

Girl student found dead
F.P. Report
MANSEHRA: A 15-year-old female student was found dead in her class in Government Middle School Hilkot, Mansehra, police informed on Saturday. Police said teachers heard the sound of a gunshot and rushed to the scene, only to find the girl lying in a pool of blood with a pistol in her hand. Police said they are investigating whether the incident was a case of suicide or something else.

The Frontier Post

First mpox case registered
F.P. Report
KARACH: Sindh Health Department has confirmed a monkeypox (mpox) case in Karachi, marking the first instance of the disease in the city. The patient, a 28-year-old male resident of Shah Latif Town, contracted the virus after his wife showed symptoms. The patient's wife has a travel history abroad. The man has been placed in an isolation ward to prevent the spread of harmful infections to others.



JEDDAH: Governor of Makkah, Prince Saud bin Abdullah bin Jalawi bids Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif farewell after completion of his visit to Saudi Arabia.

KP police thwart terrorist attack in Lakki Marwat

F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police on Saturday thwarted a terrorist attack on police station in Lakki Marwat. According to police officials, the incident occurred when the terrorist attacked Pezo police station in Lakki Marwat.

However, the police personnel successfully repelled the attack, causing the terrorists to flee the scene. No loss of life occurred during the attack. Earlier, Police foiled terrorist attack on the same Lakhani border post near the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa border.

According to police, this was the second attack in 24 hours and the third major assault in a week. Around 20 to 25 heavily armed terrorists, equipped with rocket launchers and advanced weaponry, launched the attack.

Thermal imaging cameras detected the terrorists in time, allowing police personnel to retaliate effectively. The attackers were forced to retreat, reportedly suffering heavy casualties. Regional Police Officer (RPO) Capt (R) Sajjad Hassan Khan led the operation, while District Police Officer (DPO) Syed Ali commanded the Quick Response Force (QRF) teams.

Torkham border reopens for pedestrians crossing

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Torkham border was resumed for pedestrians crossing on Saturday following remaining suspended for twenty eight days due to border clash between Pakistan and Afghan forces.

The Pak-Afghan sharing crossing was shut for all kinds of movement on 21 February 2025, when a dispute broke out between the two neighbors over constructing a post in a restricted site.

An Immigration official in Torkham said that the border has been reopened for pedestrians crossing and passengers having proper passport and visa can cross in or out the border.

No one is allowed to move in or out the border without legal travelling documents, the official said. Hundreds of Kabul bound passengers including women and children arrived outside pedestrians' terminal in Torkham on Saturday early morning to cross to their motherland.

Similarly, a large number of passengers, stranded in Afghanistan crossed into Pakistan via the Torkham border, official said. As per approval of the officials of the both countries in the flag meeting, conducted last day at zero point, the border was supposed to open on Friday however examination equipment in passengers' terminal in Torkham, damaged in crossing firing could not be repaired on time, an official informed. It is worth mentioning here that approximately ten thousands passengers daily cross in and out the Torkham border, Immigration official informed.

4 labourers from Punjab gunned down in Kalat

F.P. Report

KALAT: Four labourers from Punjab were gunned down by the firing of some unknown assailants in Balochistan's Kalat district on Saturday. According to Levies officials, the tragic incident took place at Mangochar area of Kalat.

The deceased were working on a tube well when they were attacked, said the security officials. Sources revealed that three of the deceased workers were from

Sadiqabad, while one hailed from Rahim Yar Khan. The workers had traveled from Sadiqabad to Khuzdar for drilling work. The victims were later identified as Munawar, Zeeshan, Amin and Dilawar.

Meanwhile, the families of the deceased said that the bodies were shifted to a hospital in Quetta for autopsy. According to security sources, heavy firing remained continued between the forces and terrorists.

A statement from Kalat

DC retired Captain Jamil Baloch said "unknown assailants opened fire and killed four laborers" in the Malangzai area of Kalat's Mangochar city around 2:30pm.

It said there was one survivor and the five individuals, residents of Sadiqabad, were working as borewell drillers. The DC added that Levies personnel reached the site and the bodies were taken to Rural Health Centre Mande Haji for medical examination.

Nation to celebrate Pakistan Day today

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The nation will celebrate Pakistan Day on Sunday, March 23, with renewed commitment to work tirelessly for the country's progress, stability, and prosperity.

The day commemorates the historic Lahore Resolution, passed on March 23, 1940, which laid the foundation for the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of South Asia.

The day will begin with a 31-gun salute in the federal capital and 21-gun salutes in the provincial capitals, followed by special prayers in mosques after Fajr for the peace, prosperity, and unity of the country. A Pakistan Day Parade will be held on a limited scale at Aiwan-e-Sadr due to the holy month of Ramadan. President Asif Ali Zardari will grace the occasion as the chief guest. The parade will feature contingents from all three branches of the armed forces, with a special fly-past by Pakistan Air Force fighter jets.

In the afternoon, an investiture ceremony will also be held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, where President Zardari will confer awards and medals upon distinguished individuals in recognition of their exceptional contributions in various fields. To mark the occasion, ISPR has released a special patriotic song titled "Meray Mehboob Pakistan - Meri Jaan Pakistan." The song carries a powerful message of unity: "Aik Dil, Aik Jaan, Aik Pakistan."

Pakistan faces urgent water crisis, says PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in his World Water Day 2025 message on Saturday, emphasized the critical importance of glaciers in sustaining global freshwater supplies and urged immediate action to combat the mounting water crisis.

Addressing the theme "Glacier Preservation," the Prime Minister highlighted that water scarcity affects nearly half of the global population annually, with billions lacking access to clean drinking water. He pointed out that water pollution is escalating, and wetlands are vanishing at a rapid pace, necessitating urgent global cooperation.

Prime Minister Sharif noted that Pakistan is particularly vulnerable, facing the dual threats of floods and droughts. He recalled the devastating floods of 2022, which severely impacted the country's irrigation systems, and stressed that 80% of Pakistan's land is arid or semi-arid, with 30% of the population experiencing drought-like conditions.

Emphasizing Pakistan's dependence on external water sources, he reiterated the importance of trans-boundary water cooperation and the effective implementation of the Indus Waters Treaty for

Shehbaz chairs meeting on performance of FBR

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: On his return from Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Saturday chaired a meeting on the performance of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). He appreciated the ministers and officers on the recent recovery of Rs 34.5 billion by FBR.

He especially commended Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Ullah Tarar, Advisor to Prime Minister Syed Tauqir Shah, Attorney General Mansoor Awan, Secretary Finance Imdad Ullah Bosal, Secretary Information Ambreen Jan, Chairman FBR Arshad Mahmood Langrial, Director General Intelligence Bureau Fawad Asadullah Khan, Director General FIA Jan Muhammad and officers concerned on the steps taken for this historic recovery. He said, he and the whole nation were thankful to them for attaining benefit of Rs 34.5 billion for the national exchequer.

The recovery of the amount within 24 hours after the decision was commendable, he said adding these best results show that if there was hard work and dedication then success was attainable. He said it was a historic achievement which was only made possible because of a hard-working team. The recovery of Rs 34.5 billion was a good beginning and this was just start of the journey, he added. "We have to form a sustainable system on a permanent basis," he said adding, "We have to resolve decades of problems by working together."

ensuring water security.

The Prime Minister outlined the government's efforts, including the Recharge Pakistan initiative aimed at mitigating flood risks and reducing drought impacts through ecosystem-based adaptation. He also mentioned the Living Indus initiative, which focuses on 25 priority interventions

such as promoting nature-based agriculture, restoring the Indus delta, and investing in green infrastructure. Concluding his message, Prime Minister Sharif called for a collective resolve to preserve glaciers and protect water resources, underscoring the need for a resilient, water-secure future.

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre

#ZakatSeZindagi

WE ARE READY TO FIGHT CANCER!

But we cannot win this fight without your **Zakat & Donations**

Donate Now:
0800 11 555
shaukatkhanum.org.pk 0300 0666 363

IMPORTANT DIRECT DEPOSIT INSTRUCTIONS:
If you directly deposit or transfer your donations to SKMT bank accounts, please email your funds transfer receipt to donationconfirmation@skmt.org.pk

85th Pakistan Day

Exploring Today Energizing Tomorrow

Pakistan Petroleum Limited
www.ppl.com.pk

PAKISTAN RESOLUTION DAY

23rd MARCH

Fatima Fertilizer is committed to nurturing the soil that sustains our nation, fostering growth and prosperity in every grain. By empowering farmers and strengthening food security in agriculture, we are paving the way for a sustainable future.

So let's join hands to cultivate a greener future, as vibrant as our flag.

سلام کسان سرسبز پاکستان



KARACHI: Mourners offering Zuhr prayers at M A Jinnah Road observing the Martyrdom Day of Hazrat Ali (AS). —APP Photo

Mustafa Amir murder: Accused refuses confession

KARACHI (INP): Police produced prime accused Armaghan before the Judicial Magistrate-South's court for confessional statement in Mustafa Amir murder case hearing on Saturday.

The accused refused to confess the crime after which the court dismissed petition for confessional statement under section 164. Court said that the statement under 164 could not be recorded owing to the mental condition of the accused.

Armaghan in his statement said that he killed Mustafa Amir over personal dispute. "I didn't pre-plan the murder," he said. "It was a sudden act," Armaghan stated. "You will be sent to jail if you confess the crime or not," the court said.

"I don't want confess any crime," accused Armaghan said. "Police has used 'black magic' on me, owing to which I feel pain in the body," accused said. "I didn't kill Mustafa Amir, left

him in the car only to set the front portion of the vehicle on fire," he said. "I had left the matter of Mustafa Amir to God," he said. After a while, accused said that he didn't directly kill the victim. "It was in his fate to die, I had a little part in it," Armaghan added. Mustafa Amir was kidnapped and allegedly murdered by his friends in Karachi's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) on January 06.

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust raises Rs. 240 million at iftar dinner

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust (SKMT) raised a record-breaking Rs. 240 million at an Iftar Dinner in Lahore last night, as part of its annual Zakat campaign.

This event, the second of two planned iftars in Lahore, surpassed the Rs. 180 million raised at its counterpart event last year, reflecting the unwavering support of Pakistan's people.

Hosted by Tauseeq Haider, the event featured special guest Hareem Farooq, a prominent TV and film actress, who described Shaukat Khanum as "more than a hospital—it's an inspiration." Dr. Faisal Sultan, Chief Executive Officer of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC), delivered a presentation on the latest updates about SKMCH&RC, while cancer survivor Farwa Noman, cele-

brating five years since completing her treatment, performed a heartfelt naat recitation. Mrs. Aleema Khanum, Member of the SKMT Board of Governors, was also in attendance. In his closing remarks, Dr. Sultan thanked all the donors, and said, "Every contribution matters. We have a budget of Rs. 38 billion this year and we need your support this Ramzan, and beyond, to help continue our mission of fighting cancer."

Sindh's transport authority mobilizes to ensure fair fares

F.P. Report

KARACHI: In a significant decision to protect the public from excess fares, the Sindh government has canceled the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays of transport officers.

Sindh's Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, stated that as part of the campaign against the collection of excess fares, all officers and staff of the Transport and Mass Transit Department will remain on duty during Eid.

The Sindh government aims to ensure that citizens do not face difficulties in travel and that immediate action is taken against transporters charging excess fares.

In a statement, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon noted that complaints about excess fares are common during Eid. He emphasized that no citizen should pay more than the approved fare and that transport officers across the province will actively fulfill their responsibilities to facilitate the public.

He further stated that all officers and officials of the Sindh Transport Authority and RTA/DRTAs will be on duty during Eid to address public complaints. The Sindh government has issued special directives to take strict action against transporters involved in charging excess fares.

Sharjeel Inam Memon urged the public not to pay excess fares and to report any violations immediately so that the government can take swift action.

He reiterated that the Sindh government is taking all possible measures to resolve public grievances and will not allow anyone to exploit citizens through illegal means.

Tessori gives assent to Criminal Prosecution amendment bill

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Saturday approved the Criminal Prosecution Act - Amendment Bill.

After the approval of the Governor Sindh, the Criminal Prosecution Act Amendment Bill comes into effect immediately, a Governor House communique said. The Sindh Assembly has approved the Sindh Criminal Prosecution Service Amendment Act 2025.

Important amendments were made to the Criminal Prosecution Act in the Sindh Assembly. Through this bill, the Sindh government has introduced new principles of criminal prosecution. Under the amendment, prosecutors and all other members will work under the Prosecutor General.

Security arrangements for Youm-e-Ali

LAHORE (APP): In connection with Youm-e-Shahadat-e-Ali (RA) observance, stringent security arrangements have been made by the Punjab Safe Cities Authority.

According to details, surveillance of Youm-e-Ali (RA) processions is being carried out through modern artificial intelligence-based cameras in the Safe City. The monitoring of all routes of Majalis and Azadari processions is ensured through Safe City cameras. Virtual patrolling officers and technical teams at the Safe City Headquarters are performing 24-hour duties.

Spokesperson for the Safe Cities Authority said that the monitoring of routes was also ongoing through Safe City cameras installed on PRU vehicles. Representatives of law enforcement agencies, including Lahore Police, are present at the Safe City Center. Real-time traffic route updates are being provided through Radio Safe City FM 88.6. Citizens are urged to immediately report any suspicious activities to the emergency helpline 15.

CM Murad expresses concern over Sindh's severe water shortage on World Water Day

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has emphasised the escalating water crisis in the province and called for urgent action to safeguard water resources for future generations.

"Water is life, and its conservation is our collective responsibility," he stressed on the occasion of World Water Day. He urged the public to prevent water waste and ensure a sustainable future.

The CM Murad expressed profound concern regarding Sindh's severe water shortage, warning that agriculture and the economy are at serious risk due to diminishing water availability. "The crisis has significantly impacted farmers and fishermen, whose livelihoods depend on the Indus

River," he stated. Murad Ali Shah pointed out that the reduced water flow in the Indus River has jeopardized millions of jobs. He attributed the threat to the river's existence to climate change and inequitable water distribution.

"The drying waves of the Indus River are a warning sign for life and agriculture," he declared, reaffirming that Sindh will not compromise on its water rights.

Expressing strong concerns about the construction of new canals on the Indus, the Chief Minister cautioned that such projects could worsen the water crisis in Sindh and lead to drought-like conditions.

"How can new canals be constructed when Sindh's fertile lands are already deprived of water?" he asked, demanding immedi-

ate action to prevent a potential famine in the province. The Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah also highlighted the importance of protecting the Indus Delta, asserting that its preservation is vital for Pakistan's survival. "The Indus River's waters have not reached the Indus Delta for years, resulting in the submergence of millions of acres of land into the sea," he lamented.

He assured that his government had formulated a robust strategy to address the water crisis and called for a collective effort to conserve every drop of water. "Life is impossible without water; let us pledge today to protect every drop," he urged, emphasizing the Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) longstanding commitment to defending Sindh's water rights.

Food Vlogger, Taim Alam wins Pakistan's first food battle

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's first food vlogger has been declared the winner of Pakistan's largest Food Battle.

Talented and passionate, Taim Alam, a young food vlogger from Village Kheshgi, Nowshera district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has become a prominent figure in the world of social media due to his hard work and unique style. More than just presenting food, Taim Alam uses his content to showcase traditional culture. His videos highlight Pashtun hospitality, traditional dishes, and ancient flavors that were fading with time.

Taim Alam's dedication and creativity were proven when he participated in TikTok Pakistan's largest food battle and, along with his group "Food Warriors,"

The competition featured renowned food vloggers from all over Pakistan, but Taim Alam's creative storytelling, unique presentation style, and the love of



his audience led him to victory. As a reward, he received a trip to Turkey, where he plans to create more exciting and culturally rich food content.

A New Style in Food Vlogging: "Food Romance"

One of the most distinctive aspects of Taim Alam's content is his "food romance" style. Rather than describing dishes in plain words, he brings them to life with emotional and poetic storytelling. Each video is more than just a food review; it's a journey through memories, cultural roots, and forgotten flavors. This unique approach resonates with audiences not

only in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but across Pakistan and beyond.

Taim Alam's Growing Popularity on Social Media

Taim Alam has captured the hearts of millions on Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and Facebook. As the Top food vlogger from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to reach such heights, he has successfully brought the province's culture to a global audience. His success stands as an inspiration to the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, proving that with passion, hard work, and dedication, dreams can become reality.

Future Ambitions Looking ahead, Taim Alam aims to present the diverse cuisines of every region of Pakistan to the world. He plans to include the traditional foods of Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan in his upcoming videos, fostering a connection between the unique cultures and flavors of Pakistan's different regions.



BOARD OF INTERMEDIATE AND SECONDARY EDUCATION PESHAWAR

VACANT POSTS

The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Peshawar invites online applications from candidates domiciled in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including merged districts for the following vacant posts. Selection of suitable candidates will be made as per the existing Government policy Details are given below.

S.NO.	Name of Post	Scale	Minimum Educational Qualifications / Experience	Age Limit
1.	Ground and Hostel Supervisor	BPS-9	At least Second Division Intermediate Certificate from a recognized Board with Diploma in Health and Physical Education from a recognized Institute.	18-35
2.	Driver	BPS- 7	At least Second Class Secondary School Certificate from a recognized Board with valid LTV/HTV driving License Preference shall be given to those having experience in repairing and maintenance of vehicles	18-40
3.	Junior Record Lifter	BPS-6	At least Second Class Secondary School Certificate or other equivalent qualification from a recognized Board	18-40
4.	Naib Qasid	BPS-3	At least Second Class Secondary School Certificate from a recognized Board	18-40
5.	Ground Man	BPS-3	Middle pass, having three years practical experience as Mali	18-40
6.	Sweeper	BPS-3	Literate. Preference will be given to local	18-40

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The appointment will be made as per prevalent rules of Provincial Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and BISE's Employees (Appointment & Promotion) Regulations.
- A candidate intending to apply for more than one post shall apply separately for each post.
- Relaxation in upper age limit will be admissible as per Govt/ Board rules.
- Govt/Semi Govt/Autonomous Bodies/Corporation employees should submit their NOC at the time of interview.
- Only short listed candidates will submit one set of attested copies of educational documents, CNIC, experience certificate at the time of interview and bring all original documents.
- Govt. Departments or any reputed private institution experience will be acceptable. Relevant Board experience would be given weightage. Relevant Board experience less than one year will not be counted.
- The age shall be reckoned on last date of application.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for test/interview.
- The Competent authority reserves the right to change/cancel the test/interview partially or wholly without assigning any reason thereof.
- Only shortlisted candidates after screening test will be called for interview.
- The candidates for the post at serial no. 3 to 6 will be called for interview only

HOW TO APPLY

- Visit <https://Jobs.bisep.edu.pk> for online application(s)
- Confirmation SMS will be sent after verification of payment.
- Last date for submission of online application will be upto 15 days of the publication of advertisement.
- Test date, time, venue and roll number will be communicated through SMS.
- The roll number slip will be available for downloaded from the mentioned website after SMS.
- No separate call letter will be issued to candidate for screening test through post/courier means.
- Rs.500/- shall be deposited for each post through easypaisa mobile app as mentioned in online application.
- Payment will only be acceptable through easypaisa.

SECRETARY

INF(P) 1119/25

23rd
March
Pakistan Resolution Day

On the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all citizens of Pakistan.

Certainly, 23rd March marks a significant milestone in our glorious history, reminding us of the relentless struggle, determination and sacrifice by the Muslims of subcontinent for an independent State. No doubt, they stood united under the visionary and charismatic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and eventually achieved their goal of a separate homeland. While celebrating this momentous day, we pay rich tributes to our illustrious forefathers for transforming a much-longed-for dream into reality.

My Dear Countrymen! The rapidly changing global and regional dynamics have a profound impact not only on Pakistan but also the world at large. More so, recent conflicts reveal dramatic changes in the pattern of warfighting. Cognizant of such developments, Pakistan Air Force has recently modernized itself based on the imperative of self-reliance, which is indeed the need of the hour. In this connection, PAF has made enormous strides in technological advancement through induction and operationalisation of cost-effective niche technologies in shortest possible time, besides vigorously pursuing a comprehensive indigenization strategy. Upholding Quaid's vision of PAF being Second to None, we have pledged to continue unabated on the same path, InshaAllah. On this day of national pride, I assure the nation that, as always, PAF in perfect synergy with Sister Services, will live up to the Nation's expectations in defence of our Motherland. On this occasion, we also reiterate support to Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for self-determination.

May Allah Almighty guide our efforts and grant us strength to safeguard our aerial frontiers. Aameen!

Pakistan Air Force Zindabad!
Pakistan Paidabad!



Air Chief Marshal
Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M)
Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE
A SYMBOL OF PRIDE FOR THE NATION



PHC seeks response against closure of Asia largest factory

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued a notice to the provincial government regarding the closure of a flywood and lathani manufacturing factory in Hayatabad, Peshawar. The court has also extended the stay order in this regard.

During the hearing, Ishtiaq Ahmed (Senior) Advocate informed the court that the factory is the largest in Asia, employing over 3,000 workers. The company pays an annual tax of Rs. 2 billion to the national treasury and exports worth \$60 million.

The lawyer stated that the factory's administration has installed a system to control waste and pollution at a cost

of Rs. 1.20 billion. He added that the company is willing to take measures to control environmental pollution and

has also offered to conduct a third-party audit.

The court, comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and

Justice Sabit Ullah Khan, adjourned the hearing and directed the government to submit its response.

PHC directs to review Hajj operator eligibility

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Fazal Subhan has directed relevant authorities to review Bajaur Hajj Services' eligibility for the private Hajj tour operators' quota.

The counsel Babar Khan Yousafzai Advocate argued that Bajaur Hajj Services' despite applying for several years, they were not allocated a quota under the 2025 Hajj policy.

The lawyer stated that over 179,000 Pakistanis will perform Hajj this year, with 84,053 applications received for the government quota, leaving spots empty. These vacant spots are being allocated to private tour operators.

The court directed authorities to check Bajaur Hajj Services' eligibility criteria and include them in the quota if they meet the requirements. The case will be heard again after Eid.

A Minto Park Memory: Lessons from 23 March

Samreen Shahbaz

Pakistan celebrates 23 March as the monumental day marking its journey towards independence and the advent of a new chapter in history. Pakistan Day is more than just a day to reflect on the past; it is a stark reminder of lessons that can be drawn from this event entailing how a powerful idea can inspire a nation to realise its dream of a homeland. The event also showcases the importance of visionary leadership in guiding a directionless populace, and shaping the course of history. It is also a clear example of the significance of national unity, for it is only through collective strength and solidarity that a nation may make a difference. These insights are still relevant to the present day of Pakistan so that the country can move forward toward a better future.

The first and most important lesson drawn from March 23 is the power of an idea. The Lahore Resolution was not just a political proclamation; it was the realisation of a revolutionary idea that changed the subcontinent's history forever. This theoretical foundation had been laid by Syed Ahmad Khan who came to realise that Muslims of the Indian subcontinent needed a separate political identity after

the 1857 uprising. He believed that the subcontinent, as a Hindu majority, would not accommodate the distinct cultural, religious and social requirements of Muslims and hence supported distinct electorates.

On this foundation, Allama Muhammad Iqbal gave a powerful vision of a separate Muslim homeland in his Allahabad Address of 1930, which ignited the desire for an independent state. The essence of Pakistan's creation was encapsulated in Jinnah's articulation of the Two Nation Theory, which argued that Muslims and Hindus were two distinct nations. The ideological basis of Pakistan is captured in his statement, "Pakistan had 'started the moment the first non-Muslim converted to Islam...as soon as a Hindu embraced Islam he was out-cast not only religiously but also socially, culturally, and economically...throughout the ages Hindus and Muslims had not merged their entities - that was the basis of Pakistan.'"

This vision, as powerful then as today, continues to be a guiding light in Pakistan's journey.

The second important lesson is the role of leadership in times of crisis. At a time when the Muslims of India were becoming politically isolated, the Lahore

Resolution came into being. Muslims feared losing their identity and autonomy as Hindu majority movements rose. MA Jinnah was a steadfast leader who guided and inspired during that turbulent period. Jinnah's leadership was crucial in motivating Muslims for a common cause, which eventually resulted in the creation of Pakistan. Today Pakistan suffers political and economic stagnation. The example of MA Jinnah reminds us of the difference that a visionary leadership can make in leading a nation out of such circumstances and towards a better, more prosperous future.

Thirdly, and perhaps the most lasting lesson, is that of the strength of unity. The Lahore Resolution was not just a political statement, it was a rallying cry that brought together Muslims from all regions, linguistic backgrounds and sects. MA Jinnah knew that the creation of Pakistan was only possible if Muslims subscribe to a common vision. His genius was in his ability to create a collective identity, to unite them with a common purpose: self-determination and sovereignty.

The lesson of unity, which was so important in the success of the Lahore Resolution, is as relevant today as it was then.

Pakistan is internally fractured: politically, socially and economically. To overcome these challenges, Pakistan must again rely on the unity of purpose that brought it into being. The movement for Pakistan was driven by the unity shown by Muslims in the 1940s, despite their diversity. This same spirit of unity is as important today as it was then, to overcome internal divisions and steer the nation to a prosperous future.

As we celebrate Pakistan Day on 23 March this year, it is crucial not just to recall history but also to re-examine the abiding principles enshrined in the Lahore Resolution. It is important to reiterate that Pakistan's creation was based on three main pillars: the power of an idea, the importance of leadership, and the need for unity. These principles are just as relevant today as they were in 1940, and they provide a clear roadmap for Pakistan to move forward in its journey. On this day, we must re-dedicate ourselves to intellectual thinking, strong leadership, and above all national unity. Pakistan Day is not just a day to celebrate victories of the past; it is a call to action, encouraging us to boldly move towards a brighter future.

(The writer is a research assistant at CASS, Lahore)



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahab Ali Shah presiding over a high level meeting.

Lawyers welfare top priority, says Qaiser



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The joint presidential candidate Qaisar Zaman Advocate for District Bar Peshawar of the Malgari Lawyers and ILF, emphasized that Pakistan faces numerous challenges, with the most pressing issue being the security and protection of lawyers' lives and property, alongside the implementation of the Lawyers Protection Bill.

During his election campaign at the Peshawar High Court and District Bar, joint presidential candidate Qaiser Zaman engaged with lawyers, highlighting his past service as General Secretary of the Peshawar High Court Bar and District Bar. He acknowledged the current focus on lawyers' security and medical issues, expressing gratitude to the lawyers and assuring them that their problems will be addressed on a priority basis.

The joint presidential candidate Qaisar Zaman Advocate for District Bar Peshawar also mentioned that measures are being taken to train new lawyers.

His commitment to addressing the challenges faced by lawyers and ensuring their protection and well-being resonated with the legal community.

Security plan finalized for Hazrat Ali's Martyrdom Day

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial capital has finalized an extensive security plan in preparation for the observance of Hazrat Ali's martyrdom day.

The Capital City Police have developed robust measures to maintain peace and order during the day's events, which included processions, congregations, and various ceremonies.

According to the district administration on Saturday, nearly 300 police officers and staff will be on duty to secure the main processions, gatherings, and related events.

In order to ensure thor-

ough safety, all procession routes have been re-audited. Special recommendations have led to the implementation of a three-layer security framework, which includes continuous sweeps using BDUs and sniffer dogs.

The security setup will incorporate state-of-the-art monitoring tools, including CCTV cameras, drones, and mobile surveillance systems, to oversee public areas and ensure a swift response to any potential issues.

Entry and exit routes to the city have been reinforced with special barricades and rigorous check-

ing procedures. This includes strict monitoring of suspicious individuals and additional scrutiny at hotels and hostels across the district.

To ensure that the flow of traffic remains undisturbed during the processions and other events, a dedicated traffic management plan has been put into place.

Officials remain confident that these comprehensive security measures will help maintain a peaceful environment throughout the day, allowing devotees to commemorate Hazrat Ali's martyrdom in a secure setting.

PPP HR Cell concerned about gross misuse of PECA law to stifle dissent

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: PPP Human Rights Cell condemns the arrest of Farhan Mallick of Raftar Media in Karachi, demands his release and transparent investigations into the matter.

In a statement today president human rights cell of the PPP former senator Farhatullah Babar said that state agencies arrest innocent citizens on whimsical, vague, and unsubstantiated allegations of 'anti state' propaganda. Once arrested the accused is then rigorously punished through

abuse of judicial process involving harassment, intimidation and mental torture in custody and delaying court proceedings before eventually proven innocent and released. This unfortunately has been almost a standard operating procedure with the FIA to stifle dissent and freedom of expression during the past decade since PECA was promulgated in 2016, he said.

"The reason for this deeply worrying practice is that the investigation agency (FIA) does not submit 6-monthly reports to the parliament for scrutiny and discussion as mandated under the PECA law."

Farhatullah Babar urged the parliament to ensure that the FIA complies with

section 53 of the Act and regularly submit reports to the parliament. He said there is ruling of the chairman senate on the type of information to be given in these reports, procedure for laying it, and the discussions in the parliament on it.

Demanding the immediate release of Mr. Mallick, he called for respecting the citizens' right to freedom of expression and the right to information guaranteed in the constitution as well as international covenants signed by the state. The executive must not be allowed to whimsically interpret terms like 'national security' and 'anti state' etc to punish dissent with those obsessed with secrecy to escape public scrutiny and accountability, he said.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food authority continues seizing substandard food items

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority launched a series of late-night operations across several districts, including Peshawar, Mardan, Dera Ismail Khan, Nowshera, Malakand, and Mansehra, to curb the sale of adulterated and unsafe food products.

During the crackdown, officials confiscated thousands of kilograms of contaminated food, sealed multiple production units, and imposed heavy fines

on violators.

According to the authority's spokesperson, a food safety team in Peshawar, food safety teams conducted raids on several bakeries and spice manufacturing units in Charsadda Road and Zaryab Colony. During inspections, authorities seized 3,400 kilograms of adulterated spices containing bran, low-quality ingredients, and non-food-grade colorants.

Additionally, 100 kilograms of substandard oil and non-food-grade color were confiscated from one

of the units, which was subsequently sealed under the Food Safety Act.

In Mardan set up a checkpoint on Nowshera Road, where they intercepted a vehicle transporting 5,250 kilograms of rotten and substandard meat from Karachi, intended for distribution in various cities.

The contaminated meat was immediately discarded, and legal proceedings were initiated against those responsible.

Meanwhile, in Dera Ismail Khan, a food safety team inspected dairy vehi-

cles at Bakkhar Pul. Tests conducted by a mobile food testing lab confirmed that 320 liters of milk were substandard and were disposed of on-site. Suppliers were also fined for distributing contaminated milk.

In Nowshera, officials raided two grocery stores in Khairabad and Khan Kohi, seizing 960 packs of substandard juice and penalizing the store owners. Similarly, in Malakand, a ghee and oil mill was sealed after its products failed to meet quality standards.

A major operation was

also carried out in Mansehra, where over 2,500 kilograms of unhygienic livers and lungs were confiscated from a passenger coach arriving from Lahore.

The driver was arrested as part of a broader effort to crack down on the illegal transport of substandard meat.

Assistant Director Dr. Rukhsar Ali, who led the operation, stated that a special team had been formed to prevent the influx of unsafe meat and other food products from Punjab, particularly

Lahore.

Director General of the KP Food Authority, Wasif Saeed, praised the teams for their successful operations and reaffirmed the authority's commitment to ensuring the availability of safe and high-quality food across the province.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial Minister for Food, Zahir Shah Toru, reiterated the government's zero-tolerance policy on food adulteration, emphasizing that strict action would be taken against those jeopardizing public health.

Peshawar bans toy guns, firecrackers under S-144

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The district administration has enforced Section 144 in Peshawar, placing restrictions on certain activities for a period of one month, according to an official notification issued.

The order, issued by the Deputy Commissioner's office, stated that the implementation of Section 144 will take effect immediately across the provincial capital.

Under the directive, the sale of toy guns and firecrackers has been strictly prohibited within city limits. The administration said the ban aims to curb public safety concerns and maintain law and order.

Violators of the order will face legal action under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code, the notification read. The enforcement will remain in place for one month unless withdrawn earlier by the authorities, it added.

Pakistan Resolution of 1940:

A milestone towards achieving separate homeland for Muslims

PESHAWAR (APP): After ruling the Indian subcontinent for nearly 800 years, the Muslims found themselves increasingly marginalized and oppressed by colonial powers following the failure of 1857 uprising.

Deprived of all fundamental rights and liberties, the Muslims had faced severe intellectual, political, and educational decline as the British rulers strengthened control in subcontinent where their policies were mostly favored socio-economic and educational advancements for Hindus, worsening the hardships faced by the Muslims.

During that era of persistent oppression and discrimination, the Muslims in united India were relegated to the status of rivals after the East India Company had overthrown the Mughal emperors.

In that dark time, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan emerged as a beacon of hope and

direction for Muslims. As a prominent educationist, Khan reinvigorated the Muslims with renewed vigour and purpose and established a network of educational institutes for them.

"Sir Syed Ahmed Khan led an intellectual revolution among Muslims through educational, political, and social reforms. His efforts not only ensured the political rehabilitation of Muslims but also their social, economic, and educational advancement," said Muhammad Younas Khan, Chairman of the Pakistan Studies Department at Islamia College, Peshawar while talking to APP.

Sir Syed had established a modern school at Ali Garah for Muslim students, which he later transformed into Aligarh College in 1877, appointing qualified teachers and an English Principal to bridge the gap between Muslims and the British.

He said Sir Syed countered the malicious propaganda against Muslims and fought against inequality, educational decay and oppression.

The All India Muhammadan Educational Conference (AIMEC), founded in Aligarh in 1886, continued Sir Syed's vision for modern education, socio-economic empowerment, and political unity to restore the past glory. This network of educational institutions and political unity enabled Muslims to compete with other communities and provided a platform for a peaceful political and democratic struggle for a separate homeland.

"Sir Syed's reforms excelled Muslims in various fields, leading to their voices were strongly heard by British rulers," Younas noted. The contributions of Hazrat Shah Waliullah and Mujaddad Alif Sani, combined with Sir Syed's found-

ation, were advanced by leaders like Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, Abdur Rab Nishtar, Maulana Muhammad Ali Johar, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, Chaudhry Rehmat Ali, and Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah, under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for a separate Muslim state.

Dr Younas said the independence movement gained momentum with the establishment of the All India Muslim League (AIML) on December 30, 1906, in Dhaka, aimed at securing separate electorates for Muslims and protecting their rights and identity.

The AIML's efforts led to the right for Muslims to elect their representatives to Legislative Councils under the 1909 Indian Legislative Act.

In 1913, the Muslims demanded "appropriate self-government" in India through a resolution sup-

ported by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who joined AIML in the same year after observing the Indian Congress's insincerity towards Muslims.

The outbreak of World War I in 1914 saw Indian Muslims fight alongside the British in the hope that Turkey's Caliphate would be preserved. However, after the war, the British backtracked of their promise, leading to the abolition of the Turkish suzerainty in the Middle East. In response, the Khalafat Movement was launched by the Muslims to restore the Caliphate.

The British government's enforcement of the repressive Rawlett Act 1919 led Quaid-e-Azam to resign from the Imperial Legislative Council in protest.

The Congress and Khilafat Movement leaders launched a "Non-Cooperation Movement," which, despite

its non-violent stance, faced Hindu insincerity. In opposition to the Nehru Report, Quaid-e-Azam presented his famous 14 points highlighting the political identity of Muslims and the two-nation theory.

The independence movement has gained further momentum after poet philosopher Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal's historic 1930 address in Allahabad, where he proposed a separate state for Muslim-majority regions in North-Western India. Dr. Younas noted that Dr Iqbal articulated the two-nation theory, stressing that Muslims were a distinct nation deserving political independence.

The Pakistan Movement progressed significantly after Chaudhary Rehmat Ali proposed the name "Pakistan" in 1933 during a high-level meeting in London. The name and Iqbal's address set a clear direction for Muslims to

achieve Pakistan.

The historic movement reached its zenith on March 23, 1940, when Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah led the passing of the historic Pakistan Resolution in Lahore.

After post-resolution, Quaid-e-Azam reorganized AIML on modern lines, visiting Muslim-majority provinces to gather support. His untiring efforts were met with overwhelming support in the 1945-46 elections, where AIML won all reserved Muslim seats in the central assembly and the majority of provincial seats.

Following AIML's success, Quaid-e-Azam had insisted on Pakistan's establishment before the Cabinet Mission of 1946, chaired by Lord Pethick-Lawrence, aimed at resolving Muslim-Hindu issues. The mission's plan was eventually replaced by a partition plan proposed by Lord vicerey Lord

Mountbatten, which was announced on June 3, 1947.

The partition plan divided Bengal and Punjab and allowed for referendums in Assam, Sylhet, and the North-Western Frontier Province now KP. The tribes in Balochistan also decided in favor of Pakistan. The partition led to the creation of Pakistan on August 14, 1947 on world map, marking the climax of the great freedom struggle.

Every year, March 23, 1940 is celebrated as a historic day honoring the Muslims' heroic struggle for a separate homeland where they could live freely and with dignity.

It is a day to pay tribute to our forefathers who sacrificed for a prosperous future and to pledge hard-work with strong commitment and dedication to make Pakistan's economically prosperous and strong among comity of nations.



In brief

Olive cultivation to boost domestic economy

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: A ground-breaking ceremony was held in the Ghakhi Bandi Tegko area of Tehsil Kabal, Swat, to mark the inauguration of a major olive cultivation project. The event, hosted at Chairman Ibrahim Shah's residence, brought together key stakeholders, including MPA Hameed-ur-Rehman, Tehsil Kabal Chairman Saeed Khan, and District Director Agriculture Lower Swat Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed. The project aims to promote olive cultivation in the region, providing economic opportunities for local farmers and contributing to the area's ecological balance. MPA Hameed-ur-Rehman emphasized the project's potential to increase farmers' income through wild olive grafting, which will be implemented across all areas of Lower Swat. Chairman Tehsil Kabal Saeed Khan acknowledged the benefits of various Agriculture Department projects, including free fruit fly traps, kitchen gardening, and wild olive initiatives. Chairman Ibrahim Shah expressed gratitude to the Agriculture Department Extension Lower Swat, highlighting the project's potential to improve the financial conditions of local landowners. District Director Agriculture Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed credited the efforts of Provincial Minister for Agriculture Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Major (ret'd) Sajjad Barakwal and Director General Agriculture Extension Murad Ali Khan in driving the Agriculture Department's development in the province. The project's inauguration ceremony concluded with the planting of wild olive grafts by dignitaries, marking a significant step towards promoting olive cultivation and strengthening the local economy in Lower Swat.

JUI concerned over law, order

F.P. Report

QUEETTA: Aslam Ghori, the spokesperson for Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), expressed concern over the current situation in Quetta, stating that the state should adopt a lenient attitude towards its citizens. He mentioned that the rulers of Balochistan lack the ability to control the situation. The JUI spokesperson emphasized the need to acknowledge the legitimate demands of the protesters, stating that violence against the nation's children cannot be accepted under any circumstances. Aslam Ghori further stated that issues cannot be suppressed through oppression and violence, as this could further deteriorate the situation. JUI has demanded that the government take immediate steps to resolve public issues.

Talal criticizes KP CM

F.P. Report

FAISALABAD: Minister of State for Interior, Talal Chaudhry criticized the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government for its reluctance to take decisive action against terrorism. Talking to media, he accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of harboring a "soft corner" for terrorists, citing their boycott of the recent Parliamentary Committee on National Security meeting as evidence. He also criticized the KP Chief Minister for making contradictory statements regarding the civil-military meeting, emphasizing that no military operation was discussed during the session.



BAHAWALPUR: A man frying samosas to sell at his roadside stall.

Afforestation key to fight climate change

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: On the occasion of World Forest Day, a plantation campaign was organized by the Shangla Forest Department at the Shangla Press Club in Alpura.

The event witnessed the participation of various government officials and environmental experts, including District Education Officer Muhammad Aurang Zeb, District Account Officer Taj Muhammad, Sub-Divisional Education Officer Aurang Zeb Khalil, and other officers from the Forest Department.

During the campaign, plants were planted on the press club lawn, and attendees actively engaged in the plantation process. Addressing the gathering, DEO Muhammad Aurang Zeb highlighted the importance and benefits of forests, calling them a priceless gift of nature. He emphasized that trees not

only enhance the environment's beauty but play a crucial role in combating climate change.

Journalist pays tribute to Haji Zamin Gul: President of the Shangla Press Club, has paid tribute to Haji Zameen Gul, a renowned political figure and pioneer of politics in Shangla. Hussain described Zameen Gul services as unforgettable, highlighting his contributions to the district's development, including the Shangla District Movement, and his prioritization of welfare projects.

In a condolence message, Aftab Hussain noted that Zameen Gul actions are still remembered by the people of Shangla, and his absence has left a void in politics that cannot be filled.

He praised Zameen Gul democratic approach to serving his region, which will be remembered for generations to come. Hussain also shared that he had a family connection

with Zameen Gul, with their grandfathers, Gulshan Khan and Haji Zameen Gul, having a close relationship. He emphasized that the gap created by Zameen Gul passing cannot be filled, and his services will always be remembered.

Meanwhile, the funeral procession of Haji Zameen Gul Khan, a prominent politician from Shangla, was held at his residence, where leaders from various political parties gathered to pay their respects. Khan's services and contributions to politics will be remembered for generations to come. Leaders from different political parties expressed their deep sorrow and condolences over Khan's demise, praising his tireless efforts to raise his voice for the rights and welfare of his people. They noted that Khan was instrumental in introducing politics in Shangla and his legacy continues to inspire people to this day.

School heads urged to ensure enrollment drive success

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: District Education Officer (DEO) Lower Dir, Inayatullah Khan, has urged school heads to take an active role in ensuring the success of the upcoming enrollment drive by bringing out-of-school children into public sector educational institutions.

He made these remarks while addressing a meeting of headmasters and principals of government middle, high, and higher secondary schools at the Balambat Education Complex on Saturday. The meeting was attended by Deputy District Education Officer Fayyaz-ud-Din, Assistant District Education Officer Wajeeh-ud-Din, and school heads from across the district, including School Officers Association (SOA) President Principal Ali Gauhar, former SOA President Salah-ud-Din, Principal Bashir Khan, and Headmaster Haroon-ur-Rashid.

Highlighting the transformative power of education, DEO Inayatullah emphasized that national progress is rooted in a strong education system. He underscored the crucial

role of school heads in turning educational institutions into exemplary models for other sectors. Stressing the need for critical thinking, he urged educators to nurture creativity and innovation among students.

Addressing concerns over student dropouts, the DEO directed school heads to compile data on children who had left school, engage with their parents and guardians, and take measures to bring them back to classrooms.

On the issue of cheating in board examinations, he reaffirmed the government's commitment to eradicating the practice. He noted that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief secretary had taken strict measures to curb cheating, and this year, civil administration officers, including deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners, and additional assistant commissioners, would oversee examination halls. He urged school heads to enforce strict measures against unfair practices.

Regarding the provision of free textbooks, the DEO announced that the government would supply 50 percent new books to schools. To address shortages, he

directed school heads to collect used books from students and redistribute them among newly promoted students.

Three killed on road: Three young men lost their lives when a speeding car struck their motorcycle near Amirabad in the jurisdiction of Chakdara Police Station late Friday evening, police and local residents confirmed.

The deceased were identified as Abbas, son of Muhammad Arif; Ahmad Faraz, son of Gul Faraz; and Waqas, son of Saadullah; all residents of Tendo Dak village of Adenzai. The youths were laid to rest in their ancestral graveyard here on Saturday.

Eyewitnesses reported that the car driver, a resident of Chakdara, fled the scene immediately after the accident. Enraged locals pelted stones at the vehicle, shattering its windows in protest.

Residents have voiced concerns over the increasing number of unlicensed young drivers operating vehicles recklessly in the area. They have called on the authorities to take urgent action to improve road safety and prevent further tragedies.

Jl protests against Israeli atrocities against Palestinians

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Larkana held protest in front of press club against the recent bombing and genocide by Israel in Gaza, Palestine, in, where they held banners and placards and shouted slogans against Israeli aggression, on Saturday.

Addressing the demonstration, leaders Amir Advocate Nader Ali Khoso, Ramiz Raja Sheikh, and others said that the silence of the world, especially the Islamic world, against the oppression of Israel has become an important question. It is a matter that the countries that claim human

rights and fundamental rights are sleeping in the sleep of neglect and the world reluctant to say anything against terrorists like Israel.

15 accused arrested: Police arrested 9 suspects, stolen and other goods were recovered, while two stolen buffaloes, a stolen motorcycle, Corolla car, cash, gutka and hashish were also recovered. While the Garelo police arrested the accused drug dealer Javed Samtuo with more than one kilogram 1010 grams of hashish and registered a case, while the Bakapur police arrested the accused Mumtaz Jagirani with more than one kilogram 1100

grams of hashish from the Dhadra Sim Branch area and registered a case, a case has been registered while Rasheed Waggan Police arrested the accused Shaman Jagirani from Zardar Brohi Larro area with more than one kilo (1050) grams of hashish and registered a case.

Noudhero police arrested and registered a case against drug dealer accused Talib Sethar with one kilo (1000) grams of hashish. While the Nodero police raided a gambling den in Mohal area, three gamblers were arrested, 10000 cash and cards were recovered, and a case was registered.

NPC president Mushtaq Paracha passed away



Syed Waliullah Shah

NEWSHERA: Nowshera Press Club (NPC) president Haji Mushtaq Praacha, who was also a correspondent for Daily Mashriq and Geo News, passed away due to a heart attack, on Saturday.

The funeral prayer for the deceased offered at 3:00 pm Yesterday at the Nowshera District Hospital. Haji Mushtaq Praacha is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter. He had served in the field of journalism for over 40 years, providing significant services and earning a reputable position through his hard work and dedication.

Throughout his career, Haji Mushtaq Praacha demonstrated responsibility in journalism, promoting positive and accurate reporting not only in Nowshera but throughout the country. He was known for reporting news based on truth and always working in the public's interest.

His journalistic services were appreciated nationwide, and he was recognized as a credible journalist due to his positive reporting. As President of the Nowshera Press Club, Haji Mushtaq Praacha provided services on multiple occasions and took significant steps for the welfare of journalists during his tenure.

Lacrosse champion Gul Pari awarded

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Deputy Commissioner paid tribute to the talented female player Gul Pari from Mardan for winning the Lacrosse Championship held in Japan. In recognition of the outstanding performance of the renowned player, she was awarded a cash award of Rs. 100,000 and a shield of honor.

A simple ceremony in this regard was held at the DC Office, in which District Sports Officer Sajid Khan Afridi and other officials were also present. DC Dr. Azmatullah Wazir said on the occasion that this extraordinary success of Gul Pari has brought Pakistan's name to the world stage and proved that if players are provided with proper opportunities and facilities, they are no less than anyone.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the provincial government is actively working to promote sports and is providing full support to the youth to move forward at the international level. This success is not only the result of Gul Pari's personal hard work and dedication but is also a moment of pride for the entire Pakistan.

Jl condemns Israeli aggression on Gaza

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) strongly condemned Israel for violating agreements and committing mass killings of Palestinians during a protest demonstration on the call of party chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, held in Timergara. The JI also accused the United States of being equally complicit in what they described as the genocide of unarmed Palestinians.

Speaking at the protest, JI Lower Dir chief Maulana Asadullah Khan, JI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa North deputy chief Arshad Zaman, district general secretary Shoaib Ahmed, and Information Secretary Malik Sher Bahadur Khan expressed grave concerns over the ongoing violence in Palestine. They claimed that Israel had killed over 60,000 Palestinians, describing it as an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe.

The speakers called on the Government of Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah to take decisive action against Israel, asserting that the

ongoing bloodshed warranted a collective response. They lamented what they described as the "silence and inaction" of the Muslim world in the face of Israeli aggression.

Furthermore, the JI leaders alleged that Israel's actions had full backing from the United States, which, according to them, had openly demonstrated hostility towards Islam. They stressed that given the severity of the situation, countermeasures against Israeli aggression were imperative.

The speakers also voiced concerns over rising terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly the targeted killings of religious scholars. They alleged that the Pashtun belt was being subjected to a foreign-sponsored conflict under the pretext of counterterrorism, leading to attacks on religious institutions, mosques, and scholars.

Criticizing the government, they warned against imposing what they termed a "fabricated war on terror" on the people, cautioning that such policies could

have dire consequences for the country. They urged the authorities to reconsider their approach and prioritize national stability. The demonstration concluded with calls for solidarity with the Palestinian people and a demand for an immediate end to the violence.

Sadozai chief died: Central Chairman of the Rughani Sadozai Council, Salar Wali Roghani, was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard in Showa, Chakdara, in the presence of hundreds of mourners. He died of severe cardiac arrest in Islamabad the other day.

Salar Wali Roghani was a prominent figure who dedicated his life to the welfare and unity of the Rughani Sadozai tribes and the Pashtun community at the national level. His contributions towards their rights and preservation were widely recognized.

A large number of people, including political and social figures, as well as individuals from various walks of life, attended his funeral prayers to pay their last respects.

Hazrat Ali R.A martyrdom observed

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: All security arrangements have been finalized to protect processions being taken out to observe Martyred Day of Fourth Caliph of Islam Hazrat Ali (RA), on Saturday in the district. This was stated by the Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Abdul Razzaq while addressing a meeting held to review security and other arrangements made by the different departments.

DC said that foolproof security is being provided to ensure protection of participants of the processions of Youm-e-Ali (RA) while district administration, police, Rescue 1122, civil defence and other departments have deputed necessary staff in this regard. CCTV cameras also have been installed on the routes of processions whereas control rooms have also been setup at district and tehsil level. ADC Tanveer Yaseen, ADCG Hamadullah, AC Pindi Bhattian Ishfaq Ahmad District Emergency Officer Rescue 1122 Adnan Nawaz and other officers attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, District Police conducted flag march to create sense of security among people and to give message to anti-social elements that police is alive to foil any conspiracy to break the law-and-order situation. The flag march was started from DPO Office and concluded at Jinnah Chowk after passing through different areas of the city.

DPO said that police and other law enforcement agencies are alert to ensure protection of lives, property and honour of the people and violation of law would not be tolerated. He said that security arrangements have been improved so that people could observe their religious festival in peaceful atmosphere.

International Forest Day observed: International Forest Day also observed in the district Hafizabad and almost 60 thousand saplings have been planted same day.

Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq inaugurated Plant for Pakistan Tree Plantation Campaign to plant a sapling in the lawn of district complex. District

Officer Forest Muhammad Sarwar Warriach, Assistant Forest Department Qamar Kambhu and other officers also present on this occasion. DC urged the officers of government departments to plant maximum saplings in premises of their departments, educational institutions, roadsides, public parks and other public places. He also directed the officers to ensure look after the saplings.

Meanwhile, on the directions of the Chief Executive Officer Education Muhammad Akram Ashraf, Principal government higher secondary school Sukheki Madam Nazma Rani inaugurated tree plantation campaign to plant sapling in the schools. Headmaster government high schools Sukheki, teachers and students also planted saplings in the school.

International Forest Day also observed at Government Vocational Training Institute for Women Sukheki. Principal Madam Khalida Rafiq inaugurated tree plantation campaign. Teachers, students and lady social workers planted saplings.

Pakistan Day

Marya Haleema

WE Pakistanis express our emotions with great enthusiasm on every national festival. We celebrate each day in such a way that we end up burying its true essence. As an educationist, I have closely observed not only less privileged children but also the children of well-off and educated families.

However, I have never been able to find a complete answer to one question: Our children remember dates like 23rd March, 6th September, and 11th September as special days, but they are mostly concerned about whether schools and colleges will be closed on these days. They have little understanding of the actual significance of these days or who is commemorating them. If they don't even know the reason behind these national days, how can they be expected to celebrate them meaningfully?

It is deeply troubling that while parents are educated, they do not consider it important to teach their children about the significance of national days.

During one of my visits, I asked secondary-class students—who were practicing for a debate—why we celebrate 23rd March as Pakistan Day. One of the students hesitantly responded, "I am not sure, but I think this day marks Pakistan's first successful war, which is why there is a military parade."

The presence of a parade may reinforce this belief, but by the time students reach secondary classes, they have already studied multiple subjects over several years regarding the Pakistan Movement and the country's independence. It

is concerning that despite this, their understanding of these national days remains unclear. This brings us to another crucial point—our education system has always been structured in a way that, apart from rote memorization, students hardly gain any real understanding. As a nation, we have not only normalized corruption but also compel others to engage in it. We lie and even justify it with calculated reasoning.

As individuals, we are unwilling to listen to anything that does not serve our personal interests. We instill a materialistic mindset in our children—teaching them how to earn money and move ahead in life, but never emphasizing what is right or wrong, just or unjust. We have erased the distinction between ethical and unethical means ourselves. For us, individual success is the ultimate measure of achievement, while the concept of collective progress, national interest, or communal well-being has completely vanished from our consciousness.

This lack of awareness is not just an issue of education; it reflects a broader disconnect in our society regarding our history and values. While we take immense pride in celebrating Pakistan Day with flag hoisting, parades, and social media posts, we rarely pause to reflect on the true essence of March 23rd. This day marks the Lahore Resolution of 1940, when the idea of an independent Muslim state took a concrete shape. Yet, for many, the celebrations remain limited to a holiday spirit rather than a moment of reflection on what Pakistan stands for and how far we have come in achieving the vision set by

our forefathers.

Another troubling aspect is how national days have become more about spectacle than substance. Every year, television screens are filled with patriotic songs, advertisements, and speeches, but there is little discussion on the actual progress and challenges facing the country. True patriotism is not just about displaying enthusiasm for a day—it is about carrying forward the values of unity, discipline, and sacrifice throughout the year. Instead of merely waving flags, we should ask ourselves whether we are upholding the principles that led to the creation of Pakistan, such as justice, equality, and social harmony.

Furthermore, the spirit of Pakistan Day should extend beyond formal ceremonies to our everyday actions. If we truly honor this day, we must commit to building a stronger nation by promoting tolerance, honesty, and hard work in our personal and professional lives. Whether it is through contributing to social welfare, supporting ethical governance, or simply being responsible citizens, every small effort counts. Pakistan was not built in a day, and its progress depends on our consistent commitment to its betterment. If we wish to celebrate March 23rd with true sincerity, we must strive to embody its ideals not just for a day, but as a lifelong responsibility.

Now it is necessary that these significant days are not only celebrated but also that efforts are made to uphold their true essence. Every individual from all walks of life must contribute to this, because living nations do not distort their history—they preserve it.



GAZA STRIP: Palestinians flee their homes after heavy Israeli strikes in the area.

Rebels' battlefield advantage in east Congo complicates push for talks

DR CONGO (Reuters): For years, Rwanda-backed M23 rebels in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo demanded direct negotiations with Congolese authorities. Battlefield gains mean they can now afford to snub them to try to wring out more concessions.

When President Felix Tshisekedi's government, reeling from M23's capture of eastern Congo's two biggest cities, finally agreed over the weekend to talks with M23 in Angola, the rebels pulled out. M23's rebel coalition, the Congo River Alliance (AFC), said that European Union sanctions imposed against their leaders and Rwandan officials accused of supporting them had made talks "impracticable".

"M23/AFC has taken advantage of the European sanctions to disengage, but this withdrawal also shows a refusal to enter negotiations without a guarantee of obtaining substantial concessions," said Tresor Kibangula, a political analyst at Congo's Ebuteli research institute. Tshisekedi and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame both called for a ceasefire in a surprise meeting, their first since the rebels stepped up their offensive in January.

But it was unclear what, if any, impact their hour-long talks, mediated by Qatar and separate from the cancelled M23 talks, would have on the ground, where M23 has been

emboldened by a series of decisive victories. M23 has previously called for an end to what it says is the persecution of ethnic Tutsis in Congo. Kinshasa has said the rebels are terrorists and must lay down their arms.

"Why would M23 stop if they have the upper hand militarily?" said Jason Stearns, a political scientist at Simon Fraser University, specialising in Africa's Great Lakes region. "When you combine that with the sanctions imposed on Rwanda that were more aggressive than expected, I think they felt it was not the right time for them." Rwanda has denied supporting M23 and said its military has been acting in self defence against Congo's army and militias hostile to Kigali.

Progress on bringing the rival camps to the negotiating table has also been complicated by the existence of several different peace processes, including the latest talks in Qatar. All sides are deeply mistrustful of the competing initiatives. Angola has been trying to achieve a peace agreement since 2022 between Rwanda and Congo in African Union-backed talks. Those broke down in December over Congolese opposition to direct negotiations with M23. East and Southern African countries decided in February to merge various peace initiatives, including those led by Angola. But Angola expressed concerns at the time about seeing its mediation

efforts bogged down amid competing peace initiatives, which it thought M23 could take advantage of to seize more territory, said two government ministers in the region, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Then last week, Angolan President Joao Lourenco unexpectedly announced the direct talks between Congo and M23. Having initially agreed to participate, three rebel sources said preparations for the talks fuelled their doubts about Lourenco's ability to act as an honest broker. Two of them said a plane sent by Angola was unable to land in Uganda to pick up the M23 negotiators because Angolan authorities had not informed their Ugandan counterparts of its arrival, making them suspect Luanda was trying to sabotage the process. Angola's government did not respond to a request for comment. A joint meeting of the East African Community and Southern African Development Community agreed to a roadmap for resolving the conflict that includes efforts to secure a ceasefire within 30 days. However, an African diplomat, who asked not to be named, said the Congolese government was as distrustful toward that initiative as M23 was toward the Angolan efforts. "The mistrust is reciprocal," the diplomat said. "It's up to us Africans to harmonise our views and not multiply initiatives."

Trump administration withdraws from Russian war crime investigations

WASHINGTON (BBC): The US government has defunded one programme and left another that both document alleged Russian war crimes in Ukraine. The Trump administration cut funding for Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL), which had detailed the mass deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia. It has also withdrawn from a multinational group meant to investigate the leaders responsible for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including President Vladimir Putin.

These moves come after Trump spoke with Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to negotiate a ceasefire in Ukraine, breaking with the previous US administration's approach to try and

hold Putin responsible for the Russian invasion. The Humanitarian Research Lab said in a statement that they had been notified "that government funding for their work on the war in Ukraine has been discontinued". A bipartisan group of 17 members of Congress pushed back on the funding cut for the HRL, saying their work is a "vital resource" in preserving evidence of children abducted from Ukraine.

In a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, the lawmakers said the HRL has compiled data on 30,000 children abducted from Ukraine and is "absolutely crucial" to ensuring that they are returned home. It said these abductions were taking place amid a "concerning

reduction in American leadership in countering these crimes". It added that the HRL's work can be credited with being the basis for the International Criminal Court's indictment of Putin over the abduction of Ukrainian children. The US State Department responded to the letter saying it has not deleted any of the data collected by the HRL. Trump's Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt responded to claims that the US government had cut funding to the HRL, saying the White House had nothing to do with them. She added that Trump spoke to Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the abducted children, and promised to "work closely" with both the Russian and Ukrainian sides to ensure those children are returned home.

But the US has also

withdrawn from the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA). In a statement, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation - the ICPA's parent organisation - confirmed to the BBC that it had been informed by US authorities that they were leaving the programme. The ICPA was created to hold Russian leaders accountable for the "crime of aggression" in Ukraine, according to their website, and to preserve evidence and prepare cases for their trials in the future. In addition to these, Reuters reported that several US national security agencies have stopped work on a coordinated effort to counter Russian cyberattacks and disinformation.

Raids shatter perception of Puerto Rico as a sanctuary for immigrants

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP): Pastor Nilka Marrero will slam her hand on the table, raise her voice and, if needed, shake her parishioners while playing the role of a federal agent.

Many of her parishioners are undocumented immigrants, and she believes that role-playing with them can help prepare them for the threat of arrest as authorities step up immigration raids to a scale never before seen in Puerto Rico. "They appear and snatch people," Marrero said.

For decades, undocumented immigrants have lived in the US territory without fear of arrest. They're allowed to open bank accounts and obtain a special driver's license. Many have felt safe enough to open their own businesses. Then, on Jan. 26, large-scale arrests began. US Immigration and Custom Enforcement agents raided a well-known Dominican community in a nod to a new policy of US President

Donald Trump, who has pledged to deport millions of people who have entered the United States illegally.

The arrests have angered Puerto Rican officials and civil leaders who have created programs to help the island's undocumented immigrants, many of whom are from the Dominican Republic. An estimated 55,000 Dominicans live in Puerto Rico, although some experts believe the number could be even higher. It's unclear how many are undocumented, although some 20,000 have the special driver's license.

More than 200 people have been arrested since Jan. 26, nearly all men. Of those arrested, 149 are Dominican, according to data ICE provided The Associated Press. Sandra Colón, spokeswoman for the US Department of Homeland Security in Puerto Rico, said the agency is focusing on those with a criminal record or who have received a final court ruling that they must

leave the country. But she said she did not immediately have available how many of those arrested have criminal records.

Annette Martínez, Puerto Rico's ACLU director, said it's unknown where those arrested have been taken or if they have been deported. "We're concerned about the different methods ICE is using for detainment," she said. On a recent morning in Puerto Rico's capital, speakers at a barbershop played an English tutorial as a couple of Dominican migrants studying to become US citizens listened closely.

The business faces a park where the Dominican community had long gathered. It's now mostly silent and empty. Gone is the lively merengue music, the excited chatter, the slap of dominoes. An undocumented migrant who asked to be identified only by his nickname, "the fisherman," because he feared jeopardizing his case in federal court, said he was arrested

near the park.

He had illegally entered Puerto Rico in 2014 to seek more income because his wife back home had breast cancer and he could not afford her treatment working as a fisherman in the Dominican coastal town of Samaná. "I needed to make a living," he said. His wife died, but the man decided to stay in Puerto Rico. His son also came to the island. The fisherman first worked in construction, but after falling off a second-story floor and shattering his pelvis, he resumed fishing once he healed.

He sold fish at the park until Jan. 26. That day, he was sitting in a van while his son bought them lunch. "Three agents pulled me out," he recalled. They arrested seven people at that moment, including his son. The man said they slept on the floor of several jails and were given only bread and water as they were transferred to the Puerto Rican town of Aguadilla, then Miami and finally Texas.

Russia voices regret and concern over Israeli strikes in Gaza

MOSCOW (Reuters): Russia expressed "deep regret" over Israel's latest airstrikes on Gaza and said it condemned any actions that led to civilian deaths. Palestinian health authorities said more than 400 people had been killed in what the Israeli military called a "preemptive offensive" against Hamas militants still holding 59 Israeli hostages.

"Moscow learned with deep regret of Israel's renewal of its military operation in the Gaza Strip," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement, urging both sides to return to negotiations. "As experience shows, it is impossible to resolve the issue of freeing hostages by force. Russia strongly condemns any actions that lead to the death of civilians and the destruction of social infrastructure."

The Kremlin said it was concerned about "another spiral of escalation".

"Especially concerning of course are the reports of major casualties among the civilian population," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "We are monitoring the situation very closely and, of course, we are waiting for it to return to a peaceful course."

European satellite group ready to step up for Kyiv's military

BRUSSELS (AFP): European satellite operator Eutelsat is under the spotlight like never before because of fears that Elon Musk's Starlink could pull its crucial service from Ukraine. Musk this month called his satellite-internet service the "backbone of the Ukrainian army" fighting Russia and said "their entire front line would collapse if I turned it off".

That sent Europeans scrambling for alternatives, and stocks in the sector soaring, given the world's richest man's proximity to US President Donald Trump having briefly shut off military aid and intelligence-sharing to Ukraine. Kyiv has also said it looking for an "alternative" to Starlink because of rising tensions with Washington.

But Eutelsat's boss Eva Berneke said the world's second-largest low-orbit satellite operator was "the only alternative" and despite "less capacity" than Starlink for now, had "perfect coverage" over Ukraine. Starlink, a SpaceX subsidiary, tallied around 6,000 satellites in low orbit in early 2024, compared with more than 600 for Eutelsat's OneWeb.

"I don't think that's a big problem... for important military requirements, the capacity we have today in Ukraine is more than enough," Berneke said. Eutelsat needs fewer satellites to provide the same capacity, in part thanks to its orbiters' greater distance from the Earth's surface, she added. The European company is not currently in a position to provide connectivity to the entire population in Ukraine, where ground-based networks have been partially destroyed since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Berneke says Eutelsat, a largely business-to-business provider unlike consumer-focused SpaceX, has neither sufficient ground terminals nor enough satellites for such an effort. Its operation has instead been conceived to serve "mobile operators, governments, everything that moves on sea and in the air", she said. Eutelsat's capabilities and expertise mean Berneke expects to have a seat at the table in any discussion of European communications sovereignty. "These are highly relevant talks today with Ukraine but should be taking place everywhere," she said.

Away from the conflict, a satellite-communications showdown has erupted between Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government and opposition parties over a mooted Starlink contract for secure communications. Eutelsat is involved in talks with a number of countries about providing connectivity, Berneke said.

EU proposes joint defence push amid fears

BRUSSELS (Reuters): Europe should further boost military spending, pool resources on joint defence projects and buy more European arms, according to an EU blueprint unveiled, driven by fears of Russia and doubts about the future of US protection.

The European Commission, the EU's executive body, presented the proposals in a White Paper on defence, which aims to ensure Europe has a "strong and sufficient" defence posture by 2030. "The international order is undergoing changes of a magnitude not seen since 1945. This is a pivotal moment for European security," European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas told reporters in Brussels.

Kallas said Russia's economy was in "full war mode", with 40% of its federal budget going to the military. "Regardless of the ongoing negotiations for peace in Ukraine, this is a long-term investment in a long-term plan of aggression," she declared. Some proposed measures aim to boost the EU's arms industry, meaning any role for companies from major weapons producers outside the bloc such as the United States, Britain and Turkey would be substantially limited.

EU countries have already begun boosting their own defences in response to Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. They ramped up defence spending by more than 30% between 2021 and 2024. But their efforts have acquired more urgency from US President Donald Trump's rapprochement with Russia and US warn-

ings that European security can no longer be Washington's primary focus. "450 million European Union citizens should not have to depend on 340 million Americans to defend ourselves against 140 million Russians, who cannot defeat 38 million Ukrainians," European Defence Commissioner Andrius Kubilius said. "We really can do better. It's time for us to take responsibility for the defence of Europe."

The paper urges Europe to fill "capability gaps" in areas such as air and missile defence, artillery, ammunition and missiles, drones, military transport, artificial intelligence, cyber warfare and infrastructure protection. The paper - a draft of which was leaked last week - proposes EU countries swiftly pool resources to fill the gaps, including through Defence Projects of Common Interest, defined by governments and benefiting from EU financial incentives. Moscow has condemned the EU's rearmament push as an incitement to war based on an "invented story" of a Russian threat. Such words have not reassured European leaders, as Russia made similar statements before the invasion of Ukraine. The EU paper includes proposals outlined earlier this month to boost countries' defence spending.

Those include a plan for the Commission to borrow 150 billion euros (\$163.35 billion) for loans to EU governments to spend on defence projects and easing EU rules on public finances, which the Commission says could mobilise a further 650 bil-

lion euros. Defence policy has traditionally been the domain of national governments and the NATO security alliance that brings together North America and Europe. But the EU has become increasingly involved in defence in recent years and the White Paper suggests a fundamental shift to a more pan-European approach. Many EU governments say they are in favour. But how it would work is likely to be the subject of fierce debate - over who should have the power to decide on joint projects, who should run them and how they should be funded. The proposals in the paper would require the approval of the bloc's national governments and - in some cases - the European Parliament to become law.

In the paper, the European Commission suggests it could act as a "central purchasing body" on behalf of EU members. But some EU capitals have already signalled resistance, wanting to keep such decisions in the hands of national governments. The paper says the Commission will also work on building a true EU-wide market for defence equipment, simplifying and harmonising rules. Such measures are intended to reduce the fragmentation of Europe's defence industry, in which many manufacturers produce different weapons systems for different governments. For example, Europe has 19 different main battle tanks, compared to just one in the United States and 17 types of torpedoes compared to just two in the US, according to an analysis by McKinsey.

Philippines eyes expansion of Squad group to India, SK

NEW DELHI (Reuters): The Philippines and its allies are trying to expand the Squad grouping of nations to include India and South Korea to counter China in the Indo-Pacific region, the Philippines' Armed Forces chief General Romeo S. Brawner said.

The Squad is an informal multilateral grouping made up of Australia, Japan, the Philippines and the United States, whose defence forces have conducted joint maritime activities in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea since last year. Brawner's remarks at the Raisina Dialogue security forum in New Delhi came at a time when Manila and Beijing have had a series of escalating confrontations in the disputed waters of the South China Sea.

China claims almost all of the strategic waterway - through which \$3 trillion in commerce moves annually - disregarding sovereignty

claims by the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. A 2016 arbitration ruling invalidated China's expansive claim but Beijing does not recognise the decision. Brawner said his country was making efforts to enhance its deterrence capabilities, including by working with partners in the Squad, which he said was an informal collaboration between the four nations on military aspects, intelligence sharing, and joint exercises and operations. "Together with Japan and our partners we are trying to expand the squad to include India and probably South Korea," Brawner said during a panel discussion that included his counterpart from Japan, the chief of the Indian Navy, the commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, and Australia's chief of Joint Operations.

Spokespersons of the Indian defence ministry and the embassies of South Korea and China did not

immediately respond to requests for comment. "We find commonality with India because we have a common enemy. And I'm not afraid to say that China is our common enemy. So, it's important that we collaborate together, maybe exchange intelligence," Brawner later told reporters, adding that his country already had a partnership with the Indian military and defence industry. He said that he will "open up" the potential for India's Squad membership later in the day in a meeting with India's Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan. A senior Indian defence officer said the meeting had happened, but it was not immediately clear if the matter was discussed. At a press conference on March 7, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said the Philippines' actions in the South China Sea were not independent but part of a "screenplay written by external forces," to smear China.

Canada's leader seizes on Trump remarks

OTTAWA: The leader of Canada's Conservative Party has seized on Donald Trump's remarks about the upcoming Canadian election to distance himself from the United States president amid slumping poll numbers.

Trump said in an interview with Fox News this week that he didn't care who wins the upcoming federal election in Canada but that he would "rather deal with a Liberal than a Conservative". Pierre Poilievre said the US president - whose tariffs and annexation threats against Canada have fuelled widespread anger in recent months - had effectively endorsed new Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party.

"Yesterday, the president said that having a Liberal prime minister would be easier for him to deal with, just as he threatened once again to make us the 51st state," Poilievre told reporters in Sudbury, Ontario. "On that point, it's true: I'm a strong leader, a tough guy to deal with. I'm

firm in my convictions, and I'll always put Canada first."

Poilievre and his Conservative Party have seen what was once a seemingly insurmountable lead in public opinion polls slip away since the start of the year. Experts say Trump's repeated threats to annex Canada and impose steep sanctions against the country, coupled with Justin Trudeau's exit as Liberal leader and prime minister, are major factors in the Tories' decline. Recent polls show the Liberals have surged ahead of the Conservatives in advance of the federal election, which must take place by October 20 but is expected to happen sooner.

Poilievre, a politician known for his incendiary rhetoric and vilification of Trudeau, has struggled to find solid messaging in the face of Trump. Daniel Beland, a political science professor at McGill University, told Al Jazeera last month that Poilievre faces a challenge: He doesn't want to alienate the part

of his base that likes Trump but also needs to appeal to Canadians who want a leader who will stand up to US threats. Meanwhile, Poilievre's combative political style has drawn comparisons to Trump, raising questions about how he would handle the US president if the Conservatives win the next election and he becomes prime minister. Poilievre, who took over as party leader in 2022, has regularly described Canada as a "broken" country under Trudeau. He has also attacked reporters as biased, and critics say he often echoes far-right talking points on immigration and other issues.

Amid Trump's recent threats, Poilievre has used the slogan "Canada First" - similar to the US president's own "America First" policy. An Angus Reid Institute poll released showed 55 percent of Canadians believed Carney was best suited to handle a US-Canada trade war, compared with 30 percent who preferred Poilievre.

The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

*USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

History won't repeat itself

SINCE US President Donald Trump's administration took office, one of its key foreign policy objectives has been to re-engage with Russia to isolate China. This strategy is inspired by the Cold War-era triangular diplomacy pioneered by President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, which sought to improve relations with China to contain the Soviet Union. The so-called "reverse Kissinger" strategy aims to cultivate closer ties with Russia to counterbalance China's growing influence. However, today's international system and China-Russia relations differ significantly from those of the Cold War era. In this context, the Trump administration's reverse Kissinger strategy appears more like wishful thinking than a comprehensive, actionable policy. Several factors undermine the viability of this approach.

One major obstacle is the fundamentally different nature of China-Russia relations today compared to the Cold War era. During the Cold War, friction between the two countries stemmed from several factors, including ideological competition and personal rivalries between leaders. For example, the 1960s schism between Mao Zedong and Nikita Khrushchev was exacerbated by Khrushchev's policy of 'peaceful coexistence' with the US, which Mao viewed as a betrayal of communist ideals. This ideological rift created deep mistrust between Beijing and Moscow.

In contrast, the modern relationship between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping is marked by a strong personal rapport and shared strategic goals. Since 2013, the two leaders have met over 42 times [1]—a testament to the depth of their partnership. Both countries are committed to a multipolar world and reducing US hegemony. This alignment significantly reduces the likelihood of a major rift between Russia and China that the United States could exploit.

Another key difference lies in the absence of ideological rivalry between Russia and China today. During the Cold War, both nations vied for leadership of the global communist movement, intensifying their geopolitical rivalry. Today, however, their cooperation is rooted in pragmatic mutual interests rather than ideological alignment. Both countries are united in their opposition to US dominance and are actively working to develop alternative global institutions, such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), to challenge Western-led frameworks. This shared vision reduces ideological barriers and fosters closer collaboration, making it difficult for the United States to drive a wedge between the two powers. Geopolitical realities further complicate the reverse Kissinger strategy. In regions where their interests intersect, Russia and China have adopted shared strategic roles rather than competing. For instance, in Central Asia, China primarily acts as an economic power, investing in infrastructure through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, while Russia functions as the regional security guarantor. Both countries seek to maintain stability and limit Western influence in the region.

Beyond Central Asia, this cooperative approach extends to other areas of strategic interest. Russia focuses on Eastern Europe and its near abroad, while China concentrates on East Asia and the Indo-Pacific. Their complementary goals minimize the potential for conflict and increase their collective ability to challenge US interests globally. Moreover, both countries perceive the US as a common threat. This shared perception encourages closer coordination to divide US strategic focus between Europe and Asia, preventing Washington from concentrating its resources on either front to curb their ambitions.

Economic ties between Russia and China further undermine the feasibility of a reverse Kissinger strategy. Since the onset of Western sanctions following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, Moscow has increasingly turned to Beijing for economic support. Bilateral trade between the two countries has grown substantially, reaching approximately \$245 billion [2] annually by 2024. China has become a crucial market for Russian energy exports, while Russia relies on Chinese industrial goods and technology.

By contrast, US-Russia trade remains relatively low, amounting to just \$3.5 billion as of 2024 [3]. The structural limitations of the US economy, including its status as a major energy exporter, make it unlikely that Washington could offer Russia comparable economic benefits. Even in the hypothetical scenario where Moscow pivots toward the US, economic realities would constrain the depth of any potential partnership. Finally, domestic political factors make a reverse Kissinger strategy even less likely. Both Putin and Xi have long-term ambitions that extend well beyond the tenure of any US administration. Trump's presidency, even if he serves a final term, would end in 2029, while both Putin and Xi have taken steps to maintain tenure. Given these dynamics, neither leader has an incentive to engage in risky geopolitical maneuvers that could be reversed by a subsequent US administration. This long-term perspective fosters strategic patience and reinforces their commitment to a stable bilateral relationship.

In summary, the reverse Kissinger strategy faces insurmountable challenges rooted in the transformed international landscape. The deepening strategic partnership between Russia and China, the absence of ideological competition, complementary geopolitical interests, economic interdependence, and the long-term political calculations of their leaders all render the US approach impractical. While a temporary rapprochement between Washington and Moscow is theoretically possible, the likelihood of a sustained division between Russia and China remains minimal. The reverse Kissinger strategy, therefore, is more myth than reality in the context of today's complex and multipolar world order.

Important Notice

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



How do you solve a problem like the Russian volunteer corps?

Konstantin Pakhalyuk

ACCORDING to the most conservative estimates, 1,000 people gathered for this month's Russian opposition protest in Berlin. The small anti-war rally in Berlin sparked two burning discussions: whether it was acceptable to march with the Russian flag and how to treat the column of the Russian Volunteer Corps (RVC), a far-right military unit fighting for Kyiv, who came of their own volition.

Both discussions, about symbols and allies, are fundamental because they raise questions that cannot be ignored: Whose side is the opposition on? Who do they represent and where do they see their political future? As political scientist Viktor Sergeev and philosopher Nikolai Bryukov wrote at the beginning of the century, Russian political culture is built on fear of any social and political schism. These are impossible to avoid. But democracy allows these schisms to be contained and directed in productive ways.

The Russian opposition has been shaken over the past year by schisms involving Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the FBK, Maxim Katz and Leonid Nevzlin. Instead of being a debate about values, these rifts reflect an internal struggle for conformity. The Russian opposition's obvious desire to act as a center of gravity for all opponents of President Vladimir Putin's aggression is understandable. But at the beginning of the fourth year of a full-scale war, this seems insufficient.

The Russian opposition let itself become complacent by clinging to the old myths about all-out international support for Ukraine, Russia's isolation and the weakness of Putin's regime. We are now seeing a hard collision with reality as these myths collapse. The idea that the opposition could use this crisis to ride into power on a white horse did not work out. It could not happen, if only for the reason that they are fighting for their existence, not for the "beautiful Russia of the future."

Amid all this, the exiled Russian opposition faces the question of how to support Ukraine's struggle while still hoping for a political future in Russia. The discussion about the Russian tricolor is the easiest debate to get caught up in. It is not technically difficult to modify the flag itself and promote a new unifying symbol.

The presence of the Russian Volunteer Corps poses a more complicated problem. Almost everyone in Russia knows someone who has fought in the war, been injured or killed. For every one of these people, any Russian who fights against their friends and countrymen is a traitor. Of course, the RVC considers themselves warriors who are fighting against the regime. But this position has no political future inside Russia.

After the war ends, veterans of the Russian and Ukrainian armed forces may one day be able to meet, as veterans of the Wehrmacht and the Red Army did in the 1990s. But former Vlasovites who fought under Russian command were not invited to these meetings. Moreover, the RVC is not made up of leftists and liberals, or even right-wing populists, but staunch ultrarightists, white supremacists and, in some cases, even neo-Nazis. Allying oneself with such people is not only toxic in Russia, but in Europe as well.

The RVC are undoubtedly brave patriots of Ukraine who have proved with their blood their readiness to fight for it. They have a potential future as representatives of a minority Russian viewpoint and perhaps even as a far-right party in the EU. But they will not return to Russia. Even in the unlikely case of a civil war, their future is a mass grave somewhere near Belgorod — because the public considers Russian traitors even more worthy of death than the Ukrainian enemy. No politician will be able to convince people otherwise.

For several centuries now, European politics has been centered on the idea of the political nation, for which the definition of "one's own" is fundamental. Wars intensify national sentiment, which serves to strengthen the state apparatus. Think of World War I and its aftermath. All that is in the ideological asset of the RDK are the ideas of Slavic unity, which, to put it mildly, are marginal in Russia and, at least, the leftists and liberals have nothing to catch on this field.

It may seem strange to some to distance oneself from those who put their lives on the line for Ukraine while the liberal opposition is active only in the media.

The problem is deeper for the opposition because it calls into question whether they are for Russians or Ukrainians. Despite justifications that the war is an expression of the Putin regime's worst impulses, an increasing number of anti-war Russians inside the country are starting to see the war in abstract terms and are warming to the idea of peace at any cost to Ukraine. Some in the opposition might also want to join in criticizing Ukraine, hoping that this would broaden support inside Russia and encourage a return. Even if they direct this criticism at President Volodymyr Zelensky, such a move is fraught with the risk of eroding support. The war will not be over when the guns fall silent. Some think that Putin will use any respite to rearm for a future war, while others hope that he is really tired and the most pro-war factions of the government will stage a coup and topple him.

If people are reluctant to criticize the RVC for fighting for Ukraine on the battlefield instead of in front of a computer, that is a mistake. The responsibility of a Russian is to be against the war; not to participate in it; to dissuade others from doing so; to oppose his government; and to try to minimize the damage to the Ukrainians. Yet it is key to remember that the future of Ukraine does not depend on the Russian anti-war opposition, who cannot build Kyiv a powerful military-industrial complex, send it arms or even stop Putin. Ukrainians themselves are in no hurry to call Russians to their cause. Anti-war Russians have ample opportunities for collective or individual action. The situation is somewhat different for politicians. No faction of the Russian opposition can take political responsibility because they are not at the levers of power. Yes, Russians are wrongly saddled with collective responsibility for the war regardless of their beliefs and actions. But the only people who can take on that responsibility are the people elected to represent them.

Turning into a Ukrainian patriot is not the way to do this, but it is still possible to remain an ally of Kyiv. But many Russians will identify more closely with people they consider their own, even if they were one of the paratroopers massacring civilians in Bucha. Not because they lionize them — rather, because they see them as fellow citizens they should take responsibility for. Therefore, the Russian opposition in exile has three strategic options left. The first is to lean into Russian patriotism and how to build up a competitive advantage for when they return to Russia. In that case, it will have to seek the support of those who remain in Russia or nostalgic emigres. The opposition's PR agenda is focused mainly on those who have left, and they more or less don't care about those who have remained. Doing so would get the RVC out of the way and negate some criticism of the opposition from Russians in the country. With a strategy like this, there is no point in paying attention to those who have left and Russian speakers who are not going to return and who prefer to be patriots of Ukraine. They are not the opposition's electorate, not your social support. Therefore, if Yashin, Karamura and Navalny hound the RVC out of their next rally, it would be a strong statement about who is part of their vision for Russia.

It is unlikely that the opposition will return to Russia in the foreseeable future. But making that the goal is the only way they will ever be able to take political responsibility for their country's aggression. Anything else would just be empty words. Apart from the costs of dubious allies, the main obstacle is the lack of examples of when the Russian opposition can confidently say they represented their own.

The second is to forget about Russia and turn into a European political party fighting for the interests of the Russian diaspora. Here the logic of choosing partners will differ, although contacts with pan-Slavists will repel leftists and liberals. This path smacks of visionarism, but if there are people, grassroots solidarity networks, and a common information space, why can't all this be used for a new political platform?

But there is a third way which is, unfortunately, the most realistic one: The Russian opposition could remain an amorphous diasporic group that is more concerned about its survival than any actual political struggle.

Even if they were one of the paratroopers massacring civilians in Bucha. Not because they lionize them — rather, because they see them as fellow citizens they should take responsibility for. Therefore, the Russian opposition in exile has three strategic options left.

The first is to lean into Russian patriotism and how to build up a competitive advantage for when they return to Russia. In that case, it will have to seek the support of those who remain in Russia or nostalgic emigres. The opposition's PR agenda is focused mainly on those who have left, and they more or less don't care about those who have remained. Doing so would get the RVC out of the way and negate some criticism of the opposition from Russians in the country. With a strategy like this, there is no point in paying attention to those who have left and Russian speakers who are not going to return and who prefer to be patriots of Ukraine. They are not the opposition's electorate, not your social support. Therefore, if Yashin, Karamura and Navalny hound the RVC out of their next rally, it would be a strong statement about who is part of their vision for Russia.

It is unlikely that the opposition will return to Russia in the foreseeable future. But making that the goal is the only way they will ever be able to take political responsibility for their country's aggression. Anything else would just be empty words. Apart from the costs of dubious allies, the main obstacle is the lack of examples of when the Russian opposition can confidently say they represented their own.

The second is to forget about Russia and turn into a European political party fighting for the interests of the Russian diaspora. Here the logic of choosing partners will differ, although contacts with pan-Slavists will repel leftists and liberals. This path smacks of visionarism, but if there are people, grassroots solidarity networks, and a common information space, why can't all this be used for a new political platform?

But there is a third way which is, unfortunately, the most realistic one: The Russian opposition could remain an amorphous diasporic group that is more concerned about its survival than any actual political struggle.

Netanyahu's thirst for blood jeopardizes region

Serhan Afacan

THE already fragile ceasefire in Gaza was further shattered as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israel had "resumed combat in full force" against Hamas in the Gaza Strip on March 18, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In the hours following Netanyahu's announcement, Israeli airstrikes — which had already been routinely violating the ceasefire in recent weeks — killed more than 400 Palestinians, including a significant number of children. Later that day, Israeli forces launched a new ground offensive, reportedly killing at least 48 more Palestinians, according to local health workers.

Vowing to eradicate Hamas, Netanyahu described the renewed phase of state terrorism as "just the beginning". Meanwhile, Israeli sources confirmed that the assault was conducted in "full coordination" with the United States. Also on Wednesday, Israel carried out an attack on a UN facility in central Gaza City, killing a foreign staffer and wounding five others. Jorge Moreira da Silva, Executive Director of the UN Office for Project Services, condemned the strike, stating: "Israel knew this was a UN compound where people were living and working. It is a well-known location."

From the outset, Netanyahu's office has justified the assault by accusing Hamas of preparing new attacks, refusing to release hostages, and rejecting all proposals put forward by US presidential envoy Steve Witkoff and other mediators. At the UN Security Council meeting on Gaza, convened just hours after the renewed Israeli offensive, the US envoy placed exclusive blame on Hamas for the collapse of the ceasefire. According to the Israeli government, approximately 59 Israeli captives remain in Gaza, with fewer than half believed to be still alive. Hamas, however, denied rejecting the US envoy's proposal, accusing Netanyahu of deliberately resuming hostilities to sabotage the ceasefire agreement. The group characterized Israel's actions as a "unilateral" annulment of the existing deal.

Arab countries, including Egypt and Qatar — both key mediators in the peace negotiations — have strongly condemned Israel's latest military escalation. On March 20, the US State Department reaffirmed the "bridge proposal" put forward by the US President Donald Trump's administration last week. It aims to extend the first phase of the ceasefire and hostage release agreement between Israel and Hamas, and remains on the table. Given this backdrop, the question arises: What is driving Netanyahu's genocidal ambitions?

Netanyahu appears to be maneuvering to reduce the original multiphase ceasefire agreement to just its first phase, securing the release of all Israeli hostages before resuming his military campaign in Gaza. Hamas, however, recognizes the trap. At present, neither the US nor

mediators like Egypt and Qatar can offer Hamas any guarantees that if it releases all remaining hostages — both dead and alive — Israel will commit to entering the second phase of the agreement.

It is worth recalling that Israel had already delayed negotiations for the second phase, which was initially scheduled to begin 16 days after the agreement took effect. By the time phase one was set to conclude on March 1, Israel had refused to advance talks, effectively stalling the diplomatic process.

Since March 2, Israel has taken increasingly punitive measures against Gaza. According to the UN, it has blocked the entry of all lifesaving supplies, including food, medicine, fuel, and cooking gas, affecting 2.1 million people. It has also sealed off all crossing points and, on March 9, ordered a complete shutdown of Gaza's electricity supply. The blackout has severely impacted desalination plants, which provide clean drinking water to some 600,000 people. Yet, despite these actions, Israel continues to evade accountability for its collective punishment of Gaza's population.

Israel appears to be accelerating efforts to implement what some critics describe as a plan to radically reshape Gaza's demographic and political future. Netanyahu, frustrated by his failure to eliminate Hamas and achieve clear strategic objectives, is pampered by Trump's proposal to "take over" and "own" the Gaza Strip. At present, Netanyahu is exploiting the geopolitical status — including high-level talks between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin over Ukraine and the US military campaign against the Houthis in Yemen — which have diverted international attention away from Gaza. This distraction provides him with an opportunity to escalate the attacks with fewer diplomatic constraints.

However, Netanyahu's thirst for blood is not only deepening the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza but also exacerbating regional tensions, pushing the Middle East toward prolonged instability. His actions risk triggering wider spillover effects, particularly in Lebanon and Syria, and further escalating an already volatile landscape. The pressing question remains: does Israel have a long-term strategy for Gaza, or is it merely waging a campaign of destruction with no viable political exit strategy? Another crucial consideration is, following their emergency summit in Cairo on March 4, how will the Arab League reconcile Egypt's reconstruction plan with Israel's relentless aggression?

The urgency of a concerted diplomatic and strategic effort to curb Israeli aggression and expansionism cannot be overstated. Without immediate intervention, the entire region will bear the long-term consequences of unchecked military escalation and political destabilization.

AA

Europe crying out for leadership. After years of drift, Germany finally ready to answer

John Kampfner

FEW people outside Berlin's political bubble will have heard of Lars Klingbeil. They will soon, though, as he is about to become one of the pivotal players in the new German government. The co-leader of the Social Democratic party (SPD) captured the moment in this week's debate in the Bundestag, one of the most important in Germany's recent history.

"A few weeks ago, many would have thought that we couldn't have come to an agreement. The differences were too great," he said. "What differentiates this country from others is that we are ready, as parties of the democratic centre, to find solutions and not to leave the ground for populist extremism to blossom."

Donald Trump has made this happen. After four years of drift under the hapless Olaf Scholz, Germany has woken from its torpor. By voting for a 500bn infrastructure and environmental

injection, and for a whatever-it-takes increase in defence spending, it has shed two shibboleths in one day. It is no longer the country of austerity ad absurdum and it is no longer the country that sub-contracts its defence to a superpower it thought was a friend and now fears may be an adversary.

There are many frustrations, paradoxes and anxieties arising from the dramatic events. The man who will shortly be chancellor, Friedrich Merz, has spent most of his political career opposing borrowing. The debt brake, which hugely restricted public investment in the name of "sound" fiscal rules, was an article of faith for him, his predecessor, Angela Merkel, for their conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), and even for the SPD.

Then came the assault on Germany and the west at the Munich security conference by Trump's lieutenants, a week before Germans went

to the polls. As John Maynard Keynes is said to have asked: "When the facts change, I change my mind — what do you do, sir?" Merz's response is to admit that, yes, he has performed the ultimate U-turn, but in a good cause — so that Germany can modernise its economy and play its part in the reinforcement of Europe in the face of the twin threats of Trump and Vladimir Putin.

The Greens have every reason to feel aggrieved. For years they ardently called for more military aid to Ukraine and more spending on environmental and other essential causes. Throughout this time, they were denounced by the conservatives as being spendthrift and by the left as being trigger happy. As a result, they lost votes and have been sent into opposition. They have been brought back in from the cold briefly by Merz, who needed their votes to secure

the two-thirds majority required to change the constitution in order to circumvent the debt brake. Even though they felt used, they did the decent thing. Or rather, Merz has shown a lack of principle in order to bring into being reforms that are not only principled but vital.

No matter how determined Britain's prime minister, Keir Starmer, and France's president, Emmanuel Macron, have been, no matter how much they have coordinated their efforts, any European security strategy would have little credibility without Germany. And Germany would have little credibility unless it turned around its decades-old reluctance to arm itself properly and be prepared to use hard power for good ends.

This has now happened. Germany is set on a new course. A political culture that is often regarded as dour and incremental knows, on

occasion, how to do drama. In 1999, led by the Greens' foreign minister Joschka Fischer, the Bundestag voted to take part in military action for the first time since the second world war to defend Kosovo. In 2015, Merkel took the controversial decision to allow in more than a million refugees, from Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East. In 2022, Scholz responded to Putin's invasion of Ukraine with his Zeitenwende speech and a special 100bn fund for military spending. It felt defining at the time, but the now outgoing chancellor spent the rest of his tenure looking over his shoulder. That moment, as it now transpires, was just the overture.

Germany is a land I have long praised for the deliberative, serious nature of its politics, for its durable constitution and its mature process of building and testing coalitions in the regions and at national level. It has not indulged in the type of clownism that afflicted the

UK in the Boris Johnson era. It takes its responsibilities earnestly. Yet it has also been hamstrung by an excess of caution, a lack of self-confidence and also — when it comes to issues of peril — a complacent assumption that others will come to its aid. Thanks to Trump, that is no longer the case and most Germans know it.

They are about to embark on a bumpy ride, with the CDU at the helm and a chastened SPD alongside. Two different parties are coming together to produce a tough and durable coalition in order to keep the populists at bay. Unpredictable and confrontational, Merz is impatient to get things done. Alongside him will be Klingbeil and Boris Pistorius (who may keep his defence portfolio) representing a wing of the SPD shorn of its naivety towards Russia. That is what Germany, Europe and the wider west need in their darkest hour.

The Guardian

US-Taliban re-engagement on multiple fronts, sending message of prolonged battling in region

BESIDE hidden US and Emirati Islamic Afghanistan engaging in Doha from last two years, the First ever direct encounter of high powered US team with Taliban officials in Kabul seems to be initiatives of another round of politico-strategical battling going on in the region since early 70's.

The new multiple faced US-afghan relationships might bothered Islamabad political and military establishment towards new engaging in Kabul but the outcomes or purposes might be against of its ambitions, which is forcing Taliban to toe its lines on both internal and external issues especially Durand Line and Kabul's links with India. It was first ever open direct talk between Washington and Kabul since August 15th 2021, when the later fell into hands of Taliban in according to Doha Qatar agreement.

The day-long but highly secret visit of US team headed by Ambassador Adam Boehlar concluded with release and air lifting of George Glezmman, an American airline mechanic to United States via Qatar Doha. The meeting at Kabul is outcomes of the highest level contacts between the two countries mediated by no other than Qatar, UAE since empowering of Donald Trump on January 20th 2025 last. Besides others

famous Zalmay Khalilzad was part of the delegation. War times events since 70's reveals that whenever Zalmay Khalilzad appears on media and diplomatic fora's, it leads to changes and reshuffling in Afghanistan.

Though the United States has been working on Afghan fronts since completion of Afghanistan's second Presidential Polls in 2009 without Pakistan but the Thursday engaging Kabul seems much more ironic for the high ups at Rawalpindi-Islamabad looking after changes, reshuffling, violence, terror, internal rifts and hostilities amongst perks and power thirsty self styled amirs, leaders, generals and chieftains on west side of infamous Durand Line since a long. It is crystal clear that compare to 60's and 70's when the US was healing the wounds of Vietnam defeat, present day situation is totally different. Earlier US lead allies had depended all of its strategies and intentions in Pakistan immediate neighbouring country of Afghanistan which was under influence of now disintegrated USSR. Now Pakistan has no any role in Afghanistan due to its flopped policies. Similarly with return of Donald Trump into US power corridors after a break of four years, the hostilities between Washington and Moscow is also melting.

Shamim Shahid

Prior to release of Mr. Glezmman, after taking over of Donald Trump in January, two other Americans Ryan Corbett and William Wallace Mckenty were released from Afghanistan in exchange for an Afghan imprisoned in Kabul. The Afghan national Khan Muhammad was a life time convicted on drug trafficking charges and considered financier of Taliban during war on terror. The US Secretary of State's Marco Rubio says, " Glezmman's release was "also a reminder that other Americans are still detained in Afghanistan."

Afghanistan's foreign ministry on its X page added the deal showed, "Afghanistan's readiness to genuinely engaging all sides, particularly the United States of America, on the basis of mutual respect and interests." Similar seems are intentions of the US high ups who visited Kabul along with their facilitators from Qatar have time and again thanked Taliban officials for ordering release of Mr. Glezmman.

No one can deny the fact that US President Donald Trump's changing ideas towards one time foe Russian Federation and Emirati Islami Afghanistan would pose both positive and negative impacts on global politics, especially Asian Region where the US still working on multiple options

for strengthening its influence. Earlier Pakistan remained compulsion of United States for tackling one-time considered bigger threats of Socialists and Communist ideologies. And now apparently US muscling to combat Chinese economic growth and influencing of world trade markets. Previous couple of decades strategic-diplomatic episodes are very clear where Chinese avoiding confrontations and preferring policies of reconciliations, dialogues and even give and takes.

Issue of Pakistan is quite different as its effective military establishment still following Bhutto-Zia inherited strategic depth policies. Pakistan's relations with almost neighbouring countries are lacking trusts and sincerities. Both India and Afghanistan have already been declared as "enemies" whereas Iran is on the list of GRAY neighbours. Due to long time association and partnership with US lead allies, China is also lacking trust in Pakistan. Almost think tanks in United States and its allies are considering religious extremism and terrorist a serious threats to global peace. All are clear that religious terrorism and extremism has deep roots in border regions of both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Zalmay Khalilzad is known for his secret intensions and designs therefore his brief but surprising tour to Kabul is generating stock of questions.

In Armenia's second city, Russian military outpost with a dark past faces a precarious future

Brawley Benson

WHEN Russia first set up a military base on the dusty hills overlooking what is now Armenia's second-largest city, it marked the edge of the Tsarist empire. Then, as now, the position was a strategic asset. On one side, the city of Gyumri, with its buildings made of black stone, extends across a vast plain. Just a few miles in the other direction is the border with Turkey, Armenia's long-standing adversary. For decades, the proximity to Turkey meant Armenians welcomed this outpost of Russian military influence.

But geopolitical tides are changing. Incensed by what they see as Russia's inaction during the conflict with Azerbaijan in recent years, many Armenians have grown distrustful of their historic ally. Officials have initiated a dizzying geopolitical realignment. Last year, Yerevan demanded that Russian border guards leave the country's main airport as well as the tense border region with Azerbaijan. And Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan froze Armenia's participation in the Russia-led CSTO military alliance.

As a result, the 102nd Military Base has effectively become Moscow's last major outpost of military influence in Armenia — and one of its last in the wider Caucasus region. But these days its future, too, seems precarious.

Critics see the Russian base's presence as an impediment to normalizing relations with Turkey, and a series of mysterious crimes tied to the base — some details of which The Moscow Times is reporting for the first time — have produced complicated feelings among locals. As a trial over the most recent of these crimes nears its end, those involved feel their window might be closing to get answers.

Russia's military presence in Gyumri, a city of more than 100,000 located about 50 miles northwest of Armenia's capital Yerevan, dates back to the early 19th century. During a period of conflict with the Ottoman Empire in the 1830s, Russia built an imposing fortress in the hills west of town. When Armenia and Russia established the 102nd Military Base in the 1990s, they chose the same location for the new base. Russian soldiers' ability to deploy quickly from the base was believed to be a deterrent to an Azerbaijani takeover of the Armenia-backed breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

But when that exact scenario played out in 2023 and Russia did not come to Armenia's aid, the Armenian public's perception of Russia plummeted. Experts say that because Armenia and Russia's security situations have changed dramatically, the base now serves little purpose.

"The base is a political instrument rather than a real military one," said Areg Kochinyan, president of the Research Center on Security Policy, a Yerevan-based think tank. "With the war in Ukraine," he added, "a large portion of the Russian military personnel from the base was lifted back to Russia."

Nevertheless, the 102nd's presence has shaped Gyumri over the years. Russian soldiers and their families are integrated into the local community, and the base has contributed to Gyumri's vitality. Daily flights to Moscow bolster a modest local tourism industry — something that was especially important after an earthquake in 1988 devastated the region's economy. Signs of national unity are everywhere. A Russian Orthodox church constructed a century and a half ago still flies the Russian and Armenian flags. For nearly as long as it has existed the base has been a magnet for controversy, owing to a series of crimes that have strained relations with locals.

There was the time in 1999 when two soldiers opened fire near a local market, killing two. In 2013 two boys in a neighboring town found and accidentally set off leftover training ordnance in a field. And many Armenians recall with horror the 2015 Avetisyan killings, when a deserter from the base killed seven members of a local family — a display of wanton violence for which there is still no explanation, people who were involved with the case

told The Moscow Times. Locals were outraged. They gathered in front of the 102nd's gates, demanding that Russia hand the suspect, Valery Permyakov, over to Armenian authorities. "It was not easy to keep these people from attacking the base," Levon Barseghyan, the head of a local journalists association, said of the mood. "I was on the front line at that time, and it was very problematic."

Protesters got their way. Permyakov was tried in an Armenian court and sentenced to life imprisonment in 2016. The furor died down — but not for long. Anahit Ghukasyan remembers how people started to lock their doors in the days after the Avetisyan killings. She never could have imagined that a similar series of events would befall her family.

Her story begins almost four years later. It was a morning in early December 2018, like any other. She and her mother, 57-year-old Julieta Ghukasyan, had left the family home in central Gyumri early to go to their jobs as street cleaners. Anahit was at work when she got a call. It was her neighbor: Did Anahit know why the police were at the house?

Anahit rushed home, where the police had been questioning her grandmother. There had been an incident, they said, and her mother was injured. At the hospital, for reasons she still does not understand, she was not allowed to see her mother. Instead, she had to rely on information given to her by a police officer before she arrived. "Your mother was beaten" in the street, she recalls him saying. "There's a bruise under her eye, [she'll be] home in half an hour."

But the wounds were more severe than expected. Julieta died later that day. It took more than a week for Anahit to find out the suspect's identity: a soldier stationed at the Russian base named Andrei Razgildeyev. Like in the Avetisyan killings, there was no discernable motive. Anahit said her mother "didn't have any enemies," that she "lived such a pure life with honor and grace."

According to investigators, Razgildeyev had been drinking and, spotting Julieta walking down the street, decided to engage in a spontaneous act of violence. But to Anahit this is an inadequate explanation for her mother's death. Why, according to her, does a CCTV video appear to show Razgildeyev hiding behind trees before the killing? Why did he target her mother? In an interview at her home not far from where the killing took place, a neighborhood where the laughter of children walking home from school fills the afternoon air, Anahit, 36, recounted to a Moscow Times reporter the confusing process of coming to terms with her mother's death under mysterious circumstances.

The only memento she has to remember her is a portrait, professionally done but fading with age, looking out from atop a glass display case. Armenian officials launched an investigation over Julieta's killing — but six years and five judges later, the trial has gone nowhere. One of Anahit's biggest complaints is that the defendant does not show up in court.

When Razgildeyev was arrested, the Russian side kept him at the military base. Eventually, they requested that he attend hearings virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But he has not been seen in person since, raising questions about his true whereabouts. "I'm not sure he's really at the Russian [military] base," Anahit said. "If he were there, they would at least bring him to the court once, wouldn't they?"

Artur Sakunts, a human rights defender who worked on the case, said that Razgildeyev should be in an Armenian prison. "The procedural rules are being violated," he said, "and the commander of the military base ignores Armenian laws." Barseghyan, the journalist, thought something should be done to prevent such crimes from happening again. At the time he was a city councilor and suggested installing a barbed wire fence and security cameras around the base.

It was not much, but it would be something. Barseghyan had made similar recommendations after the Avetisyan killings that ultimately did not materialize. Local officials, he claimed, had no interest in rocking the boat with the base's Russian leadership on such a sensitive issue. "It is very frustrating," said Barseghyan. "We are trying to find solutions. [All that happens] is just talks — no real suggestions, no real changes. These kinds of things can happen again at any moment."

Thirty miles away in the neighboring town of Vanadzor, Sakunts, the human rights defender, sat in his office on a clear summer day in 2024, his mind rifling through years of memories. Sakunts oversees the local chapter of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, a human rights NGO, and has studied the base extensively during his career. The opinion Sakunts has formed based on years of advocacy — including representing the families of those killed in the Avetisyan and Ghukasyan killings — is bleak.

"The Armenian government has no effective mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the activities of the Russian base on the territory of Armenia," he said. For him, both cases bolster his claim. Like Razgildeyev, Russian authorities wanted to keep Permyakov in detention at the base and try him in a Russian court; it was only after a major public outcry that his case was transferred to Armenian authorities. "In both cases, the Russian side... detained those people of the military base and prevented them from being brought to the Armenian court," Sakunts said.

Adding to the controversy, officials agreed to extradite Permyakov to Russia in 2017 to serve out his sentence. Since then, neither Armenian nor Russian officials have provided an update on his status. "I don't know if he's alive and well in [Russia] or if he's been released," Sakunts said. "How would you know?" In January, the 10th anniversary of the Avetisyan killings, Justice Minister Srubhi Galyan said Armenian authorities have "no information about the whereabouts of this person."

Officials in Yerevan said as recently as January that closing the base is "not on the agenda at the moment." But that could change in the coming years. Arman Babajanyan, chairman of the pro-European For the Republic party, told The Moscow Times that if his party wins a sufficient number of seats in next year's parliamentary elections, they will try to start the process of removing the base. "The base's removal would not only symbolize a break from this dependency but also create a tangible pathway for Armenia to assert its sovereignty in regional diplomacy," he said.

He added that the "physical and symbolic presence of a Russian military base at Armenia's western gate to Turkey is a significant barrier" to normalizing relations with Turkey and diversifying the country's diplomatic ties. Such a decision would likely face stiff opposition. In 2010, Armenia and Russia agreed to extend the lease of the base until 2044. Even though relations are deteriorating, Kochinyan, the security expert, predicted that the base will be among the last vestiges of Armenia and Russia's security relationship to be done away with.

"This would be probably the biggest trigger for [the] Russians," he said. "I definitely don't think that there will be any conversation about the base prior to the 2026 elections." In the meantime, as she waits for the trial to end, Anahit fears that the investigation into her mother's murder will follow the trajectory of cases in the past and provide few answers.

Over six years, she has grown skeptical that justice can be achieved. Last fall, at her request, the Shirak regional court began the trial anew, something she hopes will lead to a fair outcome. Her lawyers are prepared to submit appeals if they disagree with the ruling and raise the case with the European Court of Human Rights. "My mother won't return. I know that," Anahit said. "But the truth to be known, the truth to be revealed — that's what I want."

The Moscow Times

Mass migration and anti-white discrimination has broken British patriotism

THERE are many reasons to feel pessimistic about Britain under Keir Starmer. A stagnating economy. An ageing society which talented young people want to leave. Large numbers of people invading the country illegally via small boats: and the government hiring yet more hotels to accommodate them.

But maybe the most concerning thing of all is the fraying of any sense of national identity. That expresses itself in many ways. Half of Generation Z think that Britain is a racist country and only 11 per cent would risk their lives to defend it in a war. Only 41 per cent of young people today were proud to be British, and just 15 per cent believed the country was united.

This is depressing but unsurprising. On the one hand, Britain has been through breakneck demographic change. We ended up in a situation where around one in every fifty people had arrived in the country in the last two years. The so-called "Boriswave" of hugely increased immigration in recent years has profoundly changed the nation.

Not everyone can see revolution, because the effects are unevenly spread. In 2000 I moved to London from Huddersfield and rented a house. Today young British people struggle to do that given soaring rents, and even if they do, they find themselves in a small minority. In London as of 2017, immigrant households accounted for nearly two thirds of all households in the private rented sector and the proportion of social housing occupied by immigrant households is close to 50 per cent, up from 40 per cent ten years before. This implies that the majority of new allocations over that period went to immigrant

households. The proportions are much higher in many areas of the city. Mass migration inevitably frays the sense of national identity, and the effects are more pronounced among younger people. Just under a quarter of primary school pupils don't have English as their first language.

Good schools try to create esprit de corps between children from many different backgrounds. That is hard enough anyway: schools now have to manage complex sensitivities over holidays and timings; over food; over what can be taught; and of course, over religious observance during the day. Given these difficulties, you might think we would be working hard to build a strong sense of national identity to bring us all together.

But instead, young people are fed a relentless diet of demoralising anti-British propaganda. Every major cultural institution seems to spend taxpayers' money looking for new ways to claim that every aspect of our history and culture is racist and shameful. This week was the turn of Shakespeare: his birthplace is being "decolonised" by the trust that owns it, because of its concerns about the playwright being used to promote "white supremacy".

But there is a story like that every week. Endless universities, museums, galleries and schools have similar madness going on. Moves are afoot to "decolonise" everything from folk music to hiking, and from Maths to Mozart. But as with individuals, self-hatred is not healthy at the nation level.

Why would you want to fight for something you have been told

is appalling your whole life? Even if you did, the same self-hating ideology would try and get in your way. The Royal Air Force unlawfully discriminated against white men in a recruitment drive aimed at boosting diversity. Even with our armed forces desperately below strength people were being pushed away for the crime of being white.

It's similar in the other services: the Army "Race Action Plan" even proposed to relax security checks for recruits as part of a diversity drive. Many of Britain's top institutions discriminate against the white British. The BBC advertised jobs and said they were for BAME people only. The Bank of England has internships only open to people from a black background – the "Black Future Leaders Sponsorship Programme." There are similar schemes at KPMG, Nat West and Transport for London. There are racially exclusive scholarships at the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, UCL, Bristol and many more.

The Labour-run Westminster Council wants to recruit from what it calls the "global majority". It has an explicit policy that whenever there are two similar applicants for a job it will always go to the applicant from the "global majority" background. Labour's mis-named "Equality Act" of 2010 allows this. The cultural cringe is so embedded in our institutions it over-rides common sense. The Metropolitan Police recently shut down their gangs database (GVM) because of concerns that black people were disproportionately represented on it.

And in just over a week Starmer's government is about to

introduce rules from the Sentencing Council which make such two-tier justice the law of the land: you will be treated differently and given options that make it less likely that you will go to jail if you are not white. Pitiful Starmer says he doesn't agree, but claims he has no choice but to go along with it.

Why don't young people want to fight for Britain? Well, even if you do have roots here, why would you fight for a country that legally regards you as a second-class citizen? If there is a ray of hope anywhere it is that the conversation is changing. Kemi Badenoch recently said that as well as capping immigration, we need to start regarding the country as "our home, not a hotel". She is so right. The public are desperate for a change. Not just an end to mass immigration, but the end of self-hatred and the end of anti-white racism from our institutions.

We need to stop treating people like replaceable economic units and recover our national identity, national pride, and a sense that we are all in it together. The brutal war in Ukraine has popped the fantasy that history is "over" and there is no need for patriotism any more. The Ukrainians are fighting heroically for their country. We are not being tested in the same way, thank God – at least not yet.

But when you look beyond our borders to an increasingly dangerous world, or at the huge domestic challenges we face, you realise that this country is going to be severely tested in the coming decades. If Britain is to prove stronger than the coming storms, we urgently need to recover the sense of national belonging which all countries rely on when the chips are down.

Türkiye as a mediator in Africa

Elem Eyrice Tepecikloglu

FOLLOWING the launch of the Mediation for Peace Initiative (MPI) [1] in 2010, together with Finland, Türkiye engaged in several mediation efforts across various regions and continents. The most prominent of these efforts has been Türkiye's mediation between Russia and Ukraine, which culminated in the Black Sea Grain Initiative in 2022, also known as Grain Corridor. This initiative facilitated the safe export of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea during the ongoing war. Türkiye has also mediated or offered to mediate in various African contexts over the past decade.

Between 2013 and 2014, Türkiye hosted three rounds of talks between Somalia and Somaliland. The first round resulted in the Ankara Communique [2], while the last round [3] aimed to lay the groundwork for future negotiations. Although various international mediation efforts have been tried in order to address the differences between Somalia and Somaliland, a workable solution to their disputes remains as elusive as ever.

In 2021, Türkiye offered to mediate between Egypt and Ethiopia [4]. For years, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has been a source of friction between the two countries, with Egypt perceiving it as a direct threat to its water security while Ethiopia insists on its sovereign right to harness the river's resources to meet its increasingly rising energy needs. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's

visits to both countries in the summer of 2024 suggest that the mediation process is still ongoing.

That same year, Türkiye offered to mediate in order to end the conflict in the Tigray region [5] of Ethiopia. Between 2020 and 2022, Ethiopia was engulfed in a civil war with militants from its northern Tigray region. In late 2022, a peace agreement [6] was reached between the Ethiopian government and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

It was again in 2021 that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that Ankara is ready to contribute toward a peaceful solution between Ethiopia and Sudan [7] in an effort to resolve their border dispute over the Al-Fashaga region. The Al-Fashaga region is a disputed area between the two neighboring countries. Sudanese officials confirmed that they welcomed Türkiye's mediation offer. Ethiopian authorities also expressed their appreciation for Türkiye's role in the conflict resolution process. Despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, the parties could not agree on a mutually acceptable agreement.

Türkiye mediated three rounds of negotiations between Ethiopia and Somalia. Somali and Ethiopian Foreign Ministers met in early July 2024 in Türkiye and signed the Joint Ankara Statement [8]. While the second round ended on Aug. 12 with no deal, the parties met on Dec. 11, 2024, for the third and final round. President Erdogan hosted the presidents of Somalia and Ethiopia and this last round of

negotiations resulted in the Ankara Declaration [9]. Ethiopia secured access to and from the sea, while respecting the territorial integrity of Somalia. The parties met once again in February 2024 to discuss the technicalities [10] of the Ankara Declaration.

Mediation has become a core tenet of Türkiye's foreign policy in recent years. But why is that the case? The mediation initiatives in different contexts solidify Türkiye's role as a key actor in regional and global affairs. Following the launch of the MPI, Türkiye and Finland established the Group of Friends of Mediation within the UN framework. Turkish and Finnish-led MPI attracted huge international attention, as reflected in the growing number of member states. This highlights the recognition [11] of the critical role mediation plays in conflict prevention.

Expanding its footprint in Africa through a combination of soft and hard power instruments, Türkiye aims to play a constructive role in mediating Africa's conflicts. This way, Türkiye does not only position itself as a crucial mediator in regional disputes, but it also strengthens its influence and strategic partnership across the continent. In doing so, Türkiye leverages its growing diplomatic ties with African countries along with its increasing capabilities as well as experience in conflict resolution across different crisis zones.

Conflicts vary in complexity, with some presenting more intricate challenges than others. In

many cases, it is more challenging for the conflicting parties to start negotiations and agree on the terms needed to resolve their disputes. This is especially true when conflicts are fueled by deep-seated historical mistrust between the belligerents.

Third-party mediators – whether international/regional organizations or individual states – can provide an unbiased platform for negotiations. Acting as neutral facilitators with knowledge and expertise in negotiation skills, they can foster dialogue, provide a secure space for discussions and even exert pressure on the parties to address their differences. In some cases, the involvement of third parties can help provide legitimacy to those efforts. They can ensure that all parties, including the weakest ones, are included and have an equal say in negotiations.

Having mediated in various African contexts, Türkiye's mediation offers were often welcomed by the conflicting parties, or Türkiye mediated talks upon the request of regional actors. For example, it is reported [12] that Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Special Representative Mulatu Teshome Wirtu, and Foreign Minister Taye Atske Selassie presented a formal letter from Abiy requesting Türkiye's mediation to President Erdogan, during their meeting in May 2024, in Ankara. Türkiye's recent mediation efforts suggest that its role as a reliable mediator in Africa will continue to grow, while its policy of non-intervention in African conflicts reinforces its neutrality.



Pakistan's textile boom: apparel exports surge 19%

ISLAMABAD (APP): As a part of his regular engagement to fortnightly review the sectoral performances and undertake pragmatic interventions to boost national exports, Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan held an internal meeting at Ministry of Commerce with Shakeel Ahmed Mangnejo, Special Secretary, Commerce and Mudassar Raza Siddiqi, Director General (Textile). Siddiqi apprised the Minister that Pakistan's textiles and apparel industry, a cornerstone of the nation's economy, has showcased remarkable resilience in the face of global economic headwinds and domestic challenges, and regained its

lost momentum with a growth rate of 9.3 percent in first eight months of current financial year 2024-25 as compared to the corresponding period of last financial year.

He further underscored that the exports of apparel witnessed double digit growth of around 19 percent and achieved historical high level of US\$ 6.2 billion in the same period.

The Federal Minister acknowledged that export performance reflects the commitment of Government of Pakistan to focusing more on exports of value-added finished products while maximizing utilization of input materials available in the country.

DG (Textile) shared that Pakistan, once ranked as third largest producer of cotton, has been dropped down to sixth position globally.

Comparing the case of Pakistan with Brazil, he highlighted that both countries have almost the same crop acreages, however yield per hectare of Brazil is three times higher than that of Pakistan due to adoption of high technology seed varieties, precision agriculture, mechanized harvesting, rainfed irrigation and use of renewable energy.

The Federal Minister for Commerce emphasized that latest disease resistant and climate resilient seed varieties, prohibition of uncertified seeds and chemicals in the local market along with adoption of good agricultural practices will certainly help to reviving local cotton production and profitability of farmers.

SF Cargo commences its flight operations at Islamabad Airport

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The cargo operations, designated as Flight 03-233/234, are being conducted using a Boeing 757-200 aircraft on the Urumqi-Islamabad-Urumqi (URC-ISB-URC) route. Each flight carries approximately 22,775 kg of cargo, contributing significantly to Pakistan's air freight sector.

Currently, SF Cargo operates twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays, with an estimated arrival time of 11:30 AM at IIAP.

The carrier has plans to expand its operations to four weekly flights (Tuesday through Friday) in the near future.

This development is



expected to generate substantial revenue growth through cargo throughput

charges. Additionally, it may open new export channels to the Chinese markets.

23 مارچ یوم قرارداد پاکستان

کے موقع پر سب کو دل کی گھرائیوں سے مبارک باد

یوم پاکستان کے دن کم آمدنی والے پاکستانی شہریوں کے لیے شاندار تحفہ MAECHS اور PREMHS کے مابین اشتراکی معاہدہ کے تحت اب آپ حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔ تمام ملٹری اکاؤنٹس، آرڈ فورسز، پولیس فورسز، ریلوے ملازمین، نیز دیگر وفاقی اور صوبائی ملازمین بھی اس آفر سے مستفید ہو سکتے ہیں۔ نہایت ہی آسان اقساط پر انتہائی جدید ہاؤسنگ پراجیکٹس میں پلاس۔ پہلے آئیے پہلے پائیے۔

رابطہ: فیوچر ورکس مارکیٹنگ پرائیویٹ لمیٹڈ

03428423521 , 03304676000 , 03107496000

اہل وطن کو یوم پاکستان مبارک

آئیں مل کر عہد کریں کہ پیارے وطن پاکستان کی ترقی، خوشحالی اور معیشت کے استحکام کیلئے اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے۔

منجانب: صدر فضل مقیم خان دارا کین سرحد چیف آف کاسرس اینڈ انڈسٹریل پشاور

23rd MARCH PAKISTAN RESOLUTION DAY

قرار داد پاکستان تمام اہل وطن کو مبارک

آج کے دن ہم یہ عہد کرتے ہیں کہ ویلج کونسل زٹو بانڈہ کو صاف شفاف رکھ کر ضلع نوشہرہ کو ایک خوبصورت اور ماڈل ضلع بنائے گے

منجانب: چاویڈ خان چیرمین ویلج کونسل زٹو بانڈہ

23 MARCH PAKISTAN DAY

یوم پاکستان

قاضی حسین بیکل کپٹین ایف آئی نوشہرہ

کوہ پور ہسپتال بنانے کے لئے کوشاں ہیں جس میں یوں کو دن رات بہترین طبی سہولیات فراہمی قاضی حسین احمد بیکل کپٹین ایف آئی نوشہرہ کے انتظامیہ کا حصہ ہیں اور جی ڈاٹر کپٹین قاضی حسین احمد بیکل کپٹین ایف آئی نوشہرہ کے انتظامیہ سے بھرپور تعاون کریں

منجانب: محمد اشفاق خان چیرمین یوں بورڈ آف گورنرز و جملہ ممبران ڈاکٹر کامران نسیم خان ہسپتال ڈاکٹر کپٹین قاضی حسین احمد بیکل کپٹین ایف آئی نوشہرہ میڈیکل ڈاکٹر کپٹین ڈاکٹر سردار شکیل افسر قاضی حسین احمد بیکل کپٹین ایف آئی نوشہرہ

PAKISTAN RESOLUTION DAY

یوم پاکستان

الہیان یونیورسٹی یوم قرارداد پاکستان کی خوشیاں مبارک

منجانب: ڈاکٹر شکیل بیکل

23rd MARCH PAKISTAN RESOLUTION DAY

یوم پاکستان

الہیان یونیورسٹی یوم قرارداد پاکستان کی خوشیاں مبارک

منجانب: ڈاکٹر شکیل بیکل

23 MARCH PAKISTAN DAY

یوم پاکستان

الہیان یونیورسٹی یوم قرارداد پاکستان کی خوشیاں مبارک

منجانب: ڈاکٹر شکیل بیکل

23 MARCH PAKISTAN DAY

یوم پاکستان

الہیان یونیورسٹی یوم قرارداد پاکستان کی خوشیاں مبارک

منجانب: ڈاکٹر شکیل بیکل

23 MARCH PAKISTAN Resolution Day

یوم پاکستان

الہیان یونیورسٹی یوم قرارداد پاکستان کی خوشیاں مبارک

منجانب: ڈاکٹر شکیل بیکل

23 MARCH PAKISTAN Resolution Day

یوم پاکستان

الہیان یونیورسٹی یوم قرارداد پاکستان کی خوشیاں مبارک

منجانب: ڈاکٹر شکیل بیکل

23 MARCH PAKISTAN DAY

یوم پاکستان

الہیان یونیورسٹی یوم قرارداد پاکستان کی خوشیاں مبارک

منجانب: ڈاکٹر شکیل بیکل

PAKISTAN DAY 23rd MARCH

یوم پاکستان

الہیان یونیورسٹی یوم قرارداد پاکستان کی خوشیاں مبارک

منجانب: ڈاکٹر شکیل بیکل



In brief

PCB to launch Talent Hunt Programme

L A H O R E (Monitoring Desk): Advisor to Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Amir Mir has said that the PCB is going to start 'Talent Hunt Programme' at school and college level. Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Saturday, Amir Mir and CEO PCB Sameer Ahmad said that the Talent Hunt Programme is being launched on the directions of PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi. Amir Mir said the main objective of Talent Hunt Programme is to promote sports especially cricket. Talent Hunt Programme will bring forward children who play good cricket, he said.

Aamir Mir. He said registration of children will start from next month and PCB will provide all facilities to selected boys and girls. PCB experts will provide the best training to the children, Aamir Mir said. Talking on the occasion, CEO PCB Sameer Ahmad said the Pakistan Cricket Board will bear all the expenses of the events. The event will produce good Under-19 players, PCB Chief Operating Officer said. He said PCB will provide all facilities including coaching to the best players. Head Woman's Cricket PCB Rafia Haider said that girls will also be registered under the same portal. There are few events for girls, so they are being given an opportunity, Rafia Haider said. Replying a question, Sameer Ahmad said no official of PCB was invited to the Champions Trophy final ceremony. A reply was sought from the ICC for not inviting the host country to the final ceremony, Sameer Ahmad said. The ICC's response is not satisfactory and we will contact them further, Sameer Ahmad said.

Atkinson eager to remain fresh for India series

LONDON (AFP): Gus Atkinson wants to play as much as he can for England in 2025 but the fast bowler is well aware of the need to stay fit for marquee Test series against India and Australia. The 27-year-old Surrey quick only made his Test debut in July but has since taken 52 wickets at an impressively low average of 22.15 in 11 matches, while also scoring 118 against Sri Lanka at Lord's. But he has now featured in 11 one-day internationals as well, most recently during Brendon McCullum's debut series as white-ball head coach in India in January and February this year. And while aware of his growing status as an all-format international, Atkinson's attention is fixed on an upcoming five-Test series at home to India and a 2025/26 tour of Australia where England will look to regain the Ashes. "I've always been trying to chase playing back-to-back games and multiple games in a row for Surrey, so to be able to do it for England is nice and a positive," said Atkinson. "It has been a tiring eight to nine months, (I've) bowled a lot more than I usually have but I'm happy with how I've dealt with it all. "I've had a few conversations, I'll play a small amount of games for Surrey and then obviously there is a lot of cricket this summer for England... You look at it and can't pre-empt what you're going to play and not going to play," He added: "I think there might be a bit of rotation with the bowlers but that's not to say we won't be involved in all the squads."

Shehzad terms Hasan's ton 'tight slap' from young talent

LAHORE (INP): Pakistani cricketer Ahmed Shehzad has heaped praise on young batter Hasan Nawaz for his record-breaking century in the third PAK vs NZ T20I.

The young opening batter announced his arrival on the global stage by hitting Pakistan's fastest T20I ton in just the third game of his international career.

After scoring two consecutive ducks in the first two PAK vs NZ games, Hasan Nawaz made an exceptional comeback in the series by hitting an unbeaten century to guide Pakistan to victory in the third game of the five-match series between Pakistan and New Zealand.

The young batter received acclaim from all

across the cricketing world for his dominating outing in the game. Ahmed Shehzad was among the cricketers who showered praise on the right-handed batter for his maiden century.

In a post on X, Shehzad welcomed Hasan Nawaz to the club of Pakistan batters to have scored a ton in the T20Is. Read more: Hasan Nawaz's heroics help Pakistan thrash New Zealand in 3rd T20I

In an apparent dig at former cricketers who lamented the lack of talent in Pakistan, Ahmed Shehzad wrote, "Haan bhai hai talent Pakistan main Ahmed Shehzad, Hasan Nawaz, century, PAK vs NZ "Kahan hain wo saare jo

kehte hain k Pakistan main talent ni seniors ko replace karne ka? (Where are those who say that there is no talent in Pakistan to replace seniors?)" the Pakistan cricketer added.

Shehzad termed Hasan Nawaz's ton a 'tight slap' from young talent in Pakistan. "A tight slap from youngsters," Ahmed Shehzad wrote.

It is worth noting here that Pakistan thrashed New Zealand by nine wickets after Hassan Nawaz scored a blistering ton in the third PAK vs NZ T20I at Eden Park Auckland. The national side have kept themselves alive in the series with a win in the third game, having faced defeats in the first two games.

ITF Masters World Championship: Aisam, Girard clinch gold medal in mixed doubles

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan tennis star Aisamul Haq Qureshi had also clinched the gold medal in the mixed doubles of the ITF Masters World Championship.

According to details, Qureshi and French tennis star Magalie Girard had clinched the gold medal. Qureshi and the French tennis player had defeated the German pair with a final score of 6-3, 7-5.

Qureshi had also won the gold medal along with Aqeel Khan. Earlier, Pakistan's tennis stars, Aisamul Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan



clinched the gold medal at the ITF Masters World Championship event.

The pair, representing Pakistan, triumphed in the final against their Turkish

opponents, Andreas Lindgren and Kiiski. The match ended in a resounding victory for the Pakistani duo, with a final score of 7-6, 6-0.

Matt Henry out of last two Pakistan T20Is

AUCKLAND (INP): Matt Henry, who had been included in New Zealand's squads for the fourth and fifth T20Is against Pakistan despite an injured shoulder, has been officially ruled out, and will continue "his injury rehabilitation programme," New Zealand Cricket said on Saturday.

Zakary Foulkes, who had been selected only for the first three games of the series, has been retained for the last two games as Henry's replacement. Foulkes was persisted with after returns of 1 for 11 (three overs) in the first game and none for 32 (three overs) in the second game, both of which New Zealand won.

In another tweak to the

squad, Kyle Jamieson, who was Player of the Match in the first T20I for his returns of 3 for 8 but was expensive (none for 54) in the third game, which Pakistan won, has been left out for the last two games. Will O'Rourke, who had originally been picked only for the first three games, has been added to the squad in Jamieson's place.

Henry had injured his right shoulder while diving in the outfield during the Champions Trophy semi-final win over South Africa earlier this month, which put him out of the final against India, and has also been managing an ongoing left-knee issue.

Of the New Zealand quicks, Jacob Duffy has

played all three matches of the series, and leads the wicket-takers' list with seven strikes, while James Neesham and Ben Sears have played two games each. Ish Sodhi and captain Michael Bracewell, the two spinners, have also played all three games.

New Zealand lead the series 2-1, with the fourth and fifth games to be played on Sunday (in Mount Maunganui) and on Wednesday (in Wellington). Michael Bracewell (capt), Finn Allen, Mitchell Hay (wk), Tim Robinson, Tim Seifert (wk), Mark Chapman, Zakary Foulkes, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Jacob Duffy, Will O'Rourke, Ben Sears, Ish Sodhi.

Germany riding 'surge' ahead of Italy showdown in Nations League

DORTMUND (AFP): Germany want to continue riding the "surge in spirit" unleashed at Euro 2024 when they take on Italy in their Nations League quarter-final second leg clash in Dortmund, goalkeeper Oliver Baumann said Saturday.

Germany are in the box seat to reach the Nations League semi-finals for the first time after a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Italy in the first leg in Milan on Thursday.

Sitting alongside coach Julian Nagelsmann in the pre-match press conference, Baumann told reporters the team would harness the recent uptick in off-field momentum for Sunday's second leg.

"I hope that (the fans in) this stadium help us, support us, and make it extremely difficult for the Italians. "In the past few months, the national team has seen a real surge in spirit -- and I think it will be the same tomorrow."

With back-to-back group stage eliminations at the World Cup and a last 16 exit at the previous Euros, Germany's run to the quarter-finals -- where they lost to eventual champions Spain in extra time -- reinvigorated local support. Hoffenheim keeper Baumann said Dortmund's 8 2 , 0 0 0 - s t r o n g



Westfalenstadion, Germany's biggest, would lift the side further.

"Coming here with the away team, I know the stadium. It can develop a powerful force. It can be very loud and it can carry a team. "It can be extremely unpleasant for an opposing team." While the Dortmund fortress was an asset to the home side, it was also the site of Italy's 2006 World Cup semi-final victory over Germany, with the visitors scoring twice in extra time on the way to lifting the trophy.

Watching the match as a teenager, Nagelsmann said he is "always not that happy when the German team doesn't win", but added: "For me it's more important to talk about the present than the past. "It's important for us to make our own history, to leave our own

footprints in the sand of world football."

Nagelsmann was pleased with the performance in the first leg but said his side would not debate "whether to play it safe or extend our lead". "We'll be starting at 0-0 in Dortmund. That way we don't need to do any maths," said the 37-year-old coach.

Baumann pulled off a number of impressive late saves in Milan but Nagelsmann said injured Barcelona goalie Marc-Andre ter Stegen remained the number one choice between the sticks.

"When he's 100 percent fit and ready to perform, he's our number one. He deserves to play in a big tournament. We'll give him time," Nagelsmann said striker Jonathan Burkardt, who started in Milan, was in doubt for the match with illness.

Matches continue in HBK Ramadan Sports Gala: Sports activities hold great importance for journalists: Zulfiqar Hameed



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The HBK Ramadan Sports Gala at Peshawar Press Club organized with the support of HBK continues with great enthusiasm. Last night Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zulfiqar Hameed attended as the chief guest.

He was accompanied by SSP Operations Masood Ahmed Bangash and SP

Cannt Aitezaz Arif. Also present at the event were Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Union of Journalists (KPUJ) President Syed Kashifuddin, Peshawar Press Club President M. Riaz, Secretary Tayyab Usman, former President Shamim Shahid, Sports Committee Chairman Irfan Musa Zai and a large number of senior journalists.

While addressing the gathering IGP Zulfiqar

Hameed emphasized that like the police, journalism is also a demanding profession. He highlighted the significance of such events for journalists, stating that sports activities should be held regularly to provide them with opportunities for recreation and fitness.

According to the results of last night's competitions, in Table Tennis event Bilal Afridi and Zeeshan Arbab emerged victorious

while in Badminton The teams of Zafar Iqbal & Abid Khan, Yasir & Irfan Khan, Irfan Musa Zai & Ali Sheikh, Bilal Afridi & Shah Faisal, and Faizan & Sheikh Ashfaq won their respective matches.

In Carrom Board games Zahid Awan, Shehzada Fahad, Ahtesham Basheer and Saif-ul-Islam Saifi secured wins. Ludo The winners included Israr, Bilal Ahmed, Mudassar Zaib, Wajid Shehzad, Ibad Khan, Faizan Hussain, Zafar Iqbal, Shehryar Anjum, Sameer Razzaq, Nader Khawaja, Umair Muhammad Zai, Hassan Khurshid, Aamir Ali Shah and Muneeb Gul. In Snooker event Victories were claimed by Kamran Ali, Zershah, Musharraf Ali and Hassanain Ali.

The Ramadan Sports Gala continues to provide a platform for journalists to engage in healthy sports activities and promote a culture of fitness and recreation.

Peshawar beat Quetta, qualifies for quarter-final

MULTAN (APP): The Peshawar Region team secured a dominant victory over Quetta Region, winning the match by 126 runs in the National T20 Cup tournament at Multan Cricket Stadium and booking their place in the quarter-finals.

Batting first, Peshawar posted a staggering total of 239 for the loss of just one wicket in 20 overs. Sahibzada Farhan played a record-breaking unbeaten knock of 162 runs off 72 balls, smashing 14 fours and 11 sixes. His innings became the highest individual score by a Pakistani batter in T20 cricket, surpassing Kamran Akmal's 150* in 2017. He also equaled the record for the highest individual T20 score by an Asian batter, previously set by Afghanistan's Hazratullah Zazai in 2019.

Muaz Sadagat added valuable support with 54 runs, helping Peshawar set an imposing target. Chasing the target, Quetta struggled from the beginning and was bowled out for just 113 runs. Abdul Wahid was the only batter to offer resistance, scoring 46 runs. Peshawar's Usman Tariq led the bowling attack with four wickets for just 17 runs, while Nazar Ali took three wickets, Mohammad Imran Jr. claimed two and Mohammad Amir Khan took one.

Van der Poel pounces past Pogacar to secure Milan-San Remo double

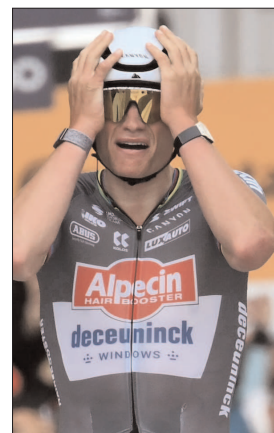
SAN REMO (AFP): Mathieu van der Poel won Milan-San Remo on Saturday to claim the cycling season's opening "Monument" race for the second time, denying Tadej Pogacar in a gripping finale on the Italian Riviera.

Dutchman Van der Poel edged a three-man battle with Slovene superstar Pogacar and local hope Filippo Ganna that came down to the final few hundred metres after 289 kilometres of racing.

Van der Poel snapped a 17-year run of different winners by adding to his success in the seaside town of San Remo two years ago, when he also saw off Pogacar and Ganna -- as well as Wout Van Aert -- on the Via Roma. The 30-year-old stayed with Pogacar as the world champion repeatedly tried to go it alone. Van der Poel then launched a long sprint before crossing the line triumphant.

"It's hard to believe, I was really focused on trying to get the win. We knew Tadej was going to be really strong but I felt really good actually at the end," said Van der Poel.

"I knew the other two wanted to make it a long sprint because they probably thought I was going to make it as short as possible,



so I think I surprised them a bit when on the 300 metre sign I launched my sprint."

"I felt strong enough to keep it until the finish line and it was the right tactic."

Van der Poel denied Pogacar's bid to become the first man to win Milan-San Remo as world champion since Giuseppe Saronni in 1983. Pogacar has been repeatedly frustrated at the "Classicissima", one of two Monuments along with Paris-Roubaix he is yet to win in his otherwise success-packed career. Ganna, who finished second, again came close to becoming the first Italian winner since Vincenzo Nibali in 2018.

Van der Poel triumphs The peloton began to reel in the traditional early breakaway group, which

featured a clutch of Italians, on the approach to the short Capo Mele climb, which with 51km remaining announces the final stages of a long day of racing.

That leading group began to break up on the Capo Berta, the third and final of the three Capo climbs which proceed the Cipressa and Poggio ascents where the race is often decided. Martin Marcellusi popped out on his own to lead the race but he was eventually swallowed up as he started up the Cipressa.

Pogacar almost immediately put himself in position at the tip of the peloton behind teammate Jhonatan Narvaez, and made his first attack halfway up the climb, closely followed by Van der Poel and Ganna.

That aggressive move left it up to the leading trio to contend the finale, jostling for supremacy as they built a gap of a minute on the peloton. Pogacar attacked again at the start of the final Poggio climb, but Van der Poel stuck on his wheel as Ganna bravely stayed with the pair after looking like being dropped.

Ganna was back in contention in the final kilometre but Van der Poel held the situation under control. Once he made his move the game was up.

Heather Knight steps down as England captain after nine-year reign

LONDON (INP): Heather Knight has stepped down as England Women's captain, a day after Jon Lewis left his role as head coach.

Knight, 34, captained England 199 times over her nine-year tenure, and departs as part of an on-going review of the team's 16-0 Women's Ashes defeat to Australia earlier this year. That had been preceded by a disappointing group-stage exit at the T20 World Cup in October. She will remain available for England selection.

Appointed in June 2016 following the removal of Charlotte Edwards as captain, Knight led England to a famous home World Cup victory in 2017, and two other ICC tournament finals in 2018 and 2022. However, following recent disappointments, the ECB have decided to move in a different direction. Knight's successor will be appointed shortly.

In a statement released on Saturday, Clare Connor, ECB managing director of England Women and deputy chief executive officer, said: "Heather has been an outstanding leader as England Women's Captain. She has led the team by example as a role model off the pitch, and through the runs she has scored on it - often in the toughest conditions."

"Heather has enjoyed many highlights as England captain. I particularly remember the century she scored in the Ashes Test at Canberra in 2022 where her individual brilliance nearly helped the team pull off a famous win. It was an innings of great skill and great heart."



"She led the team brilliantly to win a World Cup on home turf, creating memories we will never forget. That magical day at Lord's acted as a catalyst for so much of the growth we have seen for women's and girls' cricket in the years since."

Jon Lewis and Heather Knight share a lighter moment at England training, Edgbaston, May 9, 2024 Jon Lewis and Heather Knight both paid the price for England's recent shortcomings•PA Images via Getty Images

"Heather is passionate about inspiring young girls to play cricket and to playing her part in making our sport gender-balanced. She is a powerful role model to young professional female players and to recreational players alike. Having started her England career as an amateur, she has always understood the important connection between the England team and the grassroots game."

Knight said: "Captaining my country for the last nine years has been the biggest honour of my life and I will look back on my tenure with an enormous sense of pride. I have loved the challenge of leading the team, but all good things come to an end and it's time for me to go back into the ranks and focus on being the best batter and teammate that I can be for the team."

"Winning the ICC Women's World Cup on home turf at Lord's in 2017

will always be a huge highlight, but being a part of the huge steps forward made in the women's game off the pitch brings me just as much pride."

"Thank you to all the players and staff, who have given it everything along the way - especially Mark, Lisa and Jon, three head coaches that I've loved working with. The people make the job."

"Thank you to the fans that have supported me and the team through the highs and the lows. Finally, to my friends, family and long-suffering partner Tim, you live the journey with me and I wouldn't be here without your support."

"I have loved being England Captain, it's been the most rewarding period of my career, but for now I'm excited to focus on my batting and supporting the team and the new captain in the best way I can."

Knight made her England debut in 2010 and ten years later became the first England men's or women's player to score an international century in all three formats of the game.

Richard Gould, ECB Chief Executive Officer, said: "I'm immensely thankful for everything Heather has given in her time as Captain. The World Cup win and the thrilling 2023 Women's Ashes will live long in the memory."



In brief

IRSA releases 53,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 53,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 55,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, River Indus stood at dead level of 1402 feet at Tarbela Dam. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 16,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1063.75 feet, which was 13.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 20,000 cusecs and 17,200 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 27,200, 26,400, 17,100 and 6,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Landlord arrested for 'raping' tenant

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Saddar Baroni Police on Sunday arrested a landlord for allegedly raping his tenant married woman. According to the Rawalpindi Police spokesman, the victim woman lodged a complaint with the Saddar Baroni Police Station that his landlord Muhammad Ali had raped her. The police took action on the complaint immediately and arrested the accused. The police also initiated the process for medical examination of the victim woman. Superintendent of Police Saddar Muhammad Nabil Khokhar, while taking notice of the incident, directed the Saddar Baroni Police to prepare a challan against the accused with solid evidence so that he should be given maximum punishment by a court.

PHA plants 105 saplings in Millia Park

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The tree plantation campaign launched by the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi is in full swing. In this regard, a tree plantation event was organized at Millia Park located on 6th Road on Saturday. The event was held under the title "Plant for Pakistan". Member National Assembly (MNA), Ms Tahira Aurangzeb participated in the event as a special guest. Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) and Parliamentary Secretary, Ms Shazia Rizwan, MPAs- Ms Zeib-un-Nisa Awan and Ms Asma Abbasi also participated in the tree plantation campaign. Ms Tahira Aurangzeb and other women planted saplings and then planted trees. To highlight the importance, PHA officers and staff also participated in an awareness walk. Children present in the park also participated in the plantation drive by planting saplings. Later, Ms Tahira Aurangzeb and others went to a free sapling distribution camp in Millia Park and distributed free saplings among the public. On this occasion, Ms Tahira Aurangzeb said planting trees is very important to make the environment healthy. She said we have to understand the importance of planting trees to protect our areas, cities, streets and neighborhoods from pollution and climate change effects. She said women should participate side by side in the PHA plantation drive and contribute to the mission of a green Rawalpindi. On this occasion, 105 saplings were planted in Millia Park and 150 saplings were distributed among the public.

Water conservation national obligation, imperative for development: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, while describing water conservation as the national responsibility of every individual, Saturday said it was essential to effectively tackle environmental challenges and achieve the development goals set under the 5Es framework.

In a message on the World Water Day, he linked water conservation to the country's broader goals of energy sustainability, equity and export-oriented growth. "Energy generation, agricultural exports, and social justice all depend on the wise use of water," he said reinforcing the interconnectedness of water with the nation's long-term economic and social aspirations.

He stressed that water

was not only "the soul of life" but also a cornerstone for building prosperous and developed economies. "Water is the lifeblood of agriculture, industry, energy and daily life. However, Pakistan is grappling with two starkly contrasting realities: increasing flood risks due to climate change, and the rapidly depleting water reserves that threaten the foundations of our development," he remarked.

Highlighting the government's commitment to sustainable development, Ahsan Iqbal outlined the key components of the country's 5Es vision under the "URAAAN PAKISTAN" initiative. "Environment is a vital pillar of this vision," he said adding that the government was taking multifaceted actions to manage water resources more effectively.

These measures include the construction of new dams, the implementation of modern irrigation systems, the promotion of water recycling, and the adoption of smart water management technologies.

In a call to action, the minister urged citizens to adopt responsible water usage practices in their daily lives. "On this World Water Day, I appeal to every Pakistani to avoid wastage and to conserve water at home, in offices, factories, and on farms. Let us all make water conservation a national duty," he added. Ahsan Iqbal expressed hope for a future where Pakistan ensures clean, safe and abundant water for generations to come. "Together, we can create an environmentally responsible, sustainable, and developed Pakistan," he affirmed.

Police ramp up security measures for Youm-e-Ali processions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police have deployed over 1,500 officers and implemented strict security measures across the federal capital to ensure the safety of Youm-e-Ali (RA) processions.

A public relations officer told APP that the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Islamabad, Muhammad Shoaib Khan, visited the designated routes of the processions and reviewed security arrangements. He also issued necessary direc-

tives to the officers on duty.

He said said that zonal SPs and other senior officers accompanied him during the visit. Over 1,500 police officers have been deployed to perform security duties on this occasion, he added.

SSP Shoaib said that traffic officers and personnel have been stationed to regulate vehicular movement and ensure a smooth flow of traffic during the processions. Strict security checks, including body searches and screening through walk-

through gates, are being conducted at entry points, he maintained.

Shoaib said that snipers have been deployed on rooftops to enhance security, while senior police officers are continuously monitoring and briefing security personnel on duty.

Ensuring the safety of citizens remains the top priority of the police, he stated. He further emphasized that all necessary measures have been taken to provide foolproof security for the processions.

CDA Chairman calls for urgent water conservation efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, emphasized the critical importance of water conservation during a high-level meeting held via Zoom to mark World Water Day.

The meeting was attended by CDA Board Members and senior officers, who discussed strategies to address water-related challenges and ensure sustainable water management in the federal capital.

World Water Day, observed annually on March 22, is a United Nations initiative aimed at raising awareness about the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of water resources. This year's theme aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

Chairman Randhawa highlighted water as a divine blessing and urged every individual to play their part

in conserving it. "Saving water saves life, and every drop counts," he said. He reaffirmed CDA's commitment to resolving water-related issues in Islamabad and ensuring uninterrupted access to clean and safe water for all residents.

The Chairman also announced the operationalization of the Islamabad Water Agency, which has been equipped with water experts, modern equipment, and trained manpower. He described the agency as a cornerstone of CDA's vision for sustainable water management, emphasizing its role in addressing the water needs of the city's growing population.

To mark World Water Day, Randhawa called on citizens, government bodies, and civil society to adopt water-saving practices, such as repairing leaks, using water-efficient appliances, and adopting mindful consumption habits. He also stressed the importance of awareness campaigns tar-

geting students, teachers, and the broader community to promote sustainable water usage.

During the meeting, CDA officials discussed various proposals to meet Islamabad's future water demands, including exploring alternative water sources and modernizing the water distribution network.

The authority is also engaging with local and international donors to secure funding for water supply projects. Feasibility studies and stakeholder consultations are underway to ensure the successful implementation of these initiatives.

Chairman Randhawa concluded the meeting with a call for collective action. "The World Water Day serves as a reminder of the critical role water plays in our lives. By working together, we can safeguard this vital resource for future generations and ensure access to safe and clean water for all," he said.

Railways to ply five Special Eid Trains to facilitate passengers

ISLAMABAD (APP): To facilitate smooth and hassle-free travel to the passengers during Eid-ul-Fitr, Pakistan Railways has announced the launch of five special trains on key routes across the country.

This initiative, introduced under the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, was announced by Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi.

The special Eid trains aim to enhance passenger convenience, ensure safe travel, and provide timely transportation, allowing thousands to reach their hometowns and celebrate the festive occasion with their families.

According to the official schedule, the following special trains will operate: On March 26, the first special train will depart from Karachi Cantonment to

Lahore, featuring 16 coaches, and will travel via Hyderabad, Rohri, Multan, and Sahiwal.

The second train will operate from Quetta to Peshawar Cantonment on March 26, with 11 coaches, passing through Multan and Sahiwal.

On March 27: The third train will depart from Lahore to Karachi, consisting of 16 coaches, making stops at Khanewal, Multan, Sahiwal, and Rohri.

The fourth train will run from Karachi City Station to Rawalpindi on March 27, carrying 14 coaches, and traveling via Faisalabad, Sargodha, and Lalamusa.

On March 28: The fifth and final Eid special train will travel from Karachi Cantonment to Lahore, with 16 coaches, making stops at Multan and Faisalabad.

The passengers will have the option to travel in econ-

omy class, AC business, and AC standard class coaches, ensuring a range of choices to suit different budgets and preferences.

The minister said Pakistan Railways Headquarters has notified all relevant divisions, and advance booking is already underway. Hanif Abbasi has instructed railway officials to ensure that all necessary preparations are completed for the smooth operation of these special trains.

To oversee arrangements, he said the Divisional Superintendents (DSs) have been directed to be physically present at stations during departures. The minister also issued a strict warning against negligence or misconduct, emphasizing that disciplinary action will be taken against staff who fail to fulfill their duties.

Beyond the Eid special



ISLAMABAD: A velometers busy in arrange meals and drinks for people to break thier fast during holy month of Ramadan at Faisal Mosque. —INP Photo

Customs foils bid to smuggle 5.6 million Tramadol tablets to Africa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Collectorate of Customs Enforcement has thwarted an attempt to smuggle 5.6 million Tramadol tablets, the estimated market value of which was Rs2.8 billion.

Tramadol, a psychotropic drug regulated under the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), is classified as a controlled substance in numerous countries due to its potential for misuse.

Collector Moinuddin Wani after receiving credible information directed Additional Collector Basit Hussain to use all available resources to foil

any attempt to smuggle the drug.

The contraband was ingeniously concealed within an export consignment falsely declared as "towels". The shipment was destined for Freetown city of African country Sierra Leone.

The goods declaration (GD) for the consignment had been filed with the Exports Collectorate, Karachi, by M/s Ahmad Trading. Initially, the shipment had been cleared through the Risk Management System (RMS) under the Green Channel from the National Logistics Cell (NLC).

A meticulous examination process

followed. Under the supervision of Deputy Collector Rabeel Khokhar, the container underwent scanning and a comprehensive 100% physical inspection.

This thorough investigation, led by Superintendent Habib Meo, uncovered the concealed Tramadol tablets, amounting to a staggering 5.6 million units. Alongside the tablets, biscuits were also found in the container, but no declared goods were present.

Customs authorities have launched further investigation to identify and apprehend those responsible for this smuggling attempt.

Meteorologists warn of rising temperatures on Eid ul Fitr

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the nation prepares to celebrate Eid ul Fitr, meteorologists Saturday issued a weather advisory warning of a significant rise in temperatures, predicting scorching heat and sunny conditions across the country, including major cities like Karachi.

Renowned Meteorologist Anjum Nazir Zaigham shared his expert insights on the country's weather forecast in an exclusive conversation with a private news channel. Highlighting the typical weather patterns experienced during this time of the year, Zaigham noted that as the month of March moves ahead, the mercury is expected to rise further in the coming days, a trend consistent with previous years.

This upward trajectory in temperatures will likely bring scorching heat and sunny conditions, making the weather increasingly warmer and more uncomfortable. Zaigham's forecast serves as a timely reminder for citizens to take necessary precautions and stay prepared for the impending heatwave.

Responding to a query, Meteorologist Anjum Nazir Zaigham revealed that the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecasted a significant surge in temperatures. According to the PMD's predictions, the mercury is expected to soar to a scorching high of 37°C to 38°C, signaling the onset of an intense heatwave in the region.

ITP issue traffic management plan ahead of Pakistan Day parade

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have issued a traffic management plan related to the Pakistan Day parade in the capital on March 23

Heavy traffic will be barred from entering Islamabad from March 22 at noon until March 23 at 3:00 pm to ensure smooth traffic flow and public convenience.

An ITP official said on March 23, from 6:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Srinagar Highway will be closed in both directions from Seventh Avenue to Kudiyanwala Chowk.

He said that traffic heading towards Bhara Kahu should use Seventh Avenue, Pak-China Road,

Rawal Dam Chowk, Kashmir Chowk, and Club Road.

He said that due to the route plan, traffic on Srinagar Highway and Expressway is expected to face disruptions.

He said that heavy traffic traveling from Peshawar to Lahore should use the Taxila Motorway or Tarnol Phatak via Fateh Jang Motorway.

He said that heavy traffic from Lahore via GT Road heading towards Islamabad and Rawalpindi should take Chak Beli Road and access Chakri Motorway.

He said that citizens traveling from Peshawar via GT Road towards Rawat should use the

Taxila Motorway, Chakri, Chak Beli Road, and Rawat route.

He said that travelers from Lahore via GT Road heading towards Peshawar should use Rawat, Chak Beli Road, Chakri, and Taxila Motorway. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain Zeeshan stated that Islamabad Traffic Police personnel will be deployed at various points to guide citizens. He urged commuters to contact the ITP helpline at 1915 for any assistance during travel and to tune in to FM 92.4 for real-time traffic updates. He added that ITP's social media platforms will keep citizens informed about traffic routes in real time.

CDA intensifies action against illegal constructions

ISLAMABAD (PPI): On the directions of Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), who is also the Chief Commissioner Islamabad,

Muhammad Ali Randhawa, the ongoing drive against the illegal constructions and encroachments has been intensified.

The Building Control Section (BCS) of CDA on Saturday continued its strict enforcement drive in the city, taking across the board actions against unauthorized and illegal structures and encroachments that hinder public convenience and urban planning standards as well as causing millions of rupees loss to the national exchequer for not paying

various taxes including charges of CDA regarding approval of building maps and structural designs as per law.

During the ongoing drive against illegal encroachments, the BCS conducted clean-up operation in F-10 Markaz, against 29 illegal workshops that had encroached upon public land on a large scale.

These unauthorized establishments had created multiple obstructions on the main link road, causing significant public nuisance, traffic congestion, and disruption to designated parking spaces. The operation was aimed at restoring the area's planned functionality and ensuring smooth traffic

flow. The CDA's Building Control Section also launched enforcement actions against illegal rooftop constructions in F-7 Markaz. Unauthorized structures on Plot No. 1-D and Plot No. 13-Y were dismantled, and further construction activities were halted to prevent additional violations.

These operations are being carried out to uphold the city's master plan, protect public spaces, and maintain an organized urban environment.

The CDA has urged all businesses and property owners to comply with building regulations to avoid legal action and contribute to the city's sustainable development.



ISLAMABAD: A view of Banners displayed on green belt in connection with Pakistan Day at Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

2024 deadliest year: IOM

KABUL (Pajhwok): Nearly 9,000 migrants died on long migration routes across the world last year, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) says. In a new report, the IOM said 8,938 migrants lost their lives on migration routes in 2024 — the deadliest year for migrants. The data collected by the organisation shows that 8,747 migrants had died in 2023 worldwide. The report says people resorted to migration due to increased violence in some parts of the globe.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Ramazan 22, 1446 — Sunday, March 23, 2025

Eighteen injured in Helmand

HELMAND (Ariana News): Eighteen people were injured following a dispute between two brothers in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, local officials said. The incident occurred in the Old Bazaar area of Gereskh district and the people were injured when the son of one of the two brothers threw a hand grenade, the provincial department of information and culture said. Two of the injured people are said to be in critical condition.

Afghan girls' education ban dire consequences

KABUL (TOLONews): The UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell has stated that the ban on education for girls above sixth grade in Afghanistan, she warned that if this ban persists until 2030, over four million girls will have been deprived of their right to education beyond primary school.

In a statement marking the start of the 1404 (solar year) academic year in Afghanistan, she warned that if this ban persists until 2030, over four million girls will have been deprived of their right to education beyond primary school.

"The ban negatively impacts the health system, the economy, and the future of the nation. With fewer girls receiving an educa-

tion, girls face a higher risk of child marriage with negative repercussions on their well-being and health," stated Russell.

She added that this ban, in addition to other negative consequences, will also reduce the number of female health workers, and as a result, it is anticipated that around 1,600 mothers will lose their lives.

Russell pointed that, "With fewer female doctors and midwives, girls and women will not receive the medical treatment and support they need. We are estimating an additional 1,600 maternal deaths and over 3,500 infant deaths. These are not just numbers, they

represent lives lost and families shattered."

Despite the ban, UNICEF has announced that it has provided access to education for 445,000 children through community-based learning, 64 per cent of whom are girls.

The organization has called on the Islamic Emirate to reopen the doors of education for girls above the sixth grade.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education of the Islamic Emirate announced the start of the new academic year in the colder regions of the country last Thursday, but the fate of education for girls above the sixth grade remains uncertain.

Consular services in Oslo resumed

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) says, it will relaunch consular services in Oslo, the capital of Norway by today (Sunday).

In September 2024, the embassy of Afghanistan in Norway had announced its closure at the request of the host country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MoFA on Saturday said in a statement it would restart consular services to the Afghans residing on Norway by today (Sunday).

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) considered the development as a positive step, the statement added.

Meanwhile, a credible source in MoFA confided Pajhwok Afghan News Najeebullah Sher Khan had been appointed as first secretary to the embassy in Norway.

Motorcyclist killed, another hurt

MAIMAINA (Pajhwok): A 22-year-old man has been killed and another wounded as a result of a traffic accident in the Andkhoi district of Faryab province, an official said on Saturday.

The police spokesman Maulvi Abdullah Muradi said the accident took place when two motorcycles collided on the Andkhoi-Aqina highway.

Maulvi Abdullah Muradi said one motorcyclist lost his life, while the other was wounded in the collision.

Last week, a traffic accident on the Andkhoi-Shiberghan highway had claimed the life of one individual, wounding a 14-year-old child.

Afghanistan to boost trade ties with Uzbekistan

BALKH (BNA): In a meeting held recently, Mullah Mohammad Yousuf Wafa, the governor of Balkh, underscored the urgent need for improved trade facilitation with Uzbekistan. The meeting included the special envoy of the President of Uzbekistan for Afghan affairs, Ismatullah Irgashev, and officials from Surkhandarya, Uzbekistan.

Emphasizing the importance of neighborly relations between Balkh and Surkhandarya, Governor Wafa noted that as border provinces, both regions must work towards strengthening their ties. He highlighted the necessity of enhancing economic relations, addressing trade-related challenges, and providing essential facilities for traders.

Wafa expressed optimism regarding Afghanistan's security situation following the victory of the Islamic Emirate, stating



that this stability has created favorable conditions for cooperation across various sectors.

In addition to trade discussions, the Balkh governor called for the expedited construction and expansion of the Grand Imam Bukhari School, further indicating the focus on educational

development.

Special envoy Irgashev reiterated Uzbekistan's commitment to fostering stronger ties, emphasizing the vital role of economic investments and infrastructure improvements in the region.

The governor of Surkhandarya also expressed

support for continued cooperation, assuring that Uzbekistan will play a constructive role in Afghanistan's development.

Both officials shared proposals aimed at overcoming obstacles and facilitating trade, marking a step forward in the collaboration between the two provinces.

Anjuman Pass reopens for traffic



FAIZABAD (Pajhwok): A key pass in the Kiran Wa Manjan district of north-eastern Badakhshan province has reopened for traffic, officials said on Saturday.

Maulvi Nagibullah Furqani, head of the engineering department of the Panjsher Brigade, said the Anjuman Pass reduced the distance between Badakhshan and Kabul by 250 kilometres.

The pass was usually remains closed by heavy snowfall, avalanches and narrowness of the road in winter, but engineering department personnel reopened it only in three days.

In a week, engineering department workers cleared

the route from Anjuman Pass to the Abe Guman area of Panjsher's Parian district, the official added.

The route is mostly used by heavy trucks carrying food, fuel and other items such as construction explosives from Kabul to Kiran Wa Manjan district.

Meanwhile, residents expressed their pleasure over the pass reopening. They said they faced difficulties in the past due the blockade of the pass and the hike in food prices.

Sayed Abdullah, a resident of Kiran Wa Manjan, said, the pass usually remained closed for almost six months every year in winter, but the personnel of the engineering

department managed to reopen it only in three days.

He suggested Islamic Emirate officials keep some of machinery in the area for to prevent possible closures in the future.

Residents acknowledged the reopening of the route has helped a lot in lowering travel fares and transporting patients to Kabul and Faizabad.

Police rescue abducted 8-year-old child

NANGARHAR (BNA): Police forces in Nangarhar province rescued an 8-year-old child who had been abducted by unknown individuals three days prior.

The Ministry of Interior Affairs reported that the rescue operation was executed with precision, leading to the safe return of the child to his family.

Authorities have confirmed the arrest of one suspect connected to the abduction, who has been handed over to judicial authorities for further investigation.

This incident highlights the ongoing efforts of local law enforcement to combat crime and ensure the safety of children in the region.

The successful outcome of this operation has been met with relief and gratitude from the community.

KABUL (BNA): The Ministry of Finance has announced its commitment to disbursing the outstanding salaries and essential expenses for government employees from last year.

This initiative aims to address the financial needs of the Islamic Emirate staff across the country.

In a recent press release, the Ministry confirmed that employees from the payment branches in both the central and provincial offices were actively engaged in their duties on Friday, underscoring the

urgency of the situation.

The Ministry has urged all departments within the Islamic Emirate to submit their requests for essential expenses and salaries to the relevant payment branches, specifically the Payment Directorate located in Kabul and provincial offices.

The Ministry of Finance reassured employees that all necessary measures are being taken to facilitate timely payments, reflecting the government's commitment to supporting its workforce during challeng-

ing times.

Security Forces Seize Smuggled Weapons in Paktika Province

Security forces in Paktika province have successfully intercepted a shipment of weapons and ammunition that were being smuggled into Afghanistan. The operation took place in the Pinkay area of Torwa district, where authorities discovered a cache of arms being transported across an imaginary line.

The seized items include a substantial arsenal: 16

Kalashnikov rifles, 5 M4 rifles, 16 handguns, 4,500 rounds of pistol ammunition, 48 silenced pistol muzzles, 6,000 electric firecrackers, and two motorcycles.

While the arms smugglers managed to escape across the border, security forces have vowed to continue their investigations to dismantle the broader smuggling network.

Authorities are urging the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities that could relate to arms smuggling.

Kabul residents complain of potable water shortages

KABUL (Pajhwok): On World Water Day, many residents of Kabul have raised concerns about their declining access to clean drinking water.

They urged the caretaker government to establish a well-structured urban water supply system and deal effectively with the issue of falling underground water levels.

However, the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) says it has developed both short- and long-term plans to control and strengthen Kabul's groundwater resources while expanding the city's supply network.

Limited access to clean water

Syed Ahmad, an inhabitant of the Kart-i-Sakhi area of Kabul, told Pajhwok Afghan News their neighborhood lacked a water supply system. As a result, residents rely on expensive water tankers to meet daily needs.

Living on the mountainside, he highlighted the difficulty of transporting water to his home, urging the government to implement a proper supply system or establish reservoirs in his area.

Abdul Maroof, who hails from Taimani Project, shared a similar struggle: "We don't have government-supplied water. Sometimes, we get water from mosques, sometimes from neighbours. If someone takes pity, they give us water; otherwise, we get nothing."

Khudadad, a 61-year-old resident of the Nawabad Deh Kipak area of the capital, said he walked long distances two to three times a day to fetch drinking water.

He also called on the government to develop a structured water distribution plan to ensure access to safe drinking water for all.

Call to conserve groundwater

Experts stress water is the source of life and that both citizens and the government must take serious measures to conserve it.

Najib Aqa Faheem, a water expert, said Kabul residents lacked access to a potable water source, leading them to dig deep and semi-deep wells, which lowered groundwater levels, degrade quality and

might eventually cause water sources to dry up.

He urged the government to regulate companies extracting groundwater for business, requiring them to transport water from outside Kabul via tankers, halt 24-hour solar pumps that continuously depleted groundwater and establish more dams around Kabul to replenish groundwater levels.

Environmental expert Syed Mohammad Salman-khel also called on the interim government to construct water dams around Kabul, raise public awareness about water conservation, expand the urban supply system and manage groundwater resources efficiently.

Government's plans for groundwater management

MoEW says it has designed policies to balance water consumption and groundwater recharge in Kabul.

Matuallah Abid, spokesman for the ministry, told Pajhwok a new directive had been issued, involving recycling systems in factories, hospitals, highrise buildings and car-wash stations.



He said the directive also included the digging of thousands of absorption wells to replenish groundwater and redirect a large portion of the Paghman River's water into the Qargha Dam instead of letting it flow out of the city.

He also announced long-term plans, such as transferring water from the Panjsher River and Shah wa Arus Dam to Kabul. Technical studies for the schemes have been com-

pleted and practical work will begin once funding is available.

On World Water Day, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says 83 percent of people face severe water shortages in Afghanistan.

March 22 marks World Water Day, recognised by the United Nations to highlight the importance of groundwater conservation and access to clean water worldwide.

Drought keeps war-displaced families from returning homes



HERAT (Pajhwok): The war has ended for the internally displaced people in the Sheidai township in western Herat province, but drought and unemployment continue to keep them away from their homes.

Families living in the township are struggling with the hardships of life and spend their days and nights worrying about finding food and an uncertain

future.

Hundreds of families displaced from their original homes live in the Sheidai township.

Their children play in old clothes and barefoot in mud made and ramshackle houses, while their men search for daily work with little hope and their women look at empty dastarkhwan (tablecloth) with tired faces.

Some of these families once harvested wheat and planted cereals in their farmlands, but now the only thing left is poverty and hunger. Repeated droughts have driven them into exile in their own land.

A difficult life in Sheidai township

Hundreds of displaced families who fled the past conflicts and repeated droughts to the Sheidai

township say they cannot afford to meet their basic needs.

76-year-old Musa slowly walks to the mosque with the help of a cane. He once planted cereals in his fields, but now he is even deprived of drinking water and other basic necessities of life in the Sheidai township.

"We came here to survive, but we can't even find water. I have to ask my neighbors to give us water to drink," said Abdul Naseer, another 41-year-old who spends his days and nights with his family of nine in a mud-and-wood-roofed house in the Sheidai town.

His cracked hands and sunburned face show he has worked for years in the fields, but now his lands in Badghis province are barren due to lack of water and he is looking for alternative way to make a living in Herat.

"When there was war, we hoped that one day peace would come and we would return to our homes, but now that peace has come and the war is over, drought has prevented us from returning to our homes," he said with a cold smile.

Abdul Naseer fled Badghis with his family seven years ago due to fighting in their area, but now that the fighting is over, water shortages and the destruction of agricultural land have made it difficult for him to return to his hometown, and he is currently struggling with many hardships of life.

"If I don't find work for a week, if my children don't collect plastic bottles from garbage piles and sell them, we don't even have enough food for one meal," he said.

Allahdad, a middle-aged man who lives in a dilapidated house, is also a native

of Badghis. He would grow wheat, barley and cumin on his land in his province once or twice a year, but now he can't afford to return to the province because he lacks the resources to cultivate as the groundwater level has also plummeted significantly.

"We would give grain to others, now we need our own food," he said.

"We have been displaced for several years because of hunger. We have come here because there is no work or anything else. We are confused as to what to do; we cannot find a single morsel of bread, we have nothing for iftar or pre-dawn meal," he lamented.

A Farah resident, who is struggling to support his family, said that some days he finds work and earn 300 afghanis a day, but he has a malnourished son.

This 300 afghanis is not enough to cover his doctor's fees or his household

expenses.

On the other hand, officials from the Herat Department of Agriculture also confirm less raining this year than expected.

Ahmad Irfan, the director of statistics for the department, said that this year the province received only 89.85 millimeters of rainfall, which was 50 percent less than previous years in some areas.

Irfan said his department's officials were trying to use various methods to prevent water loss and encourage farmers to adopt standard and effective farming methods.

According to him, the department's officials are trying to introduce plants and agricultural products that are resistant to water scarcity to farmers.

He said asafetida was a good choice for farmers in the current conditions because the plant had good yields and was resistant to

water scarcity.

Maulvi Sabir, deputy director of the Herat Disaster Preparedness Department, while expressing support for the displaced people, told Pajhwok Afghan News that 610 people affected by natural disasters and displaced people have received food and non-food assistance from the department this year.

He added his department was working in coordination with partner organizations to ensure necessary preparedness in emergencies and against natural disasters.

Herat, Badghis, Farah and Ghor are provinces which suffered the most from droughts in recent years.

Many families whose livelihoods relied on agriculture were forced to leave their original areas in some parts of the country and move to cities.



TORKHAM: Passenger mostly Afghan national standing in queue outside pedestrians' terminal to move across the border. — F.P. photo

Bilawal pays glowing tributes to Nusrat Bhutto

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid glowing tributes to Madar-e-Jamhuriyat Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her 96th birthday tomorrow.

In a statement, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said sacrifices rendered by his grand-mother Begum Nusrat Bhutto during the struggle for restoration of democracy are unmatched and sources of inspiration for the Jiyalas and the masses. She suffered torture and imprisonments at the hands of dictatorial regime of Gen Zia but fought valiantly.

PPP Chairman said Begum Nusrat Bhutto sacrificed almost her entire family including husband Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, two sons Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto and Shaheed Shah Nawaz Bhutto and even her beloved daughter and twice-elected

Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto whose brave resistance to the martial law gave her identity of 'Daughter of the East' in her struggle for the rights of the people of Pakistan.

Chairman PPP said that Madar-e-Jamhooriyat's legacy remains a timeless fountain of inspiration, symbolizing the resolve and bravery needed to confront injustice and oppression. "On this solemn occasion," he urged, "let us reaffirm our dedication to the principles and values upheld by Begum Nusrat Bhutto as we steadfastly pursue a democratic, progressive and prosperous Pakistan."

Meanwhile, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has felicitated the nation on the occasion of Pakistan Day falling on 23 March. In his message on the occasion, Chairman Bilawal stressed that on March 23rd, the nation honors the visionary foresight, sacrifices and firm determination of its

forebears. They worked tirelessly to establish a homeland where freedom, justice, and equality reign supreme.

On this historic occasion, let us honor the unwavering determination of our martyred leaders, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who fearlessly championed the rights of the people and sacrificed their lives for the noble cause," said Chairman PPP.

He further said that that their legacy serves as a guiding light for us as we continue the journey towards fulfilling the dreams of our founding fathers. He reiterated PPP's unwavering commitment to upholding their ideals, particularly the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari urged every Pakistani, to commit to the shared goal of building a brighter and prosperous future for our beloved country.

Drug addict kills 3 fellows in Parachinar

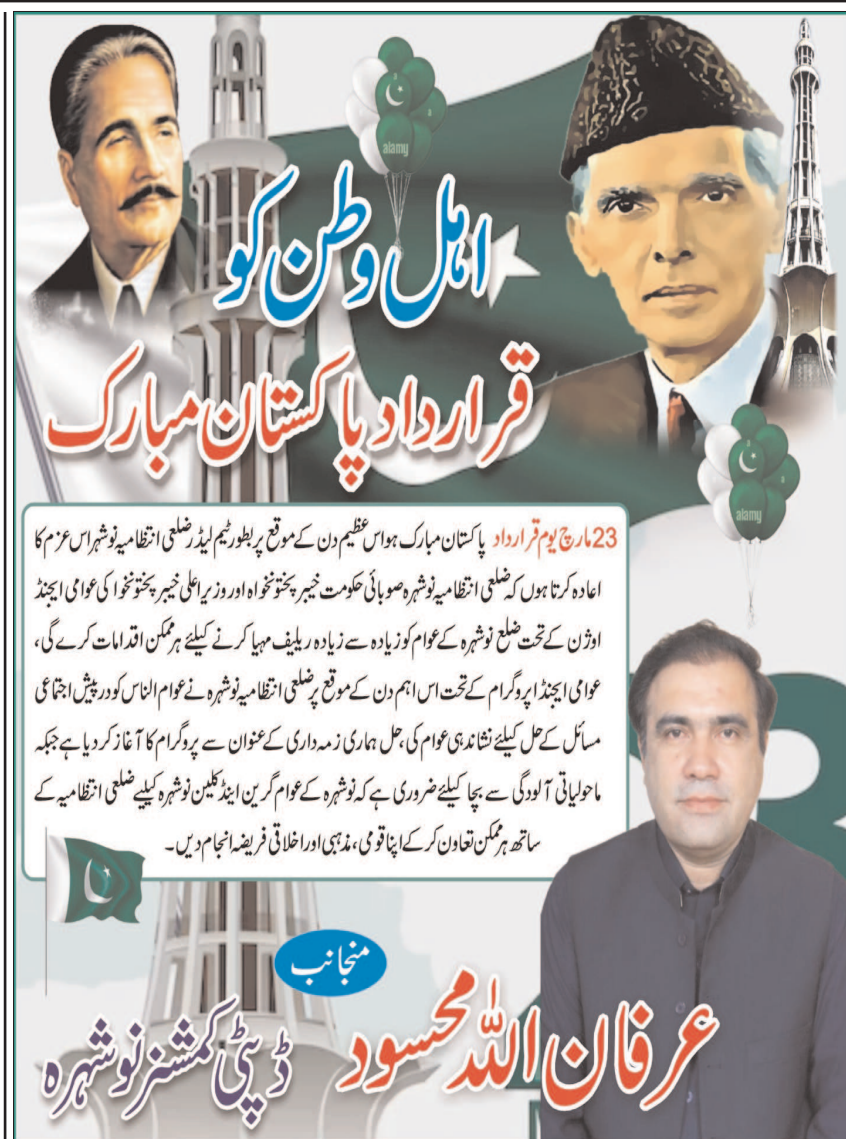
F.P. Report

PARACHINAR: A drug addict attacked his companions with a hand grenade after a minor altercation, killing three of them and injuring another in Parachinar on Saturday.

Police said, the incident took place near Turi Graveyard at an under-construction house, where a drug addict, after a minor argument, hurled a hand grenade at his fellow addicts. As a result, three individuals lost their lives, while one person sustained injuries.

Police confirmed that the explosion killed three people on the spot, and the injured individual was immediately shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, where he was identified as Syed Jawad.

Police officer Ishtiaq Hussain stated that the victims were all drug addicts residing in the under-construction building. The attack happened due to a petty dispute among them. Law enforcement authorities arrested the suspect, identified as Shabab, from the crime scene. The incident occurred on Dandar Road inside an under-construction house.



A Legacy of Strength, A Future of Promise

On 23rd March 1940, a vision was set in motion. Today, we carry that legacy forward. From a historic resolution to a thriving nation, Pakistan's journey has been one of resilience, determination, and progress. At PARCO, we are proud to play our role in fueling the nation's growth, empowering industries, and strengthening communities. Together, we move forward towards a brighter, self-reliant Pakistan.

Energy lifeline of the nation



PAK-ARAB REFINERY LIMITED
A Pakistan-Abu Dhabi Joint Venture

ARGUS

Pak's Rep meets Afghan FM

KABUL: Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq, called on Afghan foreign minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi on Saturday in Kabul.

In the meeting, bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan were discussed. Both sides agreed to enhance high-level engagements and dialogue to further consolidate bilateral relations.

In a statement on X, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq said that he reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continued engagement and mutually beneficial ties with Afghanistan.

According to Afghan media, foreign minister Muttaqi emphasized that obstacles to trade and transit benefit neither side and stressed that unrelated issues should not be linked together.

The gradual and dignified return of Afghan refugees was also raised during the meeting. The Pakistani envoy also stated that ensuring security in Afghanistan is in the interest of Pakistan and the region, pledging to ease the visa issuance process for Afghan citizens, Afghan media reported. — Agencies

Foreigners given deadline to exit Pakistan

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Ten days remain for illegal foreigners and Afghan Citizen Card holders to vacate Pakistan as the government enforces a deadline set for the end of the month.

The authorities have mandated that all illegal foreigners and Afghan citizen card holders must depart by March 31. Assurance has been provided that there will be no mistreatment during the exit process, with arrangements in place for food and health facilities to support those leaving.

KP decides digitization of public services

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, keeping in view modern-day requirements and public convenience, has decided to digitize the entire process of delivering public services across the province.

On the special instructions of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, a Digital Public Services Catalogue has been devolved to facilitate the online provision of public services.

Currently, the catalogue includes 106 public services from 26 departments, while the government has decided to incorporate all remaining services into this digital platform as well. In this regard, the Chief

Minister's Secretariat has issued a directive to all administrative secretaries, instructing them to submit relevant data for the inclusion of their departmental services in the digital catalogue.

The official communication highlights that currently only 29.55% of public services are digitized. However, under the Chief Minister's good governance policy, there is a pressing need to digitize all remaining services to enhance public convenience. Departments have been directed to share data on their respective services to be added to the central catalogue.

The Digital Public Services Catalogue will act as a centralized repository of all public services

offered by provincial departments. It aims to significantly ease citizen access to various government services, enabling people to avail them online from the comfort of their homes.

The letter further notes that without digitization, the provision of public services remains complex, often leading to delays, inefficiencies, and difficulties for citizens. The digital catalogue is positioned as a direct tool for ensuring public welfare and convenience, while also improving service delivery and departmental performance. In the next phase, the catalogue will be integrated with the "Dastak Platform", further expanding its reach and efficiency.

LHC dismisses stay order on taxing banks' additional income

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Saturday dismissed the stay order related to the tax on banks' additional income (windfall income). The series of economic successes continues as a result of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision for economic reforms and the improved performance of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The prime minister had taken notice of the cases regarding the stay order on the tax imposed on banks' additional income (windfall income) under the Finance Act 2023. He had directed the Law Minister and the Attorney General to form the best team to pursue these cases. Thanks to the efforts of the team over the past month, Rs23 billion were recovered from the decisions of the Sindh High Court, while today, Rs8.4 billion were recovered from the decisions of the LHC.

Court acquits rape con-

vict after six years citing insufficient DNA report:

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Saturday acquitted Muhammad Arif, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in a case involving the rape and murder of a 19-year-old girl by slitting her throat, after six years.

Justice Tariq Nadeem of the LHC issued an 11-page verdict on the appeal against the convict's sentence, addressing a legal point. In his decision, Justice Nadeem wrote that in the current era, DNA plays a crucial role in bringing cases to a logical conclusion, adding that the courts must also ensure that DNA reports comply with the law and that DNA samples are securely transferred to forensic labs.

The court's decision stated that if DNA samples are not securely transferred, their reports cannot be relied upon. In criminal proceedings, DNA reports can only be considered as

expert evidence and should be treated as the opinion of specialists.

The verdict further mentioned that if all other evidence is flawed, linking the accused to the crime solely based on a DNA report is insufficient. After reviewing the evidence, the court concluded that the prosecution's case was riddled with doubts and uncertainties.

The court ruled that the conviction of the accused could not be sustained on such doubtful and unrealistic evidence, adding that charges against the accused were extremely serious, a conviction could not be based solely on this ground. There are serious legal flaws in the evidence presented against the accused.

The LHC's decision noted that Arif was charged in 2019 under sections related to rape and murder. According to the prosecution, the accused raped the 19-year-old girl, slit her throat, and then dumped her body in the fields.

Protests across Türkiye held

ISTANBUL (AFP): After his third night in custody, Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu was to appear before prosecutors on Saturday, just hours after hundreds of thousands hit the streets across Türkiye in a massive show of defiance.

It was the third straight night that protesters had rallied against the arrest of Imamoglu — the biggest political rival of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose arrest early Wednesday sparked Türkiye's biggest street protests in more than a decade. After an evening of clashes in Istanbul, Ankara and the western city of Izmir between protesters and riot police, who fired tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon to disperse them, the security forces arrested 97 people, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said.

And media reports said police had raided scores of homes overnight, although there was no immediate confirmation of the number detained. The 53-year-old mayor, who was arrested just days before the CHP was to name him their candidate for the 2028 presidential race, was speaking to police on Saturday morning in connection with the "terror" probe, party sources told AFP.

He was then expected to appear before prosecutors at Caglayan courthouse at 1800 GMT to be questioned in both the graft and the terror probes, they said. Already named in a growing list of legal probes, Imamoglu — who was resoundingly re-elected last year — has been accused alongside six others of "aiding and abetting a terrorist organisation" — namely the banned Kurdish group PKK.