President Donald Trump of falling for a Russian narrative by closing the door. In an interview with AFP on a visit to Washington, Kaja Kallas also warned that the Europeans would not be able to assist in an eventual ceasefire deal in Ukraine's three-year conflict with Russia unless they are included by Trump, who has reached out directly to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Kallas, a former prime minister of frontline state Estonia, said NATO countries have never attacked Russia which instead was "afraid of democracy." "Why are we in NATO? It is because we are afraid of Russia. And the only thing that really works -- the only security guarantee that works -- is NATO's umbrella," she said.

Russia cited potential Ukrainian membership in NATO as a reason for its invasion three years ago. Putin has since questioned the historical legitimacy of Ukraine as a separate country from Russia. Trump, who broke Putin's isolation with a telephone call earlier this month, said that Ukraine can "forget about" joining NATO in any settlement, explaining: "I think that's probably the reason the whole

thing started." "These accusations are totally untrue," Kallas said when asked about Trump's remarks. "That is the Russian narrative that we should not buy."

"My question is, why we should give Russia what they want on top of what they have already done -- attacking Ukraine, annexing territory, occupying territory, and now offering something on top of it," she said. "Consider here in America that after 9/11 you would have sat down with Osama bin Laden and said, 'OK, what else do you want?' I mean, it's unimaginable." Russia has insisted that the United States promised at the end of the Cold War not to expand NATO, the US-backed alliance. Some US diplomats from the era deny the account, although some have also cautioned that Ukrainian membership in NATO would be a red line for Moscow.

Trump has been dismissive of NATO, saying it is unfair for the United States to offer security to wealthy allies that mostly pay less on defense in relation to the size of their economies. Trump, who is expected to sign a deal with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to secure much of Ukraine's mineral wealth, has refused to offer US secu-

rity guarantees to Ukraine and said it was up to Europeans. Kallas said that in any deal on Ukraine, "Europeans need to be on board." "We need to be part of those discussions. I think without it we can't provide anything."

Trump, in his remarks at the White House, also said that the European Union was set up to "screw the United States" as he plans tariffs to close a trade deficit. The now 27-nation bloc was created three decades ago as part of efforts to avoid further conflict after two world wars ravaged the continent. Kallas called Trump's remarks "surprising" and said the two sides long had common values. The Trump administration has also slashed the vast majority of US foreign assistance.

While the United States was the largest donor in the world in dollar terms, the European Union as a whole provides more and a number of northern European countries provide more as a share of their economies. Kallas said Europe will "not be able to fill the gap that America is leaving" but that the world is "looking to us" on what more it can provide. "I feel that we need to also increase our geopolitical power," she said. "If America is turning inwards, Europe is turning outwards."

Experts cite legal gaps in Trump's minerals deal with Ukraine

THE HAGUE (Reuters): A framework agreement outlining US access to revenues from Ukraine's natural resources in exchange for security guarantees has legal gaps that must be filled in future negotiations, four experts told Reuters a day before the countries' leaders meet in Washington.

A draft of the deal seen by Reuters outlines the creation of a joint US-Ukraine-managed "Reconstruction Investment Fund." It contains reassuring language, but the United States does not offer Kyiv the security guarantees it craves. It is expected to be signed when US President Donald Trump meets Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The deal envisages the Ukrainian government contributing 50% of future monetisation of any state-owned natural resource assets to the fund. But it provides no amounts, timeline or details about the fund's management. That is not surprising and is what would be expected from a framework agreement, said Brian McGarry, assistant professor of international

law at Leiden University, who has advised developing states on treaty negotiations. "It creates obligations to cooperate, but it does not have any binding specific commitments of a defence nature. That is exactly what we see in this agreement. The US has not given concrete assurances," McGarry said.

One diplomatic source, who requested anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said the document "appears to be a pretty good deal for both sides." Despite the absence of security guarantees, terms outlined in the framework may come as a relief to Ukraine, with Trump dropping his initial demand for \$500 billion in compensation for military support already provided. Zelenskyy said the success of the minerals deal will hinge on talks with Trump, citing its lack of firm US security guarantees. The document does say that funds will be reinvested "to promote the safety, security and prosperity of Ukraine" to be worked out in a fund agreement that will address future financial distribu-

tions. The US government "will maintain a long-term financial commitment to the development of a stable and economically prosperous Ukraine," the document states, but it does not specify what that means. McGarry added that details will have to be worked out in future negotiations that could result in a binding treaty. One element that stood out to McGarry is that the draft explicitly states that in future negotiations about the fund, Ukraine and the US "will strive to avoid conflicts with Ukraine's obligations" on its path to join the European Union. "There is at least in principle interesting political support for that process," he said, amid Washington's increasingly antagonistic stance towards the EU.

Ukraine has deposits of 22 of the 34 minerals identified by the EU as critical, including industrial and construction materials, ferroalloy, precious and non-ferrous metals, and some rare earth elements. Trump's aims appear to be twofold. Recoup Washington's finan-

cial and military support for Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion three years ago and limit US reliance on Chinese resources. China, with whom Trump has threatened a trade war, is the world's largest producer of rare earths, which are used to make magnets found in electric vehicles, weaponry and electronics.

The framework agreement makes no reference to a dispute mechanism and Washington's share of a future fund is also left open for discussion, said Duke University international law professor Tim Meyer. "The agreement demonstrates some uncertainty on the US side about whether the government has the authority to take the kind of interest in the fund that the agreement contemplates," he said, adding that a negotiated fund agreement would likely require congressional approval. Guillermo Christensen, a national security and international trade expert at US law firm K&L Gates, said the framework offered "a unique and unprecedented approach" not seen in other national agreements.

NK says it performed cruise missile tests

SEOUL (AP): North Korea said it had test-fired strategic cruise missiles to demonstrate its nuclear counter-attack capability, days after it vowed to respond to what it called escalating US-led hostilities since the start of the Trump administration.

The official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the missile tests off the country's west coast. They were the North's fourth missile launch event this year and the second of President Donald Trump's second term.

The launches were designed to inform "the enemies, who are seriously violating our security environment and fostering and escalating the confrontation environment," of the North Korean military's counterattack capability and the readiness of its nuclear operations, KCNA said. Kim expressed satisfaction over the results of the drills and said the military must be fully ready to use its nuclear weapons,

the report said.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that it had detected and tracked the North Korean launches. It said the South Korean military maintains readiness to repel any potential provocation by North Korea based on the solid South Korea-US military alliance. Since his Jan. 20 inauguration, Trump has boasted of his summitry with Kim during his first term and said he would reach out to Kim again. North Korea hasn't directly responded to Trump's overture as it continues its typical aggressive rhetoric against the US and weapons testing activities.

Many experts say Kim, now preoccupied with his support of Russia's war against Ukraine with supply of weapons and troops, won't likely embrace Trump's outreach anytime soon. They say Kim could reconsider if he doubts he'll maintain North Korea's current solid cooperation with Russia after

the war ends. North Korea's Defense Ministry alleged the US and its allies were ramping up more serious military provocations targeting North Korea since Trump took power. It cited the recent US-South Korean aerial exercise involving a US B-1B bomber and other reported activities involving US military assets. A Defense Ministry statement said North Korea will counter the strategic threat of the US with strategic means.

Kim and Trump met three times from 2018-19 to discuss the fate of North Korea's nuclear program, but their diplomacy derailed due to disputes over US-led sanctions on the North. Kim has since sharply increased the pace of weapons tests to expand and modernize his nuclear arsenal. Having a bigger nuclear arsenal now, experts say Kim would think he could win greater US concessions if he revives diplomacy with Trump.

Rejected refugee status: Canada deports more people

TORONTO (Reuters): Canada deported more people last year to hit its highest annual level of removals in about a decade, overwhelmingly deporting people whose refugee claims were rejected, data obtained by Reuters showed.

By late November, Canada's removal numbers had reached their highest point since at least 2015, when the governing Liberals led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau came to power. The government has also budgeted more money for deportations this year. Trudeau's government, now in its final days, has sought to show Canadians it is getting tough on immigration amid a rising backlog of refugee claims and a backlash against immigrants over concerns that immigration is exacerbating a housing shortage.

Canada's border agency said the spike in deportations is tied to a "significant increase" in the number of people applying for asylum since 2020, prompting it "to enforce removal orders in a more efficient and timely man-

ner." Reuters requested border agency data on deportations, excluding people who left of their own accord and those sent back to the United States as part of a bilateral agreement under which would-be asylum-seekers are turned back.

The remaining total shows Canada deported 7,300 people between January 1 and November 19, 2024, an 8.4% increase over all of 2023 and a 95% increase over 2022. The border agency did not provide equivalent figures for all of 2024. This week, it posted data online from 2019 to 2024 that do not break down deportations excluding returns to the US under that bilateral agreement. This data also showed an increase in the number of deportations.

About 79% of the 7,300 people deported in the first 11 months of last year were deported because their claim for refugee status had been rejected. That is up from about 75% in 2023 and 66% in 2022. About 11% of the people deported last year through November 19 were

removed for non-compliance with the conditions of their stay in Canada unrelated to a refugee claim, for example for overstaying a visa. About 7% were deported because they had committed a crime either in Canada or elsewhere. A spokesperson for Public Safety Minister David McGuinty did not immediately respond to questions about the deportations.

A spokesperson for the border agency said in an email that removal numbers fluctuate. "The number of removals of those who received a negative asylum determination have increased each year since emerging from the pandemic," wrote the spokesperson, Luke Reimer.

"These efforts are essential in maintaining the integrity of Canada's asylum system." Canada has been dealing with record numbers of refugee claims, although the monthly totals dropped to 11,838 in January from 19,821 in July. There were 278,457 claims pending as of last month - the highest pending total in decades.

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Global splinters evident at G20 FMs meeting

THE Group of 20 major economies has been instrumental in coordinating the response to crises like the COVID pandemic. But top officials from the US and several other member states skipped the G20 finance ministers' meeting in South Africa this week, raising questions about the group's continued relevance in a splintered global environment. The two-day meeting in Cape Town ended without a communique, with current G20 leader South Africa saying there was not sufficient consensus to issue one. In his opening remarks at the event, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa referred to the fractured geopolitical climate and stressed the importance of international cooperation.

"At this time of global uncertainty and escalating tension, it is now more important than ever that the members of the G20 should work together," Ramaphosa said. "The erosion of multilateralism presents a threat to global growth and stability." He said the G20 finance ministers meeting had to address major issues like climate change financing, ensuring debt sustainability for developing countries, and Africa's need to process its own critical minerals for inclusive growth. But it appeared the world's largest economies were not able to find common ground on a number of issues. South African Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana noted this wasn't the first time.

"The issue of the communique and the absence of it is not something new," Godongwana said. "To my knowledge, I mean, since the Russia-Ukraine war, it has been difficult to find a joint communique. Now, new differences have emerged on a number of other topics." Climate adaptation funding was one of the areas where there was a "difference of opinion," he said. The finance ministers meeting was beset with similar problems faced by last week's G20 foreign ministers meeting in Johannesburg, which laid bare the discord in current geopolitics.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent skipped the event amid a spat with host country South Africa, and after the US criticized the themes around climate change and "solidarity, equality and sustainability." The finance chiefs of other large economies, including Japan, India and China also sat it out. However, all of them, including the US, sent representation at various levels. Still, the absence of some top officials underscores global divisions sparked by Russia's attack on Ukraine and the "America First" administration of US President Donald Trump, said Professor Alex van den Heever of the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

"I think that this has caused a sort of a general review of how people see global issues," van den Heever said, "with people becoming a lot more insular and not really looking at sort of global social solidarity in any way, shape or form - largely looking to look after their own situation." However, Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, Rachel Reeves, who was in Cape Town for the meeting, added to Ramaphosa's call for unity, posting on social media platform X, "Productive and successful collaboration with our international partners is front of mind, now more than ever." Asked about the issue of tariffs, Godongwana said there had been, "general agreement against protectionism" at the G20 meeting.

Foreign aid

If you're still unsure whether it's a good idea to boost spending on defence by slashing foreign aid, don't worry. There's an easy way to confirm that it is. Just look at the type of people who are indignantly railing against the decision. All the usual suspects are present and correct. Jeremy Corbyn hates it. The Guardian hates it. The SNP, Plaid Cymru and the Greens hate it. And David Miliband, the former Labour minister turned foreign aid evangelist, has denounced it as "a blow to Britain's proud reputation as a global humanitarian and development leader". That phrase alone shows how far this country has fallen. At previous points in our history we led the world in industry, scientific innovation, naval power. Now we lead it in handouts for Ethiopian dance classes.

Well, I'm very sorry, Mr Miliband. But the sad fact is this: foreign aid is a luxury that Britain can no longer afford. Right now, defence of the realm simply has to come first. It's clear that we can no longer complacently rely, as we have for decades, on the USA to protect us. We have to grow out of the blithe assumption that, any time some horrid bully picks on us in the playground, our square-jawed big brother will automatically jump in and sort him out. Regrettably, I'm afraid, we must learn to stand up for ourselves again. And that means pouring whatever pennies we can scrape together into our Armed Forces. Which in turn, heartbreaking though it may seem, means no more high-minded freebies for the Third World. Britain today just isn't rich enough, or safe enough, to spend billions of pounds on helping middle-class midwives feel good about themselves. In other words: no more funding for poetry workshops in Colombian prisons. Or fleets of electric vehicles for Albania. Or conferences on how to fight "gender disinformation" in Kenya. Or studies by Bangladeshi universities on the health of their local shrimp. Or diversity training for the Jordanian army.

They protest that, in some magical and unquantifiable way, it strengthens a mysterious entity they love to call our "soft power". Unfortunately, however, it remains unclear how this entity would help a British soldier on a Third World War battlefield. ("Tell you what, Ivan, here's a deal. Put down that Kalashnikov and I'll get David Lammy to give you free salsa lessons.") In light of the threats we now face, therefore, I fear that the enchanting mysteries of "soft power" will have to take a back seat to boring, old-fashioned hard power. In any case, we've already seen this week how beneficial it can be to slash foreign aid. Up until now, it turns out, the US has been using its own aid budget to help fund Stonewall - the British activist group that has done so much harm to our society over the past decade by promoting gender ideology. Now that this funding is to be cut, Stonewall is reportedly facing huge job losses. As a result, its influence will surely wane. See? Cutting foreign aid can be good for Britain - even when the money isn't ours. As for our own spending, the cold, hard truth is this. In a choice between aid and defence, defence must come first - for a very simple reason. Which is that, if we lose the next war, we'll no longer be handing out any foreign aid at all. Because our newly crowned King Vladimir will be keeping all our money for himself.

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Nothing stood in way of Putin invading Ukraine

Sergei Shelin

THE three-year anniversary of Russia's attack on Ukraine brings us back to the paradoxical atmosphere of the last days before the war. In mid-February 2022, the proximity of war was obvious to everyone. But that war would break out was perceived as unthinkable.

It seemed unnecessary and incomprehensible to the Russian masses, contradicting the interests of the upper classes, the regime, and even President Vladimir Putin himself. China did not need it at all and the invasion provoked the West into a crushing response. The prior conditions and driving forces behind the war seemed a mystery. The aggressor is responsible for the aggression. But let us start not with Putin, but with the surrounding world.

Only two or three external powers were capable of preventing the invasion: the Chinese, the Americans and - at a stretch - the Europeans. In early February 2022, Putin went to Beijing for permission to fight and got it. Nothing was surprising about that. The opposite would have been a surprise. The PRC has never once stopped its friends and trade vassals from even their most exotic adventures. Iran's military campaigns and the DPRK's nuclear missile improvisations are examples. China is again confining itself to the role of the beneficiary of others' aggression. As for America, Putin recently echoed President Donald Trump's assertion that there would have been no war under him: "I cannot but agree with him that if he had been president, if the victory had not been stolen from him in 2020, then maybe there would not have been the crisis in Ukraine that occurred in 2022.

We cannot dismiss this as mere conjecture. There is a grain of truth here. Judging by the fact that Trump is proving unable to intimidate Putin today, he would hardly have been able to intimidate him before 2022 either. But there has always been a purely human affection between them. Justified or not, Putin has always seen Joe Biden as his implacable enemy, while he sees Trump as someone like himself with whom he

could bargain. However, according to Putin, the only thing that could be bargained for in 2022 was the procedure of turning Ukraine into a Russian protectorate. He simply would not agree to anything less without a war.

And Trump would probably offer him a smaller piece - for example, to recognize the annexation of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics as they were in February 2022. But Putin in 2022, unlike in 2025, was not looking for "compromises". He imagined that the Ukrainian army was weak and Ukraine was ready to collapse. In Putin's eyes, no matter who would be president in 2022, the United States looked insecure and divided, having just disgracefully fled Afghanistan (that would have happened under Trump too) - and therefore helpless. If the Democrats were Republicans in 2022, the concessions they could realistically make in those circumstances would seem to Putin an act of disrespect. He would not have refused to invade.

He promised to solve the Ukrainian question himself and was sure that the West would bow down before him. The bewilderment of Europe's leaders, who went to beg and dissuade him, convinced him that they reflected their peoples' lack of will and would endure anything. Both China and the West knew about the invasion in advance. The West was afraid of it. The Chinese did not care. But no one was going to get involved in a war with Russia. All the regimes decided so for themselves, regardless of the differing characters and beliefs of their leaders.

There were no external forces and mechanisms that would have prevented Russia from going to war. They simply did not exist in the world of 2022. The real mystery was not this, but the lack of resistance Russian society showed to their country's aggression.

Putin had been designing and preparing for the war for about a year and a half. However, most of the regime was kept in the dark for two to three days before it began. At the historic Security Council meeting on Feb. 21, 2022, when the

ruler demanded that the highest dignitaries to support the upcoming "special operation," some of them clearly believed that it was not a question of seizing all of Ukraine, but only of annexing its separatist-controlled regions.

At the same time, on Feb. 21-22, neither Putin's press secretary Dmitri Peskov, nor the puppet administrations in Ukraine's east, nor the relevant parliamentary officials in charge of ratifying the agreements on Russia's recognition of these so-called republics, could answer the question of within what boundaries they were formalizing their recognition and subsequent annexation. Would they include just the territories under separatist control at the time or the entire Donbas?

The first option left a chance that a big war could be avoided. The second meant that one would definitely start. But what Putin was pursuing was still kept secret from almost the entire officialdom. Russia's financial and economic chiefs were warned about twenty-four hours before the invasion began. Even then, it was only in general terms. Putin did not discuss his conquest plans with them. This is also why the disconnection from SWIFT and the freezing of Russia's international reserves came as such a surprise.

But the very fact that war was approaching was far from a secret to the upper classes. It is likely that even in Putin's inner circle, many - if not most - wanted to avoid it and hoped that the concentration of forces around Ukraine would turn out to be a bluff.

They would have been so afraid of the leader that they simply did not dare to broach the subject. The lack of will officials showed came as a surprise. Only one person at the above-mentioned meeting of the Council of Security Councils, Dmitry Kozak, tried to take anything like an independent position. The rest of the elites in the room only wailed cowardly and tried to guess what their ruler wanted from them.

Another surprise was the timid silence of tens of thousands of pompous

bureaucrats and magnates - famous for acting like aristocracy and supposedly ruling the country. For decades, it was believed that the scope of the Putin regime, for all its authoritarianism, was limited to the interests of this nomenclature. Most of these elites have families, assets, extensive business interests and personal attachments in the West. The severity of the blow that an invasion of Ukraine would inflict on all of this was obvious. Putin's adventure called into question everything the upper classes, from billionaires to middle-class officials, were accustomed to. But Russia's privileged classes accepted their fate and did not even verbally try to defend their habits and comforts.

As for the common people, they surrendered to the course of events with as much resignation as the nomenclature. But even fewer of them thought about what was to come. Two months before the war, only 6% of those polled by the Public Opinion Foundation named the long-simmering conflict with Ukraine and the threat of all-out war as an important current event. In early February, that number rose to 16%. Only on Feb. 20, did it become noticeable, rising to 39%.

However, even then, most people did not recognize any important events going on around them. Putin did not drag his country into the war because its lower or upper classes asked him to do so. All strata of society were silent. The attack on Ukraine was Putin's personal endeavor and the product of his personal obsessions. He did not express any class interests, warn anyone, nor consult with any circles in any form.

But it turned out that it was not necessary. The ruler of the Russian Federation is uniquely free to do what he wants because there were no mechanisms that would have prevented Russia from launching its aggression. Putin did not need to try to make all parts of the regime freeze in anticipation of his combat orders or for his subjects to obey them. Everything happened by itself. That is the bitterest surprise of the days before the war.

No Mr Trump, EU was created to 'screw' Russia

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard

DONALD Trump is right that the EU has engaged in semi-disguised mercantilism for decades, free-riding on the American consumer rather than generating its own demand. He is right that Europe has exported its manufacturing unemployment to the US by means of invisible tax, fiscal and currency policies, hollowing out the rust belt industries of the Ohio Valley.

He is right too to choke on Europe's regulatory imperialism, or what EU enthusiasts rapturously call the "Brussels Effect". Did the European Commission think it could ram the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) down everyone's throats without inviting a backlash? If you wish to be top dog, you had better be sure that you are not dependent on a foreign superpower for your energy, defence and political survival. Trump is nevertheless wrong about the origins of the EU.

"The European Union was formed in order to screw the United States. That's the purpose of it," he told his cabinet.

Actually, the EU was an American project created to "screw" Russia. Declassified documents show that Washington pushed European integration from the late 1940s onwards, funding it covertly from Truman through to Nixon until the proto-EU was strong enough to stand on its own feet. Euro-Godfather Jean Monnet lived in America and served as the eyes and ears of Franklin Roosevelt back in Europe during the early 1940s. Charles de Gaulle considered him a US agent. President Truman threatened to cut off Marshall Aid in September 1950 unless the French agreed to kiss and make up with post-war Germany.

The Schuman Declaration, the founding text of the coal and steel community, was largely cooked up by US secretary of state Dean Acheson in Foggy Bottom. "It all began in Washington," said Robert Schuman's chief of staff. The purpose was obvious. The US needed a rearmend and cohesive Western Europe as a bulwark against Sino-Soviet expansion. Stalin had violated Yalta by gobbling up Czechoslovakia in 1948. Two years later North Korea crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the South, triggering a war that pushed US military spending to 11pc of GDP - orders of magnitude greater than the modest sums spent on US forward defence in Ukraine. As this newspaper first reported in 2000, state department files reveal that US intelligence funded the European movement secretly for decades.

The euro never became a reserve currency on steroids but it did have large global consequences.

Peter Navarro, Trump's trade guru, says the warped mechanisms of monetary union enabled Germany to keep the implicit Deutsche Mark "grossly undervalued", allowing German exporters to lock in a trade advantage over US and Club Med competitors for much of the last two decades.

Berlin and Brussels responded to the eurozone debt crisis - in reality an intra-EMU capital flows crisis - by imposing hairshirt austerity and pushing the Club Med bloc into an economic depression. The South was told to export its way out of the slump via "internal devaluations". The aggregate

effect was to lift the eurozone's current account surplus to 343bn (£283bn) by 2018, five times larger than China's surplus that year. The bloc was sucking away world demand rather than agreeing to a fiscal union needed to make the euro work properly. None of this has served Germany well, and the surplus has since shrunk, but Navarro's analysis of events from 1995-2020 is basically right.

Navarro is also right that Europe has a tapestry of regulations, VAT taxes and state aid, that skew the economy towards exports. It shields EU farmers by blinding us with bad science. There was no justification for banning CRISPR gene-edited crops - not to be confused with transgenic plants - as the EU now acknowledges. If you think chicken welfare is worse in America, visit the giant industrial batteries of France or Poland.

Trump's warning this week that he aims to go ahead with 25pc tariffs on the EU is the bitter fruit of 30 years of grievances. I do not expect the UK to be spared. The obvious answer for Europe is to rearm on a larger scale than anything planned so far by Germany, France, Italy and Britain, both as a form of military Keynesianism but also to take on the defence of Ukraine and dictate the outcome of this war rather than submitting to Trump's pro-Kremlin proclivities. If rich Europe cannot find the wherewithal to produce or obtain the artillery shells and anti-aircraft missiles needed to stop middle-income Russia in its tracks, it deserves to end up in the dustbin of history.

Russia has wasted men and materiel on a gothic scale to gain barely 1pc of Ukraine's territory over the last year. It has not taken any new towns of importance, or come close to conquering the four annexed oblasts. Russia will win the war slowly if we talk ourselves into defeatism but it is not winning yet, and don't be fooled by the Potemkin statistics of its strained war economy. Europe has the naval and air power to bring the country to its knees in four months by blockading the Kremlin's dark fleet of tankers at the Skagerrak, with or without American help.

Strategic realists argue that Trump is right to try to peel Russia away from China in a "reverse Nixon" move, and that sacrificing Ukraine is worth the price - if Trump really has such clarity of vision, which I doubt. Others say Britain's national interest does not depend on Ukraine or the trio of Baltic states next on Putin's menu, whatever one's human sympathies. Well, perhaps, but we Europeans must rearm in any case. It would be better to do so with the battle-hardened, million-strong army of Ukraine on our side of the ledger, and infinitely cheaper to help the Ukrainians fight back now rather than go along with the charade of Trump & Putin Inc.

Otherwise, we may have to defend a false peace with 100,000 troops at ruinous cost for half an eternity, without US air power or Article 5 cover from Nato. Unresolved conflicts are toxic. Some 28,000 American combat troops are still patrolling the 38th Parallel a full 72 years after the end of the Korean War.

The Telegraph

Ramazan's impact beyond fasting - a lesson in unity

Raamish Siddiqui

RAMAZAN, the month of fasting, is observed by over a billion Muslims globally; it represents a profound period that extends beyond mere physical fasting. It encapsulates a dynamic synthesis of spiritual introspection, physical discipline, and patience, fundamentally reshaping individual lives and the broader societies in which they exist.

The overarching goal of this sacred month is to nurture individuals who embody compassion and to foster a sense of unity in the community. Ramazan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, provides Muslims a dedicated time for fasting, intensified prayer, and self-reflection. One of the five tenets of Islam, this month commemorates the pivotal moment of the Qur'an's revelation to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

It transcends the above rituals, embodying an ethos

marked by shared experiences of prayer, collective meals, and acts of altruism. It serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and fundamental values of empathy and mutual care. The emphasis on self-discipline, introspection, and compassion during Ramazan is well-established in religious texts and scholarly studies. The Qur'an mentions it in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:183), which states, "O you who have believed, fasting has been prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become righteous."

This directive is a guiding pathway to achieve heightened moral and spiritual awareness. Through the observance of Ramazan, individuals are inspired to elevate their consciousness and strengthen their connections with themselves and their communities, uplifting the spirit of unity and understanding that resonates far beyond the confines of the month.

At the heart of Ramazan is the pursuit of Taqwa, often translated as God-consciousness. Fasting from dawn until sunset encourages Muslims to move away from the distractions of daily life and focus on the cultivation of spiritual awareness and humility. In his famous work, Ihya Ulum al-Din, Imam Ghazali discusses how abstinence from bodily desires can open the heart to a deeper connection with the divine.

Moreover, the heightened level of self-discipline during Ramazan plays a crucial role in individual development. The daily fast requires immense restraint and the ability to prioritise long-term spiritual benefits over immediate physical comfort. Such discipline can have lasting effects on behaviour. Ramazan becomes a boot camp for individuals on how to carry forward the practices of self-restraint and mindfulness into their everyday lives

and through the rest of the year.

Another beautiful aspect of Ramazan is its unparalleled ability to bring communities together. The month is characterised by a series of social activities during iftar, a time of breaking the fast at sunset, and as families and neighbours gather to share fuutoor. This practice not only breaks the fast but also breaks down social barriers, allowing individuals from different walks of life to connect over a shared experience.

The collective breaking of the fast during the month of Ramazan creates a powerful sense of belonging. Every shared meal, every collective prayer, and every charitable act during this month is a reaffirmation of the bonds that tie the community together. It is a reminder that beyond individual devotion, there lies a collective commitment to mutual care and solidarity. Furthermore,

Ramazan encourages acts of charity and compassion. This month, Zakat (obligatory almsgiving) and Sadaqah (voluntary charity) become particularly prominent. By directing resources to those in need, communities are reminded of the importance of supporting the vulnerable and the marginalised.

Ramazan serves as a significant period of hope and renewal for Muslims globally. The practice of fasting, prayer, and reflection are transformative acts that cultivate individual character and strengthen community ties. The discipline instilled through fasting contributes to heightened self-awareness and various health benefits. At the same time, experiences such as iftar, collective prayer, and charitable actions foster a resilient and supportive community.

In an era characterised by social fragmentation and rapid change, the enduring principles of empathy, unity, and self-discipline embodied in Ramazan remain relevant

and inspirational. The observance of this month plays a pivotal role in personal development and societal health. Additionally, the focus on charity and mutual support during Ramazan underscores a profound truth: through collective efforts and shared sacrifices, communities can navigate adversity and promote a culture of inclusion and mutual respect.

As contemporary challenges continue to strain our communities' cohesion, the lessons from Ramazan remind us that genuine strength is not found in individual isolation but in our collective commitment to fostering care for one another. Whether manifested through the simple act of breaking a fast together or through expanded initiatives aimed at helping the underprivileged, Ramazan imparts the understanding that every act of kindness contributes to a more expansive framework of social solidarity and human compassion.

Gulf News

Iran under Resolution 2231

THE Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), represents a cornerstone of contemporary non-proliferation diplomacy. Recent threats by European JCPOA participants - notably France, the U.K., and Germany - to invoke the Resolution's so-called "snapback" mechanism against Iran underscore a troubling dissonance between their stated commitment to a law-based international order and their apparent willingness to manipulate legal instruments for political ends. This article contends that such threats lack a sound basis in international law and risk undermining the authority of the Security Council.

An examination of the legal frameworks governing the JCPOA and Resolution 2231 reveals several critical flaws in Europe's approach: Purpose and scope of the snapback mechanism: The snapback procedure under Resolution 2231, paragraph 11, was designed as an ultima ratio to address unprovoked, material breaches of the JCPOA, not as a punitive measure against a party responding to prior violations.

The United States' withdrawal on May 8, 2018, and the subsequent re-imposition of sanctions breached Annex II's sanctions relief obligations, fundamentally undermining the JCPOA's object and purpose. Europe's failure to ensure economic normalization, as mandated by Articles 26 and 29, compounded this erosion. Iran's subsequent measures - e.g. exceeding enrichment limits - fall within Article 36's remedial framework to compel compliance. As Iran did not initiate the breach, invoking snapback against it contravenes the mechanism's intent and lacks legal grounding.

Legal status of the JCPOA: Claims that the JCPOA constitutes a non-binding political commitment rather than a binding instrument are untenable. Its structured obligations, compliance

Reza Nasri

mechanisms, and incorporation into Resolution 2231 under Article 25 of the UN Charter confer binding force. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) jurisprudence affirms that agreements establishing clear duties and enforcement provisions are legally obligatory, irrespective of formal treaty status. Europe cannot selectively disclaim the JCPOA's legal force to evade its obligations - or ignore Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT) Article 31's canons of good-faith interpretation - while invoking its provisions to justify sanctions.

Threshold for significant non-performance: Paragraph 11 of Resolution 2231 requires a JCPOA participant to notify the Security Council of an issue it "believes constitutes significant non-performance." Customary international law demands that such belief be held in good faith and meet a materiality threshold under VCLT Article 60. Iran's actions, authorized as remedial measures under JCPOA Article 36, respond to prior breaches and align with the agreement's object of ensuring reciprocal compliance. Assertions that Iran's enrichment exceeds remedial scope ignore Article 36's allowance for proportionate responses, which Iran's actions - calibrated to compel compliance - satisfy (VCLT Art. 51). They do not constitute a material breach undermining the agreement's purpose. Europe's awareness of this context precludes a good-faith basis for invoking snapback, rendering the move legally defective.

Security Council consensus and legitimacy: Security Council resolutions derive their legitimacy from consensus among members, particularly the P5. Resolution 2231 was unanimously adopted, reflecting a shared commitment to the JCPOA as a balanced non-proliferation framework. Attempting to invoke snapback under questionable circumstances - without genuine consensus, particularly given Russia and China's posi-

tions - would constitute an abuse of process. Any resolution reinstated under such conditions would lack credibility under Article 39 of the UN Charter, representing procedural manipulation rather than a genuine determination of a threat to international peace and security. Lawfulness of Iran's remedial measures: Iran's suspension of certain commitments followed unsuccessful recourse to the JCPOA's Article 36 dispute resolution process. This aligns with the customary principle of exceptio non adimpleti contractus, upheld in ICJ case law (e.g. Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros), permitting suspension of performance in response to a material breach. Estoppel further bars Europe from invoking snapback, as its own non-compliance with economic normalization obligations precludes a good-faith demand for Iranian adherence. International tribunals consistently affirm that a breaching party cannot enforce obligations it fails to fulfill.

Procedural safeguards and the clean hands doctrine: The JCPOA's compulsory dispute settlement process (Article 36) imposes a critical constraint on Europe's ability to trigger snapback. Before escalating to the Security Council, parties must exhaust a structured sequence: Joint Commission review, ministerial consultations, and advisory board referral (JCPOA, paras. 36-37). At this stage, Iran can lawfully condition its return to full compliance on Europe's fulfillment of sanctions relief and economic normalization obligations (Articles 26, 29). This stance, rooted in the JCPOA's reciprocal structure and customary principles of counter-measures (Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros, ICJ, 1997), precludes a finding of "significant non-performance" under Resolution 2231 unless Europe remedies its own breaches. The equitable doctrine of "clean hands" - enshrined in international jurisprudence

(Chorzów Factory, PCIJ, 1927) - further bars Europe from advancing with "unclean hands" stemming from its non-compliance. Absent a good-faith effort to meet its commitments, Europe's pursuit of snapback would reflect a clear disregard for the JCPOA's procedural and equitable framework, rendering the mechanism practically and legally unattainable.

Conformity with UN Charter principles: Article 24(1) of the UN Charter mandates that Security Council actions align with the organization's purposes, including the maintenance of peace and stability. Resolution 2231 endorses the JCPOA as a tool for non-proliferation and global security. Employing snapback to penalize Iran for enforcing compliance, rather than breaching obligations, distorts this objective and risks abusing Chapter VII powers. Such misuse threatens to erode the Council's credibility as a neutral arbiter.

Europe's contemplated invocation of snapback under these conditions constitutes a legally indefensible and diplomatically reckless maneuver. It contravenes the JCPOA's framework, misapplies Resolution 2231, and disregards foundational principles of international law - good faith, reciprocity, and procedural fairness. The implications extend beyond this case: manipulating Security Council mechanisms risks weakening treaty enforcement and emboldening unilateralism, potentially destabilizing non-proliferation regimes. If Europe persists, it may undermine its normative influence in international law, ceding moral and legal authority to those who favor coercion over cooperation. Scholars and practitioners must scrutinize such actions not merely as policy missteps, but as challenges to the coherence of the global legal order itself. To safeguard that order, states should preemptively declare that they would not consider any resolution reinstated under these flawed conditions as valid or enforceable.

IRNA

Trump and Starmer sat side by side

Gaby Hinsliff

SHORTLY after Keir Starmer arrived in Washington to fight for the future of Europe, two men who make a mockery of everything he stands for touched down on American soil. The toxic YouTube influencers Andrew and Tristan Tate have spent years under investigation in Romania on charges of rape and human trafficking, which they deny, Andrew is now wanted by British police over allegations of rape, and both brothers for tax evasion in this country. But to MAGAworld they are martyrs, unjustly persecuted abroad for the crime of saying what they think on the internet.

Sitting beside Starmer, Trump protested that he knew 'nothing about' the Tates' triumphant homecoming, though it follows reported US diplomatic pressure on the Romanian government to lift its travel ban and Andrew Tate has bragged of his friendship with the president's son. But it was a small, stark reminder of just how far apart our two continents have become. It's freedom of speech that reliably seems to galvanise Trumpworld, not the freedom of millions of Europeans to live in peace along Russia's borders; as the president breezily told his cabinet this week, "we'll have Europe take care of that". Yet on the crucial question Starmer brought to Washington - of whether America will in turn take care of its old allies, offering the military backup without which its forces will be dangerously exposed - the best that could be said for Trump's answer was that it wasn't the anticipated outright no, and even that may come with trade-related strings attached.

Starmer laid on the flattery with the recommended trowel, handing over an invitation from King Charles for an unprecedented second state visit that evidently delighted the president. But though Trump praised him as a 'special man', this no longer feels like a special relationship; more the kind of loveless transaction that leaves both sides feeling grubby.

Europe still believes in building alliances, in special relationships, in rules-based world order and in the very idea of the west. But Trump believes in none of that. To him, old allies are little more than "relatives that come round and use your pool for free", as Britain's former chief of the general staff Gen Sir Patrick Sanders recently put it; those loser siblings

who didn't make it big like their billionaire brother has, and are increasingly just a drag to have around. And so he has decided to cut off their allowances and make them earn their own keep, forcing Europe first to pay for its own defence and second to do business on terms vastly more favourable to him.

Britons long for a cathartic Love, Actually moment where Starmer thrillingly lays down the law to the US, just like Hugh Grant's fantasy prime minister. But while Emmanuel Macron got away with publicly correcting Trump when he visited earlier this week, Starmer isn't a man to take risks: he couldn't even bring himself to publicly condemn Trump's threats to annexe Canada, a Commonwealth country. He will have been aware that he was in Washington not just on behalf of his own country, but to plead the cause of a continent at the most dangerous moment for Europe that I can remember in my lifetime.

There will be no peace in Ukraine, nor in any other country along Russia's borders, unless Vladimir Putin knows there would be a heavy price to pay either for breaking a ceasefire with Kyiv or destabilising neighbouring states. Though EU leaders are now scrambling to find the money to build their own collective defence, following the US's abrupt decision to pull the plug, in practice it will be years before they are ready to stand entirely on their own two feet and Putin knows it. A European deterrent force deployed in Ukraine without US backup risks being at best no deterrent and at worst a sitting duck. If Starmer's dignity is the price to be paid for doing a deal that could save countless lives, then frankly America can have it. But even that may not be enough.

Battle-scarred Trump whisperers have queued up in recent days to offer Europeans the same advice: don't waste your breath appealing to Trump's better instincts, or even the US's national interest, since what he mostly cares about is himself. Tell him that whatever you want is also his route to a Nobel peace prize, or that signing a peace deal favourable to Russia makes him look weak in China's eyes, or that there's money in it. "We're taking what we're entitled to take," Trump told his cabinet this week, of a grimly mercenary deal Volodymyr Zelenskyy is currently being pushed to sign

which effectively trades Ukraine's natural resources for its survival.

The US will get to exploit the country's valuable rare earth mineral deposits to the tune of billions of dollars, which could otherwise have been used to fund the rebuilding of a shattered country, in the kind of deal that countries defeated in war are more often forced to sign with their conquerors than with their supposed friends. In return, Ukraine hopes that US mining companies' desire for a safe operating environment will motivate the US to offer some kind of security - or, at the very least, a backstop to whatever force his EU neighbours can assemble. If Starmer's dignity is the price to be paid for doing that deal, or even for buying more time, then frankly the US is welcome to it.

Accordingly, Starmer brought gifts to lay at the feet of the self-anointed king: the urgent rise in defence spending Trump is demanding - from 2.25% to 2.5% by 2027 initially, with more to come - funded by a painful cut to overseas aid. (Though it mirrors Washington's own spending priorities, in truth that may have less to do with flattery than domestic reality: there is no time to roll the pitch for manifesto-busting tax rises or to build creative solutions such as the rearmament bank proposed by the former chief of the defence staff Gen Sir Nick Carter, though those may well have a role to play in getting to the longterm goal of 3%.)

Beyond that, Starmer has two cards to play, neither of them particularly comfortable ones for the Labour party: not being a member of the EU (an entity that Trump increasingly sees as a means of screwing over Americans) in the middle of a trade war, and the offered social cachet of that royal visit.

But while Trump talked in vague terms about how American companies' mere presence in Ukraine would ensure nobody took liberties, that's far short of the hard commitment to air cover and other critical functions that Europe seeks.

Until that changes, what is left of the transatlantic alliance looks uncomfortably like two countries separated by a common threat - the collapse of a rules-based world order that has broadly kept the peace in Europe for almost 80 years - a threat that only one of us still even recognises as dangerous. And there may be no coming back from that.

The Guardian

Germany's elections: A new political landscape emerging?

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Schlie

GERMANY has voted, and the choice of 60 million voters will have a significant impact on the future of the German Bundestag. The red-green-yellow "Ampel" (traffic light) coalition led by Olaf Scholz (SPD) has suffered a devastating defeat. The Liberals, who have played a decisive role in government formation for decades, have now been ousted from parliament.

Throughout the election campaign, the Greens attempted to downplay their role in Germany's economic crisis. They too were punished by voters and now have to take to the hard opposition benches. Friedrich Merz and the CDU/CSU sister parties emerged as the election winners, securing a clear mandate to form a new government. However, the parliamentary composition leaves room only for a "grand coalition" between CDU/CSU and a weakened SPD. It will be a grand coalition in name, but this alliance will have to be different from the grand coalitions of the past, because nothing less than a fundamental change of policy is required in Germany if the trends that have now become apparent are to be reversed.

This is especially true for migration policy, where repeated government failures in recent months call for an urgent course correction. Additionally, the social security system and excessive bureaucracy have driven the German economy into a deep crisis, necessitating reforms. The worryingly strong performance of the right-wing populist, in some cases even far-right AfD, which has doubled its share of the vote, and the resurrection of the Left Party, which

was written off some time ago with just under 9% and shares the opposition role with the Green Party, which was voted out of office, will ultimately continue to change the political discourse in Germany.

Voters have delivered a clear message of no confidence in the political establishment. If more than 30% of voters have opted for extreme left-wing and right-wing parties, this means a massive loss of confidence in the established parties to solve problems that are pending and perceived as urgent. There can, therefore, be no simple "business as usual" after this election result. This applies first and foremost to the actual winner, Friedrich Merz, who has gained the chancellorship largely due to the coalition government's missteps, rather than through his own political triumph. During the election campaign, Merz proved his ability to address pressing issues and incorporate them into his party's political program.

With his biography, his many years of political experience, his clear commitment to the social market economy, to transatlantic ties and to Germany's European orientation, he embodies credibility and consistency. At the same time, his distance from Angela Merkel within the party, as well as his courage in naming undesirable developments during Merkel's years as chancellor, is an advantage and enables him now to take a step back without having to leave the path of Christian Democratic orientation.

The balance between the CDU and CSU has shifted in favor of the

CSU due to the good performance of its Bavarian sister party. Of course, Merz does not yet have complete control over the political chessboard. This is because he is dependent on the defeated SPD as a partner. Angela Merkel would have said: "There is no alternative to the SPD as a coalition partner." The battered Social Democrats will have to reinvent themselves quickly under the leadership of Lars Klingbeil. This will be all the more likely to succeed as the SPD will have to open an unsparing dialogue with its own core voters about the issues on which Olaf Scholz has failed so spectacularly. Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, who had already kept the greatest possible distance from Scholz during the election campaign and stands for a pragmatic course, will retain his place at the cabinet table in any constellation. A new chapter in the long history of political liberalism in Germany begins today.

Although the AfD had reason to celebrate yesterday, its further demystification will now continue with increased vigor. Its lead candidate Alice Weidel has shown a high profile, especially in the media, during the short election campaign. The AfD remains far from governance due to its extreme positions, particularly its stance on National Socialism, its authoritarian foreign policy approach, and its historical revisionism. Its ties to Putin's Russia further alienate it from mainstream politics.

The political system in Germany loves consensus and has a weakness for the lowest common denominator.

Sunday's result, however, is a wake-up call for Germany if the Federal Republic is to regain its leading role in Europe in turbulent geopolitical times, as has been one of the secrets of Germany's success and recovery after the lost war for many years. A significant portion of young voters has turned to far-right and far-left parties. The AfD is the strongest political force in all eastern German states. More than three decades after reunification, the country is facing a new East-West divide. Political education, dialog instead of slogans, civil society and the ability to generate new ideas are the order of the day.

Democracy in Germany, which has proven to be stable since 1949, is now facing a test that the democratic parties of the Weimar Republic had to face in a completely different historical context. If left-wing and right-wing radicals are able to outdo each other, the center will ultimately become a no-man's land. It is up to future Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz to ensure that the real decision-making issues are quickly taken up by a government capable of taking action and that lost trust is restored. The upcoming coalition negotiations with the SPD are the first litmus test. Normally, German coalition partners love to pass agreements that run to several hundred pages and look like order catalogs from election manifestos. Merz can use his negotiating skills to prove that he has heard the message from election Sunday. He now has the opportunity to determine whether his grand coalition will continue incremental politics or drive meaningful change.

repeating itself. We won the First Chechen War. They took their time to rearm while dividing us, and in the end, they won. They will try to do the same thing with Ukraine. You can't trust Putin. He's a liar and a murderer," Berkhi says in hesitant French. After living in Belgium, he joined the Ukrainian army in 2016. For him, Ukraine must keep fighting because this is a matter of survival for Europe. The next target, he believes, will be the Baltic states. "When I hear talk of negotiations, I get flashbacks to the Chechen peace talks in 1996-1997. A peace treaty with Russia is worth no more than the paper it's written on," he says. Ukraine must be very careful, Benor insists. Vakha takes a drag from his cigarette. He, too, knows what the Kremlin's word is worth. "They won in 1993, then started again in 2008.

Today, Georgia has a pro-Russian president." What Trump is offering Russia, Vakha says with frustration, is nothing short of Ukraine's capitulation. The Russians will never stop. "When they run out of men, they will send the sick, women, and children into battle if they have to." But in a rare moment of optimism, Benor tries to temper the discussion. He argues that Ukraine, with the help of European allies, could also use a ceasefire to rearm and prepare for the next war. He holds onto the prophecy of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the leader of the Ichkerian independence movement, assassinated by the Russians in 1996, who once declared: "Russia will fall when the Ukrainian sun rises." Benor sighs. "We'll see."

Chechens, Georgians and Belarusians fighting for Ukraine

Joseph Roche

MIKHAEL Dudadiev, 39, known by his war name Benor, is in the small kitchen of a Soviet-era apartment, preparing Chzhig Galnash, a traditional Chechen dish made of meat, pasta and garlic sauce. "It reminds me of the dishes from my childhood." A thick brown beard frames his face, and his broad shoulders hint at his time on the front lines in Zaporizhzhia.

Benor is part of the Obohe unit, a division of the Foreign Legion specializing in close combat, mainly composed of Chechen volunteers, and affiliated with the government of Ichkeria (the self-proclaimed Chechen Republic) in exile in Kyiv. After weeks on the front lines, Benor is enjoying a brief moment of respite in the rear. He dips large chunks of boiled meat into the garlic sauce and eats them in hearty bites. Next to him, one of his comrades, Vakha*, a Georgian, pours himself a glass of Coke. Benor is a veteran of the Second Chechen War. Vakha, who fought in the Georgian army, took part in his country's 1993 war against Russian-backed Abkhaz separatists. In the background, a radio is broadcasting the news:

"Following the phone call between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, an American delegation led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio traveled to Riyadh and met with the Russian foreign minister. Volodymyr Zelensky, who was scheduled to visit Riyadh the same day, canceled his flight." The two men barely pay attention. They've heard it all before. The last light of

the day lingers on Vakha's face.

"I'm not interested in politics anymore. All I can say is that Russia will never honor its commitments. It never has. Not in Georgia, not in Chechnya, not in Ukraine after the annexation of Crimea. So why would it now?" says the 60-year-old. Having immigrated to Moldova in the 1990s, he joined the Ukrainian army at the very start of the war. "I don't really know why anymore. I just couldn't sit back and do nothing." Since then, his life has been a cycle of frontline battles, training and rotations.

"I don't feel nostalgic for any homeland. I feel at home everywhere - on the front, in a trench, in Kyiv, and even here in Berdychiv," he laughs. Benor dreams of spending his final days in his homeland. Born in Grozny, he joined the Chechen resistance during the Second Chechen War. He was barely 16. Borne out of the collapse of the USSR, in the 1990s, this conflict pitted Chechen Muslim independence fighters, led by Dzhokhar Dudayev (to whom Benor has no family ties), against Russia. Taking advantage of Russia's weakened post-Soviet power and their region's mountainous terrain, the separatists secured an initial victory, culminating in the Khasavyurt Agreements (1996), which forced a Russian military withdrawal.

However, in 1999, under the pretext of an anti-terrorist operation, then-Prime Minister Vladimir Putin launched a new military intervention. Divided and under-equipped,

the Chechen separatists surrendered in 2009. Since then, Chechnya has been reintegrated into the Russian Federation and is ruled by the Kadyrov clan, a close ally of Moscow.

"Every day was like Bucha," Benor recalls. "Every day, the Russians would raid our villages and massacre men, women, and children. They killed more than 100,000 people and destroyed every city in the country." Exiled in Norway since 2008, Benor, now married and a father of five, also joined the Ukrainian army in March 2022.

"They've arrested my relatives multiple times to get information about what I'm doing in Ukraine," he says. "It's a corrupt country, completely controlled by Russia. And they want to do the same thing in Ukraine. They want to destroy the Ukrainian language, the culture, and everything that even remotely opposes the Kremlin. And if they can't install a dictator like Lukashenko in Ukraine, they won't stop the war. No matter the treaty. Ukrainians should keep on fighting." Three years later, neither man expected the war to last this long. In a dimly lit room, behind dusty-colored curtains, Adam*, known by his war name Berkhi, another Chechen fighter, focuses on his prayers. Drones and shells sit in a corner. On the couch, several rifles are piled haphazardly.

"We can never trust the Russians. I lost my country because of that so-called peace agreement (the Khasavyurt Accords). History is



Pak, Saudia achieved biggest installed capacity of Solar PV

BEIJING (INP): In the Asian market, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia achieved biggest installed capacity of Solar PV with market shares of 7.1% and 6.8% respectively. It was stated at the Photovoltaic Industry 2024 Development Retrospect and 2025 Situation Prospect Seminar hosted by the CPIA on February 27.

“In 2024, China’s photovoltaic industry faces a series of challenges, whereas the new installed capacity still exceeds expectations, which could be described as challenges and opportunities coexist,” noted Wang Bohua,

Honorary Chairman of China Photovoltaic Industry Association (CPIA), in his keynote address at the Seminar.

Titled retrospect and prospect, the seminar demonstrated the overall development of China’s PV industry in the past year, as well as possible trends for the new year in extenso.

“In 2024, our PV newly installed capacity was 277.57 GW, which is a year-on-year leap of 28.3%, among which the monthly installed capacity in December reached 71.27GW, setting a record high for new installed capacity in a single

month. Overall, as of 2024, our cumulative installed PV capacity has reached 885.68 GW,” Wang introduced.

“However, blind optimism means the prelude of failure. What we also need to distinguish is that in the same year, China’s total exports of photovoltaic products amounted to USD 32.02 billion, a year-on-year decrease of 33.9%.

It could be said that the shuffle has begun. Survival of the fittest is accelerating.

All parties need to assess the situation to take advantage of the trend.”

“A coin has two sides.

Affected by trade barriers and changes in the overseas industrial landscape, silicon wafer exports were 60.9GW, down 13.3% year-on-year, but battery cell and module exports reached 57.5GW and 238.8GW, up 46.3% and 12.8% year-on-year respectively,” Wang pointed out.

At a macro level, the PV industry maintains mushrooming, and a consensus has been reached that global renewable energy installed capacity will triple in 2030, and China is leveraging the advantages of entire industrial chain to further expand green production

capacity development on a global scale.

In 2024, China’s PV module export regions will continue to develop in a diversified manner, with the export value of PV modules to 23 countries increasing by more than USD10 million, and the export value of modules to 33 countries increasing by more than 100%, with the top ten markets in terms of module export value maintained a share of 62%, and the number of markets with export volume exceeding 1GW increased from 29 in 2023 to 38 in 2024.

In addition, based on

the fact that the global photovoltaic market size has reached 530GW in 2024, a year-on-year increase of approximately 35.9% and that major markets will maintain a growth rate of more than 15%, CPIA optimistically predicts that the global PV market will maintain a scale of 531-583GW in 2025, and new installed capacity will increase by 10% year-on-year.

So far, various institutions have successively raised their global installation forecasts, remaining optimistic about the global market prospects.

CPIA pointed out that emerging markets are

small in scale but have initial growth potential due to their rapid growth in electricity demand and great potential for renewable energy.

For instance, Saudi Arabia has proposed to add 20GW of solar capacity each year starting in 2024, the UAE has proposed to increase the proportion of clean energy in the total energy structure to 50% by 2050, Pakistan has emphasized that renewable energy will account for 30% of the energy structure by 2030, and African countries including South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, and Nigeria have all proposed

to increase the proportion of renewable energy to between 30% and 42% by 2030.

As to China, the association forecasted new PV capacity addition of 215-255 GW this year, with consumption and demand for solar energy projected to remain high and steady in the coming years.

“With continuous breakthroughs in PV technology and more diversified export market, renewable energy generation is predicted to play a dominant role in the power generation landscape by 2030,” Wang added.

TEHSIL MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION BAFFA PAKHAL TENDER NOTICE

Tehsil Municipal Administration Baffa Pakhal invites sealed tenders/Bids from the eligible Firms/Contractors registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), enlisted with Local Council Board Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA). The registrations should be renewed for the current year 2024-25, for the following developmental schemes/works, with the mentioned below Terms and condition:-

Date & Time of Tender Forms Submission			20-03-2025	12:30 PM
Date & Time of Tender Forms Opening			20-03-2025	2:00 PM
(A) ADP No. 1173/210557 "District Developmental Plan" 2021-22				
S.#	NAME OF SCHEMES	UC	Estimated Cost (Rs In Million)	E/Money (Million)
► Package # 1				
1	PCC Link Road Batang To Kiran Guli Bagah	Trangri Sabir Shah	1.500	0.0300
2	PCC Road / Rehalitation Tarha Pain Daba / Qabristan mosque Road	Trangri Sabir Shah	4.500	0.0900
Total			6.000	0.1200
► Package # 2				
3	PCC Street Madni Masjid to Marof House Tajal	Trangri Sabir Shah	0.700	0.0140
4	PCC Road Zubair House To Bashir Hussain House Tajal	Trangri Sabir Shah	2.500	0.0500
5	PCC Road near Kala house Nokot	Trangri Sabir Shah	1.000	0.0200
Total			4.200	0.0840
► Package # 3				
6	Protection/retaining wall graveyard tarha pain	Trangri Sabir Shah	0.800	0.0160
7	PCC Road Ali Askar House to Mistery Manzoor House Tarha pain	Trangri Sabir Shah	3.000	0.0600
8	PCC Road/path from miskeen to gps no 2 tarha pain	Trangri Sabir Shah	1.000	0.0200
Total			4.800	0.0960
► Package # 4				
9	PCC Road Haji Hamza House to Tarha Pain	Trangri Sabir Shah	1.500	0.0300
10	PCC Road Touseif House to Tarha Pain	Trangri Sabir Shah	3.000	0.0600
11	Pully Malik NisarGuli Bagh UCTrangri	Trangri Sabir Shah	1.000	0.0200
Total			5.500	0.1100
► Package # 5				
12	Trangri Pain saverage Line	Trangri Sabir Shah	2.000	0.0400
13	PCC Road Riaz Kalia Basit with Pulli Bela Trangri	Trangri Sabir Shah	1.500	0.0300
14	PCC street phagwar banda guli bagh	Trangri Sabir Shah	1.500	0.0300
Total			5.000	0.1000
► Package # 6				
15	PCC Road Masjid Farooq-e-Azam to Main Road Kanate	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
16	PCC Road Global School Durirrian Abad Kanate	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
17	PCC Main Road to Shakeel House Kanat	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
18	PCC Road Madras Lower Bherkund Near Macca Hotel / Banaras Khan & Riaz Khan	Hamsheria	1.500	0.0300
19	PCC Road mari muqarab shah hamsheerian	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
Total			5.500	0.1100
► Package # 7				
20	PCC Road Mori basti hamsheeria	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
21	PCC Road from shahbaz to malik fayyaz house pano feed mill	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
22	PCC Road mari khan khel to mera ayub khan	Hamsheria	2.000	0.0400
23	PCC Road kangar road Mari muqarab shah	Hamsheria	1.500	0.0300
Total			5.500	0.1100
► Package # 8				
24	PCC Road Sahibazada Road Pano	Hamsheria	2.000	0.0400
25	PCC Link Road Govt Primery School to Abdul Hameed House Pano	Hamsheria	1.500	0.0300
26	PCC Road Sajawal Hussain Kanate	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
27	PCC Link Road Masjid Usman Ghani to Kstha Achar	Hamsheria	1.500	0.0300
28	PCC Road Sadat Basti Near Yaseen Acadmy Pano	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
Total			7.000	0.1400
► Package # 9				
29	PCC Road/Sew Hamshieran	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
30	PCC Road Saeed town uc hamshieran	Hamsheria	0.700	0.0140
31	PCC Road from rashid house to Masjid uc hamsheerian	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
32	PCC/Rehabilitation main road hamsheerian	Hamsheria	2.500	0.0500
33	PCC Road farooq mughal house to katha lower bherkund	Hamsheria	1.000	0.0200
Total			6.200	0.1240
► Package # 10				
34	PCC Akbar Road Khwaigan to Landai	Malik Pure	2.500	0.0500
35	PCC Road Sikanadra C/O Ibrar Shah	Malik Pure	2.000	0.0400
36	PCC Road Govt Primery School with Pulli Sosal	Malik Pure	2.000	0.0400
Total			6.500	0.1300
► Package # 11				
37	PCC Road Qari Ibrar to Sher Ali Farm Sherpur Basti Mehmood Abad C/O Azam	Malik Pure	1.000	0.0200
38	PCC/Rehabilitation Road Mujahid Rasheed Masque to H/O Zakir Khan Hassan Pure	Malik Pure	1.000	0.0200
39	PCC Kashi Khan Mechineto Master Taj Muhammad House Malik Pure	Malik Pure	1.000	0.0200
40	PCC Road Shareef Abad Khwaigan	Malik Pure	1.500	0.0300
41	PCC Road Basti Hakim Khan Sher Pure	Malik Pure	1.000	0.0200
42	PCC Road/ Street Saeed Abad Sher Pure	Malik Pure	1.500	0.0300
Total			7.000	0.1400
► Package # 12				
43	PCC Road Mohallah Asif Shams Road Jhangar Sosal	Malik Pure	1.000	0.0200
44	PCC Street Basti Maskeen Abad Sher Pure	Malik Pure	1.500	0.0300
45	PCC Street Village Concl Susal	Malik Pure	1.050	0.0210
46	PCC Road timber katha	Malik Pure	1.000	0.0200
47	PCC Main Road Susal	Malik Pure	2.600	0.0520
Total			7.150	0.1430
► Package # 13				
48	PCC Road GGPS Malik Pure	Malik Pure	1.500	0.0300
49	PCC Road from Shireen Khan House to Landia with Pulli Khwaigan	Malik Pure	2.000	0.0400
50	PCC Road Basti Jalal Abad from Ziarat Sherpure	Malik Pure	2.000	0.0400
51	PCC Road GGPS School to Maj. Arshad House Malik Pure	Malik Pure	1.000	0.0200
Total			6.500	0.1300
► Package # 14				
52	PCC road haji Aziz-ur-rehman to maskeen house landau	Malik Pure	1.000	0.0200
53	PCC Road Mera Murad Pure Madrasa	Malik Pure	2.500	0.0500
54	PCC Drakian Road Sosal	Malik Pure	1.500	0.0300
55	PCC Street from H/O Javed To H/O Mir Afzal	Malik Pure	1.200	0.0240
Total			6.200	0.1240

► Package # 15				
56	PCC/pavement of Road in different areas of khawaigan (Shireen Lala)	Malik Pure	3.000	0.0600
57	PCC Road darlingcharms razaka sosal	Malik Pure	2.000	0.0400
58	PCC Road ghandla basit sosal	Malik Pure	1.000	0.0200
Total			6.000	0.1200
► Package # 16				
59	PCC Road Tatar Sayadian Shoukat Abad	Shoukat Abad	2.000	0.0400
60	PCC Hospital Road Puchar up to Ishtaq House	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
61	PCC Road Pucher Mera Shoukat Abad	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
62	PCC Road Rehabilitation Tatar/ Pain Shoukat Abad	Shoukat Abad	1.500	0.0300
63	PCC Street Mera Tatar Shoukat Abad	Shoukat Abad	1.500	0.0300
Total			7.000	0.1400
► Package # 17				
64	PCC link road afzal abad Jaba (Ishaq House) uc shokat abad	Shoukat Abad	1.500	0.0300
65	PCC road tatar bala shokat abad	Shoukat Abad	1.500	0.0300
66	PCC Road Panyali to Muslim Kot Shoukatabad	Shoukat Abad	1.500	0.0300
67	PCC Road Treda Bankoti Afzal Aba d	Shoukat Abad	1.500	0.0300
Total			6.000	0.1200
► Package # 18				
68	PCC Road Bankoti to Akhtar Nawaz House Bankoti Afzal Abad	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
69	PCC Link Road Mohallah Gulabad Chira	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
70	PCC Link Road Chaira Banda up to Dildar Khan House Chira	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
71	PCC Link Road Khan Afzal to Taj Jamil House Treda	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
72	PCC Link Teerian Road	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
73	PCC Road Bankoti Mazar to Treda Bankoti to Farooq House Afzal Abad	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
Total			6.000	0.1200
► Package # 19				
74	PCC Concrete Walls Near High School Afzal Abad	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
75	PCC Street/ Saverage Line Mera Bubral Shoukat Abad	Shoukat Abad	1.500	0.0300
76	PCC street panyali Shoukat Abad	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
77	PCC road nasrullah gali tatar uc shokat abad	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
78	PCC street/pully from katha to sohrab house Treda Afzal Abad	Shoukat Abad	1.000	0.0200
Total			5.500	0.1100
► Package # 20				
79	PCC Road Govt Boys High School Khaki to 7 Maral Khaki	Bherkund	2.000	0.0400
80	PCC Road Hari Mera to Lyhalian	Bherkund	2.000	0.0400
81	PCC Road Tanki to Abid Shah House Mari Safdar Shah	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
82	PCC Street Azam Bandi / Bandi Bala Kenyain Kaka Khel	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
Total			6.000	0.1200
► Package # 21				
83	PCC Street Harimara City to Primary School Harimara	Bherkund	0.700	0.0140
84	PCC street six nos uc bherkund	Bherkund	1.500	0.0300
85	Sew line farooq abad khaki uc bherkund	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
Total			3.200	0.0640
► Package # 22				
86	PCC Road Mohallah Miskeen Abad Oghi Road Khaki	Bherkund	1.500	0.0300
87	PCC Road Thathi to Bamrar VC Khaki	Bherkund	1.500	0.0300
88	PCC Road Kachi Mera	Bherkund	1.500	0.0300
89	PCC Street Srounding Swati Qabristan Bherkund	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
Total			5.500	0.1100
► Package # 23				
90	PCC Road Sharkan	Bherkund	2.300	0.0460
91	PCC Street dab bherkund	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
92	PCC bina Dehri Nehar Link Road Faredoon Bherkund	Bherkund	2.000	0.0400
93	PCC Street Dab Road Bherkund	Bherkund	1.500	0.0300
94	PCC Road Rehlabatation Bherkund	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
Total			7.800	0.1560
► Package # 24				
95	PCC Road Band Pain Kenyain Kaka Khel	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
96	PCC Road 7 Maria Scheme Khaki Mera to Gujar Abad	Bherkund	1.500	0.0300
97	PCC street/stair/sew katche mera Khaki	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
98	PCC Road / Wall khaki mohalla jugi khel	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
99	PCC Road from jahangiri farm house near marble factory hizar hospital main oghi road to bherkund	Bherkund	1.000	0.0200
Total			5.500	0.1100
► Package # 25				
100	Renovation of Table Tennis Hall Shinkiani	Shinkiani	1.000	0.0200
Total			1.000	0.0200
(B) ADP Scheme No. 934/240315 "District Development Initiative 2024-25"				
S.#	Name of Scheme	UC	Amount in Million	
► Package # 26				
1	PCC Main Road Eid Gah	Baffa	5.00	0.1000
Total			5.00	0.1000
► Package # 27				
2	Sewerage Line Masoodabad	Baffa	0.60	0.0120
3	Pully Alali Colony	Baffa	0.80	0.0160
4	PCC Road Baffa Maira Khalid bin Waleed Madrasa	Baffa	1.00	0.0200
5	Seweragwe Line / PCC Chungi No. 5	Baffa	0.70	0.0140
Total			3.10	0.0620
► Package # 28				
6	PCC Road Takia Battagram	Baffa	1.00	0.0200
7	P/Wall Mohallah Baia Bejori	Baffa	0.50	0.0100
8	Pav of Street Lodiabad Kulhary	Baffa	1.00	0.0200
9	Sewerage Line Mianabad Baffa	Baffa	0.50	0.0100
Total			3.00	0.0600
► Package # 29				
10	Sewerage Line / PCC Street Lughmani Bala	Baffa	0.50	0.0100
11	PCC Street Mianabad	Baffa	0.50	0.0100
12	PCC Road Khora Nakka Kulhary	Baffa	0.50	0.0100
13	Pav of Street & Sewerage Line Baffa	Baffa	1.00	0.0200
Total			2.50	0.0500

► Package # 30				
14	PCC Road Baffa Maira Landai Toot	Baffa	1.50	0.0300
15	PCC Road Kulhary	Baffa	1.00	0.0200
16	PCC Road Churlai Qabristan	Baffa	1.00	0.0200
Total			3.50	0.0700
► Package # 31				
17	Bajna Jinazgah Roof	Tanda	0.50	0.0100
18	PCC Road Tanda to Shinkiani Road CPEC	Tanda	2.50	0.0500
19	Pav of Street Ghafoor Jabri	Tanda	0.50	0.0100
Total			3.50	0



In brief

Mourinho ban halved and fine reduced

ISTANBUL (Agencies): Jose Mourinho has had his four-match suspension halved by the Turkish Football Federation following a successful appeal by his club Fenerbahce. The 62-year-old Portuguese manager has also seen his fine reduced from 1.6m Turkish lira (€35,000) to 558,000 (£12,200). Mourinho's club said on Thursday that it would appeal against the penalties after he was punished for two separate disciplinary matters following Monday's 0-0 draw against local rivals Galatasaray. The TFF said it would penalise him for "his derogatory and offensive statements towards both the Turkish football community and all Turkish referees". The match against Galatasaray was refereed by Slovenian Slavko Vincic after both clubs requested a foreign official take charge of the fixture. But the fourth official was Turkish and Mourinho repeated his criticism of Turkish referees during his post-match news conference. Mourinho will miss Sunday's match against Antalyaspor, having already sat out a Turkish Cup game against Gaziantep FK. The fallout from Monday's game continued on Friday when Mourinho filed a lawsuit against Galatasaray for 1,907,000 Turkish Lira - about €41,000 - after the club accused him of making racist statements. Mourinho, who had said the Galatasaray bench had been "jumping like monkeys", said their claims were "completely taken out of context". Mourinho's Fenerbahce are second in Turkey's Super Lig, six points behind fellow Istanbul side Galatasaray.

Higgins wins World Open title

YUSHAN (Agencies): John Higgins has won his first title in four years with a 10-6 victory over Joe O'Connor in the World Open final. Scotland's four-time world champion established a 6-2 lead at the interval in Yushan, China, before sealing the 32nd ranking-tournament success of his career. At 49, he was the oldest ranking-event finalist since 1986 and signed off in style with a century break in the last frame. Higgins had come from 5-3 down to beat Zak Surety 6-5 in the semi-finals after equalling Ronnie O'Sullivan's record of reaching 146 ranking-event quarter-finals. His last title came at the 2021 Players Championship. World number 39 O'Connor enjoyed a remarkable run to reach only his second ranking final, beating Ali Carter, Judd Trump and Shaun Murphy along the way. The 29-year-old Englishman previously finished runner-up to Gary Wilson at the 2022 Scottish Open.

O'Sullivan withdraws from World Grand Prix

HONG KONG (Agencies): Seven-time world champion Ronnie O'Sullivan has withdrawn from next week's World Grand Prix in Hong Kong for medical reasons. The 49-year-old Englishman was scheduled to play China's Si Jiahui in the opening round on Wednesday and will now be replaced by Iranian Hossein Vafaei. In February, O'Sullivan apologised for withdrawing from recent events, saying he needed to prioritise his health and wellbeing.

Champions Trophy South Africa book semi-final spot with big win over England

KARACHI (AFP): South Africa qualified for the semi-finals of the Champions Trophy on Saturday with a convincing seven wicket win over a hapless England in a Group B match in Karachi. Wiaan Mulder (3-25) and Marco Jansen (3-39) bowled out England for a paltry 179 in 38.2 overs before South Africa chased down the target for the loss of three wickets in 29.1 overs. The victory means South Africa, who topped Group B with five points, a point more than Australia, join the Aussies in the semi-finals while India and New Zealand -- who meet in Dubai on Sunday -- are in the last four from Group A. As for England, they have endured a wretched tournament, with this their third loss coming after defeats to Australia and then to Afghanistan which ended their interest in the tournament with a game to spare. The India-New Zealand clash will determine the semi-final line-ups, the first in Dubai on March 4 while the second is in Lahore a day later. India, whose government refused to send its national team to Pakistan over political tensions, will play their semi-final in Dubai irrespective of where they finish in the Group. If India qualify for the

final it will be played in Dubai on March 9. If not, Lahore will stage the final. Stand-in skipper Aiden Markram praised Jansen. "He's (Jansen) been huge for us," said Markram of the left-armed. "We all know in the powerplay, especially in conditions like this, you need to be taking wickets up front. He's been peaking at the right time for us." Outgoing England skipper Jos Buttler rued another poor show. "A really disappointing performance," said Buttler. "We're not going on and making those big, telling contributions which has been a story of this side for some time now with the bat." Fast bowler Jofra Archer dismissed Tristan Stubbs (nought) and Ryan Rickelton (27) with the score on 47 but Rassie van der Dussen and Heinrich Klaasen kept South Africa on track with a 127-run stand for the third wicket. Klaasen, who scored a 56-ball 64 with 11 boundaries, fell to spinner Adil Rashid with just five needed for victory which David Miller completed with a six. Dussen hit three sixes and six boundaries in his unbeaten 87-ball 72. Archer had figures of 2-55 while Rashid took 1-37. England dispirited Earlier, Mulder and Jansen destroyed the top-

order after England won the toss and batted. Spinner Keshav Maharaj had figures of 2-35 as England's batting chart presented a sorry picture with Joe Root the highest scorer with 37. The fact that England were already out with two defeats in as many games and Buttler having stepped down after this match left them dispirited. Jansen removed opener Phil Salt (eight), Jamie Smith (nought) and Ben Duckett (24) in an incisive first spell of five overs. He then took a brilliant diving catch at long-on off Maharaj to send Harry Brook back for 19, ending a 62-run fourth-wicket stand with Root. Just four runs later, England suffered a massive blow when Root was bowled by Mulder and the problems worsened with Liam Livingstone dismissed by Maharaj for nine. Root's 44-ball knock had one six and four boundaries. Buttler (21) and Archer (25) added 42 runs for the eighth wicket but once Archer was dismissed by Mulder the last two wickets fell with the addition of just eight runs. South Africa had to leave out regular skipper Temba Bavuma and Tony de Zorzi who were both unwell while Markram was also forced to leave the field with a hamstring problem.



KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi walks out with the Champions Trophy.

PCB announces ticket refund for abandoned CT matches

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday announced a full ticket refund for the two ICC Champions Trophy 2025 matches that were abandoned without a ball being bowled at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The affected matches include Australia vs South Africa on 25 February, and Bangladesh vs Pakistan on 27 February. As per the PCB Ticket Refund Policy for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, ticket holders are eligible for a full refund if: The match was abandoned before the toss. All enclosure tickets will be refunded. Ticket holders of hospitality tickets (boxes and PCB gallery) will not be eligible for a refunded. Eligible ticket holders can claim

their refund at select TCS outlets between Monday, 10 March 2025 to Friday, 14 March 2025 (late requests will not be entertained). The following will be required: o Present an original / undamaged ticket as proof of purchase. o The purchaser will have to personally visit the TCS outlet to claim a refund. His/her refund cannot be claimed on his/her behalf. The following are TCS outlets, where the ticket holders can visit and claim their refund: Faisalabad - Harrianwala Express Center, 270 -B Harrianwala Chowk Near Shaukat Fabrics Gujranwala - New Area Office Express Center, Opposite Jamia Azizia & Super Asia GT Road Hyderabad - Area Office Express Center, Autobhan Road Near Toyota Motors Site Area

Islamabad - I-9 Express Center, Plot No. 394-A Pothohar Road Near Police Station Sector I-9/3 Karachi - Head Office Express Center, 101-104 CAA Club Road Near Hajj Terminal - 3; AND, Ittehad Flagship Express Center, 15-C Lane 10 Phase 6 Lahore - Gulberg Express Center, 58/D-1 Gulberg- III; AND, Thokar Niaz Baig Express Center, Ali Town Stop, Near HBL Raiwind Road Multan - Area Office Express Center, 985/B, Tareen Road Rawalpindi - Khanna Express Center, TCS Regional Office, Near Fazaia Colony Link Road Peshawar - Ring Road Area Office Express Center, Ring Road Near Neelam CNG Motorway Quetta - Jinnah Road Express Center, Near Dr. Bano Road, Main Jinnah Road.



KARACHI: Jos Buttler walks back after a scratchy innings.

Nasser backs Brook as captain

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Former England captain and renowned commentator Nasser Hussain has thrown his support behind Harry Brook as the ideal candidate to replace Jos Buttler as England's white-ball captain. Buttler, who led England to ICC T20 World Cup glory in 2022, has faced a series of setbacks, with three consecutive underwhelming tournament performances under his leadership. After England's early exit from the Champions Trophy, the 34-year-old officially stepped down, leaving the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in search of a new leader. Writing in his column for the Daily Mail, Hussain backed Brook for the role, highlighting England's limited captaincy options due to the lack of domestic 50-over cricket. "Harry Brook would be my choice as England's next limited-overs captain now it's time to move on from Jos Buttler," Hussain wrote. "If you're having to think about being England captain, as Buttler said he would be after Champions Trophy elimination earlier this week, you probably know you're done." However, Hussain also acknowledged the challenges of appointing Brook, particularly given England's busy Test schedule, which includes a home series against India and the Ashes.

Phillips says winning form gives confidence against India

DUBAI (AFP): New Zealand's Glenn Phillips on Saturday said his team's recent victories more than months ago. But we've trained hard, we've worked well and everyone's about as ready as they can be." The conditions in the three venues in Pakistan -- Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi -- have been drastically different to those at the Dubai International Stadium. While the matches in Pakistan have been high-scoring, the totals have not exceeded 244 in Dubai, but Phillips is not too worried. "Bases covered" "I think the beauty of Pakistan is (that) every pitch we've played on has been significantly different to the last," said Phillips. "And I think that's been a great preparation for us coming over to Dubai. Knowing that the pitch is going to be different again. "So I think we pride ourselves on trying to be as adaptable as possible. It doesn't necessarily mean everything is foolproof and that we're always going to come out on top. But I feel like we've got a lot of bases covered." Irrespective of the plac-

form is potentially a little bit more of a confidence builder as opposed to what happened a couple of months ago. But we've trained hard, we've worked well and everyone's about as ready as they can be." The conditions in the three venues in Pakistan -- Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi -- have been drastically different to those at the Dubai International Stadium. While the matches in Pakistan have been high-scoring, the totals have not exceeded 244 in Dubai, but Phillips is not too worried. "Bases covered" "I think the beauty of Pakistan is (that) every pitch we've played on has been significantly different to the last," said Phillips. "And I think that's been a great preparation for us coming over to Dubai. Knowing that the pitch is going to be different again. "So I think we pride ourselves on trying to be as adaptable as possible. It doesn't necessarily mean everything is foolproof and that we're always going to come out on top. But I feel like we've got a lot of bases covered." Irrespective of the plac-

ing and opponent, India will play the first semi-final in Dubai on March 4 after they refused to go to Pakistan for political reasons. New Zealand will fly to Lahore for the second semi-final scheduled on March 5. Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium will also host the final on March 9 unless India go the distance. Then it will be in Dubai. According to reports, both Australia and South Africa will travel to Dubai ahead of the India-New Zealand match because there is just a one-day gap between the final group fixture and the first semi-final. While India have played all their matches at one venue, the other teams have shuttled between cities in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. Phillips said his team were not thinking about whether India had an advantage. "No, for us there's no focus on anything like that," he said. "We have a no-excuses mindset to be able to come out to a tournament, you're dealt the hand that you're dealt. We're never going to complain about what we get and we'll just do the best of what we've got."

Marquez wins dominant Thai MotoGP sprint on Ducati debut

BURIRAM (AFP/APP): Six-time world champion Marc Marquez romped to victory in the sprint race Saturday at the season-opening Thai MotoGP for a dream debut with the factory Ducati team. The Spanish great started from pole ahead of younger brother Alex and never looked back for a statement win in the 13-lap sprint. Second at a sweltering Buriram was younger brother Alex, with Marc Marquez's factory Ducati team-mate and two-time former world champion Francesco Bagnaia third. Japanese rookie Ai Ogura was fourth on his MotoGP debut. The grand prix, the first of 22 in the campaign, is on Sunday

and Marquez will be hot favourite from pole. "It was a perfect Saturday," the 32-year-old said after only the second sprint victory of his career. "The feeling is great with the bike. Happy to start my new journey with Ducati this way. "Let's see if we can minimum be on the podium tomorrow but if we can we will fight for the victory." Marquez has been fast all week, going quickest in opening practice on Friday before being pipped by brother Alex in the afternoon session. Marquez enjoyed a strong pre-season with the factory Ducati, having joined from Honda, and is strongly fancied to win a first world

crown since 2019. Marquez and Bagnaia have been hailed as a dream team but some observers have cautioned that the high-octane mix of two fast high-profile racers could prove too combustible. The start of the new MotoGP season has been overshadowed by the absence of world champion Jorge Martin. The Spaniard suffered fractures to his right hand and left foot in a horror crash during pre-season testing in Malaysia. Then his Aprilia team said this week that Martin suffered another mishap in training and had to have more surgery. Aprilia now say he will miss both Buriram and the next race, in Argentina in mid-March.

Palace cruise past 10-man Millwall to reach last eight

LONDON (Agencies): Crystal Palace progressed to the quarter-finals of the FA Cup with a comfortable win over 10-man Millwall at Selhurst Park. The turning point of the match came in the eighth minute when Millwall goalkeeper Liam Roberts was sent off after he came charging out of his goal and kicked Crystal Palace striker Jean-Philippe Mateta in the head as attempted to clear the ball. Play was initially allowed to carry on by referee Michael Oliver, but after he was sent to the pitch-side monitor by the video assistant referee (VAR), he showed the red card to Roberts. Mateta received eight minutes of treatment before being taken off on a stretcher, with Palace chairman Steve Parish saying the challenge was the "most reckless he had ever seen". Premier League Palace made the most of their numerical advantage and took the lead in the 33rd minute when

Japhet Tanganga headed a curling Will Hughes cross into his own net. The Eagles doubled their lead when Daniel Munoz poked the ball into the net from close range when it fell into his path after bouncing off Tanganga. Championship side Millwall looked to be out of the game but Wes Harding gave them a lifeline when he scored from inside the area just before the break. Eddie Nketiah ensured the Eagles would be in the draw for the last eight when he headed in off the post in the 82nd minute. Palace wait for Mateta update This match was the 100th meeting between the two London rivals and the dramatic nature of the game lived up to the milestone. Oliver Glasner had named a strong line-up for both of the previous rounds of the FA Cup, against Stockport County

and Doncaster Rovers, and this match was no different. He picked his first-choice front three but lost French striker Mateta after eight minutes after the awful tackle from Roberts, and the manager will be hoping the injury is not too serious. Matt Turner kept his role as the cup goalkeeper whilst Ben Chilwell was handed his first start since joining from Chelsea on loan, and showed what he might be able to provide for the remainder of the season. Eddie Nketiah came on for the injured Mateta and looked lively, and alongside his goal in the second half also had the ball in the net in the first half, but that strike was ruled out for handball. It has been a frustrating time in south London for Nketiah since he arrived from Arsenal in August 2024, but he may now get a run of games to fill the void left by

the talisman Mateta. The second half of the game became a bit flat as the Eagles tried to see out the match,

while Millwall tried to attack in patches despite being a player down. The win continues Palace's

resurgence after their slow start to the season and they have now lost just twice in 13 matches in all competitions.





In brief

Ramadan Bazaars activated

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Ramazan Sahulat Bazaars established in Rawalpindi have been made fully functional. Eight locations were identified to set up the bazaars with controlled rates of essential edibles following the instructions by the provincial government. Ramazan Bazaars have been established at Allama Iqbal Park, Haideri Chowk, Chohar Model Bazaar, Chak Beli Khan, Service Road Gujarkhan, Hayatsar Road Gujarkhan, Deen Plaza and Main GT Road in Taxila and at vegetable market and Main Bazaar Kahuta. In Tehsil Kallar Syedan, a Ramazan Sahulat Bazaar is set up near Mured Chowk. On the other hand, Commissioner Rawalpindi, Engr Amir Khattak on Saturday chaired a meeting in this regard and directed the concerned quarters to ensure availability of necessary facilities in the Sahulat Ramazan Bazaar. He said that special sugar sale points would be available in the Ramazan Sahulat Bazaars. The commissioner further urged to ensure full security arrangements in Ramazan Sahulat Bazaars along with other facilities for the public.

ITP organizes road safety workshop

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) organized a one-day road safety workshop at Lucky Core Industries to educate employees about traffic laws and safe driving practices. Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ITP awareness team, in collaboration with the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, conducted the session, where participants received training on modern road safety principles, emergency response, and responsible driving. The education team used practical demonstrations and modern technology to enhance awareness, while company representatives appreciated the initiative and commended ITP's efforts in promoting traffic safety. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (R) Syed Zeeshan Haider emphasized that such workshops aim to prevent road accidents and ensure compliance with traffic regulations, adding that ITP will continue these awareness campaigns to instill safe driving habits among citizens.

DPC discusses steps to maintain harmony

RAWALPINDI (APP): An important meeting of the District Peace Committee (DPC) was held at DC Office with Add'l Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Hassan Tariq. The meeting discussed the steps being taken to maintain peace and harmony among the religious schools of thought. According to the details, the meeting was attended by a number of scholars, and discussed the issues faced during the holy month of Ramadan. The scholars said that the role of the peace committee is very important during the holy month of Ramadan. The rush in mosques increases during Taraweeh and prayers, due to which citizens have to face difficulties. In this regard, the duty of SHO's should be made for security, while security should be further tightened during Ifar time and Friday prayers to avoid any untoward incident. Concern was also expressed in the meeting over false and baseless news spread on social media. The scholars said that such fake news fuels sectarianism, so they should avoid spreading it.



ISLAMABAD: CDA worker busy in sapling plants at serena chowk roadside greenbelt in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

Governor Kundi congratulates Minister Fazal Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Saturday met with Federal Minister Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and congratulated him on taking the oath of office.

During the meeting, Governor Kundi praised Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry for his dedication, hard work, and ideological commitment.

He described him as a capable political leader whose skills and experi-

ence would benefit not only the government of Pakistan but also the general public.

The meeting highlighted the importance of capable leadership in addressing national challenges and serving the people effectively.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leader and former candidate for the National and Provincial Assembly, Rehman Malik Advocate also met with Governor

Faisal Karim Kundi.

During the meeting, they discussed the overall situation of law and order in the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as the prevailing political conditions.

Governor Kundi expressed concern over the deteriorating situation in the province and emphasized the need for all political parties to unite on a single platform to address the challenges facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

ANF recovers over 69 kg drugs in 7 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 7 operations across the country managed to recover over 69 kg drugs worth over Rs 100 million and arrested 6 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday.

He informed that 2 kg hashish was recovered from the bag of an accused arrested near Ring Road Peshawar.

1.8 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of a drug dealer netted near a hotel in Islamabad.

840 grams hashish was recovered from the drug supplier rounded up near a university in Attock. The arrested suspects confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

The spokesman informed that in another operation, 58 kg heroin concealed near Kutchlak Bypass Road Quetta for smuggling was recovered.

4.8 kg hashish, a pistol with 8 rounds hidden in the secret cavities of a car near M-1 Motorway Islamabad was recovered and an accused was arrested during the operation.

In an operation on M-1 Motorway, Islamabad, 1.2 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of a drug smuggler. In 7th operation, 1000 grams ice was recovered from the possession of an accused near the bypass road in Dera Ismail Khan. Separate cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Narcotics Control Act and further investigations are under process.

Students visit Rawalpindi Police Lines, get briefing on organisation

RAWALPINDI (APP): The students of Al-Wilayat Organization on Saturday visited the Rawalpindi Police Lines Headquarters, where they were briefed about the working of Women Police Station, Tahafuz Markaz and Khidmat Markaz Liaquat Bagh.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Admin Shahida Yasmin, Station House Officer Women Police Station, In-charge Tahafuz Center and Khidmat Markaz and other officers took the students around the offices, the Rawalpindi Police spokesman said.

The students were told that the Women Police Station was working to protect the rights of women.

They were further informed that the Tahafuz Markaz was also providing services for the protection of transgenders, women, abandoned children and special persons.

Similarly, police character certificates, police verification, first information report copies, learner driving licence, driving licence renewal and other facilities were being provided at the Police Khidmat Markaz, it was told.

Ramadan teaches patience, piety, selflessness: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Saturday extended his heartfelt greetings to the nation on the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan. He said that the blessed month is a source of divine mercy, forgiveness, and salvation. Ramadan imparts the virtues of patience, piety, selflessness, and self-accountability, added the NA Speaker.

He stressed that sacred blessings of Ramadan offer an opportunity to reflect upon our actions, strive for personal improvement in accordance with Allah's will, and refine our character.

Ayaz Sadiq said that the Holy Quran was revealed in this sacred month, serving as a beacon of guidance and enlightenment for humanity. He said that fasting is not merely about abstaining from food and drink but is a means of spiritual purification, self-discipline, and attaining closeness to Allah.

Ramadan provides a unique opportunity for physical, spiritual, and moral purification, he added. He further stated that Ramadan teaches us

piety and encourages us to do good deeds, which not only enhance our worldly lives but also ensure success in the Hereafter.

NA Speaker stressed the need to foster tolerance, harmony, and unity within society to build a strong and resilient nation.

He urged people to engage in increased worship during this sacred month and to extend special care to those struggling with poverty and hardship.

He said "By supporting the underprivileged, we can seek the pleasure of Allah Almighty." He also called upon the privileged to increase their charitable efforts during Ramadan so that every underprivileged individual can enjoy the blessings of this holy month. He emphasized the importance of supplication during Ramadan, urging the nation to pray fervently for the progress, prosperity, and security of Pakistan.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant everyone the understanding of the true essence of Ramadan and the ability to act upon its teachings. Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Mir

Ghulam Mustafa Shah, also extended his greetings to the Muslim Ummah on the arrival of Ramadan.

He described Ramadan as a sacred month that provides a golden opportunity to seek closeness to Allah. The holy month encourages believers to lead their lives following Islamic teachings, dedicate more time to the worship of the Almighty, and assist those in need, he added.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly emphasized that Ramadan is a divine gift filled with mercy, blessings, and forgiveness. He stressed the importance of seeking Allah's pleasure during this holy month.

He highlighted the need for every individual to contribute towards the establishment of an equitable society. He urged the people to promote unity, tolerance, and compassion in their social attitudes, in line with the teachings of Ramadan. In addition, he underscored the significance of generously supporting the underprivileged during Ramadan and ensuring that they too partake in the blessings and grace of this sacred month.

FIA arrests ETPB official, takes physical remand in fraud case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested Deputy Administrator (Plazas) of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), Imran Arif Janjua, on charges of extortion and misappropriation of Rs. 3 million in which Civil Judge Asif Hanjra on Saturday granted FIA a two-day physical remand for further interrogation.

FIA's investigation officer, Shamas, presented Imran Arif Janjua before Duty Magistrate Civil Judge Asif Hanjra after the arrest. The agency secured remand to gather more evidence and interrogate the accused. According to FIR No. C/08/2025, registered at FIA's Anti-Corruption Circle, a complainant named Muhammad Shabbir, a resident of Sector 1-10/1, Islamabad,

alleged that Janjua took Rs. 3 million from him in 2014. The accused reportedly promised to arrange a government job for Shabbir's nephew, Shehroz Iqbal, as a Naib Tehsildar in ETPB. However, neither the job was provided nor the money returned.

The complainant Shabbir claimed that the incident took place in front of witnesses, including Muhammad Rafique and Muzammil Hussain, at various locations in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Following an internal inquiry, FIA sought approval from the competent authority before registering the case and proceeding with legal action.

The case was filed under Section 161 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) and Section 5 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption

Act, 1947. FIA Sub-Inspector Shams Khan Gondal was assigned to lead the investigation.

The FIA sources revealed that mobile data records suggested Janjua's involvement in widespread corruption. Based on this information, FIA decided to form a team of experienced officials to conduct a detailed inquiry and intensify the crackdown on corruption within the organization.

The officials also confirmed that additional complaints had been received against Janjua.

The accused was allegedly involved in similar fraudulent activities, extorting large sums of money from complainants under false promises.

FIA is expected to continue its investigation, and further developments in the case are awaited.

Diabetologist warns patients to be cautious during Ramzan fasting

ISLAMABAD (APP): On Saturday, experts warned diabetic patients to exercise extra caution during Ramadan, as fasting can lead to health complications, but with proper planning, nutrition and care, a safe and healthy Ramadan spirit can be achieved.

Associate Professor of Diabetology, Dr. Aqiba Sarfraz in her exclusive talk with a private news channel cautioned diabetic patients to be vigilant about their health during Ramadan, emphasizing that while fasting presents significant health risks, meticulous planning and proper management can guarantee a safe and healthy holy month.

She stressed the importance of a balanced diet during Ramadan, advising diabetic patients to focus on complex carbohydrates, fiber-rich foods and lean protein sources.

"It is essential to break the fast with dates and water, followed by a balanced meal that includes

foods like whole grains, fruits, and vegetables," she recommended.

Dr. Sarfraz explained that diabetic patients should consult their doctors before starting the fast to discuss any necessary adjustments to their medication or diet.

"It is crucial to monitor blood sugar levels regularly, especially before and after fasting," she added.

Dr. Sarfraz also advised diabetic patients to break their fast immediately if they experience any symptoms of low blood sugar, such as dizziness, confusion, or shaking.

In addition to monitoring blood sugar levels, Dr. Sarfraz recommended that diabetic patients focus on healthy eating habits during Ramadan.

"Avoid sugary and fried foods and opt for complex carbohydrates, fruits, and vegetables instead," she advised. Dr. Sarfraz also emphasized the importance of staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water

throughout the day.

Her advice served as a timely reminder for diabetic patients to prioritize their health during Ramadan.

By taking the necessary precautions and being mindful of their diet and blood sugar levels, diabetic patients can ensure a safe and healthy fasting experience, she added.

Dr. Sarfraz also warned against overindulging in traditional Ramadan foods that are high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats. "Foods like samosas, pakoras, and fried desserts can cause a spike in blood sugar levels and worsen diabetes management," she cautioned.

Furthermore, Dr. Sarfraz emphasized the need for diabetic patients to stay hydrated during Ramadan. "Drinking plenty of water throughout the day, especially during non-fasting hours, is crucial to prevent dehydration and manage blood sugar levels," she advised.

CCP raids Transporters' Association over alleged price fixing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has conducted an enter and search operation at the premises of a Karachi-based transporters' association as part of an ongoing investigation into alleged anti-competitive practices in the transportation of edible oil.

The action was taken after CCP initiated a suo moto inquiry regarding multiple circulars issued by the association at various intervals, which reportedly fixed transportation charges for edible oil from Karachi's seaports to other cities across Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

Price fixing by an association is per se violation of the Competition Act, 2010, as it eliminates independent pricing decisions among competitors, distorts market dynamics, and harms consumers.

During the operation, CCP's authorized officers impounded relevant documents and computer-stored data to assess the extent of the association's role in setting transport rates.

The inquiry is now in its final stages, with CCP aiming to conclude it at the earliest. Reaffirming its commitment to fair competition, CCP has urged businesses and trade associations to comply with competition laws and refrain from practices that hinder market efficiency and consumer welfare.

Redressal of public grievances top priority: DIG Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad, Muhammad Jawad Tariq, held a Khulli Katcheri (open court) at his office on Saturday to address citizens' grievances and issued immediate directives for their resolution. A public relations officer told APP that during the Khulli Katcheri, DIG Tariq emphasized that citizens can also register their complaints through the "IGP Complaint Cell 1715." Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, has instructed all senior police officers to organize open courts across the district.

In line with these directives, all zonal SPs are conducting open courts in their respective zones to ensure citizens' concerns are heard and resolved.

DIG Tariq stated that the Islamabad Police are dedicated to reaching out to the public and resolving their issues effectively. "Every citizen of Islamabad is encouraged to openly share their grievances at these forums. Resolution of public grievances remains the utmost priority of Islamabad Police," said DIG.

IEA condemns attack

KABUL (Ariana News): The Islamic Emirate in a statement strongly condemned the attack on Darul Uloom Haqqania seminary in Pakistan, which resulted in the death of Hamid-ul-Haq Haqqani, the deputy administrator of the seminary. According to the statement issued by IEA's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, the "martyrdom" of Hamid-ul-Haq Haqqani is described as a "great loss for scholarly and religious institutions."

The Frontier Post

Ramazan-ul-Mubarak 01, 1446 — Sunday, March 02, 2025

Nine dead in accidents

KABUL (BNA): At least nine people lost their lives and several others were injured in two separate traffic accidents in Afghanistan's Ghazni province, local authorities said. Ghazni police spokesperson Khaled Sarhadi told Bakhtar News Agency that the first crash occurred on the Kabul-Kandahar highway in Muqur district, where two passenger vehicles collided, leaving three people dead and three others wounded.

Over 600 migrant families returned

KABUL (Amu TV): At least 613 Afghan migrant families returned from Pakistan and Iran between Feb. 21 and Feb. 28, according to data compiled by Amu from Taliban statements.

During this period, Iran expelled 501 families, while Pakistan deported 112, either forcibly or voluntarily, the reports indicate.

Of those returning from Pakistan, 35 families entered Afghanistan through the Torkham crossing, while 77 crossed via Spin Boldak.

The Torkham border has been closed to all movement for the past six days. Meanwhile, 176 families returned via the Silk Bridge border in Nimroz, and 325 families entered through the Islam Qala border in Herat.

The latest wave of deportations follows the expulsion of 758 Afghan refugee families from Iran and Pakistan the previous week. Iran deported 505 families, while Pakistan expelled 253, according to the data.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that Iran hosts at least 3.8 million refugees and refugee-like individuals, including over 1 million Afghans who have arrived since 2021, making it the world's largest refugee-hosting country. Pakistan is home to approximately 3.2 million Afghan refugees and other Afghan nationals, 76 percent of whom are women and children, according to UNHCR figures.

UN holds exhibition to highlight water crisis

NEW YORK (Khaama Press): The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has announced that it held a five-day exhibition at its headquarters in New York to raise awareness about the water crisis in Afghanistan. The event aimed to shed light on the urgent water shortage affecting the country and the severe challenges faced by its population.

UNAMA released a statement highlighting the widespread lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in communities across Afghanistan. The statement emphasized the gravity of the situation and the need for international support to address the crisis.

The five-day exhibition, aimed to showcase the impact of the water crisis, including the exacerbation of hunger, displacement, and inequality. It also highlighted the growing risk of diseases linked to contaminated water sources. The exhibition served as a powerful visual reminder of the urgent need for solutions.

UNAMA stressed that women and children are disproportionately affected

by this crisis, with women often facing gender-based inequalities, and children becoming more vulnerable to waterborne diseases due to a lack of proper sanitation. The organization's efforts to raise awareness underscored the importance of addressing these issues in a gender-sensitive manner.

Over the past years, the water shortage and lack of access to clean drinking water have become one of Afghanistan's most pressing challenges. This crisis has not only hindered the development of the country but has also led to severe health consequences, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

Recently, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that nearly 9 million people in Afghanistan are at risk due to climate-related disasters, with over 500,000 people displaced by floods, droughts, and other natural calamities. These environmental hazards have exacerbated the water crisis, further endangering the lives of many Afghans.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

has also warned that due to rapid urbanization and climate change, Kabul's groundwater could be depleted by 2030. This adds a new layer of urgency to the already dire situation, as the capital's growing population struggles to meet its water demands.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 39% of Afghanistan is facing water shortages, further underlining the scale of the crisis.

The water crisis in Afghanistan is a multifaceted issue that is not only a matter of access to clean water but also has broader implications for health, displacement, and gender equality. The exhibition organized by UNAMA serves as a crucial step in raising awareness and urging the international community to take action.

The ongoing crisis, particularly the looming threat to Kabul's groundwater supply, demands urgent attention and concerted efforts. If not addressed soon, the situation could worsen, impacting millions more lives and further destabilizing the country.

US actor travels to Afghanistan

KABUL (Amu TV): A US pornographic film actor has traveled to Afghanistan in a visit that has not been publicly acknowledged by the Taliban. The Associated Press reported.

Whitney Wright, who previously stirred controversy by visiting Iran last year amid the government's crackdown on women, shared images from her trip to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan on her Instagram account.

The photos included a plane from the national carrier Ariana Afghan Airlines on a runway, a tiled ceiling from the western city of Herat, supermarket items, and vehicles. Wright herself did not appear in the images. She did not respond to inquiries from The Associated Press.

Since seizing power in 2021, the Taliban have imposed strict morality laws and curtailed the rights of women and girls. Girls beyond the sixth grade are barred from attending school, and universities remain closed to female students.

Despite their hard-line rule, the Taliban have sought to attract foreign tourists, touting improved security and a different image of Afghanistan. Some international visitors have traveled to the country, encouraged by the decline in violence.

As a US citizen born in Oklahoma City, Wright would have required a visa to enter Afghanistan. However, Afghanistan has no operational embassies or consulates in the United States. The Taliban control approximately 40 diplomatic missions worldwide. The US State Department strongly advises against travel to Afghanistan, citing risks including civil unrest, crime, terrorism, kidnapping, and limited medical services. The department has also warned of the potential for wrongful detention of American citizens.

Flooding in Farah leaves 72 dead

KABIL (BNA): At least 72 people have died as heavy rains and flash floods wreaked havoc in western Afghanistan's Farah province, officials say.

Molavi Mohammad Israil Siyar, head of Farah's Disaster Management and Preparedness Department, told Bakhtar News Agency that the flooding, triggered by intense rainfall and hailstorms, has caused widespread devastation.

According to Siyar, the floods have destroyed 1,222 homes, 80 shops, 82 wells, 60 kilometers of roads, 2,800 acres of farmland, 629 trees, and over 24,000 solar panels.

Sayed Ahmad, a resident of Maqbolak village in Pushtkoh district, lost two family members in the disaster. "Had ambulances, medical teams, and security personnel not arrived in time, we might have lost even more lives, including my wife," he said.

Qatar urges expanded humanitarian efforts

GENEVA (Amu TV): Qatar has called on the international community to bolster financial and technical support for humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan, emphasizing the need for sustainable development and lasting peace to improve conditions in the country.

Mishal Al Mansouri, third secretary at the Human Rights Department of Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, urged global leaders to ensure a dignified life for the Afghan people. Speaking in Geneva, he underscored Qatar's ongoing commitment to Afghanistan through mediation efforts and its role in hosting three meetings of special envoys on Afghanistan under the auspices of the United Nations.

"Qatar remains steadfast in incorporating human rights issues into these discussions, particularly by advocating for Afghan women's participation in the peace process and ensuring their access to education and equal employment



opportunities," the Qatari Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Al Mansouri highlighted Qatar's initiatives to support Afghan women, including the Women in Conflict Zones program under the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD). In December, QFFD launched the second phase of a pro-

gram aimed at sustaining the livelihoods of Afghan weavers and craftspeople, an effort designed to enhance economic empowerment and resilience.

Additionally, he noted that in October 2024, Qatar signed a memorandum of understanding with Indonesia to provide scholarships for Afghan stu-

dents, furthering opportunities for young men and women to pursue higher education and build a more stable future.

Qatar has played a key diplomatic role in Afghanistan, facilitating talks between international stakeholders and calling for increased global engagement in humanitarian efforts.

Guterres warns US aid cuts could leave 9m Afghans without services

UNITED NATIONS (Amu TV): UN Secretary General António Guterres has warned that more than nine million people in Afghanistan could lose access to essential services following a sharp reduction in US foreign aid.

"In Afghanistan, more than nine million people could lose access to health and protection services, as hundreds of mobile health teams and other critical programs face suspension," Guterres said in a statement, adding that such cuts would make the world "less healthy, less safe, and less prosperous."

The United Nations estimates that nearly 23 million Afghans will require

humanitarian assistance in 2025.

The Trump administration this week announced significant reductions in foreign aid after pausing assistance to conduct a review ensuring that projects align with Trump's "America First" policy. As part of the cuts, funding for programs combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria has been halted.

"Going through with these cuts will diminish America's humanitarian role and influence globally, running counter to US interests," Guterres said. "I can only hope these decisions will be reversed based on more careful reviews."

He added that every UN agency stands ready to provide justification for its programs and that the organization remains committed to delivering lifesaving aid.

The US is not alone in scaling back humanitarian funding. Britain also announced this week that it would cut its international aid budget to increase defense spending, drawing criticism from humanitarian groups who warned of severe consequences for those relying on UK support.

Since taking office in January, Trump has disrupted the global development community by ordering a 90-day freeze on all foreign

aid while conducting a broad assessment of US-funded projects. The move has led to widespread uncertainty about the future of American assistance abroad.

Taliban flog three in Kabul

KABUL (Amu TV): Taliban have flogged three individuals in Kabul on charges of buying, selling, and possessing alcoholic beverages, hashish, and other intoxicants, according to a statement from the Taliban-run Supreme Court.

The court said in a press release that the individuals received between 10 and 39 lashes and were sentenced to prison terms ranging from two months to two years. The corporal punishment, it added, was carried out following the court's approval.

The incident comes amid growing concerns over the Taliban's use of public floggings. Richard Bennett, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Afghanistan, told the UN Human Rights Council that the Taliban had flogged 128 people, including 27 women, in public in recent months. He noted that corporal punishment is now more frequent than imprisonment.

Reports indicate that in the past month alone, the Taliban have flogged more than 100 people, including women, across various provinces for a range of alleged offenses.

SIV program open, but resettlement support closed

KABUL (TOLONews): Shawn VanDiver, the head of AfghanEvac, has stated that Afghans with approved visas can travel to the country at their own expense.

VanDiver emphasized that the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program remains active and has not been halted.

However, government support for the resettlement of these immigrants has been discontinued.

He said: "What's closed, permanently, is the government funded resettlement support that refugees and SIVs used to receive (before Jan 20th) on arrival."

Meanwhile, some Afghans with pending P1 and P2 immigration cases held a protest gathering in Pakistan, demanding

attention to their concerns.

They say that in addition to economic hardships, they face the risk of arrest and deportation by the Pakistani government.

"Three years ago, we were referred to a third country by the US immigration authorities for case processing. Although the process is moving very slowly, some individuals have managed to relocate to the United States (US)," said Samima Amiri, an Afghan refugee in Pakistan.

"We have gathered here to make our voices heard by decision-makers," said Farima Noori, another Afghan refugee in Pakistan.

Some refugee rights activists stress that the United States (US) must fulfill its previous com-

mitments to relocate refugees and engage in discussions with Pakistan regarding their situation.

Nazar Nazari, a refugee rights activist, said: "Refugees do not have the financial means to cover the cost of travel to the US. The US must uphold its commitments and address the situation of these refugees."

"Visas issued to refugees must be recognized upon arrival by US immigration authorities and relevant agencies overseeing this program," said Mohammad Khan Mohammadzai, another refugee rights activist.

This comes as US President Donald Trump, after beginning his new term, has suspended the refugee admission program for four months.

Kabul resident demand control on prices ahead of Ramazan



KABUL (Pajhwok): On the eve of the holy month of Ramadan, some residents in the capital Kabul have urged the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to control commodities prices

particularly the rates of essential food items.

This is despite the fact that in the past, with the arrival of holidays such as Ramadan, New Year, Eid and on other occasions,



some food vendors would increase prices, causing great hardship to the poor.

Some residents demand control on prices before Ramadan

Abdul Rahman, a resident of Kabul, said that every year with the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan, vendors increased the prices of goods.

He, who came to the city to buy some necessities, told Pajhwok News Agency that he was unable to buy anything due to the high prices. He said: "This is not the first Ramadan that prices have jumped, over the years, prices have increased with the arrival of Ramadan. Businessmen are oppressive, the government must stop opportunists."

Meanwhile, Aminullah, another resident of the city who transfer goods purchased by people from one place to another, also complained about shopkeepers charging extra during certain days, especially the holy month of Ramadan, saying that most people, like him, are poor and could not afford to buy.

He asked the Kabul Municipality to prevent shopkeepers and traders from selling at high prices, especially for food raw materials, during these times.

Also, Noor Agha, another resident of Kabul, has a

similar complaint and said that every year with the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan, shopkeepers increased the prices of raw materials.

According to him, the prices of some vegetables have increased, and the Kabul Municipality should stop it.

Najibullah, a vegetable seller in Kabul, also said that the prices of some vegetables have increased due to the closure of the Torkham border.

According to him, today, compared to 20 days ago, the price of a potato has increased from 120 to 180 Afs, the price of a pumpkin from 100 to 300 Afs, and the price of 600 grams of tomatoes from 40 to 70 afs.

Professor Tala Ghafouri, head of the Kabul Vegetable Sellers' Union, confirmed that the prices of some vegetables have increased, but it is not because of the holy month of Ramadan, but rather because of the closure of

the Torkham border.

Najibullah, a vegetable seller in Kabul, also said that the prices of some vegetables have increased due to the closure of the Torkham border.

According to him, today, compared to 20 days ago, the price of seven kilograms potato has increased from 120 to 180 Afs, the price of seven kilograms of pumpkin from 100 to 300 Afs, and the price of seven kilograms of tomatoes from 40 to 70 Afs.

Meanwhile, Firuz, another vegetable seller, says that due to the closure of the Torkham border, the price of every vegetable, including okra, black eggplant, falisia, etc., has increased compared to 20 days ago.

Meanwhile, Abdul Basit Rahimi, a shopkeeper in Kabul, said that the prices of food items such as dates, jam, cheese, eggs and cream, which are mostly used during the holy month of Ramadan, have

increased.

He said that most people are facing economic problems and cannot afford to buy, and the government should intervene in such situations and prevent traders and shopkeepers from selling at high prices.

The religious scholar also called for preventing over-purchasing

Hasibullah Hanafi, a religious scholar, said: "The month of Ramadan is the month of mercy, the month of blessings, and the month of forgiveness, and we must please Allah (swt) in this month."

He continued: "During religious days and official ceremonies, other countries reduce the prices of materials, especially food, but on the contrary, in our country, in this month, which is the month of forgiveness and most people cannot afford to buy, they raise prices."

He said that the government should stop such people who hoard and increase prices.

We must stand firm against terrorism, says Saif

F.P. Report

NOWSHERA: Following the suicide bombing at Jamia Dar ul Uloom Haqqania Akora Khattaq, which claimed the life of Molana Hamid Ul Haq along with several others, Adviser to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif visited the seminary, where he addressed a gathering of Ulema, Madrassah Students and people from all walks of life. Expressing profound grief, Barrister Saif described Maulana Hamid-ul-Haq as not only a close friend but a brother, with whom he shared a deep and longstanding relationship.

Barrister Dr Saif strongly condemned the attack, stating that it was not just an assault on an individual or a seminary but an attack on Islam itself. He emphasized that such acts of terrorism aim to create fear, sow division, and weaken the unity of the Muslim community. "Our enemies want to instill fear and break our unity, but our response should be one of unwavering faith, strength, and togetherness. We must stand firm against terrorism and demonstrate that their cowardly acts cannot shake our belief or brotherhood," he asserted.

Representing the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Saif assured the gathering that the government is fully committed to bringing the perpetrators to justice. "The Chief Minister has directed law enforcement agencies to launch an immediate investigation. We will track down those responsible and ensure they face justice," he affirmed. He also called for the community's cooperation in supporting the authorities' efforts.

Barrister Saif urged all political and religious factions to put aside their differences and unite against the menace of terrorism. "This is not a fight against an individual or a political party; this is a fight against those who seek to destroy our faith, our institutions, and our peace. We must stand together, for only through unity can we defeat this evil."

Reflecting on his recent visit to the seminary, Barrister Saif recalled his meetings with Maulana Hamid-ul-Haq and other scholars, lamenting the sudden and tragic nature of his passing. "Life is unpredictable, and death is the ultimate truth. It is our faith as Muslims that Allah alone decides our time. However, as human beings, we feel pain, loss, and sorrow when we lose those close to us," he stated.

Concluding his address, Barrister Saif prayed for the martyrs, extended his condolences to their families, and reaffirmed the government's resolve to protect religious institutions and scholars. "May Allah grant the martyrs a place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, give patience to their loved ones, and heal the injured. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government stands firmly with you in this time of grief."

Meanwhile, Advisor to Chief Minister

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif has emphasized on the significance of effective crisis communication and the role of information officers in mitigating the impact of disasters. Speaking at the one-day workshop on "Importance of Communication During Humanitarian Crisis," he highlighted the critical role of continuous learning in professional growth.

Dr. Saif noted that orientation sessions such as these are often challenging to organize, particularly in government departments. However, he stressed that ongoing learning is essential in every profession, allowing individuals to adapt to new circumstances and improve performance. He expressed his gratitude to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for arranging an important session for officers of the Directorate General Information & Public Relations.

Discussing the broader theme of humanitarian crises during natural and man-made disasters, Dr. Saif provided a historical perspective, stating that conflict has often been a catalyst for change and progress. He emphasized the importance of regulating conflict through laws and ethical frameworks, ensuring that human values are upheld even in times of crisis.

Referring to Pakistan's current situation, particularly in Kurram and the former tribal areas, Dr. Saif pointed out that both man-made and natural crises demand effective emergency response mechanisms. He underscored the pivotal role of the Information Department in crisis communication, particularly in collaboration with the journalist community. Accurate reporting, he noted, leads to effective response strategies, making media sensitization and training crucial components of disaster management.

Barrister Dr. Saif also addressed the healthcare challenges in crisis situations, noting the critical need for emergency medical facilities. Sharing his firsthand experience of interacting with affected communities, he reiterated the necessity of robust healthcare support in disaster-affected regions.

On the issue of funding, he acknowledged the financial constraints faced by individuals, governments, and humanitarian organizations. However, he expressed confidence that resource limitations would not hinder humanitarian efforts.

Concluding his remarks, Barrister Dr. Saif encouraged participants to take full advantage of the workshop, enhancing their awareness and professional capabilities. He commended the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its invaluable contribution to societal development and reiterated his commitment to supporting initiatives that promote effective communication and crisis management.

Four killed in India's avalanche

NEW DELHI (AFP): At least four people have died after an avalanche struck a highway construction site near India's border with China, the Indian army said, a day after the accident left dozens of workers trapped.

The avalanche hit the Mana Pass area in the Indian Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, trapping 55 workers under the snow. By Saturday, rescuers managed to pull out 50 people, but four later succumbed to their injuries, according to an army statement. The search continues for five missing workers, with multiple rescue teams and military helicopters deployed.

The army did not specify the number of injured but said those in critical condition were being prioritised for evacuation. Senior official Chandrashekhar Vashista confirmed that several workers suffered serious injuries and were receiving medical treatment. Uttarakhand State Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said some of the seriously injured were taken to the Army Hospital, Jorhat, for treatment.

"Efforts are underway to safely extract the remaining trapped workers as soon as possible," Dhami added on X. Many of those trapped were migrant labourers working on a highway expansion project covering a 50km (31-mile) stretch from Mana, the last Indian village before the China border, to Mana Pass. Indo-Tibetan Border Police spokesperson Kamlesh Kamal said rescue efforts were hindered by heavy snowfall, difficult terrain, and poor visibility.

Rescuers struggled through deep snow and snowstorms to reach the workers. Police said army doctors at the site had performed life-saving surgery on those critically injured. Friday's avalanche occurred as a parallel rescue effort continued for a seventh day in the southern Indian town of Nagarkurnool, where several workers are trapped in a partially collapsed tunnel. The ecologically fragile Himalayan region, increasingly affected by global warming, is prone to avalanches and flash floods.

Four dead as Cyclone wrecks France

PARIS (AFP): At least four people have been killed as Cyclone Garance struck the French overseas territory of La Reunion island, authorities said. The cyclone struck on Friday, making landfall in the north of the Indian Ocean island east of Madagascar, blowing away roofs and cutting power and access to drinking water for many residents.

It exited the southwest of the island several hours later, French weather office Météo-France said, adding that the worst of the storm had passed. A red alert, ordering the population to stay indoors, was lifted on Saturday morning after Garance was downgraded to a severe tropical storm.

The body of a man was found trapped under a tree in the capital, Saint-Denis, authorities said on Saturday. The other victims, two women and a man, were carried away by flash floods, trapped in a mudslide or killed by an electrical fire, authorities said on Friday. Around 160,000 people were still without electricity, while more than 950 were staying in temporary accommodation centres on Saturday.

More than 310,000 residents had no access to drinking water and nearly 140,000 were without internet access. Patrice Latron, the central government representative on the island, said "a lot of work" would be needed, with many roads blocked by fallen trees. "Roads are flooded, roads are cut off and some washed away," he added.

During the passage of the cyclone on Friday, Météo-France recorded winds of up to 230km (143 miles) per hour in Piton Sainte-Rose on the island's eastern coast. "The cyclone is still a threat for the island, I call on all to follow local authorities' instructions," French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou said on X on Friday. "Our thoughts are with them and their loved ones who have been hit hard."

The nearby tourist island of Mauritius shut its main airport on Wednesday, while La Reunion shut down flights on Thursday. Its international airport was to reopen late on Saturday. Residents said the force of the cyclone was frightening.



GAZA: A Palestinian man strings up Ramadan flags as the first phase of an Israel-Hamas ceasefire expired.

Muzzamil reveals KP's one-year achievements

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the KP Chief Minister on finance and Interprovincial Coordination Muzzamil Aslam, has released a video message highlighting the provincial government's one-year performance. Mr. Aslam stated that after the elections, when Imran Khan nominated Ali Amin Gandapur as the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the opposition raised concerns in media. However, after a year of successful governance, it has become clear why the opposition was worried.

Aslam emphasized that the opposition feared Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would progress under the current government. Today, after completing one year, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's performance has surpassed that of the federal government and other provinces.

Advisor on finance criticized Maryam Nawaz for publishing 60-page advertisements in newspapers and media, featuring 132 of her own pictures, whereas the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has published a book on its one-year performance, setting an example for all governments.

The book, titled "25 Sectors and 25 Achievements," outlines the accomplishments of 25 departments, with

each department achieving 25 notable successes. Aslam clarified that this does not mean each department has only 25 achievements, as the finance department alone could list 100 accomplishments.

Aslam expressed gratitude to Imran Khan for entrusting him with the role of Finance Advisor despite his non-political background. He noted that only the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) could appoint someone without a political background or vote bank to such a position.

Muzzamil Aslam, released a video message highlighting the province's finance department achievements. Aslam stated that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has presented the largest surplus budget in history, with a surplus of Rs. 169 billion in the first six months of the financial year. The provincial government had set a target of Rs. 100 billion surplus budget, which was exceeded by achieving Rs. 169 billion in the first six months. Aslam also mentioned that the province will easily achieve the surplus of Rs. 178 billion allocated by the IMF.

In comparison, the federal government collected Rs. 606 billion less than its target in the first eight months. Aslam highlighted that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's tax ratio is approximately 50 percent, with a non-tax revenue ratio of 55 percent

and a tax revenue ratio of 46 percent. The province has also made significant progress in various sectors, including Revenue Collection. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has collected more revenue in the first six months than in the previous year, he added.

Advisor on finance said that the province has established the first-ever debt management fund, allocating Rs. 30 billion and planning to transfer an additional Rs. 40 billion soon. He said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has increased mineral royalty by 200% and introduced a infrastructure development cess. Mr. Aslam said that the province has released 50 percent of the development funds in the first six months and plans to release 25 percent more than the allocated budget while the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has launched the "Ehsaas Program" worth Rs. 15 billion for the benefit of the province's people.

Aslam said that the province is working on pension reforms and has purchased more medicines with less money compared to the previous caretaker government. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has allocated Rs. 10 billion for the provision of free textbooks, he said. Aslam concluded by stating that the province has achieved more tax reforms in one year than the previous governments did in ten years.

Zelensky ready to sign minerals deal with US after Oval Office row

KYIV (AFP): Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that his country still needed Donald Trump's support, despite the US president berating him in a stunning televised confrontation the day before. Trump accused Zelensky of not being "thankful" for US military aid, later writing that the Ukrainian president had "disrespected the United States of America in its cherished Oval Office."

"It's crucial for us to have President Trump's support. He wants to end the war, but no one wants peace more than we do," Zelensky said in a post on social media platform X. Zelensky had planned to sign a long-awaited minerals-sharing deal with Washington on the visit, but Trump officials ordered him to leave after the confrontation, US media reported.

"We are ready to sign the minerals agreement, and it will be the first step toward security guarantees," Zelensky said on Saturday. European leaders and politicians rushed to Zelensky's defence after the spat, with the Ukrainian president landing for talks in London earlier. Petro Poroshenko, Zelensky's political rival and predecessor, also appeared to defend Zelensky in a post on Facebook.

"Some people expected me to criticize Zelensky. But no, there will be no criticism, because this is not what

the country needs now," he said. But he added: "We really hope that President Zelensky has a Plan B." Zelensky said his relations with the United States can still be repaired, after Trump accused the Ukrainian leader of refusing to make peace with Russia.

"Of course," Zelensky said when asked in a Fox News interview if the relationship with Trump could be salvaged. US-Ukrainian ties are about "more than two presidents", he said, adding that Ukraine badly needs Washington's help in the fight against Russia's far bigger and better-armed military. "It will be difficult without your support," Zelensky said on Fox — Trump's favorite news channel.

Zelensky's olive branch came hours after the extraordinary Oval Office scene where the years-long US policy of massive support for Ukraine's fight against Russian invasion collapsed in a shouting match. During the clash, played out in front of US and international media, Trump and Vice President JD Vance shouted at Zelensky, accusing him of not being "thankful" and refusing to accept their proposed truce terms. "You don't have the cards right now," Trump said. "You're either going to make a deal or we're out, and if we're out, you'll fight it out and I don't think it's going to be pretty."

In Europe and in the Oval Office, VP Vance takes on attack dog role for Trump

WASHINGTON (Reuters): The meeting between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy was becoming contentious when Vice President JD Vance, sitting on a couch across from Trump in the Oval Office, weighed in with a zinger.

"With respect, I think it's disrespectful for you to come into the Oval Office and try to litigate this in front of the American media," Vance told Zelenskiy, who had just challenged Trump's No. 2 to explain what he meant by advocating for diplomacy with Russia. "You should be thanking the president for trying to bring an end to this conflict," Vance snapped.

Though the extraordinary White House meeting put tensions between Zelenskiy and Trump on public display, it also showcased Vance's increasing role as an attack dog of sorts for his boss. Democrats accused the White House of setting up Zelenskiy with the Oval Office onslaught, but a source familiar with the meeting said Vance's encounter with the Ukrainian leader was "not planned."

Vance, 40, a potential heir to Trump's Make America Great Again political movement, has served as a

loyal lieutenant to the president since they came into office a little over a month ago. The former senator from Ohio has also carved out a spot as a sharp-tongued defender of the commander-in-chief, elevating him among other Trump lieutenants, including billionaire Elon Musk, who is leading the president's charge to cut what they see as government waste.

"This was the flexing of JD Vance. Vance is different than Elon. For him to sit and take on Zelenskiy in front of Trump was a very big moment," said one US official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "He moved to support the president, and Trump loves it when people step out to do the confrontation that he usually does." A senior White House official said the meeting took a turn specifically when Zelenskiy confronted the vice president.

Zelenskiy, who argued that Russian President Vladimir Putin had not respected a 2019 ceasefire deal, asked Vance, using his first name, to explain his push for diplomacy. "What kind of diplomacy, JD, you are speaking about?" Zelenskiy, who was speaking in English, said to Vance. "I'm talking about the kind of diplomacy that's going to end the destruc-

tion of your country," Vance retorted, referring to Zelenskiy as "Mr. President."

Vance jumped in again after Trump, riled up, also accused Zelenskiy of being disrespectful and gambling with a potential World War Three. "Have you said 'thank you' once?" said Vance, a Republican, accusing Zelenskiy of having campaigned on behalf of the Democratic opposition during the 2024 presidential election.

Zelenskiy made an unannounced stop in former President Joe Biden's childhood hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania, in September to visit a munitions plant. Trump defeated Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris, Biden's vice president, in the 2024 White House race. Zelenskiy noted that Vance was speaking loudly. That did not go over well with Trump.

"He's not speaking loudly," Trump said. "You've done a lot of talking. Your country is in big trouble." Vance showed a similar appetite for confrontation during a trip in February to Munich, where he accused European leaders of censoring free speech and failing to control immigration.



NOWSHERA: Federal Minister, Amir Muqam offering fateha for the martyrs of Darul Uloom Haqqania.

Uncertainty looms as first phase of Gaza truce due to expire

GAZA (AP): The latest round of talks on the second phase of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has made no progress so far, and it was unclear whether the talks would resume on Saturday, a senior Hamas official said. The first phase of the ceasefire, which paused 15 months of fighting in the Gaza Strip, saw the release of 33 hostages, including eight bodies, in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.

Phase one expires on Saturday, but under the terms of the deal, fighting is not to resume while negotiations are underway on the second phase, which could end the war in Gaza and see the remaining living hostages returned home. Officials from Israel, Qatar, Egypt and the United States have been involved in negotiations on the second phase in Cairo, with the goal of bringing an end to the war with the return of all remaining living hostages and the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

Hamas did not attend the talks, but its position has been represented through Egyptian and Qatari mediators. Basem Naim, a member of Hamas' political bureau, told The Associated Press there had been "no progress" on finding a solution before Israeli negotiators returned home on Friday. It was unclear whether those mediators

were going to return to Cairo to resume talks on Saturday as has been expected, and Naim said he had "no idea" when negotiations might start again.

Hamas started the war with its Oct. 7 2023 attack that left 1,200 dead in Israel. Since then, Israel's military offensive has killed more than 48,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, who do not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths but say that more than half the dead have been women and children. The two sides agreed to the three-phase ceasefire deal in January, with the aim of bringing an end to the war.

On Friday, Hamas said that it "reaffirms its full commitment to implementing all terms of the agreement in all its stages and details" and called on the international community to pressure Israel to "immediately proceed to the second phase without any delay or evasion." In addition to phase two of the ceasefire, the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week that mediators in the talks were "also discussing ways to enhance the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, as part of efforts to alleviate the suffering of the population and support stability in the region."

Hamas has rejected an Israeli proposal to extend

the ceasefire's first phase by 42 days, saying it goes against the truce agreement, according to a member of the group who requested anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations. The Israeli proposal calls for extending the ceasefire through the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which started on Saturday, in return for an additional hostage exchange, the Hamas member said.

The UN food agency, the World Food Program, said in a post on social media on Saturday that it reached 1 million Palestinians across Gaza during the deal's first phase. The pause in fighting helped "restoring distribution points, reopening bakeries, and expanding cash assistance," the agency said. "The ceasefire must hold," it said. "There can be no going back."

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Saturday warned against a return to hostilities in war-torn Gaza, saying such an outcome would be "catastrophic." As the first phase of the Israel-Hamas truce agreement drew to a close with uncertainty over the next steps, Guterres said in a statement that a "permanent ceasefire and the release of all hostages are essential to preventing escalation and averting more devastating consequences for civilians."