Police official martyred F.P. Report

CHARSADDA: A police official was shot and killed by unidentified assailants in Utmanzai area of Charsadda district, police informed on Tuesday. The deceased cop identified as Imra-nullah, was a resident of Haleemabad, Utmanzai. He was serving in FRP in Peshawar. Following the attack, his body was shifted to DHQ Hospital Charsadda for further procedures.

Frontier Post

Earthquake jolts Punjab F.P. Report

LAHORE: A 4.4 magnitude earthquake jolted Lahore and parts of Punjab on Tuesday, creating panic among citizens. Tremors were felt in Kasur, Okara, Sheikhupra, Muridke, Kamoke, Nankana and other areas of the province. People came out of their houses and offices out of fear following the powerful quake while there are no reports of damages so far.

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXII

MUHARRAM 06 1447 -- WEDNESDAY, JULY 02 2025

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

PM orders fast-tracking of water storage projects

Saqib Mushtaq

designs to weaponise water, the government had decided to enhance the water storage

capacity in the country.

During a visit to the National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC), the prime minister said that an international court (Permanent Court of Arbitration) announced a supplemental order, emphasising that India had no authority to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty unilater-

"But the enemy has certain evil designs against Pakistan and wanted to take steps against the waters treaty," he said adding that in view of this, the government had decided to fast-track the non-controversial water storage capacity projects under Water Accord with the provinces, as the same had a legal provision in this regard. He stressed that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) had a critical role in this regard also.

The prime minister directed that weather warnings and calamity threats should be regularly issued through SMS and phone messages in collaboration with PTA. In his remarks telecast on the national TV channels, he further recollected the disastrous impacts of the catastrophic floods during 2022, causing the entire country to suffer from the trails of natural

PM Shehbaz said Pakistan, unfortunately, was among the countries on the world map which could be hit by natural disasters like cloudbursts despite the fact that the country had hardly any contribution to the greenhouse effect. The premier further said that the glacial melting due to heat waves also demanded the highest level of preparedness.

What happened in Swat in which precious lives were lost, engulfed the entire nation in a pall of gloom," he said and stressed that they should take an honest review of the incident, directing a formulation of a comprehensive mechanism in collaboration with the provinces to prevent such occurrences in the future.

The prime minister also directed for compilation of a report in this regard. He opined that in the aftermath of the floods of 2022, the relevant ministers negotiated the grants and public-private partnership for building resilient

infrastructure in the country. Premier Shehbaz appreciated the facility of

assured complete support of the government in strengthening the institute and its capacity Speaking during a

The prime minister further appreciated the NDMA, saying that he was glad it had organised relief operations seamlessly to Turkiye and Myanmar. He hoped that this world-class facility was connected with the provinces, and with interventions like an early warning system, had been conveying the provinces the real-time information.

During his visit, the prime minister was given a briefing by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik over the current monsoon season, the floods situation and the precautionary measures taken in

Shehbaz visits Iranian Embassy; expresses condolences: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed his deepest condolences to the people and Government of Iran, while reaffirming Pakistan's sympathy and solidarity with Iran during this difficult time.

He paid rich tributes to the resilience and courage of the Iranian nation while offering his prayers for those who had embraced martyrdom, as well as for the swift recovery of the injured. The prime minister visited Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to sign the condolence book opened by the Iranian mission to honour the martyrs and injured Iranians during he recent Israeli aggression against Iran.

Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, SAPM Tariq Fatemi and the foreign secretary, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister was received by Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghaddam and his senior colleagues.

consistent and continued support, the prime minister also conveyed his good wishes and respects for Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatullah Ali Khamenei, as well as for President Dr. Massoud Pezeshkian.

Premier reaffirms commitment to protect, strengthen literary, scientific institutions: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz discussed matters concerning Ijaz-ul-Haq' constituency and agreed to work collaborative Sharif reiterated his government's strong com- ly for the betterment of local communities.

the NEOC and expressed the hope that the rel- mitment to preserving and enhancing the role evant authorities would fully utilise this of national institutions dedicated to science, lit-ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif resilient platform for the progress of the coun-erature, history, and culture, dispelling any said on Tuesday in view of India's nefarious try's economy and social sectors. He also speculation about their closure or merger under

> Speaking during a meeting with Parliamentary Party Leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) in the Senate, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the prime minister emphasized the crucial role such institutions play in shaping the intellectual and cultural fabric of society,a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

> The sources of knowledge and literature are the soul of society. We have a great capital of civilization and culture, of which the entire nation is rightly proud. The government is not considering implementing any proposal to close or merge national institutions of scientific, literary, historical and cultural importance. On the contrary, we will try to make these institutions more strong, effective and efficient," PM Shehbaz Sharif said.

> Senator Siddiqui, who has long been associated with the country's literary and academic community, conveyed the deep concerns of scholars, writers, poets, and artists regarding the recommendations of the government's Rightsizing Committee. He reminded the Prime Minister that special attention was devoted to these institutions during the previous tenure of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and their contributions were widely appreciated.

In response, the Prime Minister acknowledge edged the importance of safeguarding intellectual and artistic spaces, stating: "Societies that neglect science, literature, and arts fall prey to He was accompanied by Deputy Prime mechanical thinking and lose subtle human emotions." He announced that the government will soon form a dedicated committee to improve the management and performance of such institutions, with a renewed mandate aligned with the needs of the modern era. Senator Siddiqui welcomed the prime minister's assurances and thanked him for his clear While assuring the Iranian side of Pakistan's and decisive stance in support of academic and cultural development.

Earlier on Tuesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also met Member of the National Assembly Ijaz-ul-Haq, who congratulated him on the successful passage of the federal budget for the fiscal year 2025–26. The two leaders



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visits embassy of Iran to offer condolences over deaths resulting from Israeli aggression against Iran.

PHC stops oath-taking on reserved seats **Humayun Khan**

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court here Tuesday temporarily stop-ped newly selected members on reserved seats from aking their oath in the Pakhtunkhwa Khyber Assembly.

This decision came after petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians (PTI-P), which challenged the recent allocation reserved seats by Election Commission. A two-member bench, consisting of Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Dr. Khurshid Iqbal, heard the case and stoped oath taking of selected members on reserved seats till next

nearing PTI-P's Advocate

Muhammad Khan, argued that the party was unfairly given only one women's reserved seat despite winning two general seats. He claimed PTI-P was entitled to two women's seats and one minority seat. The court questioned whether PTI-P had submitted its pri ority list for reserved seats to which the counsel

responded affirmatively. He insisted that the allocation was miscalculated and therefore, the oath-taking process must be paused until the matter is resolved. Responding to the petition, the court issued notices to the Election Commission and ordered a halt to any oath-taking on the disputed seats till next hearing.

2 attackers killed F.P. Report

MASTUNG: Unidentified armed men attacked Mastung city on Tuesday, storming the tehsil office and three banks, setting fire to three vehicles parked at the tehsil office. The attackers also took bank staff hostage, stole cash, and burned bank records. The resulting chaos and intense gunfire claimed the life of a 16-year-old passerby, Shoaib Ahmed, son of Ghulam Haider, a resident of Jhal Magsi.

Eight others were injured and transported, along with Ahmed's body, to Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Memorial Hospital. Security forces police, and levies personnel quickly secured the area and initiated a search operation. Fear gripped Mastung as businesses and offices closed in response to the violence. Provincial government spoke sman Shahid Rind identified the perpetrators as "Fitna-ul-Hindustan," stating they targeted banks, the tehsil office, and other government facilities. He confirmed the death of the teenager and the injuries

sustained by seven others. Rind announced that Corps, Counter Frontier Terrorism Department, and levies forces engaged and contained the assailants. Two attackers were reportedly killed in the exchange of fire Rind commended the rapid response of security forces for preventing further casual ties and affirmed ongoing intelligence-based operations are aiming to ensure public safety and apprehend the remaining terrorists.

JCP nominates appointments of CJs of 4 HCs



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a series of consecutive meetings, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan has finalized nominations for appointment of the Chief Justices of four High Courts i.e Peshawar, Islamabad.

es, with majority votes of Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, the total membership, nominated Mr. Justice S.M. Islamabad High Court, as Attique Shah, Acting Chief Chief Justice of Islamabad Justice of Peshawar High High Court.

the Peshawar High Court, Mr. Justice Rozi Khan Barrech, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Balochistan, as Chief Justice of the High Court of Balochistan, Mr. Justice Muhammad Baluchistan, Sindh and Ghaffar, Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of The JCP, in separate Sindh, as Chief Justice of meetings held Tuesday at the High Court of Sindh the Supreme Court premis- and Mr. Justice Sardar Acting Chief Justice of

Legal profession a backbone of rule of law: Saif

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Pakhtunkhwa Information, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif, has said that the legal profession is not merely a career but a noble

public service and an effective tool for ensuring justice and upholding the rule of law in society. He said that young lawyers, if they adopt service, integrity, and professional ethics as their guiding principles, will achieve great success and earn the respect of society. He was addressing the

oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers the District Association Mardan as the chief guest. The event was attended by a large number of lawyers, representatives from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council, civil society tgmembers, and other digni-

On this occasion, Barrister Dr. Saif stated that the demand of Rs 10 Million as grant for the District bar will soon be taken up with the Chief Minister for approval. Barrister Dr. Saif congratulated the newly elected cabinet and reaffirmed the government's provincial commitment to resolving the longstanding issues faced by

lawyers across the province. He said that progress on key demands such as the construction of the Mardan Judicial Complex, provision of sheds for junior lawyers, solarization of Bar Rooms, and financial grants will be made soon. Barrister Dr. Saif emphasized that creating a conducive and enabling environment for the legal community remains a top priority of the provincial govern-

Responding to

demands presented in the vote of thanks, he urged the Chief Minister of Khyber Bar Councils to develop comprehensive skill development programs for young lawyers to help mitigate their financial challenges and enable them to fulfill their professional responsibilities effectively. The Advisor praised the District Bar Association Mardan for its continuous struggle for the supremacy Constitution, strengthening of democracy, and ensuring timely and affordable justice for the citizens.

Meanwhile, Barrister Dr. Saif also visited TeElected tam, where he administered the oath to the newly elected cabinet of the Rustam Press Club. Addressing local journalists, Barrister Dr. Saif said that free, responsible, and professional journalism is the cornerstone of any democratic society. He highlighted that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is fully committed to strengthening this foundation and is taking all necessary steps in this regard.

He lauded the role of local

journalists in highlighting

community issues, raising

the voice of the people at

government forums, and contributing to the achievement development goals. Appreciating the dedication professionalism of Rustam Press Club journalists, he said their hard work is commendable. Barrister Saif reiterated that media freedom and editorial independence are essential for democratic stability, and the government remains fully committed to safeguarding these principles. He urged local journalists to continue their role in promoting good governance and social reforms through positive criticism and con-

structive reporting.

14th polio

ISLAMABAD: The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) has confirmed the 14th case of polio in Pakistan this year, with the latest case reported from North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to the Polio Reference Laboratory, the affected child is 19 months old. This brings the total number of polio cases in the country to 14 in 2025 so far. The breakdown of reported cases included from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, four from Sindh, and one each from and Punjab Baltistan. In response to the latest

case, the National EOC has announced that a special vaccination campaign will soon be launched in 11 union councils of North Waziristan to contain the spread of the virus. Health authorities have urged parents to ensure their children receive polio drops in every immunization campaign. They also emphasized the importance of completing routine vaccinations on time to protect children from polio and other preventable diseases.

ECP adjourns Omar Ayub hearing F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of disqualification reference against National Assembly Opposition Leader Omar Ayub Khan until July 15, after his lawyer submitted a stay order issued by Peshawar High Court pertaining to the case.

A three-member bench the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), headed by Member Sindh Nisar Durrani, had convened to hear the case. During the proceedings, Omar Ayub Khan's counsel submitted a stay order; however, Justice (retd) Ikramullah, Member KP, stated that the Peshawar High Court did not specify a new date in the stay

order.

14th polio case of year 2025 reported Pakistan, India <u>exchange</u> prisoners

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India on Tuesday in pursuance of the Agreement on Consular Access, 2008 exchanged the lists of 246 Indian and

other's custody through diplomatic According to a statement issued by

each other's custody on 1st January and 1st July, every year. The Government of Pakistan handed over status. a list of 246 Indian or believed-to-be-Indian prisoners (53 civilian prisoners and 193 fishermen) to a representative of the Indian High Commission, Islamabad. Simultaneously, the Government of India shared a list of 463 Pakistani or believed-to-be-Pakistani prisoners (382 civilian prisoners and 81 fishermen) to a diplomat from the High Commission for

The Government of Pakistan has called for immediate release and 463 Pakistani prisoners in each prisoners and fishermen, who have oners in Indian jails.

Pakistan, New Delhi.

completed their respective sentence and whose national status stands confirmed. A request for special consular the Foreign Office, the Agreement on access has also been made for all Consular Access, 2008 requires both believed-to-be-Pakistani prisoners. sides to share the lists of prisoners in including the physically- and mentally-challenged prisoners for expedi-tious confirmation of their national

The Government of India has been urged to provide consular access to all those prisoners to whom consular access is still awaited. The Indian side has also been urged to ensure safety, security, and well-being of all Pakistani prisoners in Indian custody. It added that the Government of Pakistan remained committed to addressing humani tarian matters as a priority. It will continue its endeavors to ensure repatriation of all those Pakistani early return of all Pakistani pris

Israel kills 102 Palestinians in Gaza

GAZA: Israeli forces have killed at least 102 Palestinians in attacks across the Gaza Strip, medical sources told Al Jazeera, even as United States President Donald Trump claimed that he would be 'very firm" with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on ending Israel's

war on the Palestinian enclave. Israeli attacks on Tuesday destroyed clusters of homes in the north and south of Gaza, amid fears of yet another looming ground invasion. The attacks come ahead of a planned visit next week by Netanyahu to Washington, DC. Trump said on Tuesday that the Israeli prime minister wanted to end the war on Gaza, even as his forces ramp up attacks in

Among the Palestinians killed were 16 hungry aid seekers who died when Israeli soldiers attacked crowds at aid distribution hubs run by the controversial US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), according to medical sources. They are the latest victims in a wave of daily killings at these sites, which have killed nearly 600 Palestinians since GHF took over limited aid deliveries in Gaza in late May amid a crippling Israeli blockade. More than 170 major international charities and nongovernmental organisations have called for an immediate end to GHF, which rights groups say is operating in violation of international principles. "Palestinians in Gaza face an impossible choice: starve or risk being shot while trying desperately to reach food to feed their families," a joint state-

ment read. GHF brings "nothing but starvation and gunfire to the people of Gaza," it added. Israeli forces also attacked Gaza City in the north, where it recently issued forced evacuation orders for residents of the area, which has already been bombarded into rubble. At least five people were killed when an Israeli quadcopter struck a gathering of people, local news agency Wafa reported. At least 82 percent of Gaza is now an Israeli-militarised zone or under forced displacement threats, according to the United Nations, warning people have

Israel army says intercepted missile launched from Yemen

JERUSALEM (AFP): Israel's military said it intercepted a missile launched from Yemen on Tuesday, after air raid sirens sounded in several areas includ ng Jerusalem. "Following the sirens that sounded a short while ago in sev eral areas in Israel, a missile that was launched from Yemen was intercept ed" by the Israeli air force, an army statement said. Yemen's Iran-backet Houthi militants have launched repeated missile and drone attacks agains Israel since their Palestinian ally Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israe parked the Gaza war. The Houthis said they fired a ballistic missile toward Israel in response to Israel's conduct toward Palestinians during the Gaza war. It was the first missile launch against Israel announced by the Houthis since the June 24 ceasefire between Israel and Iran which ended their 12-day war. The Houthis, who say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians baused their attacks during a two-month ceasefire in Gaza that ended in March, but renewed them after Israel resumed its offensive. Israel has car ried out several retaliatory strikes in Yemen, targeting Houthi-held ports and the airport in the militant-held capital Sanaa.

Ismail, a resident of the Sheikh ed fuel. Radwan suburb of Gaza City, said that newly displaced families were setting up tents in the road, after fleeing from areas north and east of the city and finding no other ground available. "We don't sleep because of the sounds of explosions from tanks and planes. The occupation is destroying homes east of Gaza, in Jabalia and other places around us," he said. In Khan Younis and its al-Mawasi area in the south, at least 12 Palestinians were killed when a home belonging to the al-Zanati family was targeted. Separately, a child was killed and several others wounded when an Israeli air strike struck a displacement camp. Several more were killed in an Israeli attack west of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, according to sources at al-Awda Hospital, while two others were killed and several wounded in a separate attack on a UNrun school sheltering displaced families in the al-Maghazi refugee camp.

In a statement, the Israeli army said it attacked Gaza more than 140 times in the past 24 hours, claiming all those hit were "terror targets" and "militants". The attacks come as hospitals in the devastated enclave struggle to cope with the influx of people amid a severe shortage of medical supplies and much-need-

healthcare facility in Gaza, but has slowly turned into a waiting room for death, not just because of the war wounds, but because of a lack of fuel that keeps everything running," he said The desperate situation in Gaza is increasing the pressure on world leaders to secure a deal that would end the war. Trump continues to maintain that a ceasefire deal is close, and that he hopes one will be secured "sometime next week", during Netanyahu's White Minister Ron Dermer, a close Netanyahu ally, is in Washington this week for talks with senior officials on a Gaza ceasefire, Iran and other matters Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said pressure by Trump on Israel would be key to any breakthrough in stalled

ceasefire efforts. — Aljazeera

Al Jazeera's Hani Mahmoud, report ing from Gaza City, said critical services at the al-Shifa Hospital – which has come under attack and besieged several times throughout Israel's assault on Gaza - will soon come to a halt "Critical services at al-Shifa Hospital have either stopped or will stop in the coming hours as backup generators are running out of fuel," Mahmoud said. "This hospital was once the larges

House visit. Israeli Strategic Affairs



Ulema delegation, Punjab governor discuss law, order



F.P. Report

Punjab order Muharram-ul-Haram. He stated this during a meeting

Speaking on the occa- achieved sion, Governor Punjab Hussain. Sardar Saleem Haider Khan highlighted the profound es us the lesson of brotherimpact of Hazrat Imam hood and peace. The Hussain's (AS) sacrifice, Punjab Governor urged the adding that it has preserved scholars to play a key role the true essence of Islam. in maintaining peace and

for Ahle Bayat is an integral part of every Muslim's faith. Recalling the historic Governor Sardar Saleem battle of Karbala, the Haider urged the religious Governor noted that it symscholars from all schools of bolized the eternal triumph thoughts to play a proactive of righteousness over tyranrole in maintaining peace ny. He further said that during Islam teaches brotherhood, peace. Governor Punjab highlighted the historic sigwith a delegation of Ulema nificance of Karbala, where led by Syed Osama Ajmal the forces of truth tri-Qasmi, Head of the umphed over falsehood, led mony. Pakistan Peace Council, at by Hazrat Imam Hussain's the Governor House, unwavering resolve. He Lahore. The delegation stated that there was a concomprised religious schol- frontation between right ars of all schools of and wrong in Karbala and eternal victory

He said that Islam teach-He emphasized that love order during Muharram.

achieved by Hazrat Imam

The Governor urged scholars to play a pivotal role in maintaining peace order Muharram. He also commended the success of Operation Banyan Marsus, noting that it has enhanced Pakistan's global reputation and prestige. While talking on the occasion, the reli gious scholars underscored

delegation com-The Chairman of the prised . Ulema Board, Maulana Muhammad Asim Makhdoom, Allama Dr. Badr Munir, Agha Sagheer Wark, Kamran Abbas Pervez, Syed Mahmood Ghaznavi, Allama Ghulam Abbas Shirazi, Qasim Ali Qasmi, Allama Qari Khalid Mahmood, Muhammad Yousaf Johri Allama Muhammad Yousat

She described Shaheed

the need for interfaith har-

APHC-AJK delegation meets Sherry

F.P. Report

KARACHI: A delegation upcoming of the All Parties Hurriyat Marsous Rally' scheduled Conference Azad Jammu for July 8 in Karachi, markand Kashmir (APHC-AJK) ing the martyrdom anniverchapter met senior Pakistan sary of Shaheed Burhan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Muzaffar and Vice President Senator informed Senator Sherry Sherry Rehman in Karachi Rehman that the event is and briefed her about the not only a tribute to the and Kashmir (IIOJK).

General Advocate Parvez Yousuf Naseem,

APHC leaders also highlighted the objectives of the Burhan Wani as a bright 'Bunyanum Wani. latest situation in Indian martyrs of Kashmir but also principled support and The delegation was led unwavering solidarity with

Secretary the Kashmiri people. Senator Sherry Rehman Zahid ed that a clear message has

star of the Kashmir freedom movement, whose sacrifice gave supreme international renewed attention to the Kashmir cause. She also lauded They Pakistan's efforts at global forums to counter Indian propaganda and to awaken the conscience of the interillegally occupied Jammu a reflection of Pakistan's national community on the plight of the oppressed Kashmiri people.

The APHC-AJK delegation expressed deep Ahmed and included senior reaffirmed that Pakistan gratitude to Pakistan's Hurriyat leaders Syed will never compromise on political and military lead-Raja the Kashmir issue and statership, democratic forces, and the people for their Ashraf, and Sheikh Abdul already been conveyed by consistent support to the Majeed. The delegation the leadership of the just cause of Kashmir. held detailed discussions on Pakistan Armed Forces: They reiterated their firm the ongoing Indian state repression and grave imposed, Pakistan will peaceful and principled human rights violations in never accept India's illegal struggle for the right to OJK. occupation of its jugular self-determination until its During the meeting, the vein—Kashmir." self-determination until its logical conclusion.

PDMA warns of flash floods in several Punjab cities

LAHORE: On the instruc- measures to deal with tions of Punjab Chief emergencies at places vul-Minister Maryam Nawaz, nerable to floods. "Keep the Provincial Disaster the district emergency Management Authority operation centers function-(PDMA) has written a letter al 24/7," the PDMA DG to the Punjab emergency has directed. services and the deputy commissioners to prevent the situation like the one witnessed in Swat where picnic spots in these vulnermore than dozen people able areas. Kathia has told lost their lives after they them that there is a com-

Irfan Ali Kathia had told season. "So take strict the deputy commissioners action against those violat-Gujranwala, Rajanpur and adding, "Run campaigns in employees at vulnerable Dera Ghazi Khan that flash vulnerable areas floods are feared in their installing signboards and ordered.

should take precautionary

He has directed the irrigation department and Rescue 1122 to identify the were swept away by plete ban on taking bath in ing."

""" canals and rain He has also directed that In his letter, PDMA DG drains during the monsoon Sialkot, Narowal, ing the ban," he has said,

districts, so, therefore, they by making announcements from mosques so that the locals, especially tourists, could be made aware of the hazards of bathing during the rainy season.

The DG has also told them that there is also a complete ban on cramming people into boats beyond their capacity and swimming without life jackets. "Hence, take strict action against the boat owners found involved in overload-

there should be patrolling at vulnerable areas by the police. "Deploy Rescue 1122 and Civil Defence by places forthwith," he has

Punjab deploys over 232,000 cops for Muharram security

Home

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Punjab Police have deployed more than 232,000 officers and personnel across the province to ensure foolproof security during the month of Muharram.

According to a police spokesperson, the deployment covers 37,087 Majalis (mourning gatherings) and 9,171 processions being held throughout Punjab. Stringent security protocols have been enforced in line with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the provincial government.

The spokesperson said 749 provocative speakers have been barred from delivering speeches, while 1,161 individuals have been prohibited from entering the province. Additionally, 1,017 individuals are being monitored under the Fourth schedule, the spokesperson added.

During the last 24 hours Punjab Police recorded 43 violations related Muharram regulations. These included 34 breaches of the Code of Conduct and nine violations of scheduled timings. Six FIRs were registered, nominating 28 identified and 15 unidentified individuals.

Additional Inspector General (AIG) Operations Zahid Nawaz Punjab, Marwat, said that all security arrangements are being implemented in accordance with the law to ensure the peaceful observance of . Muharram. He added that Punjab Police are fully committed to the safe and respectful conduct of all religious events related to Ashura, and are working under the provincial government's directives to ensure public safety.

Punjab blocks dozens of misinfo accounts F.P. Report

LAHORE: In an unprecedented move, the Punjab government has initiated cyber patrolling for the first time during the sacred month of Muharram to curb the spread of fake news and inflammatory content on social media

Dozens of controversial social media accounts have been blocked based on a report by the Special Branch (SB) of the Punjab police. The crackdown targets individuals promoting sectarian hatred or sharing misleading news online.

Acting on directives from Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a dedicated control room has been established to monitor digital content and ensure law and order during Muharram. A special system for tracking and preventing fake news has also been launched to support these efforts.

Authorities have confirmed that strict legal action will be taken against those spreading false information or provocative content. To facilitate monitoring, a specialised portal developed by the PITB is now active. enabling users to report objectionable material in real-time. The newly formed special cyber cell is operational 24/7, tracing and disabling social media accounts posting sectarian or inflammatory content. Offenders are identified and tracked through the portal, ensuring immediate action.

Shrinking glaciers: A threat to ecological balance, clean water

surged into his stone house, a result of the rising River Swat. The recent flooding, triggered by the accelerated melting of glaciers combined with hastily place sandbags around their homes in an attempt to stem the gushing water and salvage belongings.

The water flow in River Swat has been increasing every summer due to the rapid melting of glaciers and erratic rainfalls," said Asim, who was APP. rebuilding the outer wall of his house that was washed away by the floodwaters. Transporting stones on donkeys from nearby mountains, Asim and his family are trying to restore their damaged home. He recalled a time when glaciers were much closer to the village. "Our streams used to range, which feed major rivers such flow steadily. Now, they either dry up or flood unpredictably," he said.

glaciers melting, encroachment, and deforestation for amplifying the population growth and shrinking glariver's velocity and destructive power. For generations, villagers like Asim have mostly relied on glacier fed irrigation to cultivate crops such as wheat, barley, peaches, and apricots. But changing water patterns noted that the Himalayan region is have made farming increasingly warming faster than the global averuncertain. "We now depend on rain, which is rarely sufficient. Sometimes, we lose entire crops to drought or sudden floods," he lamented.

The threat from melting glaciers, for Asim's community, is more than environmental—it's existential. "If vive? How will we feed our famidespair. Adding to their woes, the glaciers by the end of the century.' region's forests are under strain. 'Climate change is disrupting plant growth. Native species are struggling, while invasive ones are spreading, he added, urging for small dam projects and large-scale afforestation to conserve water and reduce flood temperature spikes, causing cata- Pakistan receiving a significant share strophic flooding downstream. To due to its high vulnerability.

old resident of Oshu village in Upper Indus River system and its tributaries, Kalam, watched helplessly as water supplying clean water to millions and sustaining the region's fragile ecosystem. However, their rapid retreat due to global warming is posing a grave threat. "As temperatures rise, glaciers heavy rains, forced many villagers to are receding at an alarming rate, triggering ecological, social, and economic consequences," said Prof. Dr. Shafiqur Rehman, former Chairman of the Environmental Sciences Department at the University of Peshawar, in a conversation with Pakistan hosts over 7,253 gla-

ciers—more than anywhere outside the polar regions. Notable among them are Baltoro (63 km), Biafo (67 km), and Batura (57 km) in Gilgit-Baltistan, as well as nearly 500 glaciers in Upper Chitral's Tirich Mir as the Swat, Panjkora, Kabul, and Indus. "Our irrigation systems He blamed illegal construction, depend heavily on these glaciers,' said Dr. Rehman. "But with rapid ciers, Pakistan faces an impending water crisis—and by extension, food insecurity.'

Citing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he age. Some glaciers are losing up to five meters in thickness each year. Since glaciers act as natural reservoirs, storing water and releasing it gradually, their accelerated melting is upsetting this balance. Dr. Rehman, who has spent over a decade the glaciers vanish, how will we sur- researching the region's glaciers, warned, "If the current trend continlies?" he asked, his voice tinged with ues, we could lose up to 60% of our

Beyond water shortages, glacier melt increases the risk of natural disasters like glacial lake outburst floods which have gained international burst due to minor earthquakes or would soon be operational, with

Swat's glaciers are vital to the counter these threats, Dr. Rehman emphasized both global and local action: "We need to cut greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, but we also need reforestation, better water management, and early warning systems for GLOFs at the community level."

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the impact is already being felt through erratic water availability, biodiversity loss, and the formation of dangerous glacial lakes. Swat, once dubbed the 'Switzerland of Pakistan," has witnessed multiple disasters-including a flood that swept away 18 tourists. Glacial retreat is also undermining tourism. "With glaciers shrinking, trekking routes are vanishing, and tourist numbers are declining," Dr. Rehman explained. He recalled Baltoro Glacier once being a prime destination for adventurers. "Now, it's dangerous to cross and parts of it are inaccessible.

This decline threatens local economies in regions like Swat, Chitral, and Gilgit-Baltistan, where many families depend on tourism for their livelihoods. Moreover, Swat's unique alpine flora and fauna, adapted to cold, high-altitude conditions, are at risk of extinction as glaciers vanish. Despite the challenges, hope remains. Local and international organizations are working together on sustainable solutions. Initiatives include installing early warning systems for GLOFs and launching reforestation projects to improve water retention and reduce erosion.

Given the far-reaching consequences of glacial retreat-from agriculture and tourism to water supply and biodiversity—Pakistan urgently needs effective adaptation and prevention strategies. Dr. Rehman praised national efforts, particularly large-scale afforestation programs, (GLOFs). These lakes, often held recognition. He expressed optimism back by fragile natural dams, can that the UN's COP27 climate fund

Bugti assures federal minister to implement Kachi Canal project

F.P. Report

Balochistan Minister (CM) Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday assured the Federal Minister for Water Resources Muhammad Moin Watto that the Balochistan government along with central regime and the Sindh administration to successfully implement the Kachi Canal project so that the foundation of an attended the meeting. agricultural revolution could be laid

achi Canal which was chaired by

the project in which the top leader-ship of Balochistan and Sindh and was unanimously approved by all relevant experts participated.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir

Sarfraz Bugti and CM Sindh Syed Murad video link while Minister for Irrigation Balochistan Mir Sadiq Umrani, Minister

He said this in a meeting regarding from possible mountain flood rails sion, Balochistan CM Mir Sarfaraz Federal Minister for Water Resources 2 and 3 of the Kachi Canal project. ect is the backbone of Balochistan's Muhammad Moin Wattoo to make CM Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti economy and with the completion of Kachi Canal Phase 2 and 3 feasible proposed the formation of a commit- its phases, millions of acres of land and to consider the challenges facing tee of experts to resolve outstanding would be irrigated.

participants. The meeting unanimously decided

to establish a Joint Technical Working Ali Shah participated in the meeting via Group which will include experts from Balochistan, Sindh and the Federation. This committee will subfor Irrigation Sindh Jamshoro and relemit a comprehensive technical report vant federal and provincial officials also and actionable recommendations within three weeks so that the project During the meeting, a detailed can be made as flood-free and viable review was taken of the protection as possible. Speaking on the occaand environmental impacts of Phase Bugti said that the Kachhi Canal proj-

Punjab CM orders new monitoring system to curb fake news during Muharram

F.P. Report

Maryam Nawaz Sharif has ordered the establishment of a new monitoring system and a special control room to curb Muharram-ul-Haram, marking the first time such measures have been introduced in the province.

Under her directives, a comprehensive crackdown has been launched against those spreading false and maintain religious harmony and ensure law and order. Dozens of controversial social media accounts have already been blocked across Punjab based on reports from the Special Branch. Strict legal action is underway against individuals involved in disseminating inflammatory or sectarian content.

In a significant development, a Punjab Information Technology Board cance of the month, CM Maryam tinue with full force.

objectionable content. Once reported, LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister such content is promptly removed, the relevant accounts are blocked, and the individuals behind them are traced.

The CM emphasized a zero-tolerthe spread of fake news during ance policy towards content promoting religious hatred and sectarianism. She directed authorities to enforce a complete ban on the publication and promotion of such material, as well as on the use of drone cameras during Muharram processions under any cirprovocative content on social media to cumstances. To ensure foolproof security during processions and gatherings, she ordered the deployment of a Quick Response Force (QRF) and installation of iron barriers along procession routes. Facial recognition cameras will be placed at the entrance points of major processions for enhanced monitoring.

Special focus will also be given to the safety of female participants. have been recorded, generating Rs. Cyber Patrol Unit will be operational Female police officers and personnel for the first time during Ashura to mon- will be deployed for the security of itor digital platforms round-the-clock. women during Majalis and proces- Anwar, stated that the campaign A dedicated portal managed by the sions Highlighting the spiritual signifi- against traffic law violators will con-

(PITB) has also been activated to report Nawaz stated, "The tragedy of Karbala teaches us the values of peace, sacrifice, and tolerance. All possible steps will be taken to uphold these principles and maintain peace during Ashura.

Punjab Police issue 30,626 driving licenses within last 24 hours: Punjab Police issued as many as 30,626 driving licenses within the last 24 hours as part of its ongoing efforts to facilitate the public and ensure strict enforcement of traffic laws across the province.

The spokesperson for Punjab Police informed that 43,911 traffic violations were recorded during the same period, with fines totaling Rs. 24 million. Additionally, 557 vehicles emitting excessive smoke were penalised, while 115 such vehicles were impounded.

So far this year, the Punjab Police issued 4.266 million driving licenses, while 6.297 million traffic violations 3.83 billion in fines. Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr. Usman

ROSOBORONEXPORT hands over Project 11356 frigate Tamal, built at Yantar USC shipyard in Russia, to Indian Navy

F.P. Report

KARACHI: ROSOBORONEXPORT Director JSC (part of Rostec State Corporation) has handed over another Indian Navy. The commissioning ceremony took place on July 1, 2025 in Indian Navy, was christened Tamal, which means "Sword" in Sanskrit. are already working on a number of them".

The successful completion of the frigate Tamal to India demonreadiness to effectively fulfill any naval contracts, taking into account BrahMos supersonic missile system, Corporation. an automated communications sysacquisition radar, and a sonar sta- threats. Its artillery armament, con-

tion," - said Alexander Mikheev, sisting of 100mm and 30mm artillery can make today. Issues related to the General

ROSOBORONEXPORT JSC. "Today the Company is actively Project 11356 frigate, built by United developing partnerships with Indian Shipbuilding Corporation, to the public and private enterprises to jointly develop and manufacture military products on the partner's territo-Kaliningrad. The eighth Project ry. We are discussing 50+ projects for 11356 frigate, built in Russia for the all services of the armed forces and

Tamal is a frigate that meets all the construction, testing and delivery of current requirements of the global naval shipbuilding market. Its radars strates ROSOBORONEXPORT's are capable of timely detecting all types of air attack weapons, including advanced low-flying anti-ship miscurrent global market trends. The siles. The ship has a reliable air eighth Project 11356 frigate is a defence system based on the Shtil-1 model of technology cooperation. It vertical-launch SAM system devel-incorporates more than 20 Indian- oped and manufactured by Almazmade ship systems, including the Antey Air and Space Defence

The ship's armament is sufficient tem, a surface search and target to counter current and emerging

systems, together with an EW system, can repel UAV attacks and effectively counter unmanned surface vehicles.

The ship has a reinforced helipad, enabling it to operate a Ka-31 longrange early warning helicopter. The delivered frigate Tamal has excellent seaworthiness: it is able to travel 4,850 miles without refueling and stay at sea for 30 days without resup-

Currently India is already operating 7 Project 11356 frigates. In December 2024 a commissioning ceremony for frigate Tushil took place in Kaliningrad. In addition, India's Goa Shipyard Limited launched the ninth and tenth frigates of this project, which are being built by Indian shipbuilders with the assistance of ROSOBORONEXPORT. ROSOBORONEXPORT aims to

strengthen the Russian defence indus-

try's positions in the Indian arms market

continuation of ongoing projects in the field of joint development and production of naval equipment, aircraft, armored vehicles, small arms, ammunition are being actively considered, and new ones are also being discussed.

ROSOBORONEXPORT is Russia's sole state agency for export of the full range of defense-related and dual-use products, services and technologies. It s part of Rostec State Corporation. Rosoboronexport is among leaders in the global arms market. Rosoboronexport accounts for over 85% of Russia's exports of arms and military equipment. Rosoboronexport cooperates with more than 700 Russian defense industrial enterprises and organizations. The geographical scope of Russia's military-technical cooperation plays a crucial role as a major suppliencompasses more than 100 countries.

proposals that none of its competitors regions of the country. The company important industries, including air- exceeding RUB 2.8 trillion.



craft engineering, engine building. er of armaments, military, and special transportation, power engineering, Rostec State Corporation is the equipment through the state defense medical technologies, pharmaceutilargest industrial company in Russia, order. Additionally, Rostec focuses cals and innovative materials among uniting over 800 research and pro- on the development of high-tech others. In 2023, the corporation through unique technology cooperation duction organizations across 60 civilian production in strategically achieved a consolidated revenue



Peshawar City The Frontier Post

PHC issues notices in two PTI leaders cases

Anti-

Speaking to the media

where a party had

approached the court seek-

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court has Director issued notices to the rele- Corruption, Punjab. vant parties in a petition filed by Sheikh Waqas outside the court, Sheikh Secretary Waqas Akram said that a Information of Pakistan new development had Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), taken place in the seeking details of cases Peshawar High Court, against him, on Tuesday.

The petition was heard by a two-member bench ing a stay on the oath-tak-Justice ing of members on Muhammad Naeem Anwar reserved seats. and Justice Kamran Hayat

The counsel, Alam Khan work on the matter and that that the petitioner is the rightful claims to the Secretary Information of reserved seats. PTI and that the court had

He emphasized that PTI's legal team would

Sheikh Waqas Akram sought a report in the case, criticized the Punjab govwas not a party to the case. treatment under the health e-Insaf (PTI), regarding The court issued notices card scheme, alleging that details of cases against

to the respondents, includ- hospitals were being forced him. The court also granted ing the Inspector General to demand payments from him two weeks of protec-The of Police, Punjab, and the patients.

He also condemned the increase in fuel prices, Adezai, informed the court warning that it would lead that the petitioner had filed to higher prices of other the petition seeking details commodities and burden the common man.

Punjab jails due to various illnesses. Meanwhile, PHC divi-

Justice Muhammad Naeem not be arrested during this Anwar and Justice Kamran period. Adezai, informed the court the party would pursue its Hayat Miankhel has sought a report from the federal report from the federal government and other relevant parties in a petition filed by Faisal Javed, a against Faisal Javed. The but the Punjab government ernment's decision to stop leader of Pakistan Tehreek-

tive bail.

The counsel, Alam Khan of cases against him. He stated that despite the fed-Sheikh Waqas Akram eral government's submisdemanded that the Chief sion of a report earlier, Justice inquire into the more cases had come to deaths of PTI workers in light, prompting them to approach the court again.

The court granted Faisal Javed two weeks of protecsional bench comprising of tive bail, directing that he

> The court also sought a government and other parties regarding the cases court directed that Faisal Javed not be arrested until the next hearing.

Condolence

Reference

held in

honor of

Late Sherin

Zada Badr F.P. Report

PESHAWAR A condolence reference and Quran



Peshawar to launch 60-Day **Urban Plantation Drive**

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In line with Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin project. Gandapur, a major 60-day urban plantation campaign is set to begin in Peshawar 15, aimed at addressing cli-

will be planted along six major roads in Peshawar. A core committee, comprising officials from the Ghari Qamardin Bridge) their own cost.

district administration, The committee has Peshawar Development already identified suitable tree species, the core com-

the special instructions from Department, has been roads. All planted trees ized various suitable types Chief Minister Khyber formed to oversee the Plantation

from July 15 to September Hayatabad), Charsadda Road, GT Road (from of the trees, with forest review mate change and enhancing Chamakni to Karkhano Market), Dalazak Road Under the initiative, a (from Bacha Khan Chowk large number of tall trees to Ring Road Kabootar and various types of plants Chowk), Warsak Road (from Machni Gate to three years, the respective Ring Road), Kohat Road (from Ramdas Chowk to

height of 8 feet.

Include: Ring Road (from Development Authority chaired by Commissioner Pir Zakori Bridge to (PDA) will be responsible Peshawar Division Riaz guards appointed for this task. PDA will also ensure daily watering of the plants. In case any trees or plants are damaged within contractors will be obligated to replace them at

Authority (PDA), Local and vacant spots along the mittee has already con-Government Department, central medians and sur- ducted a study visit to Forest rounding areas of these Pattoki, Punjab, and finalwill have a minimum of trees and plants for plantation in Peshawar.

A high-level meeting Peshawar Division Riaz for the care and protection Khan Mehsud was held to Attendees Secretary Forests Shahid Zaman, Chief Conservator Forests, Director General PDA Muhammad Naeem, Additional Commissioner Khan Tanoli, and other

administrative officials To select appropriate from concerned depart-



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal, handing over the agricultural machinery to the officials at Tarnab Farm.

50,000 cops deployed for Muharram security: IGP

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: Inspector always played a frontline still occur but assured that General of Police Khyber role in the fight against Pakhtunkhwa, Zulfigar terrorism. "Our brave per-Hameed, has stated that sonnels police have con-

Frontier Post correspon- addressed, and special tions being monitored said. from the central command

security fronted militants with arrangements have been courage and determina-finalized for Muharram. tion. The issues faced by Speaking to The the force are being

ty situation in the southern the force," he concluded.

IG Hameed highlighted region, he acknowledged that the KP Police have that incidents of terrorism ongoing operations have dealt severe blows to terrorist groups. "The safety and protection of the public remain our top priority," he added.

He also emphasized that strict merit will be maindent, he confirmed that incentives are being intro- tained within the police over 50,000 personnels duced for KP police per- department. "There will be have been deployed across sonnel, including benefits no tolerance for corrup the province, with opera- from other provinces," he tion. Officers and person nel involved in miscon-Speaking on the securi- duct will have no place in

recitation ceremony was held in memory of the late Sherin Zada Badr, a

renowned figure known for his affable and goodnatured personality. The event was attended by friends, family, and admirers who gathered to pay their respects to the departed soul. Sherin Zada Badr was

remembered for his significant contributions to society, particularly through All Pakistan Badr Munir Foundation, which he founded in 1984. He remained the chairman of the foundation until his passing, leaving behind a legacy that will be cher-

ished for years to come. The speakers including Khiali Gul at the condolence reference highlighted the immense loss felt by the community with the passing of Sherin Zada Badr. They drew parallels that of Badr Munir. emphasizing that just as the void left by Badr Munir could not be filled, the loss of Sherin Zada Badr will also be deeply felt and remembered.

The ceremony served as a tribute to Sherin Zada Badr's remarkable personality and his dedication to serving others. His commitment to the All Pakistan Badr Munir Foundation and his role as its chairman were particularly noted, underscoring his impact on the lives of many.

As friends and family reflected on the life and legacy of Sherin Zada Badr, they remembered him as a person who touched many lives through his work and his warm demeanor. The Quran recitation ceremony added a solemn touch to the event, providing comfort to those who mourned

F.P. Report

Pakhtunkhwa

Khyber

regard.

Industries.

Chakdara Timber Market

Timber auction to be held soon in

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special He expressed these Assistant to the Chief views while speaking with Minister Environment, Wildlife, and and other districts in his Climate Change, Pir office. Musavir Khan has stated that practical steps are informed being taken for the devel- Assistant a opment and prosperity of Some auction will soon be held in issued to the concerned the Chakdara Timber officials for timely resolubetween his demise and Market, which will create tion. new employment opportu-

nities for the Community.

on Forests, delegations from Chitral The delegations Special

Assistant about their issues. problems were the people of the province. resolved on the spot, while He announced that a timber for others, directives were

delegation from Chitral, Pir Musavir Khan stated that instructions have been issued to the relevant authorities for the early

auction of timber in the

Chakdara Timber Market. He said that the auction will benefit not only the government but also individuals associated with the timber business and local residelegation of a swift resolution of other issues.

ther delegations.

Musavir Khan said that the provincial government believes in practical measures. He highlighted that a "Green Budget" has been presented for the fiscal year 2025-26 in line with the vision of founding chairman Imran Khan. Billions of rupees have been allocated in the budget to make the province greener and to tackle the impacts of climate change.

He further emphasized that special attention is being given to public welfare sectors such as health, education, and others. Stressing the importance of tree plantation, the Special Assistant appealed to the public to plant as many trees as possible during the dents. He also assured the upcoming monsoon plantation campaign. He stated that tree planting is a guar-Later, while speaking to antee of a healthy environ-Pir ment for future generations.

High-Level meeting on Swabi development projects held Shahram Khan Tarakai, full efforts will be made to

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Finance, a high-level meeting on ments. Tuesday at the Civil Spea Secretariat Peshawar. The meeting focused on key development issues related and other related matters.

The meeting was attended by KP Minister for 2025 and January 2026. Irrigation Agibullah Khan, Minister for Education historic development funds Faisal Khan MNAs Asad Qaiser and fiscal year 2025–26, and operational on time and its

Special Assistants Abdul Karim Tor Dher and Haji Rangez Ahmad Khan, MPA Murtaza Khan, and secre-Muzammil Aslam, chaired taries of relevant depart-

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor Muzammil Aslam stated that, as per the directives of the Chief to District Swabi, including Minister, funds for all approval of posts for the ongoing development proj-Bada Dam project, tobacco ects will be released in a cess, hydropower profits, timely manner. He added that the funds will be disbursed in two phases—July

Tarakai, have been allocated for the to ensure the dam becomes

complete the projects on time. He emphasized that tivable. pending dues from the current fiscal year should be cleared within the same year to avoid delays in tive schemes would be development work and prevent carrying forward liabilities into the next fiscal

During the meeting, Minister for Irrigation Aqibullah Khan highlighted the shortage of staff for the Bada Dam project in District Swabi and called for the issuance of NOC for Aslam further said that recruitment. He stated that adequate staffing is crucial

make barren lands cul-

In response, Advisor Muzammil Aslam assured that surplus staff from inacdeployed for the Bada Dam, including technical personnel and sub-engi-

The meeting also included a detailed discussion on

the tobacco cess issue. At the conclusion, participants expressed gratitude to the advisor for listening to their concerns and assuring the release of funds. They also expressed hope for continued support

Rs248.52m worth land handed over to city govt F.P. Report years' lease dues to the that not a single rent pay

PESHAWAR: Corruption Rs. 248.52 million, handing Bacha

Pakhtunkhwa received a in 2009, expired in May back complaint regarding this 2024, yet the Foundation land in Nothia Peshawar, failed to return the land to alleging that the Bacha the had failed to pay fifteen inquiry further established million.

Khyber inquiry revealed that during Pakhtunkhwa has taken the tenure of the Awami action concerning eight National Party government, kanals of commercial land eight kanals and five marlas valued at approximately of land were leased to the Khan over to the Capital Educational Foundation Metropolitan Government Peshawar for fifteen years Anti-Corruption Khyber 10,000. The lease, granted

Metropolitan ment was made over the Anti- Government. A detailed entire fifteen-year period The Trust provided no satisfactory response regarding its activities during the investigation.

onsequently, Corruption Khybei Pakhtunkhwa, along with relevant authorities, sealed at a monthly rent of Rs. the aforementioned land and formally transferred in to the Capital Metropolitan Government Peshawar. The current mar-Metropolitan ket value of the land is Khan Educational Trust Government Peshawar. The approximately Rs. 248.52

Sehat Kor: A sustainable healthcare charity model

F.P. Report

where access to affordable, tory, pharmacy, and labor quality healthcare is a room, Sehat Kor also feagrowing concern, Sehat Kor tures a dedicated space for has set a remarkable exam-training, aiming to build ple of community health capacity among healthcare service combined with tech- workers and volunteers. nology and sustainability. In just 16 months, Sehat Kor notable achievements is its

including medical, dental, . The integrated system operational costs.

pediatric, gynecology, and allows for seamless coordi-surgery OPDs. In addition nation between depart-

One of Sehat Kor's most has registered over 15,000 fully digital setup. From the families and provided med- moment a patient enters the ical care to more than clinic, their journey is man-26,000 patients, transform- aged electronically. Doctors model, it ensures that the ing lives across Mardan and record history, order lab poorest receive care without investigations, and pre-

PESHAWAR: In a province to its well-equipped laboraments, ensures accuracy and minimizes errors. Mos importantly, patient data and records are securely accessible from anywhere in the world, making follow-ups and remote consul tations possible.

Sehat Kor combines compassion with strategic planning. Through a hybrid welfare and sustainability charge, while nominal con-Sehat Kor offers a wide scribe medicines entirely tributions from those who range of outpatient services, through software - no pens, can afford it help cover



matters pertaining to the development of industrial estates under trialization, and professional and carpet SIDB, promotion of professional operations of the Board and sustainable industrialization. Several key decisions were made in this The meeting was attended by

in the previous Board meeting. Additional Secretary Industries, and Commerce Technical Education Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, Managing Director SIDB Abdul Hameed Khan, Deputy Managing Directors Nauman Fayyaz and Sahibzada Zulfiqar, President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fazal Muqeem, concerned departments will be part Chairperson of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Peshawar Rabia the previous financial year were Basri, officers from relevant gov- also presented to the forum. ernment departments and private

sector members of the Board. proposals finance, income generation, indus- Peshawar for the promotion of the



operational matters were presented for approval. The forum deliberated and issued decisions accordingly. The participants were also rules and regulations. briefed on the progress and implementation status of decisions taken

The Board directed the formation of a special committee to devise a viable and beneficial model for the commercial and financial utilization of unused SIDB-owned land located outside the industrial estates. Officers from of this committee. Similarly, budget estimates and revised estimates for

The Board also discussed a pro-During the meeting, various Commerce and Industry to allocate roposals related to a vacant SIDB building in to a vacant SIDB building in

industry. Conditional approval was granted for several options, with further action to be undertaken in accordance with The Board granted in-principle

approval for the initial draft of the allotment policy and lease agree-

It was directed that the Small Industries Development Board and Khyber Economic Zones Development and Management Company further without interruption. make better the policy/agreement. The forum also approved the new building by-laws of SIDB.

Conditional approval was given for a draft policy regarding the affiliation of private land adjacent to SIDB's industrial estates, with posal by the Sarhad Chamber of instructions to form a committee to thoroughly review the policy from all legal aspects.

The Board also approved a two-

year installment facility for payment of institutional dues and fees for investors interested in obtaining plots in the Industrial Park Peshawar.To make marble slurry reusable, SIDB was directed to collaborate with KPEZDMC to develop a workable model. Similarly the forum granted

approval to include a plug-andplay model in the proposed land for an industrial estate in Swat. Regarding the commercial cen-

ter at SIDB, the Board directed that the lower portion be rented out. The C&W Department should be consulted to determine rental rates and the matter should be advertised following official procedures.

On this occasion, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister expressed that steps must be taken toward sustainability and selfreliance to overcome the financial challenges of the Board so that it Pakhtunkhwa can continue its efforts for industrial development in the province

He further stated that the core objective is to promote industrialization and investment in the province, creating employment and business opportunities and uplifting underprivileged segments of society.

In this regard, efforts will be made to create a conducive and business-friendly environment for industries and investors



In brief

Nurses hold strike in Buner

F.P. Report BUNER: The female and male nurses have set up a regular camp in front of the emergency unit on under the leadership of President Zameer Khan and Vice President Sahib Zaman Khan on Monday. On the first day of the strike, the nurses led by their president and vice president took out a protest procession to the MS office and protested in front of the MS office and shouted slogans demanding the transfer of MS and an inquiry against him by making many allegations, otherwise they announced the suspension of all services except emergency from Wednesday and the suspension of emergency services from Thursday and also threatened to suspend services in all hospitals by making the protest movement provincewide. Speaking on the occasion, Vice President Zaman Khan said that MS has pushed everyone (doctors to class IV) to the wall. He said that the performance of radiology has deteriorated while due to MS attitude the Eye operation theater is close.He,the MS has been held responsible for many issues including being affected hospital services delivery and has alleged that MS is sacrificing the hospital for its own interests, which has also affected patients from Buner and neighboring districts of Torghar and Shangla. It should be noted that the President and Vice President of the Nurses Association had said in a press conference with female and male nurses four days ago that the issues between the nurses and MS were settled through a jirga by the DMS and doctors, but despite the jirga, MS took revenge and relieved the President and Vice President of the Association for the DG Office, which is reprehensible in every way and now the

Women protest against police F.P. Report

iation will contin-

ue and expand the

protest for the transfer

of MS and an inquiry.

However, when MS Dr.

Igbal Hussain was con-

tacted, he said that he would present his posi-

tion at a press confer-

ence at the Press Club Buner some day with

evidence.

LARKANA: The residents of Murad Wahan locality of Larkana city staged a protest in front of the Press Club for the release of the arrested youth. On this occasion, women including Lal Khatoon Khrus, Dareen Khatoon, Khatoon and other children innocent protested in front of the media and shouted against the police, saying that we are extremely poor and we feed our children by traveling. The protestors alleged that 3 days ago, the SHO of Police Station Daro Mohalla along with his staff stormed our house, brutally tortured us innocent women and children, took away valuables from the house, and arrested our Muhammad youth Achar Khrus and disappeared. We also complained to the SSP . Larkana, but no action has been taken. We are concerned that the police did not half-fry or fry our arrested youth. They demanded the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court to release the arrested youth and send him to Daro Police Station. We should take legal action against the workers and bring justice to them. Meanwhile, an IT lab was established in collaboration with Saint Corner Acute Youth Development at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Larkana to provide computer training children of the

Christian community.

Dozens of water pumps stolen from drinking water wells

TIMERGARA: Unknown culprits deprived the entire population of its access to clean drinking water in the Sacha area in the jurisdiction of Khall police station where 15 water pumps were stolen from a drinking water well late Monday night.

According to locals, the water pumps were installed at a public well that served as the sole source of clean drinking water for the surrounding community. Residents woke up Tuesday morning to find the machinery missing, leaving the entire locality without access to water.

The affected residents have strongly condemned the theft and demanded immediate action from the police. They urged the Khall police to recover the stolen equipment and arrest the culprits involved. "This is a serious issue impacting every household in our area," said one of the residents, adding they relied entirely on these pumps for their daily water needs.

Local elders warned that if timely action was not taken, the situation could worsen, especially during the summer season when water demand is high. Police officials confirmed the incident and said that an investigation had been launched. A case will be registered against unknown persons, and efforts are underway to recover the stolen pumps.

According to local residents, such an incident had occurred in Qila Rabat, where unknown culprits had taken away 20 water pumps from a community dug well some days ago. They complained that despite such inhuman crimes, police failed to trace the culprits and get the water consumers

Rescue 1122 services: Rescue 1122 Lower Dir provided emergency services in 585 incidents across the district during the month of June, rescuing and assisting a total of 508 injured persons and patients, the department said in a monthly performance report.

According to the report, Rescue 1122 responded to 60 road traffic accidents, 206 medical emergencies, 53 fire incidents, five cases of violence and gunshot injuries, five drowning incidents, one blast, and 40 recovery and miscellaneous

The Rescue 1122 teams also transported 215 patients, referred by doctor, to various hospitals within and outside the district for advanced medical care. The Rescue 1122 control room received a total of 6,670 phone calls during the month, a significant number of which were reported to be fake or unnecessary, causing delays and potential disruption to genuine emergency services. Officials have urged the public to avoid making prank or nonemergency calls, stressing that Rescue 1122 resources should be preserved for real emergencies only.

Land dispute resolved through Jirga and local admn: A 52-year-old land distion as a turning point for local restructurpute between the residents of Jabgai, ing and a sign of ideological loyalty and Dheri, and Malkanai Ghara was amicably resolved through the efforts of a local jirga lysts expect a dignified and principled and Assistant Commissioner (AC) Timergara, Zaid Safi.

A ceremony was held at the AC office where representatives from both sides a reconciliation agreement. Malkanai Ghara was represented by Malik Aslam Parvez, Malik Ali Bakht, Malik Bakhtawar Jan, and Haji Sawal Muhammad, while Jabgai and Dheri were represented by Haji Pas Zamin, Naushad Khan, Zor Zamin Khan, and Maulana Samiullah. The jirga was led by Dir Qaumi Jirga president Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, JUI Lower Dir emir Sirajuddin, and former provincial minister Muzaffar Syed Advocate.

AC Zaid Safi said that the resolution would bring lasting peace and open doors for development. He added that demarcation of the disputed land, comprising four motai (traditional land unit) of Jabgai and five motai of Dherai, would begin in the presence of revenue staff. A 30-foot-wide road would also be established, with both sides contributing 15 feet each.

Illegal construction: On the directives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, the district administration has launched an operation against illegal encroachments on the banks of Panjkora River in Timergara. Acting upon the instructions of the Chief Secretary, illegal buildings and famous restaurants constructed along rivers, streams, and watercourses have been demolished. Under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Zaid Safi, officials from the irrigation department and Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) initiated a grand operation using heavy machinery to remove unlawful structures along the Panjkora River here.

Additionally, four restaurants were sealed by TMA officials due to the absence of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) These included popular eateries such as Zaiqa Mahal, Royal Dir Restaurant, Dir Hujra Restaurant, and others. The sealing of these establishments led to the spoilage of large quantities of chicken, fish, and prepared food worth hundreds of thousands of rupees.

PML-N election: Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N) is gearing up for organizational elections in Adenzai tehsil, where two strong panels are contesting. One is led by Yusuf Khan (President) and Dawood Khan (General Secretary), while the other features Akbar Ali Khan and Manager Minhaj for the same positions.

The contest is seen not just as an internal vote, but a test of leadership, political vision, and principled politics. Both panels comprise senior, seasoned party workers with a record of strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

A total of 66 votes will be cast including 3 from provincial level, 4 from district 16 from union union councils, and 43 from the executive body. The outcome observers say, will hinge on candidates' conduct, commitment, and past rapport with workers. Party circles view the elecorganizational transparency. Political anacontest, with party loyalty and values playing a decisive role.

Monitorities uplift project launched

F.P. Report

WANA: In a noteworthy development aimed at marginalized uplifting communities, a significant initiative has been launched for the welfare of minorities in the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). This milestone was made possible through the visionary approach of government, and the dedicated efforts of Akash Masih, Senior Vice President of the Insaf Pakhtunkhwa.

As part of this initiative, a financial grant of Rs. Focal Person to the Chief

Minister of Khyber Pak-htunkhwa. Representing Akash Masih has long the government on the been at the forefront of occasion was Nawaz Khan, advocating for the rights another senior official and and welfare of religious the CM's Focal Person, minorities in the tribal belt the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who attended the event Under his continued guidfrom Dera Ismail Khan. This effort has been

widely appreciated across the region. Ajab Gul Wazir, been distributed among Minority Wing Khyber Member of the Provincial minority communities in Assembly (MPA) from Lower Waziristan, and Lower Zubair Khan 500,000 was awarded to the Member of the National other remote areas.

local church in Wana, the Assembly (MNA) repreadministrative center of senting Upper and Lower Lower South Waziristan. Waziristan, were both The distribution was facili- thanked for their active tated with the support of support in facilitating this Wazir Zada, the Minority progressive move for the betterment of the minority

> ance, similar financial support packages—each worth Rs. 500,000—have already various parts of the former FATA region, including the Wazir, Parachinar Church and

Awaam Pakistan party to fight for public

F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: Political and social leader July. Chaudhry Inaam Zafar said that the people have been burdened by inflation, fixed charges in Sui gas bills for domestic consumers, increase in gas prices for bulk conand as well as a huge increase in the price of petroleum products will further increase everyone's problems.

government urgently needs to review its decisions, it is feared that the current government will lose its mandate among the people in the upcoming elections. The future of the Awaam Pakistan Party is bright.

Expressing his reaction to the increase in gas prices by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), Ìnaam Zafar said that the

bomb on the public and

gap has been filled by

already facing problems, one. will face more problems. After which economic oritizing the development exploitation will increase

He said that as well as The growing popularity of a huge increase in the the party in public circles Chaudhry price of petrol by Rs 8.36 is proof that the future of per liter and diesel by Rs the Awaam Pakistan Party government is going to 10.39 per liter, will fur- is bright.

detonate a new inflation ther increase everyone's difficulties the industrial sector from Unemployment and lack of resources have already The public is suffering left the youth segment from severe mental anxi- extremely disappointed ety after the fixed charges Chaudhry Inaam Zafar of gas for protected con- said that the speed with sumers were increased which the current governfrom Rs 400 to Rs 600. ment is implementing the Domestic consumers are conditions of internationsumers, the power sector already very unhappy al institutions and grindwith the government's ing its people in the mill performance after receiv- of inflation, there is a fear ing bills of thousands of that the government will rupees despite the non- lose its popularity among availability of Sui gas. the people in the upcom-However, the remaining ing elections.

He further said that the increasing gas prices for Awaam Pakistan Party is bulk consumers, the the only party where dispower sector and industry. cipline and application of The industry, which is laws are equal for every-

> Which believes in priof the country and nation based on performance.

Dr. Abdul Wajid named as Senior **VP PDF**



F.P. Report

PABBI: Dr. Abdul Wajid Daudzai has been appointed as the Senior Vice President of the Peoples Doctor Forum Pakistan. The notification of his appointment has been officially issued.

The appointment of Dr. Abdul Wajid Daudzai as the Senior Vice President of the Peoples Doctor Forum Pakistan was made Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). Dr. Abdul Wajid hails Daudzai from Addakhil Bala village in Nowshera district and is the younger brother of Sajid Iqbal Addakhili, Advocate, who is the PPP candidate Provincial the Assembly from PK-88.

The notification of Dr. Abdul Wajid Daudzai's appointment was issued by Jamil Soomro, Political Secretary to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Reserved seats verdict changed political landscape F.P. Report

BANNU: The political landscape in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been jolted following a significant verdict by the Supreme Court regarding reserved seats in the provincial assembly. The ruling has weakened the numerical strength of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf opening a clear path for the opposition alliance to potentially form the government.

According to reliable sources, internal divisions and defections within PTI have begun to erode the party's grip on power Several PTI parliamentarians, reportedly disillusioned with the current leadership, are showing interest in aligning with the opposition. This shift has positioned the opposition alliance—particularly Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader and former Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani-to play a central role in shaping the province's political

future. The Supreme Court decision has effectively nullified PTI's claim over several reserved seats, paving the way for these seats to be allocated to other parties within the opposition bloc. With the potential redistribution, the opposition's strength in the assembly could rise to 70 or more. If disgruntled PTI lawmakers also switch allegiance, the opposition's total count could surge to between 75 and 80—well above the threshold needed for a majority.

Meeting on dengue prevention held F.P. Report

MARDAN: To review preparedness and preventive measures against the dengue virus at district level, a high level meeting was held under the chairof Deputy manship Commissioner Mardan at his office On Monday. Health department officials provided a detailed briefing outlining a comprehensive strategy which included identification of potential mosquito breeding sites. improved drainage systems, elimination of stagnant water, and ongoing fogging and spraying campaigns.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the readiness of isolation wards in hospitals and stressed the need for coordination effective among all relevant departments. He stated that dengue prevention is a collective responsibility and emphasized the importance of a robust public awareness campaign.

Workshop on media, information literacy held at KKKUK



F.P. Report

KARAK: Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak hosted a one-day training workshop on "Understanding Media & Information Literacy: A Practical Approach Towards Digital Journalism." The event, organized by the university's Media Section and ORIC in collaboration with the Deputy Commissioner's Office Karak and the District Youth Office, saw active participation from local journalists and media tices. professionals.

The workshop was specifically designed to equip local journalists with essential skills and knowledge in the evolving media landscape. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tahir Khalily attended as a special guest, emphasizing the critical role of journalists as the "eyes and ears of socie-

the modern era. He underthe digital age effectively.

The Vice Chancellor commended the collaborative efforts of the Media Section, ORIC, the District Youth Officer, and the Deputy Commissioner's Office for organizing such a valuable initiative, noting that these programs help journalists stay updated with contemporary prac-

Dr. Anwar Mehsud (Lecturer, CMS) and Shabeer Ullah (Lecturer/ PRO) served as resource persons, delivering insightful lectures on important topics such as media literacy, identifying fake news, utilizing digital tools, and upholding journalistic ethics.

ty" and highlighting their Deputy Commissioner's such valuable training sesincreased responsibilities in Office were instrumental in sions in the future.

scored the importance of Mr Kamran Ullah reiterated providing local journalists that training young journalwith the latest media skills ists is a top priority for his and knowledge to navigate office and committed to organizing similar pro-

grams in the future. The workshop also featured an Questions and Answers session, allowing participants to pose practical questions and share their professional experiences. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates of appreciation to all participants, along with honorary shields presented to the special guest and the District Youth Officer.

In his closing remarks, Media In-charge Shabeer Ullah extended gratitude to all attendees and expressed confidence that the workshop would significantly benefit their fieldwork. He District Youth Officer also announced plans for Kamran Ullah and the continued organization of

Monsoon downpour down temperature in hilly stations

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: The muchawaited monsoon showers have commenced in district Shangla, bringing welcome relief from the intense heatwave that had gripped the region for the past fortnight. Temperatures had soared to between 35°C and 40°C, even in the normally mild rains have now restored

er, multiple roadblocks hospitals experienced disruptions. all-round growth. Locals stressed the urgent

prevent accidents and ensure smooth flow of traffic. Tourists planning to visit scenic sites in Shangla are advised to keep themselves updated on weather forecasts and remain vigilant during travel, especially in rain-prone areas. activity: District Education Divisional

Muhammad Aurangzeb, pleasant weather conditions.
No human casualties
have been reported; howevhave been reported; howevempty." He have occurred due to land- remarked that sports are a am-Khwazakhela highway, ment, and essential for eduroads such as PHA Roads teachers to provide students tournament.

He was addressing a performance.

need for debris clearance to vibrant prize distribution ceremony at Government Primary School No. 1 Alpuri, organized as part of the Inter-District Primary Schools Tournament. The event was also addressed by Sub-Divisional Education in rain-prone areas. Officer Chakesar, Mr. **DEO stresses sports** Aurangzeb Khalil; Sub-Education district headquarters, but Officer (Male) Shangla, Officer Alpuri, Mr. Ishtiaq Khan; Game Secretary and

Tournament, Adil Shah. During the prize distrislides triggered by the vital source of mental alertrains. The main Bishness and physical developciates, and awards were presented to the teams and stualong with internal link cational progress. He urged dents who excelled in the Board to Martung and with opportunities to securing first, second, and Karora to Ajmer, have engage in sports for their third positions were given special recognition for their

Solar energy system installed at govt school

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: In a significant step towards sustaindevelopment and improvement of the educational environment, a 30kilowatt solar energy system, worth Rs. 2 million, has been successfully installed at the Government Model Higher Boys Secondary Secondary School in Jalalpur Bhattian. This transformative initiative has been made possible through generous contributions from local philanthropists, showcasing the spirit of community involvement in uplifting public sector institutions.

A formal inauguration ceremony was held at the school to mark the occasion. Chief Executive Officer Education Hafizabad, Muhammad Akram Ashraf, and former Naib Nazim District Council, Mian Zahid Hussain Bhatti, jointly inaugurated the newly installed solar system. The event was by District attended Education Education) (Secondary Muhammad Anwar Javed, District Education Officer (Women) Ms. Soofia Jabeen, school faculty, students, and a large number of notable figures and wellwishers from the area.

Speaking at the ceremo-CEO Education Muhammad Akram Ashraf commended the initiative and termed it a milestone towards providing a healthy, uninterrupted learning environment for students. He highlighted that the installation of the solar system ago. would ensure a consistent power supply, especially reforms for women safe-

thereby enhancing class-

The newly installed solar system is expected to significantly reduce electricity costs for the school and provide a stable energy supply for fans, lights, and essential digital equipment. It also sets a positive precedent for environmentally friendly infrastructure development across the district's educational institutions. The cereconcluded with mony prayers for the progress of the school, prosperity of the donors, and the continued success of such collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors.

Alleged murderer killed in encounter: A suspect involved in a double murder case was killed during an alleged exchange of fire between robbers and CCD Police on Chak Bhatti Road near Jalalpur Bhattian.

According to details, a group of armed robbers opened fire on a CCD Police patrol on Jag Bhatti Road. The police retaliated, leading to a brief shootout. During the exchange, one of the robbers was fatally shot, reportedly by gunfire from his own accomplices while the remaining suspects managed to flee the scene.

The deceased was later identified as Ali Raza, a notorious criminal who was wanted in more than a dozen cases of theft and robbery. He had been on the run since committing a double murder during a robbery in the Maghoki area two years

introduced

has introduced constituroom productivity and com- tional and legal reforms to fort during hot summer safeguard women's rights and combat violence and harassment against them. At the district Women Protection Committees and Shelter Homes have been established to provide legal, medical, and psychological support to women in need.

Muharram's security reviewed F.P. Report

ATTOCK: Provincial Law Minister, Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bherth, chaired a nigh-level meeting to eview and finalize arrangenents for Muharram-ul-Haram in District Attock The meeting was attended y Commissioner Raw-İpindi Division, Deputy Commissioner Attock, District Police Officer Attock, and heads of all relevant administrative departments. Public representatives from Pakistan Muslim League N) were also present.

The Law Minister ssued clear instructions to ensure the peaceful and dignified observance of Muharram-ul-Haram, in accordance with the vision of the Chief Minister. He emphasized the provision of essential facilities such as mobile sabeels and toiets for participants of the processions, and directed hat any shortcomings ir security or administrative planning be promptly addressed.

Algeria court upholds writer Sansal's five-year jail term

Algerian court on Tuesday anniversary of Algeria's a day earlier and that "he is upheld a five-year prison independence. A prize-win-fine". The writer's convicsentence against dual- ning figure in North tion further strained already national author Boualem African modern francopho- tense France-Algeria rela-Sansal, whose case has ne literature, Sansal is strained ties with France. known for his criticism of Sansal, 80, was first sen- Algerian authorities as well tenced to five years behind as of Islamists. The case recent recognition of bars on March 27 on against him arose after he charges related to under- told the far-right outlet mining Algeria's territorial Frontieres that France had integrity over comments unjustly made to a French media Moroccan

firmed the sentence after prosecutors sought to dou- challenge to its sovereignty ble his jail term, an AFP and that aligns with longjournalist reported from the standing Moroccan territo-Sansal was rial assertions. informed he has eight days

client before deciding whether to pursue another legal challenge. Following the verdict, French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou Abdelmadjid expression President would grant science". Tebbone

Sansal a pardon. eign ministry meanwhile are we headed?" condemned the decision to unjustified".

transferred territory to

Algeria during the colonial The appeals court con-period from 1830 to 1962 -- a claim Algeria views as a

Sansal was detained in to file a further appeal November 2024 upon before Algeria's supreme arrival at Algiers airport. On March 27, a court in His newly appointed Dar El Beida sentenced him lawyer, Pierre to a five-year prison term Cornut-Gentille, said he and fined him 500,000 would consult with his Algerian dinars (\$3,730). Appearing in court without legal counsel on June 24, Sansal said the case against him "makes no sense" as "the Algerian constitution said he hoped Algerian guarantees freedom of and "possessing media and and con-

He defended his remarks 'Now that the sentence by citing the African has been handed down, we Union's post-independence can imagine pardon meas- declaration that colonial ures, particularly in view of borders should remain inviour compatriot's health, olable. When questioned will be taken," said Bayrou, about his writings, Sansal calling the situation "unac- asked: "Are we holding a ceptable". The French for- trial over literature? Where

Sansal's family has uphold his sentence, calling expressed fears prison it "incomprehensible and could jeopardise his health, French noting he is receiving treat-Emmanuel ment for prostate cancer. Macron has also urged Authorities in the North Tebboune to show "mercy African country maintain Algerian and humanity" to the that due process is being respected.

Some of Sansal's relatives have voiced hope he health on Tuesday, Cornutwith France."

Floods in China kill 9 and displace thousands

International

BEIJING (AP): Heavy flooding in central and southern China has killed at least nine people with and displaced tens of thousands as more rainfall was forecast on the way, state media reported Tuesday

At least eight people were listed as missing in the worst-hit provinces of Henan, Hubei and Guizhou, as migration and Macron's where rivers overtopped Moroccan sovereignty over dikes and poured into city streets, housing complexes territory claimed by the and shopping malls. Although China experiences flooding each summer, the images were some of the National Assembly passed most dramatic in years, a resolution calling for many of them spread on social media to avoid offi-Sansal's immediate release cial censors.

Rapid urban development appears to have worsened problem, and the While his case has become Communist Party authorities who control all media have been especially reticent in him unpopular with a large their news releases about the segment of the population toll floods have taken who back the Palestinian Information has been especially tight since 2001 flooding in the city of Zhengzhou including "undermining killed 39 people below national unity", "insulting state institutions", "harmground, including 14 who drowned inside a flooded subway train, although the true number of dead has publications threatening the been disputed. That led to popular protests against bility". His daughters, Nawel and Sabeha, told poor design, corruption and the government's slow AFP in May they felt "a sense of total helplessness" response. Flash flood warnings were also issued for the northern region of Inner Mongolia, while the southernmost island province of Hainan was also told to prepare for heavy rains.

Japan had hottest June on record

by the attitude of the TOKYO (AFP): Japan experienced its hottest June on record, the weather agency said Tuesday, as climate change prompts sweltering heat waves across the globe. "Japan's monthly average temperature in June was the highest for the month since statistics began in 1898," said the Japan Meteorological Agency.

With strong high-pressure systems in June staying in the region, the average tions, including Oxfam, dead. More than 165 major did not immediately monthly temperature was 2.34 degrees Celsius higher than the standard value, the agency said. The coastal water temperature near Japan also measured 1.2 degrees Celsius higher than usual, tying with June 2024 for the highest since data collection began in 1982.

the agency said. The body also had a further warning that is becoming routine for Japanese residents: "The next month is expected to continue to bring severe heat throughout the country." announcement came as scientists say human-induced climate change is making heatwave events more intense, frequent and wide-

spread. Brutal heat waves are currently sweeping Europe from France to Greece while global footballers union FIFPro has called for longer half-time breaks at next year's World Cup to mitigate the effects of extreme heat. Japanese meteorologists have warned against drawing a direct link between specific weather conditions, like higher temperatures in a specific time

with climate change. But they have observed a changing climate over many years that is causing unpredictable weather phenomena. Japan remains heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels and has the dirtiest energy mix in the G7, campaigners say.

Dynasty in distress: Thai Prime Minister's fate in limbo

court decision last year that swept Paetongtarn Shinawatra into the prime minister's office and now, once again, the fate of the 38-year-old novice politician lies in the hands of the judiciary.

The Constitutional Court suspended Paetongtarn - Thailand's youngest prime minister - from office on Tuesday, pending a case that seeks her dismissal over a controversial phone call last month with former Cambodian leader Hun Sen. "I want to apologize to people who are upset by all of this," Paetongtarn told reporters on the steps of Government House in Bangkok, where she only took office last August after the shock dismissal of her predecessor by a court order.

"I will continue to work for the country as a Thai citizen," she said, 'I don't have any bad intentions.' The suspension order capped two tumultuous weeks in Thai politics, triggered by the leak of the call between Hun Sen and Paetongtarn, in which she appears to pander to the Cambodian strongman and then denigrate a Thai military commander.

Criticism of the military, which holds an outsized influence over premier's dismissal. domestic affairs, including politics, crossed a red line for many in Thailand and instantly drew a backlash, particularly from the conservative-royalist camp. The June 15 leak, and the subsequently release of the entire call by Hun Sen, came at a delicate time for Paetongtarn and her hours. ruling Pheu Thai party, already struggling with a floundering economy and a shaky coalition as well as a festering border dispute with Cambodia.

Although Paetongtarn apologised for the call and described its contents as a negotiation tactic, a major coalition partner, the Bhumjaithai party, walked out of the government just hours after the leak, leaving her alliance's parliamentary majority hanging by a thread. Still, Paetongtarn - the daughter of Thailand's influential but divisive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra - dug in, and managed to 2011. But she was forced out of hold together the remainder of her

ward," she said on June 22. "Thailand must unite and push policies to solve problems for the people." By then, a group of 36 senators had already submitted a petition to the Constitutional Court seeking the The judicial push coincided with

growing public discontent against the prime minister, which culminated in massive anti-government rally. Several thousand people gathered in the heart of the Thai capital, braving intensive monsoon rains, to rally for

"Ung Ing, get out," they chanted occasionally in unison, calling the prime minister by a nickname. In an opinion poll released, Paetongtarn's approval stood at 9.2% in June, narply down from 30.9% in March.

The youngest of Thaksin's three children, Paetongtarn has spent much of her life in the shadow of the father's political career, which began in 1994 and led to him becoming after over a decade-and-a-half in prime minister in 2001. Thaksin was ousted in a coup five years later, but went on to push his younger sister, For Paetongtarn, however, that Yingluck into the premiership in appeared to be of little concern. "I'm office by a court ruling.

royalist camp and the Shinawatra clan featured in Paetongtarn's campaign to help her family win back power in the 2023 general election, where Pheu Thai only came second. After the election-winning Move Forward party was blocked by military-appointed lawmakers from taking power, Pheu Thai engineered a parliamentary majority to form a government led initially by Prime

It was Srettha's dismissal last August that allowed Paetongtarn to take his place - although she had never held any government position before becoming prime minister. Educated Chulalongkorn University and Britain's University of Surrey, she was primarily involved in the Shinawatra family businesses.

Minister Srettha Thavisin.

Much of her 10-month premiership has also been overshadowed by the looming presence of Thaksin, who returned to Thailand in 2023 self-exile to avoid a prison term - and now potentially again faces jail time. a daddy's girl," she told parliament in March, referring to Thaksin. "I am alition. The decades-long power struggle like that completely. I am a daddy's "The country must move for- between Thailand's conservative- girl, 100%."

Charities, NGOs call for end to Israeli-backed aid group

CAIRO (AP): Dozens of took 251 others hostage, centers and that its personinternational charities and Some 50 hostages remain, nel have not opened fire. non-governmental organiza- many of them thought to be Save the Children and international charities and respond to a request for Amnesty, called Tuesday for non-governmental organiza- comment an Israeli and US-backed tions, including Oxfam, According to Gaza's Health aid mechanism for Gaza to Save the Children and Ministry, more than 500 disband over repeated incidents of chaos and deadly violence against Palestinians heading toward

its sites. least seven Palestinians were killed seeking aid in southern and 30 dead at a seaside cafe and Palestinians tried to get desperately needed food aid, witnesses and health offi-

cials said. Next week, Israeli Prime Minister Washington to meet US President Donald Trump and comes as Trump has signaled he is ready for Israel and Hamas to wind down the war in Gaza, which is throwing insults from the likely to be a focus of their sidelines, we would weltalks. The war has killed come other humanitarian over 56,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not statement said. "We are distinguish between civil- ready to collaborate and ians and combatants but says help them get their aid to more than half of the dead were women and children.

people, mostly civilians, and in or around its distribution areas.

Amnesty, on Tuesday called for an immediate end to the Gaza Humanitarian Fund.

"Palestinians in Gaza face an impossible choice: starve or risk being shot while trying desperately to reach food to feed their famcentral Gaza between and ilies," the group said in a early Tuesday. The deaths joint news release. The call came after Israeli forces by the charities and NGOs killed at least 74 people in was the latest sign of trouble Gaza with airstrikes that left for the GHF — a secretive US and Israeli-backed inigunfire that left 23 dead as tiative headed by an evangelical leader who is a close ally of Trump.

GHF started distributing aid on May 26, following a nearly three-month Israeli Benjamin blockade that has pushed Netanyahu will travel to Gaza's population of more than 2 million people to the brink of famine. In a stateother administration offi- ment Tuesday, the organizacials. Netanyahu's visit tion said it has delivered more than 52 million meals over five weeks.

"Instead of bickering and groups to join us and feed the people in Gaza," the people in need. At the end of the day, the Palestinian peo-The Hamas attack in ple need to be fed." Last October 2023 that sparked month, the organization said

tions, which have been

complicated by issues such

Western Sahara, a disputed

Algeria-backed Polisario

and linking future EU-

Algeria cooperation to

respect for human rights.

a cause celebre in France,

among Algerians his past

support for Israel has made

Sansal had faced charges

ing the national economy"

country's security and sta-

over their father's imprison-

ment "simply for express-

"Enough is enough. The

Algerian authorities must

now understand that France

defends its citizens," said

the president of Sansal's

support committee, Noelle

Lenoir, in an interview Tuesday. "We are outraged

Algerian government, which has nothing to gain -

neither at the European

ing an opinion".

cause.

Last month, the French

Israel's foreign ministry Palestinians have been killed around the chaotic and controversial aid distribution program over the past month. Palestinians are often forced to travel long distances to access the GHF hubs in hopes of obtaining

The GHF is the linchpin of a new aid system that wrested distribution away from aid groups led by the UN. The new mechanism limits food distribution to a small number of hubs under guard of armed contractors, where people must go to pick it up. Currently four hubs are set up, all close to

Israeli military positions.
Israel had demanded an alternative plan because it accuses Hamas of siphoning off aid. The United Nations and aid groups deny there is significant diversion. They reject the new mechanism, saying it allows Israel to use food as a weapon, violates humanitarian principles and won' be effective. The Israeli military said it had recently taken steps to improve organization in the area. Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing the militants of hiding among civilians because the war killed some 1,200 there has been no violence they operate in populated

Poland to start controls on borders with Germany, Lithuania over migration

(Reuters): ing migration.

Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany itself have also brought back border controls, underlining a public backlash against undocumented migration that has passport-free travel zone. We consider the temporary reintroduction of controls uncontrolled flows of German border to a minimum," Tusk told a meeting of his cabinet.

Tusk's liberal government has been accused by nationalist and far-right opposition parties of accept- become difficult to deter- restrictions.

numerous illegal mine whether migrants Poland will introduce tem- migrants being sent back porary controls along bor- from Germany. The governpatrols along the border with Germany.

said Germany strained the EU's Schengen called on Berlin to do more necessary to reduce the approach to migrants at its migrants across the Polish- placed excessive pressure

Poland should really be ders with Germany and ment had argued that the returned there under EU Lithuania on July 7, Prime numbers were limited. rules stating that migrants ing border controls on both Minister Donald Tusk said Debate over migration in should apply for asylum in sides," he was quoted by Die on Tuesday, echoing several Poland has turned increas- the first member state they other European Union coun- ingly heated in recent enter. Chancellor Friedrich Lithuanian Foreign Minister tries in reimposing frontier weeks, with far-right Merz said on Tuesday Kestutis Budrys told a news checks to stem illegal activists starting to organise. Germany wants to preserve

February that it was extending its own temporary border controls for six months. Tusk, who has previously to help its neighbours protect the EU's external border, criticised Germany's own frontier, saying it on Poland. "Poland's patient position after Germany formally introduced unilateral border controls is wearing out," Tusk said.

the Schengen system, which allows passport-free movement, but this could only work if it was not abused by criminals who smuggle migrants.

We know that the Polish government also wants to impose border controls with Lithuania in order to limit border crossings illegal from Lithuania to Poland,' Merz told a news conference. "So, we have a common problem here that we want to solve together." Knut Abraham, the German government's commissioner for Poland, was critical of He added that it had the tilt towards border

being sent from Germany to in pushing migrants back and forth between Poland and Germany or in cementing border controls on both Welt newspaper as saying. government had informed him about its decision, BNS news agency reported. "(We need to see) what measures should be most effective, while maintaining the expectation that they will not violate our common interest in having free movement of persons, and will also contribute to our goal of firmly and solidly protecting the external border of the EU and NATO," BNS quoted him as saying. Poland has been facing what it says is a migrant crisis orchestrated by Belarus and Russia on its eastern border since 2021. Both countries deny encouraging migrants to cross.

Angolans, Cape Verdeans want Portugal to return looted artefacts, poll shows 58% said Portugal did not transported by Portuguese

majority of respondents in surveyed more than 3,000 Angola and Cape Verde believe Portugal should vey released on Tuesday.

Catholic University, in was higher in Cape Verde partnership with public at 63%. broadcaster RTP and a

LUANDA (Reuters): A fascist dictatorship in 1974, people across Angola, Cape Verde and Portugal. apologise for its colonial In Angola, 58% of responpast and return artefacts and dents said Portugal should other items looted during return artefacts such as that era, according to a sur- masks, sculptures and ritual objects taken from its Pollsters from Lisbon's former colonies. Support

The survey showed 54% commission commemoration of the Portuguese supported century, nearly six million ing the fall of Portugal's the return of such items, but Africans were forcibly

owe its former colonies an apology. In Angola, 59% thought Lisbon should apologise with 58% in Cape Verde. Portugal's colonial history, which spanned Angola, Verde, Cape Mozambique, Brazil and East Timor, as well as parts of India, remains contentious.

From the 15th to the 19th

ships and sold into slavery, primarily to Brazil. Little is taught about it in schools. Most respondents in all three countries - 58% in Angola, 83% in Cape Verde and 78% in Portugal - do not think monuments related to colonialism should be taken down. In Portugal, 58% of respondents said a memorial to victims of transatlantic slavery should

Will Syria normalise relations with Israel?

FTER nearly 14 years of war top-down approach by Donald Trump relations, and a lot of focus is on tions with Israel. They were signed in what will happen with Israel. There are reports of talks between Syria and Israel, with timelines even by Sudan and Morocco. being floated for potential normalisation between the two countries, which have technically been at war since the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

Here's what you need to know possible normalisation between Syria and Israel: Syria and Israel have held direct talks, according to Israeli media, about potentially entering into a normalisation the two states has reportedly been facilitated by the United Arab Emirates, which established a backchannel for contact.

Any agreement would likely be an extension of the Abraham Accords, an agreement brokered by the United States between some Arab states and Israel. The Abraham Accords were a try would insist on its occupation of

in Syria, the new govern- during his first term as US president ment is resetting its regional to get Arab states to formalise rela-August and September 2020 by the UAE and Bahrain, and soon followed

Since then, Trump has worked to expand the accords by pushing more countries to sign agreements with Israel. Trump visited three countries in the Middle East in May, and, while in Saudi Arabia, he met Syria's new president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, and reportedly encouraged him to normalise relations with Israel. Possibly down the road, analysts say, but right agreement. Communication between now it would be nearly impossible, according to Syrian writer and author

Robin Yassin-Kassab. There is a deep enmity between Syria and Israel, which heightened during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights. Israeli Defence Minister Gideon Saar said his coun-

Syria, and the Israeli army has gone deeper into the Golan, occupying homes and expelling people from the area. Many Syrians would oppose giving up the Golan to Israel, according to analysts. Still, many might welcome common-sense

negotiations.
"Syrians are split ... because on the one hand people are exhausted, everyone recognises Syria cannot defend itself or fight Israel ... so it's good [al-Sharaa's] negotiating," Yassin-Kassab said, adding that a return to an agreement like the 1974 ceasefire is the most realistic option. About a week after then-President Bashar al-Assad fled Syria in December 2024, Israel's parliament voted on a plan to expand settlements in Syria – illegal under international law. There are currently more than 31,000 Israeli settlers in the occupied Golan Heights.

the Golan Heights in any deal with would uphold a 1974 ceasefire agree- who spoke to The Times of Israel. ment between the two states, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin reportedly asking for an end to Israeli Netanyahu announced on December the day al-Assad fled to Moscow - that he viewed the agreement as daily Al-Akhbar reported. Syria void. Israel attacked Syria repeatedly, destroying much of its military infrastructure and seizing Syrian territory near the border with Syria's Golan Heights.

Syria would likely ask for Israel to withdraw from the newly occupied area under a new non-aggression deal, though reports say the Golan Heights have not yet been discussed. In recent days, Israeli officials have said they are open to a deal with Syria, and Netanyahu reportedly asked US Special Envoy Tom Barrack to help negotiate one. Israel's National Security Council head, Tzachi Hanegbi, has reportedly been overseeing discussions with Syrian officials. The talks include a US pres-Syria, under al-Sharaa, has said it ence and are in "advanced stages". is open to peace with Israel and that it according to senior Israeli officials

Figures close to al-Sharaa are aggression without Syria having to accept full normalisation, Lebanese wants the Israeli attacks on Syrian territory to cease. There are concerns over Israel's expanded occupation of the Golan Heights among many Syrians; however, it's unclear if al-Sharaa's government will demand the return of the occupied parts. Syria would, however, want Israel to pull out of the Golan proper and the parts it occupied over the last year. Israel also threatened the new Syrian government not to deploy soldiers south of Damascus, a region near its border

with Israel. Israel has also tried to stoke sectarianism in this area, threatening to intervene to "protect the Syrian Druze" during sectarian-driven tensions between groups affiliated with the new Syrian government and Syria's minority Druze community.

While many in the Druze community have shown a distrust of Syria's new government, many have also denounced Israel's threats of intervention as a calculated stunt to cause further discord among Syrians.

Netanyahu reportedly wants a security agreement - an update on the 1974 text – with a framework towards a total peace plan with Syria. US envoy Barrack claims the issue between Syria and Israel is "solvable" and has suggested they begin with a "non-aggression agreement". according to Axios. Such a continued occupation of the Golan would likely upset many Syrians.

"It's too politically difficult [for al-Sharaa], even under American pressure and the continued threat of violence from Israel," Yassin-Kassab said. Israel also reportedly has additional conditions: no Turkish military bases in Syria, no presence of Iran or Iranian-backed groups Hezbollah, and the demilitarisation of southern Syria. — Aljazeera

The Frontier Post

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Children must not remain casualties of war

HILDREN are the most innocent victims of any war. While witnessing death and devastation of war at any age is likely to take its toll, the effect on young people, by all indicators, is espe-

cially harrowing.

In an annual UN report released earlier this month, 41,370 grave violations against children were documented and verified by the UN last year – a 25 per cent increase since 2023. While in much of the world where peace reigns, schools are now either out or about to close for the summer, there are hundreds of thousands of children in Palestine, particularly in Gaza, and millions collectively in conflict zones around the world, who are excluded from the privilege of even going a day without the terror of violence, hearing the sounds of explosions and encountering bloodshed. Summer holidays then are a far cry for these children, whose regular developmental milestones have been cut and swapped with desperation tragedy and chronic hunger.

'Unimaginable horrors' is the phrase Edouard Beigbeder, Unicef's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa, used in May to describe the situation where more than 50,000 children have reportedly been killed or injured in the Gaza Strip since October 2023.

Given the human cost of war and the resultant extensive suffering that children are left to deal with for the rest of their lives, the notion that modern warfare is focused is utterly misleading, as has been evident in several parts of the world. An unfortunate truth is also that prolonged conflict often brings about a fatigue and desensitisation to such bleak realities to the wider world. But such images must not be allowed to lose their power to compel international stakeholders, including world leaders, to push for ceasefires and long-term peace, implying then also a better future for children deprived of normality.

Already the stunted progress in the five areas of children's rights spelt out in the UN Sustainable Development Goals – to survive and thrive; to receive quality education; to be protected from violence; to live in a safe and clean environment; and to have equal opportunities – should be a wake-up call for how adults all over the world are failing children caught in conflict zones. losing their homes and all too frequently their limbs, parents, and their right to normal childhoods.

The other grave crime is the recruitment of children in armed conflict. To prevent this heinous offshoot of war, child protection units must be strengthened so that their remit to protect children from being exploited and given arms can be more effective. To this end, the UN does have an action plan, which includes implementing national campaigns and getting access to military camps and bases to ensure no children are in the ranks.

Each day of continued war, with efforts to secure ceasefires being stalled or scuttled, is another strike in the tally of a collective moral failure to protect children from an increased risk of aggression and or extremism. The plain fact that bears repeating, after too many months of "unimaginable horrors", is that the air strikes and attacks on aid distribution need to stop. Killings need to stop. Children need to be able to live a normal life, not be casualties of war. Leaders everywhere must realise this and keep working towards diplomatic solutions to end all conflicts. As Mr Beigbeder said of this unconscionable reality that has continued for far too long: "How many more dead girls and boys will it take?

No one to harvest fruits in California

RESIDENT Donald Trump's hunt for illegal migrants in California has precipitated an agricultural crisis. Large tracts of farms are left with crops, especially fruits, waiting to be harvested. Because of the raids by the officials of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) many of the workers have kept away. Farmers and farm supervisors admit that many of the farm labour was illegal.

They argue however that if these illegal immigrants are taken away, then the food supply chain, would be disrupted and there is a looming disaster. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a Rpublican and former director of Congressional Budget Office, said an estimated 80 per cent of the farm labour in the US was foreign born, and half of them were illegal immigrants. But if they disappear, then there would be a problem. "This is bad for supply chains, bad for the agricultural industry." California is a key state for the production of fruits and vegetables.

Three-fourths of fruits and nuts grown in the US are from California, according to California Department of Food and Agriculture. The farms and ranches in the state generated \$60 billion in sales in 2023. One of the labour force, aged 54, old news agency Reuters, he had been working in the US agricultural fields for the last 30 years, he has a family and children. He explained the fear of the farm workers: "If they show up to work

they don't know if they will ever see the family again."

Another worker, an illegal migrant in the country, said. "Basically, we wake up in the morning scared. We worry about the sun, the heat and now a much bigger problem – many not returning home. I try not to get into trouble on the street. Now

whoever gets arrested for any reason gets deported. Trump's raid have then pushed farm workers into a corner They do not want to be seen by the officials even if it means they cannot work. But their absence from work is not a loss just for the workers but for the farmers as well. Without workers they cannot harvest their farm produce. The labour shortage is being felt acutely. A Mexican farm supervisor who did not want to be named said that he needed 300 workers to plant strawberries, but he got only 80. Another supervisor said that when he needed 80 workers in a field, there were only 17.

Trump has conceded that the ICE raids in California were creating problems. He admitted on his media portal, Truth Social that the raids were taking away farm and hotel workers who were good and long-serving were being taken away. He told reporters "Our farmers are being hurt badly. They have very good workers. They're not citizens, but they've turned out to be great." But he is not willing to change his policy. Nor is he thinking of ways

supplying the work force that the farmers need.

In the face of a real time crisis – if the fruits are not har vested in time they will be wasted - Trump does not seem to know what to do. He sees the problem, he wants to help the farmers. But he does not want to go back on the issue of illegal immigrants. And he cannot afford to force the farmers to face huge losses because of his anti-illegal-immigrants policy. It is a real dilemma. A seasoned politician would have known when to step back. No American has a quarrel with Trump over the issue of illegal immigrants But they want the president to recognize the need for migrant labour. American economy cannot survive without migrant labour. Trump and his advisers have to think out a practical solution before it is too late.

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Netanyahu must be pushed to end Gaza war immediately

Osama Al-Sharif

Trump has called **Israel** and bled Hezbollah is being Netanyahu's far-right gov-Hamas to embrace a deal pressured to hand over its ernment the momentum to future for the PA, only comthat will end the war in weapons to the Lebanese Gaza and return all army. last Friday that he believes a deal could be reached within a week many particle of the country reached within a week. mean nothing if they do not Israeli Prime Minister serve the Israeli far right's Benjamin Netanyahu also grand scheme: reoccupy hinted that the prospects Gaza and displace its inhabof an agreement were itants, annex the West Bank strong. The Israeli army and enforce a humiliating has reportedly said all political deal on the military objectives have Palestinians.

S President Donald

been achieved and that With Iran badly hurt and the time for a diplomatic side-stepped, Israel has run solution has come. Tens of out of militant enemies. The thousands of Israelis have Iranian leaders will have to returned to the streets to reconsider their regional pressure the government policies, rearrange their to conclude a deal. national priorities and try to And yet, there is a fore-reengage with the rest of the boding sense of deja vu world, particularly the US. clouding the atmosphere The Iranian public will days after an uneasy truce eventually renew their was reached between Iran demands for genuine ecoand Israel. Since Oct. 7, nomic, social and political 2023, Israel has succeeded reforms. Iran's regional in upsetting the regional dominance will never be geopolitical order in its reclaimed.

favor. Netanyahu has uti-That leaves Israel as the lized the Gaza war to secure a range of strategic gains. That is, after all, what the criminal, and has even said. Egypt, while extremist lawacross the region. But now, new Middle East means for that he wants his corruption makers openly claim terriamid the euphoria, he finds Netanyahu and his cronies. trial to end. He has invited tories in these countries as himself in a position where Keeping Gaza on fire will him to the White House in theirs. he is pressured domestical- serve several purposes. It July without underlining the ly, regionally and interna- will delay any investigation need to stop the war in Gaza bring Netanyahû back to tionally to end the Gaza car- into the Oct. 7 calamity, as a condition. nage. The 12-day Israel- which would end in assignran war was a game-chang- ing blame for the worst er. For Trump, the US inter- intelligence failure in Israeli for many good reasons. But to accommodate the convention was fantamount to a history. It will mean for Israel to emerge as the cerns of Israel's neighbors great victory that ended Netanyahu does not have to regional bully, many coun-Tehran's nuclear ambitions. call an early election, one tries will and should be ending the genocide in But for Netanyahu, the that his party is likely to great strategic gains his war lose. And it will delay the should be thinking that, Palestinians a path toward secured in verdict in his graft trial, pro-Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and tecting him from a possible now Iran are not enough. jail term.

Ending the Gaza war will But there are other objecopen a proverbial Pandora's tives behind waging war on box for him. Yes, he has Gaza, even when the Israeli changed the geopolitical army admits it has run out realities of the Middle East. of military goals. The war Iran has been humbled and has become a blackmail its proxies hamstrung. Syria tool to secure political gains with Tel Aviv, while a hum- The war has

clamp down on the West Bank, expropriate lands, to the dream of a Palestinian

Washington and other allies. At the center of these Western governments. But demands is a just and lastfor these governments to ing settle look the other way while Palestinian the Israeli army intensifies Netanyahu's its genocidal war on Gaza is vision sees the displaceinexcusable and shameful. ment of all Palestinians Only Netanyahu stands to from their native lands. He benefit from the wanton killing of civilians in Gaza. Israel" that requires occu-Only he refuses to allow humanitarian aid to enter while tens of thousands of lands belonging to sover-Gazans are on the verge of eign Arab states. starvation. Only the Israeli at tens of aid seekers on a funded.

Trump primary regional power. Netanyahu, a wanted war treaty, like Jordan and

This may very well be achieved all these strategic Israel's regional moment gains, it must also be ready worried. Those countries Gaza and offering the while humbling Iran might an independent state of their be a good thing, having own. That will be a tough Israel emerge as the primary sell. But only Trump can regional power is even restrain worse.

link his new Middle East world will continue to nonvision to ending decades of chalantly watch the killing conflict with Palestinians. Not once did megalomaniacal Netanyahu has a new regime that is for Israel, such as expand- he offer the Palestinians carries on with liquidating open to ending hostilities ing the Abraham Accords. anything. His approach to the Palestinians and their given Gaza is one of extermina- cause.

tion or displacement. His view of the West Bank is even worse. He sees no plete annexation and an end

Trump must become sen sitive to the national securi-Such goals are known to ty requirements of his Arab settlement tragedy dystopian believes in a "Greater pying all of historical Palestine, in addition to

The Israel-Iran war may prime minister ignores turn out to be the last major Hebrew press reports that regional war with the Israelthe Israeli army is shooting Palestine conflict as its root cause. But the emerging daily basis as they try to get Israel that Netanyahu now lifesaving food from an leads cannot afford to be agency that he created and without wars. It even looks suspiciously at countries has lauded with which it has a peace

Trump is in a position to reality. Now that Israel has Topping these concerns is euphoric Netanyahu at this stage. If Not once did Netanyahu everything else fails, the the fields in Gaza, while a

tive responsibilities. The bottom line is that China's strict Party selfgovernance model is a success in the eyes of those to whom it matters most: its people. To me, of the many surveys that ask respon dents to rate how their own government serves them the most authoritative is the "Democracy Perception Index", sponsored by the Alliance of Democracies Foundation, whose head is a former Danish Prime Minister and a former NATO secretary general

Anders Fogh Rasmussen. According to the 2024 DPI, respondents in China have very positive opinions about their country's politisaying that the government serves the interests of most people (rather than a few) and 85 percent saying all people have equal rights

Strict Party self-gover works well under the CPC's

Trump betrayed the diplomatic effort, says Iranian FM

Michael Jansen

RANIAN Foreign larly Araghchi

Iranian nuclear sites with of governance bunker buster bombs with off Iran's nuclear proto resolve differences. While Trump claimed the US had "obliterated" Iran's main nuclear sites, International Atomic ter of months.

could encourage Iran to result of this conference resume talks by offering \$20-30 billion to establish a civilian nuclear energy programme Iranian enrichment of its comment on Iran, the Gulf own nuclear fuel. The finance, it is said, could countries, naturally not

assets in foreign banks. leaked and widely report-

Tehran is unlikely to Iran is still assessing its military, political, and diplomatic losses from Israel's 12-day war and sites. Iran has to lay down its own conditions and decide when the atmosphere is propitious before re-engaging. Iran has laid down two red lines: low level uranium enrichment must continue on Iranian soil and Iran will not discuss its ballistic missile programme which Iran argues is essential for self-defence. Trump seeks to cross these red lines by eliminating both domestic enrichment and missiles.

Trust has not characterised Iranian-US relations since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini overthrew Washington's ally Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in early 1979 and, radical "students" seized control of the US embassy in Tehran and held staff for 444 days. They were not freed until Ronald Regan had taken over the US presidency from Carter. Jimmy Unfortunately, this gesture did not clear the way for the restoration of relations due to US rejection-

The blow of losing the Shah, compounded by the humiliation of embassy occupation made the US, particularly reverted to an anti-US Congress, testy and unforgiving and easily influenced by domestic and Israeli anti-Iran hawks. Iranian popular trust in

the US was undermined during the decades-long the rule of the shah who developed Iran's economy and carried out modernising social reforms His tool was his intelli-Savak agency gence which allied with the US Intelligence Central and Israel's Agency Mossad

The shah put Iran firmly in the Western camp during the Cold War with the Soviet Union and adopted pro-Israel poli-

cies. Iranian resentment con-British coup against popu- intervention.

elected Abbas Minister Mossadegh who has dis- nationalised the Anglomissed US President Iranian oil company.
Donald Trump's decla- Resentment intensified ration that their coun- when in 1954, the shah tries would re-engage in reached a deal giving nuclear negotiations in Western countries control the coming week. "If our of Iran's oil industry. He interests require a also allowed US compareturn to negotiations, nies to play a dominant we will consider it. But role in trade and Iran's at this time, no agree- domestic markets. This ment or promise has was exploited by the been made, and no talks Iranian opposition, espe-have taken place." cially Khomeini who Araghchi made the mounted his "revolution" point that they were from exile in France. He negotiating when Israel returned to Tehran in launched its June 13th early 1979 after the shah unprovoked attack on had fled to the US. After several years of turmoil, Trump followed up last Khomeini installed the weekend by striking three cleric-dominated model

A decade after the fall the intention of finishing of Shah, Iran's President off Iran's nuclear pro-Hashemi Rafsanjani Hashemi gramme. Araghchi (1989-1997) tried and accused Trump of betray- failed to reconcile with ing the diplomatic effort the US and the West. He followed Mohammed Khatami (1997-2005) who in 1999 launched his "Dialogue of Civilisations" which he Energy Agency (IAEA) hoped would achieve this chief Rafael Grossi said end. One effort in this the sites had been serious- campaign was a Cyprus ly damaged but suggested conference attended by that Iran should be able to enrich uranium "in a materish uranium and foreign correspondents. While Khatami's According to CNN, the call for dialogue failed to rump administration change Washington, one was the creation of the website Gulf 2000 which continues to provide platwithout form for information and and the region.

Khatami was succeedbe provided by the Gulf ed by erratic hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2005-2013). His hostile administration attitude toward the US would also ease sanctions and the West gave a boost and unfreeze Iranian to the powerful anti-Iran lobby in Washington, While such a speculative which was heavily infludeal has been deliberately enced by Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin ed, it is unlikely to materialise. It looks like "pie in for three decades to drag the sky," as the saying the US into a war with

The landmark 2015 reject a return to talks, but agreement limiting Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for lifting sanctions was negotiated during the presidency of US strikes on its nuclear reformist Hassan Rouhani (2013-2021). Iran carried out its commitments under the Obama administration deal and secured some relief from sanctions which had crippled its economy. At that time, IAEA chief Grossi said Iran's nuclear programme was "primitive." The deal restricted enrichment to 3.67 per cent for civilian power plants, reduced its stockpile, compelled Iran to export enriched uranium above the limit, and compelled Iran to use old model centrifuges for enrichment.

Iran was subjected to

the most stringent and invasive regime of monitoring and inspections ever imposed on any country. However, in 2018, Trump aborted the deal and proclaimed1,500 sanctions, disrupting the process of reconstituting US-Iran relations. Iran responded in 2019 by enriching uranium to 20 and 60 per cent, amassing a large stockpile, building advanced centrifuges, and curbing IAEA monitoring, Hardliners in the Iranian establishment clerical the engineered the 2021 election of Ebrahim Raisi who stance until he died in a helicopter crash in 2024. Iran again swung to the reformist faction by electing Masoud Pezeshkian as president who had pledged to clinch a new nuclear agreement.

Having failed to restore relations with the US, which remains Iran's chief but ruled with an iron fist. antagonist on the global scene, Tehran has cultivated ties within the region.

This process expanded by the 2023 restoration of Saudi Iranian relations promised the stability Gulf countries require to pursue economic and social advancement. This has been jeopardised by Israel's war on Iran and tinues over the 1953 US- US military and political

A century's journey proves China's choice Harvey Dzodin T the founding of

the Communist Party of China in estly serve the people. July 1921, China was a CPC's strict self-gover- based on interim results. nance and its ability to

machine

Chinese people. self-governance Strict means the Party accords the highest priority to serving the people with honesty and integrity. A great source of the Party's strength is that it gets its inspiration not only from philosophers such as opment and evaluation of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, but also from

For example, the Party also learns from Chinese bers who have sincerely classics like the 2,000-year- served the people can be old Book of Han, whose promoted to higher levels of truth from facts, and a government's duty is to serve top, in the United States, the people. The Party has comparable appointments, also taken cognizance of especially at the top, are imperial China's recurring often made on financial cycle of dynasties' rise and fall, which were related to In Washington the convenand the need to continuousweakness in order to hon-

poor backward country, governance is the rigorous the West, the "cream rises known as the "sick man of use of five-year plans as until it sours". Asia", wallowing in its goal-setting and measurecentury of humiliation. ment tools to better serve nance demands that Party **Today, under the leader-** the people. In a whole-ofship of the CPC, China government effort at all levhas regained its position els, China gathers input as a global leader. Having from all stakeholders for lived in China for most of planning, sets targets, and this century, I've observed then keeps reviewing the that China has become a results in light of the fiveglobal leader again due in year plan targets and maklarge measure to the ing operational changes

China is now going to continually reinvigorate formulate the 15th Fiveitself, thereby continuing Year Plan (2026-30). The to enjoy the trust of the process reminds me of what future is to create it." China is creating the future on a daily basis.

Another factor China's success is the develgovernment cadres and State-owned enterprises' China's 5,000-year-old his- officials for their placement, performance and promotion. Only CPC mem-China, the cream rises to the "money talks and BS

of The Peter Principle, A key element of China's Laurence J. Peter, said, in

Strict Party self-govermembers serve the people instead of serving their own interests. Unfortunately, human nature pushes many people the world over to be corrupt in the private and public spheres, especially in the absence of strong deterrents. From time immemorial, officials everywhere have been tempted to dip their hands in the cookie jar when they believe nobody is watching. China was no Austrian management guru exception, but it is a rare Peter Drucker once said: exception in that it vigor-The best way to predict the ously addressed the problem on an institutional cal system, with 91 percent level.

President Xi Jinping has for targeted corruption as a major factor impeding China's further development, launching a comprehensive anti-corruption campaign focusing on highlevel corrupt officials ("tigers") as well as lowerlevel corrupt officials ("flies"), vowing that any official suspected of corruplessons include seeking responsibility. While in tion would be investigated, and if found guilty, punished accordingly.

One of the most unique ways strict Party self-governance is practiced is the contributions, not on merit. periodic self-criticism sessions, right from the top "pay to play". As the father tion, including self-criti- people.

cism, in regard to their individual conduct and collec

before the law. The respondents to this survey in China are more positive than those in the US and in most European countries on these points Chinese people had some of the most positive results globally of the more than 100,000 respondents across 100 countries

nance clearly works, and leadership. Here's wishing a happy 104th birthday to the moral corruption and decay, tional wisdom is that ranks to the lower levels, Communist Party of China with every Party member and many more years ly confront and address this walks", that is, you have to engaging in a self-examina- of success in serving the

The attacks on Iran didn't achieve anything more than harm nonproliferation

FTER launching Research Reactor, an direct attacks on installation built with US facilities, United States medical isotope produc- China, Russia, France tions reimposed again quitter still sees any Trump was quick to sion and fuel fabrication declare victory. His complex in Isfahan; the enrichment and agreed to showed little flexibility, administration claimed Natanz nuclear facility, reduce its uranium stock- instead making even "the world is far safer" which is the country's after the "bombing main enrichment site; the exchange for sanctions campaign obliterated Fordow Iran's ability to create plant near Qom; and the nuclear weapons".

about the extent to which tional in Iran. the Iranian nuclear pro-International out, craters reveal little stages. about what survived deep below layers of concrete. Iranian nuclear pro- ties recently attacked by bombs because it was too signatory to the Non-

Donald tion; the uranium converunderground relief. Bushehr nuclear plant, But in the aftermath of which relies on Russianthe strikes, there has supplied fuel and is the been much deliberation only one currently opera-

In addition, Iran is gramme was really set constructing two other time monitoring. This to revive negotiations. back. As the head of the nuclear installations – the expanded access covered Within hours of the Atomic Darkhovin and Sirik all the major sites of attacks, Iran scrubbed Energy Agency (IAEA), power plant projects - Iran's Rafael Grossi, pointed but those remain in early

bunker-busting The country became a force. deep underground. The Proliferation

Olamide Samuel

pile by 97 percent in more stringent demands.

to install cameras and proven unreliable. remote sensors at nuclear nuclear gramme, Natanz, Fordow and All aspects of the Isfahan, the three facili- home.

nuclear help in 1967 and used for US, United Kingdom, be undermined or sanc- the table, assuming the and Germany. It accepted unilaterally, and in value in remaining at the strict ceilings on uranium response, Washington table.

> From Iran's perspective, what was proposed The IAEA was granted was a less favourable IAEA. even greater access to deal than the JCPOA, Iran's programme than and it came from a counbefore and was allowed try whose promises had

The US-Israeli attacks sites, permitting real- all but killed the efforts pro- another round of talks including with the US in Oman and buys little safety. ordered its negotiators

The Trump administration admitted that at least one site was not targeted by the IAEA for decades. While it remained in islation to quit the NPT. If Iran goes through with In 2018 during his first it, a withdrawal could

Treaty term as president, Trump rupture the cornerstone

Instead of curbing nuclear proliferation, this short-sighted military action may well intensify the nuclear threat it sought to contain, making not just the Middle East but also the entire world a far more dangerous place.
Until this month's attack, Iran's nuclear programme had remained a largely peaceful one. It was launched

in the 1950s with help from the US Atoms for Peace initiative. Over the following decades, it expanded to include a number of nuclear facilities. Among them are the Arak heavy water reactor, which is now nonoperational; the Tehran Research Reactor, an installation built with US help in 1967 and used for medical isotope production: the uranium conversion and fuel fabrication complex in Isfahan; the Natanz nuclear facility, which is the country's main enrichment site; the Fordow underground plant near Qom; and the Bushehr nuclear plant, which relies on Russian-supplied fuel and is the only one currently operational in Iran. In addition, Iran is constructing two other nuclear installations – the Darkhovin and Sirik power plant projects - but those remain in early stages. All aspects of the Iranian nuclear programme were under meticulous surveillance by the IAEA for decades. The country became a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968, legally committing itself to forgo the pursuit of nuclear weapons and placing all nuclear materials

under IAEA safeguards. Iran signed a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in 1974 and declared 18 nuclear facilities and nine locations outside facilities (LOFs) where nuclear material was used. These included enrichment plants, research reactors, conversion and fuel fabrication facilities, laboratories and hospital sites using radioisotopes. At times, especially after previously secret sites came to light in 2002, the IAEA carried out more intrusive verification measures and pressed Iran to implement the Additional Protocol, an agreement for expanded inspections. The country did so voluntarily from 2003 to 2006. In 2015, Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with the US, United Kingdom, China, Russia, France and Germany. It accepted strict ceilings on uranium enrichment and agreed to reduce its uranium stockpile by 97 percent in exchange for sanctions relief. The IAEA was granted even greater access to Iran's programme than before and was allowed to install cameras and remote sensors at nuclear sites, permitting real-time monitoring. This expanded access covered all the major sites of Iran's nuclear programme, including

Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan, the three facilities recently attacked by the US. The JCPOA proved highly effective while it remained in force. In 2018 during his first term as president, Trump decided to pull out of the JCPOA, claiming that under its provisions Iran received "too much in exchange for too little". Despite repeated pleas from European allies to preserve the accord, the US reimposed sanctions and launched a "maximum pressure" campaign to cripple Iran's economy. The consequences of Trump's withdrawal were swift. Deprived of the deal's benefits, Iran began reducing its compliance with the agreement. In 2020, after a Trump-ordered air strike killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, Tehran announced it would no longer be bound by any operational limits in the nuclear deal. Unsurprisingly, Trump's actions made any new negotiations with Iran far more difficult. US officials under the second Trump administration tried to restart talks with Iran and conducted several rounds of indirect discussions. Iranian leaders demanded guarantees that a new deal would not be undermined or sanctions reimposed again unilaterally, and in response,

Washington showed little flexibility, instead making even more stringent demands. From Iran's perspective, what was proposed was a less favourable deal than the JCPOA, and it came from a country whose promises had proven unreliable. The US-Israeli attacks all but killed the efforts to revive negotiations. Within hours of the attacks. Iran scrubbed another round of talks with the US in Oman and ordered its negotiators home.

cent-enriched uranium forgo the pursuit of under its provisions Iran remains unknown.

tained remains unclear, Comprehensive

nuclear proliferation, this nuclear material was short-sighted military used. These included action may well intensify enrichment the nuclear threat it research reactors, consought to contain, mak- version and fuel fabricaing not just the Middle tion facilities, laborato-East but also the entire ries and hospital sites world a far more danger- using radioisotopes. ous place.

programme had remained 2002, the IAEA carried a largely peaceful one.

nuclear facilities.

Arak heavy water reac- signed tor, which is now nonop- Comprehensive Plan of indirect discussions. erational; the Tehran Action (JCPOA) with the

stockpile of 60 per- committing itself to ICPOA claiming that control nonproliferation Safeguards Agreement in

At times, especially Until this month's after previously secret attack, Iran's nuclear sites came to light in out more intrusive verifi-It was launched in the cation measures and 1950s with help from the pressed Iran to imple-US Atoms for Peace ini- ment the Additional to include a number of The country did so volthe

regime that kept it trans- 1974 and declared 18 and launched a "maxi- Korea, which walked signal it is willing to parent for years has been nuclear facilities and mum pressure" campaign away from the NPT in accept such an arrangenine locations outside to cripple Iran's econo-Instead of curbing facilities (LOFs) where my. The consequences of weapon four years later. Trump's withdrawal were plants, Oassem

> bound by any operational limits in the nuclear deal. meant to be easy. It tional

Iranian

fate of Iran's centrifuges (NPT) in 1968, legally decided to pull out of the treaty of global arms liferation and also unre- tionism and the collapse of

While the extent of the placing all nuclear mate- exchange for too little". nuclear bomb to a hand- ment programme paired damage that the Iranian rials under IAEA safe- Despite repeated pleas ful of states. Iran quitting with rigorous monitoring nuclear programme sus- guards. Iran signed a from European allies to now would mark the can effectively block preserve the accord, the treaty's most consequen- Iran's pathways to a US reimposed sanctions tial breach since North bomb. The US needs to 2003 and tested a nuclear ment in exchange for

Outside the NPT, Iran sanctions relief. swift. Deprived of the would no longer be Tehran announced it ers to do the same, shredwould no longer be ding decades of restraint.

new negotiations continued liability for nuclear leaders Security Council could diplomacy.

demanded guarantees use to pressure any that a new deal would not would-be quitter back to

While Iran has not yet declared it is leaving the NPT, its parliament passed legislation to stop all cooperation with the

This is a clear sign that the prospects of Iran's continued adherence to multilateral diplomacy are dim.

By bombing facilities under active IAEA safeguards, the US in effect told every nonnuclear state that cooperation The strikes set a dan-

precedent: A In the days after the country that opened its sites to inspectors and largest democracies: India remained within a negotiated framework nevertheless faced military force. If states conclude that adhering to the NPT and allowing inspections won't protect them from attack or coercion, they may well decide that developing a nuclear deterrent is the only reliable security guarantee. After all, we don't see the US contemplating strikes on North Korean nuclear facilities after it made clear it has a nuclear weapon.

Whatever temporary setback this ill-conceived show of force was meant to achieve, it now risks causing a strategic unravelling of the wider nonproliferation regime and regional stability.

The US still has a

chance to stop a nuclear arms race from erupting in the Middle East and the rest of the world. To do that, it must double down on diplomacy and confront the deep distrust it created head-on.

Striking a deal is essential, but for that, American diplomacy must return to realism in negotiations. Washington should abandon the maximalist demand of "zero entered. enrichment". Arms control experts noted that insisting Iran have no teetering between extremenrichment capability is ism and counterextremunnecessary for nonprolism, and between isola-decades. The JCPOA barriers to invasions that forgo the pursuit of under its provisions Iran For half a century, the already proved that a nuclear weapons and received "too much in NPT has limited the tightly limited enrichsecurity assurances and

For its part, Tehran has deal's benefits, Iran bound by any limits or signalled its willingness began reducing its com- inspections, leaving the to ship out its stockpile pliance with the agree- world in the dark about of highly enriched uraniment. In 2020, after a its activities. An opaque um and cap enrichment Trump-ordered air strike Iranian nuclear pro- levels again if offered a our eyes and killed Iranian General gramme would likely fair deal, even though it their citizens. Soleimani, spur other regional pow- refuses to relinquish its right to enrich entirely.

Ultimately, diplomacy Leaving the NPT is not and sustained internaengagement Unsurprisingly, requires three months remain the most effective Trump's actions made notice, a public rationale, tools for managing proliferation tiative. Over the follow- Protocol, an agreement with Iran far more diffipast violations, and the risks, not risky unilateral ing decades, it expanded for expanded inspections. cult. US officials under handover or continuous actions. The strikes have the second Trump admin- safeguarding of all been a grave strategic untarily from 2003 to istration tried to restart imported nuclear tech- error. Repairing the dam-Among them are the 2006. In 2015, Iran talks with Iran and con- nology. These are steps age will require an equal-Joint ducted several rounds of the treaty depositories ly dramatic recommitant discussions.

Meanwhile, the UK's party that has sacrificed its bread, jobs, medicine, and the United Nations ment to the hard work of exit from the EU was driv-core principles in an employment and social

housing and a decent life Eyad Abu Shakra

Democracies rediscover

the importance of bread,

the to dethrone the country's Democratic mayoral pri- two major parties, the any wave. mary in New York City, Conservatives and Labour, the largest and most with the rising proto-fasimpressive city in the US, has jolted the American public out of their slumthe same time, a resurber, which had seemed gence of the Labour left on empty slogans. endless since Donald Trump entered the White seems to be on the cards, as the credibility of the current Labour govern-To avoid drawing hasty ment declines. The state of conclusions, we must acknowledge that this affairs in Britain is part of a broader pattern across young Afro-Asian Muslim Western Europe: moderate who openly identifies as a socialist has only won a are in decline, while the

won

House.

single round.

and the US.

Just one round in the

fierce battle that the mod-

erate and progressive

wings of Western democ-

racies are waging with the

rising far right in its con-

servative, fascist and

racist iterations across

Europe and its control

over the world's two

On these pages, I have

written about what a uni-

versity professor of mine

once told me: If the 20th

century was the century of

ideology, the 21st is the

century of technology. His

claim is that the incredible

pace of technological

progress in our era will, in

practice, solve many of the

economic and ideological

struggles that once pushed

humanity to develop theo-

ries and abstract solutions.

fully endorse or entirely

reject this claim just yet.

We are only a quarter of

the way through the 21st

century and technological

progress continues at a

truly astonishing pace.

Achievements and discov-

eries that once took cen-

turies or generations are

now emerging in months,

The whole is no longer

what it was, and it will

never again be what it is

today, given the pace of

economic shifts, innova-

tions, shifts in professions,

evolving beliefs and inter-

ests, the tremors shaking

the structures of societies

and their interactions, and

the limbo that politics and

systems

them, are intellectually

regardless of pretext.

ical project.

Even in

democracies that have

threatened by populist and

Ukraine war has sparked

immense fear across

Europe, which has become

terrified of a power that is

still nostalgic for the era of

czars and red banners.

racist politics.

not years.

value

Of course, we cannot

lesser extent, the radical left are gaining ground. This is also obvious in and the Rust Belt. France, where Marine Le

HE rise of Eyad Abu Shakra ful lobbies and temporarily broaden its Mamdani, who last tionists who now threaten appeal in the face of a popporarily broaden its ulist force willing to ride

> In the Democratic Party cist isolationists well made serious mistakes, placed to replace them. At dragging its feet far too long and trying to cash in

> Democrats understood the nature of the battle they faced in 2016 against Trump and his populist "Make America Great Again" base. However, they have committed two forces on the right and left grave errors. First, they underestimated the farextreme right and, to a right's capacity for stirring anti-immigrant sentiment among unskilled workers

> Second, they ignored Pen's far-right and Jean- the material demands at

Our societies, all of them, are intellectually teetering between extremism and counterextremism, and between isolationism and the collapse of barriers to invasions that had stood in their way regardless of pretext. In short, these are uncertain times. And the visest among us are those who place no bets, believe

no one's rhetoric and take no risks backing any political project. Even in Western democracies that ave long found comfort in the stability of their institutions, unlike our own "young" states in the so-called Third World, everything is changing before

our eyes and the eyes of their citizens. The very notion of the nation state, although it seemed firmly entrenched and secure after the end of the Cold War, is now threatened by populist and racist politics. The

Ukraine war has sparked immense fear across Europe, which has become terrified of a power that is still nostalgic for the era of czars and red banners. Meanwhile, the UK's exit from the EU was driven by the far-right isolationists who now threaten to

dethrone the country's two major parties, the Conservatives and Labour, with the rising proto-fascist isolationists well placed to replace them. At the same time, a resurgence of the Labour left seems to be on the cards, as the credibility of the current Labour government declines. The state of affairs in

Europe: moderate forces on the right and left are in decline, while the extreme right and, to a lesser extent, the radical left are gaining ground. This is also obvious in France, where Marine Le Pen's farright and Jean-Luc Melenchon's left-wing move-

ments have gained ground.

Britain is part of a broader pattern across Western

the rising popularity of the party, while Italy's Giorgia Meloni is the leader of the right (Chega and Vox, respectively) are embracing the legacies of the fas-

had stood in their way posed by the far right's upward trajectory, the tra-In short, these are ditional moderate left is uncertain times. And the to resist. Frankly, this outwisest among us are those who place no bets, believe come is not surprising at no one's rhetoric and take all. The most these antino risks backing any politfar-right forces can hope for is to build fragile, ad Western hoc alliances that have no

long found comfort in the platform. Yes, all the moderate stability of their institutions, unlike our own Western left has done is "young" states in the soevade honest conversacalled Third World, everytions, buy time with empty thing is changing before rhetoric and seek to conour eyes and the eyes of right, whose fervor drives The very notion of the its pursuit of wiping out its nation state, although it opponents entirely. The result? The far right is now seemed firmly entrenched and secure after the end of the Cold War, is now

credibility, principles or

priorities. party recently surpassed the ruling Labour Party in opinion polls. This is a telling message and a dire technology and virtual warning delivered to a en by the far-right isola- attempt to appease power-

Luc Melenchon's left- the heart of this struggle. wing movements have The US' most prominent gained ground. In left-wing politician, Sen. Germany, it can be seen in Bernie Sanders, did recognize this problem. He tried Alternative for Germany to appeal to disaffected working-class voters and bring them back into the Brothers of Italy party. In Democratic fold to ensure Portugal and Spain, the far they did not become easy for Trump and

The Democrats repeat-Our societies, all of cist regimes, led by dicta- ed the same mistake later. tors Antonio Salazar and This time, it was more Francisco Franco, that egregious. The uncondiimposed their rule for tional support of Joe Biden's administration for With its strategy for Benjamin Netanyahu and reversing the challenge his Gaza war cost the party's 2024 candidate, Kamala Harris, tens of thousands of votes from losing its soul and ability the left, as well as the votes of Muslims and Arab Americans in key swing states ... votes that could have gone her way, at least in theory.

Mamdani may or may not win November's mayoral race in New York — a city that remains the hub of Jewish American life. Nonetheless, he has shown his party that victory is impossible without clear tain the rise of the far principles, no matter how risky sticking to them may seem.

Mamdani understands that the people of New dictating the political York face urgent material agenda and determining crises that need solutions, not the empty slogans of In Britain, for instance, opportunists and domestic the far-right Reform UK and foreign lobbies that are amplified by Fox News and the like.

Even in the century of worlds, people still need

Europe's lifeline to Palestine will not fix its bleeding economy **Daoud Kuttab** intensified in both fre- displacement.

of a 202 million (\$238 several Palestinian govmillion) aid package to ernments, has been reportfor Palestine Refugees EU commitment of 300 comes as a rare moment million for 2025, which is of good news amid a sea trickling through at a rate come, the European aid servants' wages. Most PA barely scratches the sur- employees face of a deepening fiscal receive only about 35 percrisis, exacerbated by cent of their salaries. both internal dysfunction and relentless exter- Minister

but it is a frayed rope that said. risks snapping under the weight of political strings goods

currently Foreign Palestinian Varsen

pressure, chief Aghabekian Shahin, newly among them the destruc- sworn in on June 19, tive policies of the cur- struck a cautious tone, rent Israeli government. saying that the EU pack-Of the total package, age partially covers the 150 million is earmarked gap in the Palestinian

> These funds — taxes on Palestinian financial instientering the tutions.

European and mounting debt. Occupied Territories sion's allo- Moayad Afaneh, an through Israeli-controlled cation last month economist and adviser to ports — are a key pillar of the Palestinian economy. years, Finance Minister on of economic despair and of just 20 million a sen to withhold a signifi- In an already volatile envi-Israel.

This Israeli financial throwing fuel on the fire. chokehold is not a new for supporting the PA in treasury. "Our treasury is dangerously, he last month es, from teachers' salaries the unlawful decision by waiver that enabled finan- expected to announce civil administration. That to withhold funds collect- Palestinian and Israeli might seem like a lifeline, ed on our behalf," she banks, threatening to paraalready-strained lyze

public services, Bezalel Smotrich has cho- employment and stability. strangulation is akin to

Palestinian businesstactic, but it is being man Samir Hulileh, a forwielded with renewed cru- mer Cabinet secretary, elty. Smotrich's decisions stressed that the financial are crippling the PA's abil- crisis is as much political ity to operate, even at a as it is economic. A highbare minimum level. Most profile Saudi-French UN conference, in which month postponed due to escalating. Israel's war with Iran.

Under the 1994 Paris It is a calculated form of the tide of an economy support the Palestinian ed as saying that the aid is Protocol, Israel is obligat- collective punishment, that is collapsing under Authority and the UN not a "breakthrough," but ed to transfer these cus- wielded not only against siege. Nor can it address Relief and Works Agency rather it is part of a larger toms and VAT revenues to the PA but against millions the deep structural prob- when settlers opened fire society's shift toward digithe PA. But in recent of Palestinians who rely lems within the Palestinian on villagers. Despite five The EU and Arab counpolitical paralysis in month — only enough to cant portion of these ronment — one in which aid on reforms: gover-Palestine. But while wel- pay a fraction of public funds, citing opposition to the war in Gaza has nance improvements, anti-

providing essential servic- suffering extremely due to refused to renew a banking Riyadh and others were people it claims to serve. nity cannot remain a pas-

So, Europe's 202 mil- the West Bank — often Masafer Yatta and the 202 million package is lion must be seen in this coordinated or shielded by Jordan Valley, regions certainly appreciated sobering context. It might the Israeli military — have long targeted for forced and desperately needed —

To be clear, this is not help pay off the salary political apparatus itself.

tries correctly conditioned charge. funds, citing opposition to the war in Gaza has nance improvements, antiPA stipends paid to the reignited flames of viofamilies of Palestinians lence across the West crucially, leadership suckilled or imprisoned by Bank — such financial cession. The appointment arson, destruction of propof Hussein Al-Sheikh as erty and physical assaults. vice president to President Mahmoud Abbas in April for urgent international was one such step. But intervention and the UN without elections or the has expressed grave conmeaningful rejuvenation cern, calling on Israel to of Palestinian institutions, protect civilians and hold the PA remains politically stagnant and increasingly disconnected from the The international commu-

to public healthcare and the Israeli finance minister cial transactions between renewed aid, was last lence on the ground is settlers

were released without More than 80 such Al-Sheikh has appealed

perpetrators accountable. But words are not enough. Meanwhile, the vio- sive observer while armed

Palestinian communities Israeli settler attacks in with impunity in areas like

quency and brutality. At least four Palestinians Palestinian economy is just an economic dispute. backlog, but it cannot stem were killed last month buckling under the weight ment. Nor should it alone, including three in of inflation, liquidity Kafr Malik, northeast of imbalances and currency Ramallah, on June 25, distortions. The Israeli tal payments has left settlers being arrested, all Palestinian banks overwhelmed with physical shekels, while Palestinians themselves remain largely cash-reliant. Price disparities are further distorting the market: cigarettes and gasoline are cheaper in the West Bank than in Israel, spurring cross-border cash

purchases that deepen economic instability. and the Palestine could proceed in American terrorize to an already beleaguered government.

So, while Europe's

it must not become a sub-At the same time, the stitute for sustained international political engageobscure the core truth: the PA is not merely mismanaged or inefficient, it is besieged economically and now physically. True resilience for

Palestine will not come from short-term aid alone, but from ending the deliberate policies of economic sabotage, settler violence and diplomatic marginalization that are bleeding the Palestinian people of If Europe, the US and

All this unfolded as the the Arab world want to see US Supreme Court ruled a stable and peaceful that lawsuits against the region, they must move beyond charity and toward Liberation Organization accountability. That means confronting Israeli policourts, adding yet another cies head-on and upholdfinancial and legal threat ing the international agreements and laws they so often invoke.

Without justice, 202 million package is amount of aid will bring lasting peace.

- Arab News



Governor SBP visits SICPA Pakistan

F.P. Report

Bank of Pakistan (SBP) warmly Jameel Ahmad along with esteemed guests. other senior officials of visited the offices of SICPA various steps of ink produc-Pakistan. The high-level tion and other security feadelegation included Mr. tures of the bank notes Saleem Ullah, Deputy highlighting the company's Governor, SBP; Mr. Arshad three decades of dedicated Pakistan Security Printing commitment to quality and Corporation (PSPC); and innovation. Mr. Aqeel Ashraf Rana, Governor Principal Staff Officer to commended

the Governor, SBP. Mr. Company's production SICPA is a Swiss private Rizwan Butt, Managing capabilities and expressed technology company that KARACHI: Governor State Director of SICPA Pakistan received the

During the visit, the del-SBP and the PSPC recently egation was led through the Bhatti, Managing Director, service and unwavering

Governor Jameel Ahmad

satisfaction at their pre- supports the effective govparedness for the launch of ernance and long-term

a tree plantation as a sym-the world's banknotes. bol of SICPA's commit- With operations across ment to environmental sus- five continents, our plattainability and a group pho- form for sovereignty tograph, commemorating delivers sovereignty soluthe occasion and reinforc- tions across digital identiing the strong collaboration ty and integrity, revenue with the State Bank of mobilisation,

Established in 1927, brand protection.

Pakistan's new banknote prosperity of nation states. SICPA is best known for The visit concluded with protecting the majority of resources, health, and

Surfin Meta, commented:

"We are honored to collab-

orate with The Bank of

Punjab, a progressive insti-

AI-powered digital infra-

structure is designed to

enhance customer journeys,

strengthen compliance, and

accelerate loan decision

making-all of which we are

excited to demonstrate through this evaluation

Under the MoU, the two organizations will jointly

explore a comprehensive

suite of services including

digital onboarding, AI-driv-

en loan origination and data

The evaluation phase will also include live

demonstrations and poten-

tial pilot deployment of

partnership.

analytics.



Business



KARACHI: Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmad alongwith other senior officials of SBP and PSPC visiting offices of SICPA Pakistan.

ICCI-Bahria Town ink MoU

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move aimed at fostering mutual coopera-tion and supporting the business community, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Bahria Town Rawalpindi have entered into a formal collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU was signed by Nasir Mansoor Qureshi President ICCI, and Sajid Ilyas, Deputy Chief Executive of Bahria Town Rawalpindi, said a press release received here Tuesday.

Under the agreement ICCI members will be entitled to exclusive discounts on selected services offered by Bahria Town.

In return, ICCI will promote Bahria Town's various projects through its official social media platforms.

Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi highlighted the Chamber's continued efforts for the ease of doing business and providing a level playing field for the entrepreneurial community, especially ICCI members.

He said the partnership reflects ICCI's commitment to bringing valuedriven collaborations for the benefit of the business fraternity Sajid Ilyas shed light on

Bahria Town's diverse projects, including housing schemes, equestrian activicommunity development. Senior Vice President

Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry also addressed the gathering, reiterating ICCI's mission to advocate for and facilitate the business community.

Obaidullah,

During the meeting, President Usman Shaukat reiterated RCCI's commitment to promoting exportled economic growth, highlighting the pharmaceutical sector as a key pillar for regional development. He called for stronger regulatory support to enhance the

tiveness Dr. Obaidullah reaffirmed DRAP's commitment to building a modern and efficient regulatory environment. "We must move beyond a stagnant mindset and make our domestic regulatory environment more conducive to growth," he said. He also reiterated that DRAP is undergoing a major transformation to align with the Prime Minister's vision of

Key updates shared by Dr. Obaidullah include the 50 percent completion of DRAP's digital transformation, Automation of medical device licensing expected by July 20 and Import/export processing time reduced from 10 days to just 3 days. also spoke about DRAP's ongoing Medical Devices Roadshow, aimed at enhancing regional competitiveness, lowering business costs, and building industry capacity. Furthermore, he announced that

PSX stays bullish, gains 2,572 points

Stock Exchange continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 2,572.11, a positive change of 2.05 percent, closing at 128,199.43 points as compared to 125,627.31 points on the last trading day.

A total of 1,032,756,027 shares were traded during the day as compared to shares at Rs 6.39 per share, 1,144,553,310 shares the Bank of Punjab with previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 44.008 billion South Gas with 69,166,818 Rs 71.02 decline in its per

nies transacted their shares in the stock market, 233 of them recorded gains and sustained losses, whereas the share price of 40 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 84,987,503 73,831,173 shares at Rs 10.92 per share and Sui against Rs 35.238 billion shares at Rs44.73 per share. share price to Rs 844.28.

Rs1,616.70 per share closing at Rs17,783.73 whereas runner-up was Khyber Textile Mills Limited with Rs118.44 rise in its share price to close at Rs1,374.41.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 223.33 per share price, closing at runner-up was Supernet Technologies Limited with

DG discuss challenges faced by columnists, writers

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Newly appointed Director General Information and Public Relations Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ansarullah Khilji held a meeting with President Abasin Columnists Association (ACWA), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi to discuss challenges faced by columnists and writers of the province.

President ACWA, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi had called on DG Information, Ansarullah Khiji in his office for felicitating him over his appointment and discussion of issues faced by columnists and writers association members.

In the meeting, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi, who is also Senior Vice President of Pakties, and golf facilities, close and effective contacts between ness, DG Information added. emphasizing the group's vision to uplift living stanDepartment, the community members immediate steps will be taken to resolve dards and contribute to faced different issues and presented sug- the problems faced by columnists. gestions for their solutions. Director General Ansarullah Khilji said that columpublic opinion and bringing to light issues

nidden from the government's eyes. The columnists will be kept informed province.

on regular basis by Information Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Department about the steps being taken by Industry (PAJCCI) and former Senior Vice government in the public interest for prop-President SCCI said that in addition to er highlighting in press for public aware-

Later, President Abasin Colu Association Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi thanked nists play an important role in highlighting Director General Ansarullah Khilji for his assurance of all possible cooperation for betterment of columnists and writers of the

SNGPL inaugurates gas pipeline from Charsadda

CHARSADDA: In a major step toward strengthening its gas distribution network, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has inaugurated an 8-inch diameter, 24-kilometer gas pipeline from Charsadda SMS to Tangi SMS. The proposed pipeline will improve gas capacity up to 20 MMCFD from existing 10 MMCFD, significantly improving supply and pressure in Charsadda district, particularly in Tangi and its adjoining areas.

The inauguration ceremony was held today, with Saqib Arbab, Deputy Managing Director (Operations), SNGPL, serving as the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by Senior General Manager Khurram Ayub Khan, company executives, and project staff. Speaking at the ceremony, Saqib Arbab reaffirmed SNGPL's commitment to ensure uninterrupted gas supply, especially



infrastructure. This project reflects our dedication to enhancing services in our franchise areas. Once completed, it will resolve longstanding issues of low pressure and modernizing and expanding its distribution during peak demand in winter.

Askari Bank partners with WeatherWalay

ISLAMABAD: Askari Bank Limited (AKBL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WeatherWalay (Pvt.) Ltd. under the Bank's flagship Cashless Ecosystem Project. In continuation of cashless financial services, this collaboration will introduce a new app feature for resident users of a leading housing society in Pakistan. This service will provide hyperlocal weather intelligence, including realtime forecasts, early warning alerts, and data from Automated Weather Stations to help app users make informed decisions and adopt a climate-aware, tech-driven lifestyle. Speaking on the occasion, Ali Naqvi, Chief Information Officer Askari Bank, said,

"At Askari Bank, we are committed to building a smarter, more connected financial ecosystem. Our collaboration with WeatherWalay reflects our ambition to align banking with real-world needs - in this case, hyper-local weather data that empowers customers and communities alike. Whether it's agriculture, outdoor planning, or climate resilience, this partnership helps embed actionable insights into our digital journey.'

Similarly, Junaid Yamin, Cofounder &



sion at WeatherWalay is to bridge the information gap when it comes to localized weather awareness. Partnering with Askari Bank allows us to scale our impact, reaching customers across Pakistan.

This collaboration strengthens AKBL's smart society vision, especially a residentcentric lifestyle, which will support digitally connected and smart communities. This initiative reflects Askari Bank's commitment to building inclusive communities where intelligent living and digital financial services come together to enable a truly cashless ecosystem.

BOP, Surfin sign MoU to explore advanced digital banking solutions



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Bank of Punjab (BOP), one of in Pakistan. Pakistan's fastest-growing and digitally forward commercial banks, has entered finance, AI-driven credit firmed the Bank's commit- serve underserved segoutlines a framework to digital transformation. evaluate and potentially

F.P. Report

KARACHI: On the 19th of

June 2025 both current and

members

banking solutions aimed at Punjab, remarked: "This and operational efficiency

The MoU was signed in

Zafar Masud, President

part of his 90th Birthday cel-

Tom Tugendhat MP MBE

VR and Rt Hon the Lord

Former ministers Rt Hon

ebrations.

of

Parliament came together to Maude thanked Sir Anwar

celebrate the life of Sir for his considerable contri-

Anwar Pervez, OBE H Pk as bution to British Society and

SUIT ADVERTISEMENT

IN THE COURT OF MR. LIAQAT ALI JUDGE BANKING COURT-1

PESHAWAR.. Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar

Case No: 52/01 of 2025, Date of hearing 26-08-2025, Suit for the Recovery

of Rs.3349318/- HBL Takht Bhai Branch Takht Bhai VS Gul Tracto

Workshop, Notice Versus: M/s Gul Tractor Workshop Malakand Road

Takht Bhai Main Bazar Takht Bhai. Through Azeem Khan S/o Nizam Gul R/o

Haii Jalandhar, Tehsil Takht Bhai District Mardan, Where as the plaintiff bank

has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 3349318/- Against you under

section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance

2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and

defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the

newspaper. Failing which an exparty decree shall be passed in favour of the

plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued today on 21-05-2025 under my signature

IN THE COURT OF SYED ZAMARRUD SHAH, JUDGE BANKING COURT-II

Federal Judicial Complex Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshav

Case No: 306/1, Next Date 29-07-2025, Suit for recovery of Rs. 1361704/90

BAF Islamabad Branch VS Human Haider. Notice Versus: Human Haide

S/o Mehta Ali R/o House No. 137, Street No. 2 Mohalla Hayatabac

Peshawar Business Address: House No. 160, Street No. 7, Phase-5, Sector

C-2, Hayatabad Peshawar. Where is the plaintiff Bank has instituted a suit

for the recovery of Rs.1361704/90 against you under section 10(2) of the

Financial institious (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001. You are hereby

summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within

30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper filling which

an expartee decree shall be passed in favor of the plaintiff Bank with costs

Issued today on 17-06-2025 under my signature & seal of the Court.

and seal of the Court. Registrar, Banking Court, 1 Peshawar

Islamabad by Mr. Li Jin, of tem. We are particularly Surfin Meta and Mr. Nofel excited by Surfin Meta's into a strategic alliance Daud, Chief Digital Officer capabilities in AI-based with Surfin Meta Digital of BOP. The signing cere-credit scoring, onboarding, Technologies Pte Ltd, a mony was also attended by and merchant services-

enhancing financial access partnership reflects our

implement advanced digital & CEO of The Bank of Chairman and CEO of experiences in Pakistan.

strategic intent to embed cutting-edge technologies into BOP's digital ecosys-

across Punjab and beyond." Wu Yanan, Executive redefining digital banking

Surfin Meta's platform. The partnership is part of BOP's broader digital strategy to enable inclusive financial services by lever-Singapore-based global Mr. Zafar Masud, President solutions that are directly aging fintech collaborain embedded & CEO of BOP, who reaf- aligned with our mission to tions and scalable technologies. scoring, and merchant payment to embracing innovaments, particularly SMEs and youth entrepreneurs dation for a long-term

engagement aimed at

UK Parliament celebrates Sir Anwar's life, achievements

as an example of entrepre

neur's support for independ-

ent businesses throughout his Both Lord Maude and Sir Brandon shared their experiences of visits to Pakistan that Sir Anwar had organised for them as Chairs of the Conversative Party. The High Commissioner for Pakistan to the UK Dr Mohammad Faisal and The Lord Khan of Burnley Minister for Faith, highlighted Sir Anwar's significant contribution in enhancing bilateral relations between

UK and Pakistan. Lord Choudrey CBE SI Pk who hosted the event touched upon Sir Anwar's remarkable life story from Rt Hon Sir Brandon humble beginnings from a Chancellor shared with the remote village in rural Pakistan to immigrating to the UK aged 21 in 1956.

Sir Anwar worked in various jobs in Bradford, before moving to London and setting up his first retail store in .963, founding Bestway in

Under Sir Anwar's visionary leadership Bestway has grown into a diversified Group, which employs over 47,000 people globally, with leadership positions across the food, pharmaceutical, cement and banking sectors. Acutely aware of his

social responsibilities Sir Anwar set up the Bestway Foundation, which has donated over £44.0 million to charitable causes focused on social mobility as a theme that is very personal to him.

Group's golden jubilee as well as Sir Anwar's 90th birthday. It is with this in mind the family had commissioned a commemorative book which covers Sir Anwar's life story for posterity, this was shared with the audience at this exclusive event.

Churchill Room of the attended the Conservative Party; Labour Member Popat & Lord Philip Smith

how he is a living embodi-

ment of everything that is

former

audience how Sir Anwar and

Bestway helped his family's

small business grow and

thrive throughout the 1980s -

good in British Society.

Lewis

سمى ظهورالرحمان ولدمحدرحهان سكنه فيظم بإزارذ كرخيل ابراهيم كل ^{ضلع} بنوںجو کہ ایک عددیلاٹ امکان / بنگلہ بر 58/A سيكفر Bرقبه 250سكوائر ميثر بمعه ايكسفراليند ,105.91 اور 105,91 سكوائر ميثر فينرا، واقع بنول ثاون ثب بنوں کامالک ہے اس کو تکمہ کی طرف سے ملکیت کے کاغذات ڈوپلیکیٹ جاری کئے جانچکے ہیں اب آمیں مندرجہ بالایلا*ث امکان ابنگله* کی انتقال *الرانسفر کیلیئ* درخواست دی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کواطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ اگران کواس انقال الرانسفريركوني اعتراض ہوتوپيدره (15)يوم ك ندراپنااعتراض مشتری کے دفتر میں جمع کرائیں بصوریہ ديكر مذكوره بالايلاث امكان ابتكله كانتقال ثرانسفركيا جائيكا-بادسنگ آفیسر بنول ڈیویکیمنٹ آٹھار ٹی بنول فون نبر 0928-633013

COURT NOTICE

n the Court of Ms Dua Mehreer Civil Judge VI Kohat. Suit no 63/1, Date of hearing.05-07 2025, Titled:- Fida Hussain Vs Luqman Ali(etc), Notice against:-(1)Luqman Ali (2)Ibne AĬi Sons ´of Mumtaz Ali´ R/c Chekar Kot Bala Tehsil and District Kohat Presently R/c now in Abroad) (Defendants) Whereas the above plaintiff has nstituted a civil suit against you Defendants in which date of nearing 05-07-2025 is fixed for your appearance Since your ntimation/service is not possithrough ordinary means/mode therefore you Defendants is intimated through his publication to appear before

this court by person or by

oleader on date fixed 05-07

2025 otherwise court shall be

proceeded in accordance with

law order Issued on 11-06-2025

Court of C.J VI Kohat)

2025 is an extra special year it marks Bestway The cross-party event organised at the historic

House of Commons was also Nigel Huddleston MP Co-Chair of Parliament Afzal Khan CBE; Liberal Democrat Peer Lord Qurban Hussain; former Foreign Office Minister Lord Tariq Ahmed; Lord Dolar amongst others

CEO DRAP visits RCCI RAWALPINDI (APP): Dr.

Executive Officer of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), paid an official visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to discuss avenues for deepening collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry.

industry's global competi-

regulatory reform and ease of doing business.

DRAP is actively pursuing international accreditation, including alignment with WHO standards

F.P. Report

CEO, WeatherWalay, remarked, "Our mis-

Banking Court-II Peshawar جدالت جناب لياقت على صاحب دُسرُك ايندُسيش جَ اجْ بيئنگ كورك-1 خيبر پئخونخو ايشاور، فيدُرل جودُ يشل كمپليكس فيز 7حيات

آبادیشاور_HBFC اسٹیٹ لائف بلڈنگ یشاورڈ گریدار___ بنام___نامرخان (مرحوم) بذریعیدوارثان (1) شاحانم بیوه_(2) سليمان ـ (3)ارشد ـ (4)شنراد ـ (5)شيراز پسران ناصرخان (مرحم) ساكن شاه دُهندُ پيثاورشي ـ وصول زردُ گري /4002178 روبے۔تاریخ بیثی برائے رپورٹ نیلام25-08-13 ۔۔۔اشتہار نیلام بابت جائیدا دید یونان ۔مکان تعدادی: (151 مربع گز)۔ غمرات خسره 652-638 /637 /1078 انقال نمبر 9777 مورد 1978-12-06 واقع محلّد شاه و هندُ ريشاور - بحدودات: شرقاً مكان جنت كل غرباً كلى شالاً مكان سيرتمر ينوباً مكان مرادخان مورخه 25-18-11 كونيلام كيا جار باب- ينلام في 8 بج ہے شروع ہوکردد پر2 بج تک جاری رہے گا۔جس میں ہرخاص وعام حصد لے سکتا ہے۔سب سے زیادہ بولی دینے والے کو کامیاب قرارد یاجانگابشرطیکه عدالت اس کی توثیق کرے۔عدالت کوکنی بولی منظور کرنے یاند کرنے کا اختیار عاصل ہے۔ کامیاب بولی دہندہ کو ز میلام 1/46ھ سے موقع پر کشفیز کے پاس اور بھارتم الم امر 15 بیرم عدالت فرائش محق کرانا ہوگی اگر کی بھی فیض ادارے کے جائیداد فرکور پر کوئی بھارجات ہول و نیلام نے بل عدالت کے نوش میں لائیس آئ بتار پڑی 2-06-19 بٹریت میرے دخط وہر عدالت سے جج بینکنگ کورٹ نمبر 1 پیثاور





Pakistan defeat Maldives to reach semifinal of Asian Youth Girls Netball C'ship



place in the semifinal victory with strong per-Girls Netball Raza Shah, Alisha Championship 2025 after Naveed, Sumayya Kouser, defeating Maldives 49-39 Haleema, Jasmine Farooq, in their fifth and final and Farah Rasheed. group match at the Jeonju Gymnasium, with the following quarter-Jeonju-si, South Korea on wise results:

In a tightly contested – Maldives 12

ISLAMABAD (APP): match, Pakistan came Pakistan secured their from behind to seal the 24 - Maldives 26 stage of the Asian Youth formances from Leya

The match progressed

1st Quarter: Pakistan 14

2nd Quarter: Pakistan

3rd Quarter: Pakistan two groups. 35 – Maldives 32

Sameen Malik, and Secretary Muhammad Riaz congrat- Arabia. ulated the national team

Maldives 39

aegis of the Asian Netball Federation, eleven teams divided into

5 – Maldives 32 Group A includes 4th Quarter: Pakistan 49 Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Maldives 39 Lanka, Hong Kong and Chairman of the PNF India, while Group B com-Mudassar Arain, President prises Pakistan, Chinese Taipei, Japan, General Maldives and

With five consecutive

According to the new

Pakistan will face Japan

championship

The tournament runs for their hard-fought vic- from June 27 to July 4.

LONDON, ENGLAND: Alexandra Eala of Philippines acknowledges the crowd following defeat against Barbora Krejcikova of Czechia during the Ladies' Singles first round match on day two of The Championships Wimbledon 2025 at All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club on Wednesday.

Alcaraz survives Wimbledon scare

LONDON (Reuters): Carlos Alcaraz survived Slam champion Alcaraz, Wimbledon's hottest-ever opening day although the title in the build-up, lives to Spaniard was far from his sizzling best as he began high-profile players departhis quest for a hat-trick of ed the men's draw. titles with a scare against Fabio Fognini at the All

Sports

England Club. more than four hours to ninth seed saw his hopes winning 7-5 6-7(5) 7-5 2-6 6-1 -- the last set interrupted after a spectator became required assistance.

dispatched Canadian quali- 4. fier Carson Branstine 6-1 7-5 but last year's runner-up, fourth seed Jasmine

While five-times Grand Valentin Royer. who won the Queen's Club fight another day, several

No arena at Wimbledon gets as hot as bowl-like Court Two and the condi-With air temperatures tions were clearly not to the soaring to 32 degrees liking of ex-world number Celsius, Alcaraz needed one Daniil Medvedev as the subdue veteran Fognini, scorched by Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi, who won 7-6(2) 3-6 7-6(3) 6-2.

unwell in the heat and of Denmark, yet to really make his mark at a Grand Women's top seed Aryna Sabalenka, bidding to win Wimbledon for the first time, had no trouble as she cumbed 4-6 4-6 7-5 6-3 6-

Greece's Tsitsipas, twice a Grand Slam runner-up was left rolled back the years. Paolini, was pushed hard despondent after retiring by Latvia's Anastasija with a back injury having

Taylor Fritz looked to be on

his way out before battling back to force a fifth set big-serving against Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard before their match was suspended with the Grand Slam's 11

p.m. curfew looming.
German third seed
Alexander Zverev summoned up similar fighting spirit to draw level at one Eighth seed Holger Rune match scheduled to resume charmed the crowd by on Tuesday.

Only two defending men's champions had ever lost in the first round at Wimbledon, but there were moments when Alcaraz looked in danger of joining compatriot Manuel Santana on that short list as Fognini

Alcaraz arrived

Gill wants top order to take

'more responsibility'

French Open final win over American fifth seed Jannik Sinner. But the spark was missing on Monday in front of a Centre Court crowd that included David Beckham.

Heat is second nature to Alcaraz, but it was Fognini who flourished in the sun and when he broke serve twice to level the match at two sets apiece a massive shock looked possible.

But Alcaraz, regularly using an ice towel to cool set apiece with Arthur down, found an extra gear Rinderknech in another in the decider and even offering his water bottle to the distressed fan.

He then led the warm applause for former top-10 player Fognini, for whom this was his final Wimbledon.

"I don't know why it's his last Wimbledon because the level he has shown, you at know, he can still play three Wimbledon on an 18-match or four more years. It's Sevastova in a 2-6 6-3 6-2 fallen two sets behind winning streak, which unbelievable," Alcaraz said win.

Sevastova in a 2-6 6-3 6-2 fallen two sets behind winning streak, which unbelievable," Alcaraz said against French qualifier included a spellbinding of Fognini.

Bosch's maiden five-for helps SA complete monster win over Zimbabwe

ball of the day set the tone. Bosch his fourth wicket, Corbin Bosch wished and with that, ended South Zimbabwe good morning by Africa's irritation. cramping Nick Welch with a sharp short delivery, which en Test five-for, when, four he ended up fending to short overs later, he had Vincent leg. That left Bosch on a Masekesa chopping on. hat-trick after he had had That added to the mile-Takudzwanashe Kaitano stone of scoring his first caught at third slip off what Test hundred with the bat had turned out to be the last on the first day, and made ball of the third day. Sean Bosch the fifth South Williams avoided the hat-trick but soon after, a coldouble in a Test. lapse of 4 for 18 left little Eventually, his and Wiaan scope for Zimbabwe to take Mulder's all-round heroics, the game deep after South coupled with debutant Africa had set them 537 to Lhuan-dre Pretorius' 153 win. The visitors won by on day one, confined

Zimbabwe captain Craig runs.

Bosch bagged his maid-328 runs soon after lunch. Zimbabwe to their heaviest From 82 for 6, Test defeat in terms of Zimbabwe to their heaviest

short leg - helped Bosch in attacking the bowlers. reverse swept Maharaj past match series.

for 26 off 18 balls when, in as bowler and captain. the 25th over, he ended up

Codi Yusuf replaced Bosch in the 28th over, and had Prince Masvaure no end to South Africa's caught at second slip for misery. But when Bosch when Wessly Madhevere Zorzi, that started another nicked to Verreynne in the collapse. Masekesa and 30th over, and Tafadzwa Masakadza followed, but the 32nd. But Ervine and Masakadza blunted all that with a flurry of boundaries. Ervine had already

swept, reverse swept and chipped Keshav Maharaj in the 64th over, and then boundaries, and Ervine and Wellington But apart from that from playing his shots 66th. Finally, two overs Masakadza doubled the union between Ervine and either. When on 10, Mulder later, Brevis had his first total in a fighting seventh- Masakadza, Zimbabwe had Masakadza dropped by Test wicket when Tanaka wicket partnership of 83. provided brief spells of Verreynne, and the life Chivanga chipped down L O N D O N fielder on the leg side. perspectives to look at the contain that run flow, espe-South Africa's frustration entertainment on the fourth Masakadza got helped the the pitch and missed a ball (ESPNCricinfo): In the What followed was some game, but definitely your cially in the third or in the lasted for just over an hour, day. Although Williams stand grow. The partner- outside as a superb diving catch by arrived to bat in a tricky ship passed fifty in the stumped. South Africa now Tony de Zorzi - again at situation, he didn't hesitate 33rd over when Ervine have a 1-0 lead in the two-

B u l a w a y o break the stand. Ervine He had four boundaries off slip, as the left-arm spinner (ESPNNCricinfo): The first departed on 49 to give his first eight balls, and fell looked short of ideas both

After lunch, when Masakadza punched Bosch top-edging a short ball Masakadza punched Bosch from Bosch to Kyle for four past gully to raise his maiden Test fifty - his previous highest Test score was 17 - there seemed to be 12. Yusuf's fun continued had Ervine caught by de Tsiga found fourth slip in there was more annoyance in store for South Africa.

Blessing Muzarabani, Zimbabwe's No. 10, went 4, 4, 6 off part-time legspinner Dewald Brevis smashed a six and four Masakadza didn't shy away each off Maharaj in the leg, and was

evening despite getting into contribute as much as the positions from where a other teams. draw should have been the

worst result for them. runs with Rishabh [Pant]," was batting.'

wake of two lower-order extravagant shots from the collapses in the first Test lower order, which didn't against England in Leeds, come off. Gill was asked if as much, then it becomes Gill has put the onus on the ken to regarding batting come back in the game." batters, starting with him-responsibly. He again The batting depth self, to not give away starts shifted the spotlight more on these flat pitches in on himself and the batters. England. India were 430 "Definitely [chats have for 3 and 340 for 4 before been had]," Gill said. "It's losing 7 for 41 and 6 for 31, been one of the things that failing on both occasions to we always talk about, bat England out of the especially with our batting game. Eventually they lost depth... the lower order by five wickets on the final sometimes isn't able to

can also look at the other "When we were batting, side as well. I was batting felt I could have, now on 147 and the way I got looking back at it... the out, maybe I could have kind of shot I played, I felt scored 50 more in partner-I could have batted a little ship with Rishabh. If you bit more, added another 50 get a good ball and you get out, that's fine, but once Gill said when asked what you are set and you know lessons he learnt from his that you don't really have old and it's getting soft, And these are things that captaincy debut. "That was that much depth in your my learning from when I batting order, maybe the ing," Gill said. "So how do top order could take a little you contain? How do you can reflect on those things. Gill was on 147 when bit more responsibility and control the run flow, espe-

lower order when your last fourth innings. five or six don't contribute

The batting depth is what India seem to be rested to manage his workload, which demands he play only three of these five Tests. The surface is underneath and Birmingham has been dry and warm in the lead-up to

"Having said that, you the match, which gives India an option to go with second spinner. Indications are that the Washington Sundar to retain batting depth.

When we were bowllike once the ball is getting there isn't much happen-

Gill was asked Bumrah's absence might India's captain Shubman the lower order was spo- easier for the opposition to encourage them to play a wicket-taking spinner in Kuldeep Yadav. "We will take that [final] call this grappling with Jasprit evening, and I don't it will Bumrah available for change the combination as Edgbaston but likely to be such," Gill said, suggesting a direct swap between Bumrah and a fast bowler, and a spinner for Shardul Thakur, whom India played as a "bowling allrounder".

'We did play an extra bowler, I would say a proper bowling allrounder in the last match," Gill said. "And now having to look back at said spinner could be it, I think nobody really expects that your last six is going to get out in under 40 runs. Even if they play bad, ing, there were learnings you expect them to maybe score 100 runs or 80 runs. you can't really plan or you can't really expect, but you And we have some things he tried to hit Shoaib bat the opposition com-Bashir in the air, and ended pletely out of the game. So bat? Maybe having an up dragging it to the deep I think these are different extra spinner might help we can get better at it."

Al-Hilal shock Manchester City in Club World Cup

Manchester City 4-3 in again for City Leonardo away extra-time in Orlando on netted with seven min- protests. Monday to pull off one of utes left to take Al-Hilal the shocks of the Club through. World Cup and set up a quarter-final Brazil's Fluminense.

Marcos scored his second of the night in the 112th minute ideas, our talent, our elled. as Simone Inzaghi's side power and I think that we saw off the Premier made a very good game. League club, who had

six minutes immediately after the restart put Al-Hilal in front before Silva had put City ahead looping rebound i unguarded net.

Koulibaly headed in Ruben Neves' corner to ball had brushed the shot past Ederson.

"We knew it was a dif-

against ficult game against one deny City a second

"Defensively we were taken a ninth minute lead very strong and offenthrough Bernardo Silva. sively all of the opportu-Quick-fire goals from nities we could put inside Leonardo and Malcom in we put in, so we can be

Erling Haaland equalised when he pushed the ball for City in the 55th over the line after Renan Lodi's attempted clear-Kalidou inside the six-yard box.

the

made a string of saves to from Ali Lajami. 'We wanted to show our restart the Saudi club lev-

sprawling Ederson but time volley looping rebound into the tom corner.

Malcom was released claimed his second of the behind the defence by night Cancelo's pass from deep into ance ended up at his feet inside his own half and Milinkovic-Savic's headthe Brazilian showed er, the weary Brazilian Replays showed the composure to stroke his stumbling as he steered

ORLANDO, Florida put the Riyadh-based wrist of City's Rayan Ait-(Reuters): Saudi Arabia's club back in front and Nouri earlier in the move only three minutes, how-The lead was to last stunned while Phil Foden levelled but the referee waved ever, as Haaland pounced Al-Hilal on Silva's corner and the Norwegian was denied a Al-Hilal goalkeeper late winner by a desper-Yassine Bounou then ate clearance on the line

> The Saudis went ahead of the best teams in the before the interval and four minutes into extra-Leonardo world," said Koulibaly. within seconds of the time when Koulibaly rose to glance home a header from a corner but Malcom drove down City levelled once again. the right and found Joao substitutes Rayan Cherki Cancelo, whose ball into and Foden combining for the six-yard box was ini- the England international tially blocked by a to steer a sublime first-Leonardo headed the Bounou and into the bot-

> > Al-Hilal would not be later denied and Leonardo after Ederson save the winner home.



Hawks, Nickeil Alexander-Walker agree to \$62M deal

The Atlanta Hawks plan to acquire shooting guard Nickeil Alexander-Walker Monday.

Alexander-Walker will receive a new four-year, \$62 million contract that along with cash, per the

Alexander-Walker, 26, rebounds and 2.7 assists played in all 82 games, his left foot. starting 10, in his second The 33-y full season in Minnesota.

(2023-25),Alexander-Walker has career averages in a sign-and-trade with the of 8.6 points, 2.5 rebounds Minnesota Timberwolves, and 2.3 assists per game multiple reports said across 381 games (68 starts).

Knicks add veteran G Jordan Clarkson

Jordan Clarkson agreed features a player option and to a buyout from the Utah a trade kicker, according to Jazz on Monday, and he ESPN. The deal will see intends to sign with the Atlanta send Minnesota a New York Knicks when he 2027 second-round draft clears waivers, multiple pick originally belonging to media outlets reported on the Cleveland Cavaliers, Monday. Clarkson, four years removed from being selected the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year, played just averaged 9.4 points, 3.2 37 games (nine starts) last season. He missed the final while shooting 38.1 percent 10 games because of a medfrom 3-point range for the ical procedure designed to Wolves in 2024-25. He alleviate plantar fasciitis in

The 33-year-old guard among the New Orleans the 2024-25 season. He shot Detroit Pistons, multiple two seasons for Indiana.

was part of the 2017-18 Cleveland Cavaliers team that reached the NBA Finals before getting swept by the Golden State Warriors.

A second-round draft

pick of the Washington Wizards in 2014, Clarkson was immediately dealt to the Lakers. He played 3 1/2 seasons in Los Angeles, then parts of three seasons in Cleveland before he was traded to Utah in December 2019. In 753 games (231 starts), Clarkson owns NBA

averages of 16.0 points, 3.4 rebounds and 2.9 assists. Pistons reportedly land G Caris LeVert for 2

years, \$29M collegiate star at Michigan, reportedly is heading back

to the Great Lakes State. The 30-year-old guard

NEW YORK (Reuters): Pelicans (2019-22), Utah a career-low 40.8 percent media outlets reported on The Atlanta Hawks plan to Jazz (2022-23) and Wolves from the floor. Clarkson Monday.

LeVert could take the place of free agent wing Malik Beasley, who reportedly is the subject of a federal investigation into gambling irregularities. According to the Detroit Free Press, the Pistons tabled a potential threeyear, \$42 million offer for Beasley due to the probe. LeVert split last season

between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Atlanta Hawks, averaging a combined 12.1 points, 3.4 assists and 3.2 rebounds per game.

After playing for Michigan from 2012-13 to 2015-16, LeVert was select-Caris LeVert, a former ed by the Indiana Pacers with the 20th overall pick in the 2016 draft but was immediately traded to the Nets. He spent four-plus averaged 16.2 points, 3.7 agreed to a two-year, \$29 seasons in Brooklyn before assists and 3.2 rebounds in million deal with the returning to play parts of seasons in Brooklyn before



FIA launches crackdown

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested multiple suspects involved in human trafficking, visa fraud, and large-scale corruption. The operations resulted in the apprehension of a key suspect in the 2025 Morocco boat tragedy, 11 individuals involved in human smuggling, and two LESCO officials accused of embezzling millions of rupees. The FIA Composite Circle Faisalabad arrested Ghulam Mustafa, a notorious land route agent declared a fugitive in the Morocco boat incident case. He was linked to the infamous African human smuggler Abubakar and was part of a network along with previously arrested suspects Abdul Muhammad Sarfraz.

These traffickers sent dozens of Pakistanis via sea from Mauritania to Europe, but the boat tragically capsized, resulting in multiple fatalities. In a separate operation, the FIA Guiranwala Zone Gujranwala arrested 11 individuals - including a woman - for visa fraud and human trafficking. The arrested include Arsalan, Muhammad Shehbaz Ghumman, Asif Nazir Bajwa, Nadeem, Oasim Muhammad Suleman Sikandar Adil, Shoaib Arsalan Abdullah, Muhammad Adnan, Asad alias Mitha, and Faiza They are Waqas. accused of defrauding citizens of millions of rupees under the pretext of overseas employment. Some victims went missing or faced life-threatening inci-dents due to fake visas

291,840 cusecs water released

or illegal travel routes.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSÁ) on released 291,840 cusecs water from various rim staons with inflow of cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1504.65 feet which was 102.65 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 294,000 cusecs and 150,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1176.55 feet, which was 126.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 24,149 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs, respectively. release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa. Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 210,988, 173,248, 103,609 and 52,650 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 51,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 48,090 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Hot and humid

weather forecast ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast hot and humid conditions to continue across most parts of the country on Wednesday, chances of rain, wind, and thundershowers at isolated locations in northern and upper regions. In Islamabad, residents can expect humid and partly cloudy weather, with a 35 percent probability of rain and thunderstorms in the capital and surrounding areas. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, partly cloudy skies will dominate, while intermittent rain and thundershowers may occur in isolated areas including Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Malakand, Baja ur, Shangla, Battagram, Mansehra, Abbot tabad, Haripur, Peshawar, and Kohat.

ICT admin launches anti-encroachment operations

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a During the operation, over public spaces, Islamabad's district administration has encroachments launched a citywide operation to remove illegal encroachments.

From billboards to roadparked on green belts, the ICT administration officials worked late into the night tration here.

He said that Islamabad's district administration has intensified its campaign against encroachments across the city, initiating a large-scale operation that continued well into the night. Assistant commissioners from all zones took part in the effort, targeting illegal structures, billboards, parking, and stalls in various sectors and busy roads.

As part of the operation, more than 100 billboards were removed from Lehtrar Road alone. Large hoardings were also taken down from Korang Road. The administration reported that these structures had been installed without permission and were obstructing both pedestrian and vehicular movement.

accessible to the public. be tolerated.

Deputy Inspector General

mmad Jawad Tariq and

ous routes of Muharram

processions and Imam

Bargahs across the federal

of security personnel and

arrangements.

of Police (DIG) Muha- all

police custody.

removed to clear the pas- structures voluntarily. sage. Authorities empha-

in sector G-8, vehicles been reported. parked on footpaths were an entire showroom was parking practices. Six vehicles were confiscated and boundaries. shifted to the local police

also a focus of the operation. In sector G-5, ments. Regular follow-up encroachments on green inspections are planned to spaces were completely ensure long-term compliremoved, allowing for the ance. restoration of the area to its original purpose.

Islamabad said that the encroachments can be suboperation will continue mitted to the relevant assisuntil all encroachments tant commissioner offices across the city are removed. or through the district The administration has administration's online In PWD, unauthorized issued a clear message that platforms. roadside stalls were dis- any obstruction in public mantled, with officials areas—whether in the form clearing pathways and of stalls, structures, vehi- Islamabad's authorities to ensuring roads remained cles, or materials—will not maintain order and reclaim

Police ensures foolproof

security for majalis

Senior Superintendent of doned off, with adequate out the capital. Police

on Tuesday visited vari- ating procedures (SOPs) the SOPs without any

for Muharram gatherings.

An official told APP month. He directed zonal environment of the capital

that the senior officers SDPOs and SHOs to remains intact in line with

reviewed the deployment remain present in the field the vision of IG Ali Nasir

directed all officers on ensure peace and security. gious harmony and toler-

Police (SSP) Operations lighting and strict enforce- officers Muhammad Shoaib Khan ment of the standard oper- instructe

capital to inspect security to ensuring foolproof

They emphasized that maintaining inter-sect har-

should be completely corgious tolerance through-

DIG Tariq said ICT terrupted security for both Police is fully committed processions and Majalis.

security during the sacred ensure that the peaceful

and coordinate closely to Rizvi, while fostering reli-

procession routes mony and promoting reli-

The crackdown aims to sweeping effort to reclaim 20 individuals involved in ensure the smooth flow of setting up or maintaining traffic, pedestrian access, were and the restoration of pubdetained and shifted to lic spaces for their intended use. Authorities have urged In the Koral area, con-residents and business ownstruction material stored in ers to cooperate and side stalls and vehicles the service lane was remove any unauthorized

Capital

The administration has sized that storing construc- also indicated that future to clear key areas across the tion equipment in public operations may expand to federal capital said the areas was unlawful and other sectors and markets, spokesman of ICT adminis- posed safety risks. particularly in areas where Outside car showrooms repeated violations have

> According to officials, shifted to a nearby govern- this campaign is part of ment school to free up the broader efforts to improve walkways. In sector F-10, urban management, maintain public safety, and sealed due to illegal car uphold the law within Islamabad's municipal

The district administration has committed to mon-Green belt areas were itoring cleared areas to pre-

The Deputy Commissioner stated that public Deputy Commissioner complaints and reports of

> The ongoing operation signals a firm stance by public infrastructure.

> > ĥave

instructed to implement

leniency and ensure unin-

DIG said the police will



Bushra Mirza signing an MoU in presence of Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan.

IG Rizvi reviews Muharram security

ISLAMABAD Inspector General of Police (IG) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited Imambargah Asna Ashri on Tuesday to review security arrangements for the central Muharram procession. Over 16,000 officers have been deployed across the federal capital, while 3,000 Safe City cameras, drones, and smart patrol vehicles are monitoring 181 processions and 965 Majalis to ensure fool-

An official told APP that the IG Rizvi was accompanied by senior officers of Islamabad Police during the visit. He inspected the entire route of the main procession and held a detailed meeting with the Imambargah administration regarding security coordination.

proof security.

IG Rizvi said that ten field vigilance teams, operating under senior police officials, are on ground to inspect and supervise security deployments across sensitive locations.

He said that security checkpoints have been established at 284 fixed points throughout the city, while special patrolling units have also been mobilized to ensure quick response and visibility in vulnerable areas.

IG Rizvi said that ICT Police have already conducted 17 search operations in different parts of the district, and these operations will continue till Chehlum as part of a pre-emptive strategy to eliminate potential threats.

IG Rizvi added that all processions and Majalis are being monitored live from the Safe City Command and Control Čentre, which is connected with 3,000 surveillance cameras. He said that the monitoring is further reinforced through the use of drones and smart patrol vehicles.

The IG Rizvi emphasized that all law enforcement and emergency response agencies are working in close coordination to swiftly respond to any untoward incident.

He urged the public to cooperate with the police during Muharram, remain alert, and report any suspicious activity or emergency by calling the Islamabad Police helpline "Pukar 15." | the urgency of diplomatic, in the context of the IWT regional peace.

CDA to seek legal guidance

ISLAMABAD Capital Development into the city for public wel-Authority (CDA) Board has fare, better civic amenities, 10/3, again in accordance decided to consult the and Islamabad's overall with the Islamabad High Establishment and Cabinet Divisions for legal guidance on integrating maintenance staff transferred from Public Department (PWD) into the CDA structure.

during the Board's 12th meeting, chaired by CDA Chairman and Islamabad Chief Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Tuesday. The Board directed that a set of recommendations be drafted after

legal frameworks. The meeting approved a comprehensive feasibility plan to operationalize the Gandhara Heritage and Cultural Centre at F-9 Park.

Chairman Muhammad ly higher. Ali Randhawa stated, "The

beautification and develop-

No Objection Certificate (NOC) for Plot No. 676D-The decision was taken 12/2, in compliance with the Islamabad High Court's directive in Writ Petition No. 2214/2022 titled

and Others. In another land-related decision, the Board accepted a request by the thoroughly reviewing all Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami to return an allocated plot in Sector H-8.

> it would refund the original allotment amount, the current market value of the returned plot is significant-

Additionally, the Board revenue generated from this approved an alternate plot the meeting.

(APP): center will be invested back allocation in exchange for 10/3, again in accordance Court's instructions.

Chairman Randhawa Legal matters were also emphasized the CDA's on the agenda. The Board commitment to making approved the issuance of a Islamabad a model city. "CDA is deploying all available resources to ensure the capital's growth, prosperity, and aesthetic appeal while meeting the residential, transportation, "Hasan Bano vs FGEHA and recreational needs of its citizens," he said.

One of the key discussions centered on the transfer fee, registration charges, and stamp duty applicable to urban and rural properties within CDA and CDA clarified that while Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) limits, including private housing societies

Senior officials, including CDA Board members and the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, attended

duty to remain on high DIG Tariq said special ance during Muharram. **ANF** arrests 14 smugglers with drugs

Anti-Narcotics (ANF), conducting nine

try, recovered as many as and university students. 76.38 kilograms of drugs worth more than Rs 14.9 million and arrested 14 suspects, including a Nigerian and a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday.

He informed that 60 grams of heroin and 300 grams of crystal meth (ice) were recovered from the possession of two accused including a woman riding on a motorcycle near a college area, Sailkot. As many as 100 grams

of cocaine were recovered Pul, Islamabad. from the possession of a suspect near a university cannabis were recovered underway.

RAWALPINDI (APP): The area on Kohat Road, from a suspect at Ring Force Islamabad.

The arrested confessed operations across the count of selling drugs to college

concealed in 40 capsules arrested. were recovered from the stomach of a Nigerian kgs of cannabis were recovnational at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore arrived from Bahrain. As much as 54 kgs of

ling in a vehicle on the Zero Point highway, Quetta. Similarly, 4.8 kgs of

cannabis were seized from tered against the arrested two suspects near Khanna

Road, Peshawar.

As many as 3 kgs of cannabis and 5 kgs of ice were recovered from a car During another opera- at Ravi Toll Plaza Lahore, tion, 720 grams of cocaine and two suspects were In another operation, 2.4

> ered from the possession of a motorcyclist at Khanna Pul, Islamabad. As many as 2.4 kgs of

cannabis were recovered cannabis were recovered from three suspects travel- from the possession of a suspect near Tounmi Mor, Dera Ghazi Khan.

Cases have been regisunder suspects Narcotics Control Act, and kilograms of further investigations are

Experts urge unified national strategy

ISLAMABAD (APP): legal, and strategic as a deliberate tactic to Amid rising regional responses. erode its validity. instability and India's increasingly confrontational posture, leading policy and security experts at a high-level roundtable held at the National Technology called for a comprehenwhole-of-nation sive,

approach to safeguard Pakistan's national interests and regional stability.

Challenges, Opportunities for Regional statesmen, former civil

and think tank experts.

Co-organised by the NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) and the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), the roundtable titled "Indo-Pak Military Conflict: Implications,

Stability" brought together and military leaders, veteran diplomats, academics, The participants voiced

deep concern over India's aggressive moves, including its attempts to undermine the Indus Waters drew attention to India's complex Indo-Pak dynam-Treaty (IWT), and stressed use of the term "abeyance"

În his keynote address,

Ambassador Akram, Advisor to the Strategic Plans Division, highlighted the deterrent strength of Pakistan's (NUST) cautioning against India's persistent belligerence.

> diplomatic efforts to mal" and called for crisis management mechanisms to avoid escalation.

Dr Arshad Mahmood of CIPS pointed to India's ambitions hegemonic under the Modi regime, warning about its use of nomic resilience and technological advancement as Pakistan's key elements of national standing. security.

Bilal Soofi, President of

address, Tracing the pattern Zamir from the 2019 abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, he emphasized that both India's treaty stance and its aggressive posturing University of Sciences and nuclear capability while constitute serious violations of international law requiring robust legal He urged long-term countermeasures.

The roundtable concounter India's "new nor- cluded with calls for strengthened national preparedness, engagement, and enhanced media capacity.

Director General NIPS, Dr Ashfaque Hasan Khan, emphasized the role of Pakistani media in counfalse flag operations and tering misinformation strategic miscalculations and urged greater investregarding Pakistan. He ment in strategic commustressed the need for eco- nication and regional connectivity to bolster

Participants agreed that Legal expert Ahmer the evolving security landscape demands unity, forethe Research Society of sight, and proactive poli-International Law (RSIL), cymaking to navigate the ic and ensure lasting

NADRA declares FRC a legal document for first time ISLAMABAD (APP): In a ty of identity data in the its validity through internal Rs. 1,000 for either the the card, enabling users to services.

landmark shift in Pakistan's national registry. identity system, NADRA declared the Family Registration Certificate (FRC) a legal document following Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's recommendation and Federal

Cabinet approval.

This change brings the FRC into the same legal category as other core identity documents such as the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) and the Child Registration (B-Form), Certificate NADRA's Spokesperson Director Public Syed Engagement,

Shabahat Ali told APP. Previously, the FRC was used merely as a reference for family composition and was not enforceable in legal rules, providing false or can still be included based tion, misleading information on on the applicant's informa- claims. an FRC can lead to criminal tion, provided that neces-

Another major change has, for the first time, introduced is the require- been made to address the certificate. ment for applicants to veri-realities of polygamous fy their entire family tree marriages. Under the new

shown a complete list of spouses and their children their family members as must appear in the FRC. recorded in NADRA's data-

through a signed declaration, known as affidevit maintaining the integrity of 'Bayan-e-Halfi". This family data. process ensures that all individuals named in the certificate are validated by the applicant themselves.

checks. A notable provision has Rs. 2,000 for the combined on the Pak Identity mobile

no woman's rights are sidelogical mother, thereby

In another development, NADRA has made it possible for individuals to obtain reinforces a woman's a certificate that includes Moreover, the reforms both their birth family and allow family members to be married family referred to added to the FRC even if in internal terms as Alpha they are not physically and Beta compositions, on present. This means that if a a single document. This is family member is abroad or particularly useful for legal terms. Now, under new otherwise unavailable, they matters, travel documenta-

and reinforcing the integri- the request and determine cation fee. The cost remains QR code has been added to unable to access online

name on their CNIC after continue to receive this marriage can now do so card free of cost. without facing administraautonomy in choosing how her identity is recorded.

In addition to reforms in family NADRA has also upgraded addition to the family, they its Teslan card—the non- can report it via NADRA's chip version of the CNIC. complaint portal (com-These cards will now plaints.nadra.gov.pk) or by and inheritance include English spellings of calling the helpline at 1777. names alongside Urdu, Despite the sweeping making them valid for pass- also confirmed that agents charges. This accountabili- sary identification details reforms, NADRA has port applications and other on the helpline are authorty measure is aimed at pre- are submitted. NADRA announced that there will services that require ized to lodge complaints on venting fraudulent claims officials will then process be no increase in the appli- English documentation. A behalf of users who are

Alpha or Beta version, and link it to the digital wallet application. The card's Married women stand to delivery time has also been benefit significantly from shortened to 5-15 days, and when applying for an FRC. framework, if a person has these changes. Under the fee structure remains Individuals will now be more than one wife, all new rules, women who unchanged. Importantly, wish to retain their father's first-time applicants will

To make the process If the information is corl lined and that every child is tive hurdles. Previously, even more accessible, citirect, they will verify it properly linked to their bio- such women were often zens can now view their required to update their family composition online records to reflect their hus-through NADRA's Pak band's name before apply- Identity app. After biometing for official documents ric verification through finlike passports. This reform gerprint submission, users can check their registered family details without visiting a NADRA center.

If a citizen finds an registration, error, such as an incorrect

NADRA officials have

obtained identification docthese reforms. NADRA has opened a one-time amnesty window where individuals fraudulently obtained docu-

juvenile cards without facing any legal consequences. Officials emphasized that those who come forward voluntarily will not be prosecuted, but this offer may not last indefinitely. To reduce delays in iden-

tity verification processes, NADRA has also introduced a new timeline for decisions. Once an individual has submitted all required documents, the relevant NADRA officer must issue a decision within 30 days. This time-bound approach aims to curb bureaucratic inefficiency and ensure quicker resolu-

tions for applicants. Furthermore, NADRA complications.

has standardized the defini-Citizens who previously tion of "biometric" information. Biometric data is uments through false decla- now officially defined as rations have been given a any personal information unique opportunity under based on physical or behavioral characteristics such as fingerprints, iris scans, or facial photos that can be can voluntarily surrender used to identify a person. This definition is expected ments, be it CNICs, Child to be adopted by other reg-Registration Certificates, or ulatory bodies, including the State Bank of Pakistan, the Federal Board of Revenue, and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority.

> These sweeping reforms guided by the Ministry of Interior under Mohsin Naqvi, reflect NADRA's commitment to closing loopholes, empowering citi z e n s — e s p e c i a l l y women—and increasing the accuracy and accessibility of identity data in Pakistan.

As implementation continues, citizens are urged to review their family records and correct any discrepancies to avoid future legal

Nuristan man kills brother

KABUL (Pajhwok): A man has shot and killed his brother during a dispute over land in the Duab district of eastern Nuristan province, an official said on Tuesday. Police spokesman Ghulam Rahman Haidari told Pajhwok Afghan News that the incident took place on Monday night in Badari village. According to Haidari, the shooting was the result of a longstanding disagreement over land ownership. He added that efforts are ongoing to arrest the suspect.

The Frontier Post Muharram 06, 1447 — Wednesday, July 02, 2025

Young-man commits suicide

KANDAHAR CITY (Pajhwok): A young man has committed suicide by hanging himself to death in the capital of southern Kandahar province, security source said on Tuesday. A credible security source told Pajhwok Afghan News that the incident took place in the Industrial Park area of the 5th municipal district of Kandahar city. The man hanged himself to death in his workplace. Mental health issues were cited as the reason

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

IE probes marriage of 7-year-old

Four days after reports riages, if contrary to Isla-children. Therefore, we emerged of a seven-year- mic principles, are unacold girl being married to a ceptable, and our ministry 45-year-old man in supports women's rights." at a young age."
Helmand province, the Some residents of Meanwhile, religious Ministry of Vice and Virtue Helmand and doctors have scholars and legal experts of the Islamic Emirate has expressed concern over have varying perspectives said it is seriously investicable that child marriages, warning on the matter. Religious gating the case.

both the child's father and the man involved in the marriage referred to judicial and child's future but also negalegal institutions, and their tively affects mental health, case is under review.

Saif-ul-Islam Khyber, educational opportunities. the ministry's spokesperin Helmand, a seven-year-Helmand office of the min- underdeveloped the offender were immedi- major societal issue." the court. We again emphagirls are unaware of family current solar year.

that such practices can have The ministry's spokesperson told TOLOnews that ial, and physical consequences, particularly for girls.

They say that early marhave been riage not only threatens a natural development, and

Qismatullah Zwak, a son, said: "A few days ago resident of Helmand, said: "Marriage at a young age old girl was married to a can lead to psychological 45-year-old man. Once the and physical challenges and case was reported to the may result in raising an child, istry, the girl's father and which itself becomes a

ately summoned, and the Dr. Shah Mohammad matter was handed over to Yousufi said: "Most young forced marriages during the

HELMAND (TOLOnews): size that underage mar- life and unable to care for urge everyone not to marry off their daughters or sisters

> scholar Abdul Bari said: "In Islam, marriage for girls is permissible when they reach puberty, and it is considered appropriate at that age.'

Legal expert Sayed Muqaddam Amin stated: "From a legal standpoint, a girl must be 18 years old for her consent to be valid. However, from an Islamic perspective, if there is no coercion, it may not be prohibited.

Earlier, the ministry spokesperson had also announced that the Islamic Emirate respects the rights of all citizens and had prevented over 1,130 cases of

> carefully managed across every sector. He noted the past conhad significantly damaged the environment due to the use of various

weapons. Khalis further cited unregulated hunting, "ruthless" deforestation, burning of inappropriate fuels, and irresponsible extraction of groundwater as major causes of environmental degradation.

address these issues.

event,

tal situation", was held in

the capital and attended by

government officials, reli-

gious scholars and repre-

sentatives of an environ-

National Environmental

(NEPA) chief Maulvi Mati-

ul-Haq Khalis said the environment affected all

aspects of life and must be

Authority

The

Assessment

mental NGO.

Protection

"In Islam, it is forbidden to harm others for one's own personal gain," he stressed.

He added that hundreds of thousands of deep wells been drilled in Afghanistan, with water being extracted wastefully and excessively, day and

Meanwhile, Saeed-urrahman Baghlani, Director of Guidance and Preaching at the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, said: "Water, air and oxygen are blessings from Allah and must not be wasted.'

He added that environmental protection was a eligious obligation and every

Zabihullah field of environmental conservation, said the meeting was aimed at gathering scholars' views on the matter in light of Islamic teachings.

He mentioned that these perspectives would be incorporated into a comprehensive report Afghanistan's environmental status in 2025, jointly prepared by Raha and

Religious scholars present at the event welcomed the initiative and pledged to promote environmental awareness through mosque engagement.

Scholars urged to help environmental protection efforts

KABUL (Pajhwok): Participants of a gathering in Kabul identified excessive use of groundwater, burning of harmful fuels, use of weapons during the past wars and deforestation as contributors Afghanistan's environmental challenges.

They emphasised the He said this at a meeting need to raise public awareness through mosques and religious platforms to help Afghanistan's environmen-

> ministry's commitment to were vital in this effort. eradicating polio and other



Jalali reaffirmed the primary healthcare services

He assured the min-

20,000 girls studying in religious schools



GHAZNI (TOLOnews): The Directorate of Educ- of a new girls' religious ation in Ghazni says that school has recently begun currently, around 20,000 in Khwaja Omari district, girls are studying in nearly funded by the local com-250 religious schools for munity. This is the fifth girls, while another 23,000 girls' religious school in the girls are attending commu-district, and construction is nity-based classes in the being supported financially province. The department by local residents. has reported that 950 com-

TOLOnews: "At present, students. nearly 250 religious scho-

Meanwhile, construction

is a 7.5-jerib plot of land country.

Public Health Ministry

reaffirms commitment

The Ministry of Public

The meeting included of vaccination and access to and Dr. Tajuddin Avila,

KABUL (BNA): In a meet- Melinda Gates Foundation, these diseases.

ing with a high-level dele- and the Global Polio

gation from the WHO, the Eradication Initiative, all of

Minister of Public Health, whom are currently visiting

to eradicate polio and other Health released a statement Hanan

Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, Afghanistan.

reaffirmed the commitment

contagious diseases.

donated by local villagers. The school building will include six classrooms, an administrative office, a water well, a storage room

a yard, and modern toilets. Residents of Ghazni have also called on relevant authorities to provide greater support and assistance to girls' religious schools.

Asadullah, a resident of Ghazni, told TOLOnews: 'In the past, education among women was low because there were no specific schools for them. Now that a school is being built

Mohammad Azim, another resident of Ghazni, added: "Most newly established schools lack buildings.

This comes as the past nearly four years

here, we are all happy."

There are shortages of textbooks and educational mate-The school requires an rials in many schools and munity-based classes are estimated two million madrasas, and we want these currently active in Ghazni. Afghanis to complete, and problems to be resolved."

The meeting featured

Abdul

Balkhi, WHO

key participants, including

Haggani, Deputy Minister

for Healthcare Services, Dr

Mawlavi

highlighting the importance Regional Representative,

Int'l organisations must support new NHP: Jalali KABUL (Pajhwok): Acting

Minister of Public Health Maulvi Noor Jalal Jalali says international organisations must align their services with Afghanistan's newly developed National Health Policy (NHP) and ensure strict adherence to it during the delivery of healthcare services.

with a joint delegation from the WHO, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said in a statement.

lenges, urging greater coorcommunicable diseases, istry's partner organisations dination and joint decision- ings was to identify effecemphasising that effective of continued cooperation in making to improve out- tive strategies for eliminatvaccination and access to implementing polio vacci- comes. Meanwhile, Dr. ing the poliovirus.

nation campaigns and Chris Elias, Chair of the addressing existing chal- Polio Oversight Board, said the purpose of such meet-

DI urges UN to stop mass Afghan deportations from Iran

laced International (DI) deadline. expresses grave concern over Iran's large-scale depthe international legal prin- visas. ciple of non-refoulement.

Iran and Israel, which has further endangered vulnerable displaced communities, including Afghans. This concern builds on DI's previous statements issued on

June 13 and June 17. for (UNHCR), more the announcement of a gov- also suffering its conse- deflect from its internal Pakistan.

KABUL (Pajhwok): Disp- ernment-imposed return

Of these, over 366,000 were forcibly deported, ortation, profiling, and scapegoating of Afghan refuing valid documentation, gees—a serious breach of legal refugee status, or

On June 26 alone, a stag-In a recent statement, DI gering 36,100 Afghans developments follow the the highest single-day fig-Twelve-Day War between ure to date, with the pace of expulsions continuing to accelerate.

DI is deeply troubled by Iran's politicization of the Afghan refugee population and its unfounded attempts to associate them with the According to the United recent conflict. These indi-Nations High Commiss- viduals fled Afghanistan to Refugees escape extremism, terrorthan ism, and systematic human 640,000 Afghans have rights violations. To now be returned from Iran since blamed for a war in which March 20, 2025, following they played no part—while

Tehran—is both unjust and dangerous. Such actions amount to

collective punishment and represent a blatant violation of Iran's international obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Afghan highlighted that these were expelled—marking refugees have long contributed peacefully to Iran's economy, labor force, and

society. "Deporting refugees in violation of international law—while profiling and blaming them for geopolitical tensions they had nothing to do with—is morally reprehensible and legally indefensible," said Ambassador Ashraf Haidari,

Displaced International. Tran is scapegoating vulnerable Afghans to

Founder and President of

quences in cities like challenges. These individuals seek only safety and dignity, and the world must not remain silent as they are cast out."

DI urgently calls on UN Secretary-General António Guterres and UN High Commissioner Refugees Filippo Grandi to speak out against Iran's actions and press for an immediate halt to the deportations and discriminatory practices.

Iran must be held accountable and urged to uphold its international commitments to protect displaced populations.

DI also appeals Afghanistan's political figures—particularly those in exile and the diaspora—to break their silence and publicly defend the rights of Afghan refugees in Iran and

Baradar-led team travels to Ahmad once finished, it will proindividual has a Azerbaijan for ECO summit Hosseini, the Director of vide a proper educational Ministry of Education statresponsibility to contribute Education in Ghazni, told environment for 120 female ed last month that over the to its preservation. Matiullah Farooqi, head buildings have been condeputy head of the NGO KABUL (Pajhwok): A ols are active in Ghazni, of education in Khwaja structed for 1,100 schools Raha, which works in the high-level delegation led where about 20,000 girls Omari district, said: "This and madrasas across the

by Deputy Prime Minister Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar departed for Azerbaijan on Tuesday to attend the 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

According to a statement from his office on X, the delegation left Kabul following an official invitation to participate in the summit.

The deputy premier is expected to address the summit's plenary session and hold bilateral meetings with senior Azerbaijani the two countries across



will take place on July 3–4, in Khankendi,

attended by presidents and senior representatives from

from primary healthcare services UNICEF Representative in sermons and community officials to discuss enhanc- various sectors. UNICEF, the Bill & as essential for combating Afghanistan. ing cooperation between The 17th ECO Summit Azerbaijan, and will be ECO member states. Chemical-laden snacks harm children's health: Medics

KABUL (Pajhwok): The tastes good. I buy them listen. I even drank soda. my parents tell me not to like "papar," chips, and bis- taste. cuits with appealing colorful some of these foods contain chemical and artificial colthat pose long-term risks to children's health.

In most shops around chips, "papar," puffed afghanis to buy them." snacks, and "samiyan" Khalida, a 9-yea (local snacks) are stocked under various brand names and in colorful packets. Their spicy, sour, salty, and sweet flavors attract the attention of children.

Children fond of these

Elyas, a 10-year-old from Qala-i-Fathullah in Kabul, holding a packet of "papar," told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I really like I buy them." biscuits, cake, grilled fish, chicken, chips, biryani, and special taste.'

Eight-year-old Mohammad Hamza, who had ill with stomach pain. purchased biscuits and

rising availability of snacks every day because I like the He said that although his

packaging has boosted sales parents advise him not to for shopkeepers, but health consume such snacks, he experts and the Ministry of still eats one or two packets Public Health warn that of "papar" every day because he likes them. Another child, Moham-

ors and flavor enhancers mad Ibrahim from Kart-i-Mamurin in Kabul, said: "I like everything - 'papark,' 'Shafa,' biryani. I eat them Kabul, different types of every day. I spend 10 or 20

Khalida, a 9-year-old girl from Taimani in Kabul, "I like biscuits, papark,' juice, cake - anything really. I eat chips, biryani, and Shafa snacks. They taste good. At home, they tell me not to eat them because they harm the stomach, but sometimes I listen to my mom, sometimes I just eat what I want. Every ďay, if I have money,

Children who became ill Fazila, 11, from Kolola these kinds of things Pushta in Kabul, said she because each has its own used to frequently consume cake, "papar," juice, and other snacks before falling

"I used to eat cake, 'papar," said: "I really like 'papark,' juice, 'Khandan' biscuits, 'papark,' puffs, (a local snack), and other 'samiyan,' cakes, and chips. stuff. My parents told me They taste good, everything not to eat them, but I didn't

doctor.

According to Fazila, her stomach pain was caused by eating those snacks. Now that she has stopped eating them, her health has improved.

Similarly, 10-year-old Hadisa from Qala-e-Zaman his customers were children Khan in Kabul said: "I used buying chips, biscuits, to love chocolate cakes, cake, puffed snacks, and 'papark,' chicken biryani, soda. bolani,' chips (Lays and Mana brands), Arabic pilaf, these snacks were mostly and 'Salenti' snacks. I especially liked the spicy ones. But this year they made me very sick - I got a sore throat. The doctor told me Mohammad to stop eating them. I stopped and thankfully, I

got better.' their parents 'advice

Subhanullah, 6, said: "I don't eat snacks from the selling them. market. I listen to my mom and dad. I only buy and eat biscuits. Madina, 7, from Kolola

everything, but at home cake, they say, 'Don't eat, you'll pilaf, get sick'... so I don't eat snacks them.'

'papark,' biscuits, cake, and

soda – anything really. But

Then I got stomach pain eat them because I'll get and had to be taken to the sick. I listen to my mom and don't eat them.' **Shopkeepers**

shopkeeper near Tajwar Sultana High School in Kabul, said he was running a shop in the area for the

last 10 years, and most of He added that in the past, imported from neighboring countries, but now many were produced domestically.

Another shopkeeper, Ayaz Taimani, said his store carried a wide variety of bis-"papar," Children who listen to cocoa-based snacks, cakes, and sodas. He earns about 1,000 afghanis daily from

Similarly, Noor Ali, a shopkeeper on 2nd Street of three cans in 24 hours and the Taimani Project in refusing any other food. Kabul, said children mostly Pushta, said: "I like to eat prefer "papar," chips, juice, everything, but at home cake, "Khandan," Arabic chicken-flavored various "kaku" snacks, (sponge cakes), and soda. Yusra, 9, from Kunduz His daily income from province, said: "I like these sales is around 3,000

afghanis Health experts' concerns

atric specialist at the French said: "Puffs and other col-Mothers and Children in contain substances that sup-Mohammad Tahir, a snacks like chips and "papar" contain food dyes, and anemic." sugars, and fats that are harmful to children's health. Due to their strong and become addicted to them.

snacks not only cause obesity, tooth decay, and hinder brain development, but in the long run, can also lead to heart disease, indigestion, stomach issues, and diabetes.

five to ten patients who developed chronic illnesses from consuming foods like juice, 'papar,' chips, and puffs," he said. He mentioned a child

admitted to the hospital who was addicted to commercial juices, drinking The child developed malnutrition as a result. He recommended that families prepare a variety

of snacks and juices at home, which not only prevent illness but also contribute to the child's development.

Dr. Lamer Jawid, a pedi- mmad Humayun Ludin Medical Institute for orful snacks on the market Kabul, told Pajhwok that press appetite in children, making them malnourished

He said these products

contain artificial dyes and trans fats, which are hard to tangy flavors, children can digest and absorb, posing serious health risks. He He added that such labeled these snacks as addictive and added: "It's better if our children avoid foods market preservatives, unknown oils, and colors.

He also noted that many of these items are stored for "Right now, we have months in unsanitary conditions, allowing harmful bacteria to grow.

Officials

Shafaq, Ashrafullah Head of Food Surveillance Analysis at the Ministry of Public Health's Food and Drug Directorate, said that many food products sold in markets, shops, and even on the streets in colorful packaging are of very poor quality and often used by children and adolescents. They contain substances and artificial dyes that can cause cancer and chronic

diseases Nutritionist Dr. Moha- consume high-quality food low-quality items are made

fruits instead of commercial sodas.

"We go to schools in Kabul and districts with the Ministry of Education to raise awareness among students about the harms of snacks like puffs, chips, jelly, and various sweets. These low-quality products seriously affect students' learning and development," he said.

He added: requested a list from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of all imported food products. For those deemed low quality and harmful, we've asked that they should not be allowed into the country.

He explained that some substandard sweets are imported from neighboring countries and contain substances not fit for consumption. Laboratory testing has shown they should not be used at all due to the presence of industrial dyes.

To prevent the import of harmful snacks, the ministry has held educational workshops urging investors with no nutritional value not to finance the produc-

tion of such items. Shafaq noted that while some factories produce

products, suggesting fresh in residential homes: "It's very difficult for us to control this, but we are trying to track them down.

He urged families to stop their children from buying carbonated sodas, unregulated sweets, and unhealthy snacks to prevent various diseases. He emphasized that combating the production and import of substandard food products, which can lead to health issues, requires coordinated action from all relevant agencies. Shafaq also referenced a

new law signed last week by the Islamic Emirate's leader to prevent the smuggling of food, medicine, and health products. This law will help block the entry of substandard and illegal food and drug products into the country.

Dr. Zabihullah Shams

from the Nutrition Department at the Ministry of Public Health said that eating unhealthy food leads to digestive issues in children, creating a false sense of fullness. This causes weight loss and results in acute malnutrition.

He urged families to provide their children with healthy nutrition and to never waste their money on He advised people to high-quality snacks, many unhealthy foods like "puff,"

CASS panel hails Iran-Israel truce

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: This was the consensus at the webinar on 'The Economic Fallout of Israel-Iran Conflict' organised by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS),

The distinguished panel of experts, including Dr Finar Tangen, Senior Fellow at the Taihe Institute, Beijing; Dr Manzoor Ahmad, Senior Fellow at the Pakistan through the deliberate inse-Institute of Development curity of others, only Islamabad; and Dr Usman the certainty of eventual W. Chohan, Advisor at CASS, Islamabad, analysed the far-reaching economic of Western short-sightedconsequences of the Israel-Iran conflict, offering critical insights into global mar- Pakistan, would embrace ket disruptions, energy the path of mutual security, security, and regional sta- collaborative development,

ated by Research Associate vision. Zahra Niazi, with introducremarks by Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed CASS, President of Islamabad.

powerful actors, most outside shocks. notably the United States Dr Usman

and Israel. desperate,

President Donald

ceasefire in Gaza soon.

Washington this week hold-



(PIDE), offered perpetual fear and global catastrophe. Dr Tangen hoped that instead ness, aggression, and selfinterest, middle powers like and respect for sovereignty The webinar was moder- best articulated by China's

Dr Manzoor Ahmad distory and concluding cussed the potential economic impact of a pro-(Retd), longed Iran-Israel conflict on Pakistan. Reflecting on how Pakistan has tackled The panel welcomed the similar crises before, he Iran-Israel ceasefire as a pointed out that kneejerk timely measure that averted reactions tend to make serious global and regional things worse, drive up energy and security reper- inflation, unemployment, cussions, especially in light and trade gaps. 'When of the threat of a Strait of international crises hit,' he Hormuz closure. Dr Einar said, 'we've got to learn Tangen was of the view that how to deal with them the world was very near the proactively.' He argued for edge of a precipice, not by forwardthinking domestic accident, but propelled by policy changes to build the reckless blindness of stronger resilience against

Dr Usman W. Chohan provided a comprehensive He said that their unilat- analysis of both the direct regard for established Israel-Iran conflict, indinorms had shattered the rect costs and regional fragile foundations of glob-spillovers and specific al security', forcing vulner- impacts on Pakistan. On able nations towards the the direct costs, he noted nuclear USD 0.7-1 billion per day further on military operations and seen as terror and strength shortages emerged, and ficult.

Trump to discuss Gaza,

Iran with Netanyahu

Trump said he is hopeful

Trump said on Tuesday he that a ceasefire-for-hostages says Israel's post-Oct. The

will discuss the situations agreement can be achieved 7 military assaults have

in Gaza and Iran when he next week between Israel killed over 56,000

House next week, adding we're looking forward to it Gaza's entire population

that he hopes to achieve a happening sometime next and prompted accusations

Netanyahu on Monday. A House for a day trip to

senior Israeli official, Ron Florida. "We want to get the

ing talks ahead of the meet- ing to free remaining

ing. Trump and Netanyahu hostages in Gaza under any

worked together on a mili- deal to end the war, while

tary operation against Iran's Israel says it can only end if

nuclear sites in June that Hamas is disarmed and dis-

culminated with American mantled. Hamas refuses to

B-2 bombing raids. Trump lay down its arms. The war

said the strikes "obliterat- in Gaza was triggered when

bility, although there attacked Israel on October

remains a debate about the 7, 2023, killing 1,200 peo-

Dermer, has been in hostages out."

ed" Tehran's nuclear capa- Hamas-led

week," he told reporters as of

Hamas has said it is will-

civilian spending and tech exports were now suffer-

Meanwhile, Iran's 1.7-2.2 mbpd 'shadow' exports were persisting, but strikes on energy assets would now deepen its power crises, drive inflation to 40%, and channel funds into fuel smuggling and IRGC proxies. Pakistan, he shared, had felt the Iran-Israel tensions acutely through a surge in fuel smuggling and broader macroeconomic pressures. He pointed out that fuel already accounts for about 30% of Pakistan's import bill, and with 70% of oil transiting the Strait of Hormuz, Brent crude at USD 90-100 per barrel could have ballooned the currentaccount deficit, weakened the rupee, stoked inflation further, and shaved an estimated 0.5-1.5 percentage points off the

session was followed by an interactive question and answer session from participants from the UK and Pakistan. Concluding the session, President CASS, Air eral actions in Iran and 'dis- economic costs of the Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd.), reiterated the urgency of securing Pakistan's energy infrastructure and diversifying strategic partnerships to catastrophic that Israel had spent about mitigate external shocks since separating economic and geopolitical aspects in stressed that the zero-sum rebuilding, so its deficits conflict situations was path in which security was had widened, labour becoming increasingly dif-

Gaza's health ministry

genocide at the

Α

"This will continue as

Gaza," the official added

The official did not imme-

diately identify the Trump

accusations.

House regularly.'

26th Amend being used to sideline Imran, says Aleema

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Aleema Khan, the sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, has said that the effects of the Constitutional Amendment are now becoming visible, and that efforts are underway to sideline the party founder.

Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail on Tuesday, she said Imran Khan had raised concerns over the 26th Amendment and said that those currently sitting in the assemblies had come into power through stolen votes. Aleema added that according to Imran Khan, the voice of the media has been silenced and now a 27th Amendment is being planned, gradually muzzling the public's voice as

She quoted Imran Khan as saying that living in jail was better than living in a system of Referring to recent developments in Punjab, Aleema Khan pointed out that 26 members of the provincial assembly were barred. She then reaffirmed her commitment to stand with her brother in every movement. She further alleged the former prime minister was being denied his basic rights, including the right to meet his family and legal

Pak assumes presidency of UNSC

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), marking the country's eighth term on the 15member body and the first time since 2013 that it is holding this position.

Pakistan takes on this symbolic yet strategic role at a time when the world faces escalating conflicts, deepening geopolitical divisions, and growing mistrust in multilateral institutions. The presidency comes during Pakistan's current two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the Council, which began in January 2025 and will continue through the end of 2026. Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmed emphasized that Pakistan is assuming this meets with Israeli Prime and Iran-backed Hamas Palestinians. The assault role amid a period of pro-Minister Benjamin militants in Gaza. "We hope has also caused a hunger found global uncertainty, Netanyahu at the White it's going to happen. And crisis, internally displaced marked by intensifying conflicts, complex strategic environments, and grave threats to international

Trump plans to meet he departed the White International Court of peace and security. Justice and of war crimes at Although the presidency the International Criminal rotates monthly and holds Court. Israel denies the no executive authority, it White provides an opportunity to House official, asked about shape the Council's agenda Dermer's scheduled meetand tone. At a time when the UNSC is struggling ings and agenda, said: "Ron with paralysis over major Dermer visits the White crises such as Gaza and Ukraine, such leadership President Trump pursues a path to peace for Israel and becomes especially significant. — Agencies

Ex-Russian minister sentenced

MOSCOW (Reuters) Former Russian deputy defense minister Timur Ivanov was found guilty of corruption on Tuesday and sentenced to 13 years in

Ivanov was arrested in April 2024 on suspicion of taking bribes, and investigators added new embezzlement charges October. His case is part of the biggest slew of corruption scandals to hit the Russian defense establishment in years. More than a dozen people, including two other former deputy ministers, have been arrest-

tions. Ivanov, who had pleaded not guilty, was also stripped of all his state awards. His lawyer said he would appeal. State media reported that the total sum alleged to have been embezzled by Ivanov and others was 4.1 billion roubles (\$48.8 million), mostly in the form of bank transfers to two foreign

ed in a series of investiga-

accounts. The trial took place behind closed doors on grounds of state secrecy. A former subordinate of Ivanov, Anton Filatov, was sentenced to 12-1/2 years. Russian media said Ivanov and his wife owned a luxury apartment in central Moscow, a three-story English-style mansion on the outskirts of the capital and an extensive collection Bentley and an Aston

Martin.



US woman converts to Islam, marries Pakistani man in Dir

Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: In a real-life tale of digital-era romance transcending borders, Mindy Rasmussen, a 47 year-old woman from Chicago, USA, reached a remote village in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to marry her 31-year-old fiancé, a local resident of Usherai Dara in Upper Dir.

Mindy Rasmussen, who met Sajid Zeb Khan online nearly a year ago through Facebook, arrived in Pakistan and, after receiving approval from Pakistan and convert to Islam was earlier this week on a 90-day visit visa. After converting to Islam and adopting the name Zulekha, she solemnized her married. Sajid, who runs a small marriage (nikkah) with Sajid in Upper medical store in Tarpatar Bazaar, wel-Dir here on Tuesday, in accordance comed Mindy with flowers at with local customs and Islamic tradi- Islamabad International Airport. The tions. The ceremony was held in the two then travelled to his hometown, Sadiqa Banda village, Usherai Dara where valley, under the jurisdiction of Gandigar Police Station.

Police and family sources confirmed that the American national embraced Islam voluntarily and mar-Anwar Zeb. The couple's story has captured local attention and prompted widespread interest in the region.

The relationship, which began

both families, she travelled to entirely her own. "There was no pres-Pakistan with the intention of getting villagers received the American guest with traditional hospitality, presenting gifts and celebrat-

Speaking to a local web channel, Mindy (now Zulekha) expressed deep ried Sajid Zeb Khan, the son of appreciation for the warm reception. 'Ît's my first visit to Pakistan, and I must say it's a beautiful and peaceful country," she said. "The kindness and hospitality I've experienced here are respect and cultural openness. The

visit and supported her decision. 'They know I'm here and are excited for me," she said. Mindy also encouraged other foreigners to visit Pakistan and explore its culture, hospitality, and natural beauty.

When asked about their relationship, she described Sajid as "a loving and humble man," whose sincerity and respect had drawn her closer to him. Sajid emphasized that Mindy's decision to travel to sure from me or my family," he said. "She is a mature woman capable of making her own choices. We are tying the knot of our own free will."

Rejecting any need for a formal security detail, Sajid said, "We are here to celebrate our love with simplicity and joy.," adding they did not need any formal security. Local police officials stated they were keeping a close watch on the situation and were ready to provide protection if necessary. "The foreign guest's safety is our priority," a police source said. Residents in the area praised the union, calling it a sign of mutual with online chats and video calls, soon evolved into a committed bond. Mindy eventually proposed to Sajid including her father, older sister, and welcoming nature.

Blow for Thailand's govt as court suspends PM

ing the occasion.

Paetongtarn from duty per seeking her dismissal, in a criticised a Thai army commajor setback for a govern- mander, a red line in a counment under fire on multiple try where the military has fronts and fighting for its survival.

petition from 36 senators honesty and breaching ethileak of a sensitive telephone ential former leader Hun Sen that was intended to deescalate a territorial row and tense troop buildup at their

The leaked June 15 call triggered domestic fury and has left Paetongtarn's coalition with a razor-thin majority after a big party abandoned the alliance and accused her of undermining sovereignty, as protest demonstrations to demand a

new government. Paetongtarn's after only 10 months in between the billionaire two-decade grudge match that has seen two military by the central bank.

(Reuters): ties and prime ministers, takes over as caretaker presignificant clout.

"My true intention in the The court accepted a leaked conversation, my true intention 100 per cent, accusing Paetongtarn of dis- was to work for the country to maintain our sovereignty cal standards, based on a and save the lives of all our soldiers," Paetongtarn told call with Cambodia's influ-reporters. It has been a baptism of fire for political novice Paetongtarn, who at 37 was thrust into the spotlight last year as Thailand's oungest premier after the Constitutional Court dismissed ally Srettha Thavisin for a violation of ethical standards.

Paetongtarn, the fourth member of her family to hold the top post, has been struggling to revive a stutgroups threaten more tering economy and arrest a sharp decline in popularity, with an opinion poll battles released at the weekend showing her approval rating office underline an sinking to 9.2pc in June intractable power struggle from 30.9pc in March. Thai shares.SETI jumped 1.8pc Shinawatra dynasty and an after the midday break on influential establishment expectations that political backed by the army — a uncertainty could lead to further cuts in interest rates

Thailand's Constitutional She accepted the court's mier while the court decides Court on Tuesday suspended Prime Minister apologised over the leaked Paetongtarn, who has 15 ment hopes to limit a rebeling a reshuffle. Paetongtarn is not alone in her troubles, with influential tycoon father Thaksin Shinawatra, the driving force behind her

government, facing legal hurdles of his own in two different courts this month. Polarising Thaksin appeared at his first hearing at Bangkok's Criminal Court on Tuesday

on charges he insulted Thailand's powerful monarchy, a serious offence punishable by up to 15 years in prison if found guilty. Thaksin denies the allegations and has repeatedly pledged allegiance to the crown. The case stems from a 2015 media interview Thaksin gave while in selfimposed exile, from which he returned in 2023 after 15 years abroad to serve a prison sentence for conflicts of interest and abuse of power.

Thaksin, 75, dodged jail and spent six months in hospital detention on medical before being grounds on parole released February last year. The Supreme Court will this month scrutinise that hospicoups and court rulings that Deputy Prime Minister tal stay and could potential have toppled multiple par- Suriya Juangroongruangkit ly send him back to jail.

UK govt faces key test in welfare reform bill vote

LONDON: The United Kingdom's Labour govern-Prime Minister apologised over the leaked gtarn Shinawatra call, during which she kowduty pending a case towed before Hun Sen and towed before Hun days after attempting to win them over with concessions.

> Almost a year after his party won a landslide election victory, Prime Minister Keir Starmer faces one of the toughest tests of his premiership on Tuesday, when MPs vote on his government's welfare plans. Angered by proposals to change the eligibility criteria of the country's main disability benefit and to reduce health-related support received by those on low incomes, more than 120 Labour politicians signalled last week that they would be voting against the bill.

In a bid to appease them, Downing Street announced a set of concessions on Friday, including a pledge that current claimants of the disability benefit, which is known as the personal independence payment (Pip), would not be affected by the cuts. The government also promised to launch a review into Pip, led Disability Minister Stephen Timms.

Speaking on Friday, senior Labour backbencher Meg Hillier, one of the rebels, described the U-turn as a "workable compromise" However, shortly ahead of Tuesday's vote, it appeared that dozens of Labour politicians still opposed the bill, with British media reporting that at least 35 were planning to go against the government.

The vote comes after 86 disability and human rights groups issued a joint statement on Monday urging politicians to vote against the welfare reform bill. Rachael Maskell, a Labour MP and critic of the proposal, wrote on X on Monday evening that disabled people "have yet to have agency in this process". "It is time their voices were heard," she added.

The disputes around the government's reform bill have led to questions being asked once more about Starmer, who has a working majority of 165 in the House of Commons. "It's a failure of leadership for a prime minister with such a big majority to not be able to get their agenda through," said Rob Ford, a politics professor at the University of Manchester. — Aljazeera

Rubio hails end of USAID

degree of damage done to ple and taking 251 aides Dermer would see the Iranian nuclear prohostages, according to during his visit.

'militants'

The US foreign aid agency down as a colossal misformally closed down take. Tuesday, with President "Gutting USAID is a Donald Trump's administravesty and it is a tragedy

age aid to win over the million people would die, a Development (USAID) has Marco Rubio slashed 85 percent of its programming.

ing staff on Monday, for-Bush and Barack Obama Bono — saluted their trade was more effective. work and said it was still needed. Bush pointed to PEPFAR, the massive US effort to fight HIV/AIDS that he considers one of presidency.

ing our country — is it in message seen by AFP. Department icizing Trump, said that Lancet study relied on ending USAID was "inex- "incorrect assumptions"

tration trumpeting the end because it's some of the "charity-based most important work hapmodel" despite predictions pening anywhere in the that millions of lives will world," the Democrat said. A study published in the Founded in 1961 as John medical journal The Lancet F. Kennedy sought to lever- predicted that more than 14 developing world in the third of them small chil-Cold War, the US Agency dren, by 2030 due to the International foreign aid cuts.

Rubio painted a drastinow been incorporated into cally different picture of the State Department — USAID, which was an after Secretary of State early target of a sweeping government cost-cutting drive led for Trump by bil-In a farewell to remain- lionaire Elon Musk. Rubio said that USAID's "charitymer presidents George W. based model" fueled "addiction" by developing — as well as U2 frontman nations' leaders and that

"Beyond creating a globe-spanning industrial complex at taxpayer expense, USAID has little to show since the the top achievements of end of the Cold War,' his 2001-2009 Republican Rubio wrote in an essay. He also complained that 'This program shows a many recipients of US aid fundamental question fac- do not vote with the United States at the our nation's interest that 25 United Nations and that million people who would rival China often enjoys have died now live? I think higher favorability among it is," Bush said in a video the public. A senior State official,

(AFP): plicable" and "will go and said the United States will continue aid but in a 'more efficient" way.

He said that PEPFAR prison. will remain, with a priority on stopping HIV transmission from mothers to children. But he acknowledged the United States was no longer funding PrEP medication, which significantly reduces the rate of HIV transmission and has been encouraged by high-risk communities.

"No one is saying that gay men in Africa shouldn't be on PrEP. That's wonderful. It doesn't mean that the United States has to pay for every single thing," the official said. He said the Trump administration was looking at "new and innovative solutions" and pointed to food deliveries in war-battered Gaza staffed by US military contractors and surrounded by Israeli

Witnesses, the United Nations and local Gaza officials have reported that Israeli troops have repeatedly opened fire and killed Palestinians waiting for aid — although the US-backed the Gaza

initiative, Humanitarian Foundation, denies any deadly incidents. Bob Kitchen, the vice president for emergencies at the International Rescue Committee, said Obama, who like Bush has speaking on condition of that the 14 million death been sparing in openly crit- anonymity, said that The prediction was consistent of classic cars including a with what the humanitarian group was seeing.

attack

Ukraine hits Russian city, kills three MOSCOW (AFP): Ukrai- showed a ball of flames Diplomatic efforts to end

nian drones attacked the erupt from the roof of a Russian city of Izhevsk on Tuesday, killing three people and wounding dozens in trial "enterprise," without one of the deepest strikes giving inside Russia of the threeyear conflict, authorities

Izhevsk, more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the front line, has arms production facilities including factories that make attack drones and the worldfamous Kalashnikov rifle. A Ukraine security services source said Kyiv had targeted an Izhevsk-based drone manufacturer and that the had disrupted Moscow's "offensive poten-

Unverified videos posted causing "casualties and on social media showed at fatalities," Ukraine's southleast one drone buzzing over ern defense forces said, the city, while another without specifying numbers.

building. The region's head said the drones hit an indusdetail. 'Unfortunately, we have

three fatalities. We extend our deepest condolences to their families," Alexander Brechalov, head of the Udmurt Republic, where Izhevsk is located, wrote on Telegram. "I visited the victims in

the hospital. At the moment, 35 people have been hospitalized, 10 of whom are in serious condition." Russian forces in turn struck the town of Guliaipole in Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk region,

recent weeks. The two sides held direct talks almost a month ago but Moscow has since stepped up deadly strikes on Ukraine. Kyiv's military chief vowed in June to increase the "scale and depth" of strikes on Russia, warning Ukraine would not sit back while Moscow prolonged its offensive.

the conflict have stalled in

Moscow's army has ravaged parts of east and south Ukraine while seizing large swathes of territory. An AFP analysis published Tuesday found that Russia dramati cally ramped up aerial attacks in June, firing thousands of drones to pressure the war-torn country's stretched air defense systems and exhausted civilian population.

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar, Managing Editor Jalil Afridi. Phone 0300 9009001