

Syed Waqar Mehdi took oath

ISLAMABAD (APP): The newly elected member of the Senate Syed Waqar Mehdi of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Monday took oath as Senator. He was elected unopposed as a senator in place of Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar who resigned recently. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani administered an oath to the newly elected senator. Later, the senator signed the roll of members as required by the rules.

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Daily Mail's apology vindicates Pakistan, thwarts anti-state conspiracy: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the unconditional apology by the British publication Daily Mail was a vindication of the 220 million Pakistanis, which also thwarted an anti-state conspiracy hatched by Imran Khan and his cronies.

"Finally, after three years, they (Daily Mail) tendered an apology, not to me but all of you. It was an apology to 220 million Pakistanis, and to millions of those mothers and children who were benefiting from the DIFD projects to support their food and health," the prime minister said addressing a press conference here along with his cabinet members.

Apprising the media of the allegations levelled by the previous government through the Daily Mail article, he said the onslaught was only meant to defame him, Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. "He (Imran Khan) was so callous to never think that it will not only malign Nawaz Sharif or Shehbaz Sharif rather it will hurt Pakistan's reputation," he remarked. The newspaper also published its apology in Sunday's print edition, he added.

He told the media that the DFID project's amount of 600 million pounds was spent transparently and the allegations were also contradicted by the Department for International Development (DFID) itself. "Consequently, the country was mocked and a

PM strongly condemns unprovoked firing by Afghan border forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned the unprovoked shelling and fire by the Afghan Border Forces at Chaman resulting in the martyrdom of several Pakistani citizens and injuring more than a dozen. The prime minister in a tweet termed the incident as "unfortunate", which he said, "deserves the strongest condemnation".

He stressed that the recurrence of such incidents must be avoided. "The Afghan Interim government should ensure that such incidents are not

message was conveyed that Pakistan should not be given any aid or grant," he added. PM Shehbaz said despite the passage of three years, Shahzad Akbar had failed to produce documents to substantiate his allegations, which also led to his (Shehbaz Sharif) vindication by the NCA (National Crime Agency).

The prime minister said by selling a specially-designed watch inscribed with the Holy Kaaba's model, gifted by Saudi Crown Prince, Imran Khan had committed the "cheapest act". He said investigations should be held as to how the former prime min-

ister had destroyed the national economy and foreign relations and strained ties with brotherly countries. Shehbaz Sharif also mentioned an article published by the Financial Times accusing Imran Khan of spending donations collected for the Shaukat Khanum Hospital on his politics.

He said during his government, Imran Khan got arrested even female politicians like Maryam Nawaz and Faryal Talpur but contrarily, gave an NRO (National Reconciliation Ordinance) to his own sister through the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)

repeated," he said. At least seven people lost their lives and 16 others suffered injuries on Sunday in Chaman, which came under heavy gunfire and artillery shelling by Afghan border forces. Pakistani troops retaliated against the "unprovoked and indiscriminate" fire, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The ISPR described the incident as "uncalled-for aggression" and said Pakistani troops had given a "befitting" but "measured response" and avoided targeting civilians on the other side.

though she had committed misdeclaration.

The prime minister told the media that the incumbent government inherited a shaken economy and that they had to beseech the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which was not ready to trust Pakistan after the previous regime had deviated from the commitments. He said by passing the burden of the oil price surge to the masses, the incumbent government sacrificed its politics in the state's interest as the previous regime had laid a trap for their government by not raising the prices.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the government had disbursed Rs 70 billion among the flood-hit families through BISP (Benazir Income Support Programme) and spent billions of others through the NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) to supply food packages, tents, and mosquito nets. Besides, Rs 400 million were also given in form of compensation for the life losses, he added.

"With the onset of the winter season, a huge challenge is still ahead. Don't know where the money will come from (to support the reconstruction)," he added. He said instead of spreading a rhetoric of Pakistan becoming another Sri Lanka, Imran Khan should give an account for the sugar mill and wheat scandals. To a question, the prime minister said Finance Minister Ishaq Dar met President Arif Alvi with his permission.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing a press conference.

Afghanistan tendered apology over Chaman border firing: Kh Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has claimed that Afghanistan admitting its mistake over unprovoked and indiscriminate firing by its forces at Chaman border of Balochistan resultant in dead of seven civilians has tendered apology.

Speaking on the Floor of National Assembly on Monday, he said that during a border security committee meeting, the Afghan side admitted its fault besides assurance to avoid such incident in future.

Khawaja Asif said that the first firing was carried out during the repair of the fence on the border but the Afghan forces later

attacked with heavy artillery resulting in martyrdom of seven civilians. He said that Pakistani armed forces resorting to unprovoked firing targeted the Afghan post, which resulted in the killings of their soldiers.

"Pakistan is a well-wisher of Afghanistan and desires resolution of their internal matters. We will continue to extend cooperation for peace and stability in Afghanistan," the defence minister said, adding that this will open vistas of economic and trade cooperation in the region. He termed the recent visit of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar to

Kabul for talks a symbolic one and 'proud moment' for Pakistan.

Khawaja Asif said that during Hina's visit, no objection was raised from Afghan leadership, adding that the Afghan leaders held talks with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. "Performance should be judged instead of gender," he pointed out.

A day earlier, according to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) at least six Pakistani civilians embraced martyrdom and 17 other sustained injuries due to 'unprovoked and indiscriminate' firing by Afghan border forces in Balochistan's Chaman district.

PML-N likely to challenge Nawaz's sentence in Avenfield reference

ISLAMABAD (INP): A session of the PML-N has decided to challenge sentence to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in the Avenfield reference in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), says in media reports. A session of the party, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, has decided to challenge the sentence to Nawaz Sharif in accountability reference in the IHC after acquittal of Maryam Nawaz by the high court.

According to sources, Maryam Nawaz will return from London before arrival of the PML-N supremo. Nawaz Sharif's return will be announced in a statement from London, sources said. "He is expected to return back to Pakistan in January," sources added. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) had acquitted PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz and her spouse Captain retired Safdar on September 29, by nullifying the sentence awarded by an accountability court in the Avenfield reference.

Amir Muqam presided over the signing ceremony of the final agreement between Kohistan Jirga and WAPDA

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam presided over the signing ceremony of the final agreement between Kohistan Jirga and WAPDA on Monday.

Adviser to the Prime Minister Engineer Amir Muqam expressed his special gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved 10,000 megawatts of cheap electricity to Kohistan. He thanked the elders of Kohistan Jirga and Chairman WAPDA Lt. Gen. Sajjad Ghani for their faith in him to discuss this long-standing issue. He said that the people of Kohistan deserve more and their efforts for peace are unparalleled. Engineer Amir Muqam also thanked all the officers of WAPDA for their full cooperation in this regard. He hoped that the people of Kohistan and WAPDA would implement today's agreement.

Adviser to the Prime Minister Engineer Amir Muqam congratulated the people of Kohistan on this milestone. Earlier, Engineer Amir Muqam pursued the issue for the past one year and held several meetings with Jirga members and WAPDA officials. The elders and Jirga members highly

appreciated the efforts of Engineer Amir Muqam and also appreciated the commitment of Chairman WAPDA who said that the agreed demands will be fully implemented. The signing ceremony of the agreement was presided over by Adviser to the Prime Minister Engineer Amir Muqam, attended by Chairman WAPDA, members of Kohistan Jirga and other top officials of WAPDA.

Chairman WAPDA said that all Jirga members deserve congratulations. He said that a 10 MW plant will be constructed in the three districts of Kohistan. He said that he wholeheartedly agreed with the

Jirga's demands. Chairman WAPDA said that the future of the people of Kohistan is connected with us. Adviser to the Prime Minister, Engineer Amir Muqam, said that he is also grateful to Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for the approval and announcement in this regard.

He also appreciated Chairman WAPDA for playing a vital role in this regard. He said that the people of Kohistan are patriotic and have a very loving nature. He said that we will continue to cooperate with each other in the future as well. He said that we are one nation and will live together.



PTI not a political party but gang of 'propagandists', says Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was not a political party but a gang of 'propaganda group' led by former prime minister Imran Khan, a mentally ill person.

Speaking on a point of order in National Assembly, she said PTI can't be a political party due to its fascist approach. The focus of the gang, who ruled the country from the year 2018 to 2022, was to incarcerate political opponents after registering fake cases against them. Imran during his (mis) rule had destroyed the country's economy, sabotaged China Pakistan Economic corridor (CPEC) and closed power production projects of 14,000 mw initiated by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

She said PTI government registered narcotics case against Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, alleging that Rana was the member of international gang of smugglers. Paying tributes to Rana Sanaullah, she said Rana was kept in death cell of jail sans giving him even

proper mattress for sleeping. Various methods were used to tease Rana Sanaullah including releasing of ants in his cell. In the same House, she recalled former ministers alleged that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had devoured the money donated by UK government for earthquake victims. Interestingly Shehbaz was not the chief minister when the money was received from United Kingdom. The main aim behind such propaganda was to impede foreign investment in Pakistan. The unconditional apology by the British publication Daily Mail was a vindication of the 220 million Pakistanis, which also thwarted an anti-state conspiracy hatched by Imran Khan and his cronies. National Crime Agency of UK has given clean chit to Sharif family, she said adding that PTI failed to prove allegations against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Daily Mail also got nine adjournments in the defamation case against Shehbaz Sharif. She wondered that Imran, who was responsible for pushing the country to economic default

was blaming the incumbent government for economic turmoil. Imran did not turn up to flood hit areas of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa despite enjoying powers in these provinces. She categorically said that the next general elections would be held in October 2023.

Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan did not want the economy to stabilise and for that he desired riots, chaos and anarchy in the country. Reacting to Imran Khan's video statement, she said the situation was the worst, but it was not for the country rather for Imran Khan whose "crutches have been broken." He was worried that the institutions were not becoming part of his dirty politics. "The umpires whom he called animals" were neutral, the minister added. Marriyum said the "incompetent and inefficient" person, who had stolen the Toshakhana gifts, was out of his habit dragging the national institutions into his "unholy politics".

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has said that the Federal Government owes Rs 189 billion to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province adding that since the regime change at the federal level, financial constraints are being created for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and federal transfers are being withheld to create financial instability in the province.

He warned the federal government of staging a sit-in in front of the National Assembly along with the opposition members from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly. Addressing a press conference along with Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Khalid Khurshid Khan and the Finance Ministers of Azad Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab on Monday in K.P House Islamabad, Chief Minister Mahmood Khan said that the imported government, since its inception, is trying to marginal-

ize Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and hurdles are being created on every step.

He stated that the incumbent federal government has placed a considerable cut on the funds of newly merged districts despite the fact that the merged districts need special investment to address their long-standing deprivations. He said that federal government has allocated only Rs 60 billion current grant for newly merged districts in 2022-23 against a minimum current budget requirement of Rs 89.5 billion for salary and non salary expenditures.

Similarly, 55 billion rupees have been allocated for development projects in the merged districts, out of which only 5.5 billion rupees have been released till date. The Chief Minister further said that in the federal budget for the financial year 2022-23, no funds have been allocated for the temporarily displaced persons while in the financial year 2021-22 Rs 17 billion were allocated out of which only Rs 5.1 billion were released.

Moreover, the present federal government has also stopped the health card funds of the merged districts, which is 4.5 billion rupees annually, and now the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is bearing the costs of the health card of the merged districts from its own kitty.

The Chief Minister said that the share of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa fixed in the National Finance Commission award is not being given, while 61 billion rupees are also due with the federal government on account of Net Hydel Profit. The chief minister said that the federal government has washed out the development projects of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from the Public Sector Development Program which were reflected in the tenure of PTI led Federal government. The Chief Minister went on saying that 10 billion rupees were promised for the rehabilitation of the flood affectees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but not even a penny has been released till date.

Sessions court reserves verdict against Imran in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (INP): An Islamabad sessions court on Monday reserved verdict on the Toshakhana case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. ECP had filed a petition in a district and sessions court against the former premier over tax evasion and amount received from selling expensive gifted watches.

In November, the election body had submitted a copy of the reference in court requesting criminal proceedings be initiated against the former premier. The case was heard by Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal. ECP lawyer Saad Haffan said that Imran Khan failed to inform for how much he had sold the watch for.

He argued that the ex-PM was legally bound to disclose how he treated the gifts he acquired from Toshakhana. The counsel said that Imran Khan mentioned earnings in

his 2021 tax and assets declarations which were not present in the previous years record.

The copy of the reference filed in the court said that Imran had furnished the required documents of his assets and liabilities for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 within the stipulated period of time. He recalled that a reference regarding the matter was sent to the ECP by the National Assembly speaker.

It stated that Imran "deliberately concealed" his assets during the years 2018 and 2019 when he was the prime minister.

Malik said that to verify these claims, the commission obtained Imran's statement of assets and liabilities from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Toshakhana record of gift items through the Cabinet Secretariat. "From the perusal of the

record, it reveals that for the year 2018-2019 the gift items were purchased on the payment of Rs21,564,600 from the Toshakhana on the basis of assessed value. The total value of gift items was Rs107,943,000."

He stated that the gift items and their sale were not shown in Imran's statement of assets and liabilities submitted to the ECP, and neither was any other explanation about the sale of the gifts was provided. Also, the district election commissioner noted, Imran had failed to add the details of the cash and bank account of the sale proceeds in the relevant Form-B sections.

"The commission found that the respondent [PTI chief] had submitted false and incorrect statements and false declarations regarding his statements of assets and liabilities submitted before ECP."



PM lauds OIC's principled stance on Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday lauded the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its principled position and consistent support for the resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Talking to OIC Secretary General Houssein Ibrahim Taha, he mentioned the support of OIC in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The OIC secretary general is on his first visit to Pakistan after assuming office in November 2021. The prime minister highlighted the grim human rights and humanitarian situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Welcoming the secretary general's historic visit to Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Line of Control (LOC), PM Shehbaz underscored that his visit would send a strong message of support from the OIC to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for the right of self-determination.

The prime minister also renewed unwavering support of the people and the Government of Pakistan to the Palestinian people and Palestinian cause. He reiterated that any solution of the Palestine issue must be based on the pre-1967 border with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Recognizing that the OIC has stepped-up its engagement with Afghanistan since the Extraordinary Session of

the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Islamabad in December 2021, he encouraged the secretary general to accelerate efforts for addressing and alleviating the humanitarian challenges faced by

the people of Afghanistan. Shehbaz Sharif reiterated the need to counter the rising anti-Muslim hatred and attempts to denigrate the sanctity of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

USAID to launch 'Green partnership' to support flood-affected growers

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and USAID/Pakistan Mission Director Mr. Reed Aeschliman after thorough discussions and deliberations agreed to launch a 'Green Cooperation' programme for flood-affected growers and work together for

the reconstruction of damaged houses, and school buildings and strengthening healthcare in the flood-hit areas.

The meeting was held here at CM House and was attended by Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D

Hassan Naqvi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, CEO of Peoples Housing Project Khalid Shaikh.

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION COMMISSIONER, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

TENDER FOR UPGRADATION OF IT EQUIPMENT

Sealed Tenders are invited from the Firms / Companies, who are registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax (GST) department for supply, installation, configuration services of "Laptops and Printers Components" (Windows, Printer Cum Scanner Driver etc.) in the office of Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar as per following detail:

S#	Lot	Item Name	Qty
1	Lot-I (HP Probook 400 G4 Core I-5) & (Lenovo-V310)	Hard Drive (NVMe-2)/ SSD - 128GB	HP (186) + Lenovo (20)
2		Laptop Batteries (As per Laptop Model)	HP (186) + Lenovo (20)
3		Wireless Keyboard with numeric Key + Mouse	HP (186) + Lenovo (20)
4		Laptop Charger (As per Laptop Model)	HP (186) + Lenovo (20)
5	Lot-II (HP Laser jet M227 nfp)	RAM 8GB compatible with laptop	HP (186) + Lenovo (20)
6		Printers Repairing	As per requirement
7		Printer Services	140
8		Printer Toner (Original)	140

Terms & Conditions:

- Tendering, will be conducted, in Single Stage-Two Envelopes methods. i.e. a single envelope containing two separate envelopes marked as "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" and "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" in bold and legible letters to avoid confusion.
- The company should have their support / services in Peshawar.
- The solution of the item shall be according to Industry standards.
- Bidders should submit a "Certificate" that the company has never been declared blacklisted or defaulter by any department of Government of Pakistan.
- The bidder shall quote rate for one whole / complete Lot. No firm can change the rates after opening the sealed tender.
- Price should be quoted in Pak Rupees both in words and figures.
- The Price quoted should be firm, final and clearly written / typed out without any ambiguity. Rates / bids submitted will be valid for a period of six months.
- The price should include all the government taxes (Including GST if applicable), duties, delivery and installation charges etc.
- The rates or prices shall be entered against each item in the BOQ.
- Tenders should be submitted for each lot separately or for both lots accompanied with 5% CDR of total value of Lot-I or Lot-II or both Lots in favour of DDO, office of Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar. Any bid not accompanied with requisite tender security / earnest money shall be rejected.
- Payment will be made upon successful installation and commissioning of all the equipment.
- "Tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions can be obtained on written request from the office of Provincial Election Commissioner Peshawar latest by 28th December 2022 (Wednesday) against the prescribed fee of **Rs.5000/-** (Rupees Five Thousand only) non-refundable, on any working day during office hours.
- All Sealed Tenders, complete in all respect, should be delivered / dropped in the Tender Box placed in the office of Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shami road opposite Golf Club Gate No 2 Peshawar on or before tender's opening date i.e. **28th December, 2022 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM** which will be opened on the same date at **11:30 AM** in the presence of Special Committee members and bidders as may be present. No open, e-mailed or faxed bid will be accepted. Any bid received by the PEC Office after the date and time of tender opening will be returned unopened to the bidder.
- The Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / Competent Authority reserves the right to reject any Tender or all tenders in accordance with Rule-33(1) of PPRA Rules-2004.
- This advertisement is also available on the official websites of PPRA (www.ppra.org.pk) and Election Commission of Pakistan (www.ecp.gov.pk).

[PID(P) 312/22]

Asstt Director (Admn) Provincial Election Commissioner
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Tel: +92-91-9211033



PUBLIC NOTICE

Auction of Gold

Finance facilities were extended by Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited against the security of deposit and pledge of gold to the customer mentioned below. The customer has neglected and failed to repay the finance extended to them by Mobilink Microfinance Bank along with the markup thereon.

Details:

Branch	Haripur
Branch code	0017
Date of auction	14-Dec-2022
Time	3:00 PM
Call Deposit	Rs. 800/-

Customer Name	Account #	Address
Ahmed Faraz	131172397	Post Office Ghazi Salm Khand Tehsil Haripur

Notice is hereby given to the customer in above mentioned that if payment of entire outstanding amount financed along with markup is not made by them to MMBL within 1 day of the publication of this notice, MMBL shall auction the gold ornaments and no further Public Notice shall be issued to call upon the customers to make the payments.

Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited



NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & MOTORWAYS POLICE

Procurement Notice (PN)

No. 08/LOG/NHMP/2022-23/

Invitation to Bid

- The National Highways & Motorway Police has reserved Funds for the for the procurement planned out of Road Safety Fund on Matching Grant Basis. The NHMP intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Fund to cover eligible payments under the contract for the procurement of following items:

S#	Item	Qty
1	Reflecting Sticker Set for Vehicles	125
2	LED Lights Bar for Vehicles	123
3	Canopies for Single Cabin	17
4	Canopies for Double Cabin	10
5	Fabrication of Cargo Truck	03

- National Highways & Motorway Police invites sealed bids from eligible Manufacturers/Suppliers for the supply of above mentioned items.
- Single Stage Two Envelop Bidding Procedure** of Principal Method of Procurement (i.e. Open Competitive Bidding) will be used by adopting **Least Cost Based Selection (LCBS) Technique** for the subject procurement, in line with the Public Procurement Rules, 2004 and any Regulations, Regulatory Guides, Procurement Guidelines or Instructions issued by the Authority (from time to time).
- All Proposals must be accompanied by a Bid Security mentioned in the Bidding Documents. **The Bid Security must be attached with the Technical Proposal(s).**
- Bidding documents are available at NHMP's website free of cost **OR** can be obtained from the office of the AIG (Logistics), NHMP during office hours before the closing date, on the payment of Pak Rupees One thousand (PKR=1000/-) in shape of Pay Order in the name of the Inspector General, NHMP (non-refundable). Cheques will not be acceptable.
- In case opening date(s) is declared as a Public Holiday by the Government, the next working date shall be deemed to be the date for submission and opening of tender(s) at the same time and place.
- The original bid (as prescribed in Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document) in accordance with the provisions of Rule 36(b) of Public Procurement Rules, 2004 and terms and condition defined in the bidding document must be delivered at the address mentioned below **on or before 11:00 Hours on January 4, 2023**. The Bids will be opened publicly on the same day at 12:00 Hours in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend the opening session to be held at **NHMP Central Police Office, Mauve Area, G-11/1, Islamabad.**

Syed Ahmad Jawad Shah

Assistant Inspector General (Logistics)

National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP)

NHMP Central Police Office, Mauve Area, G-11/1 Islamabad.

Ph.: 051-9320278

PID(0) 3685/22

CORRECTION IN FATHER'S NAME

My name is Abdul Qadir son of Fazal Amin Graduated Software Engineer (Reg No FA17-BSE-112 Session 2017-2021) from Comsats University Islamabad Wah Campus. My father name is written mistakenly as Fazal E Amin which is not correct. My father correct name is Fazal Amin. Kindly update in all academic records.

COURT NOTICE

IN the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.62/1. Institution 25/3/2022. Date of hearing. 17/12/2022. Karimdad Shah etc VS Bakht Zadgai etc. Notice to no.5.Sadiq Shah.6.Zahir Shah sons of Husan Baha resident of Cheena Dheri tehsel Gagra district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 17/12/2022 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

IN the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.329/1. Institution 13/10/2021. Date of hearing. 21/12/2022. Khaist Nor VS Fazal Khaliq. Notice to no.1/1/3.Norul Wahab. 1/1/4.Saidul Wahab sons of Fazal Manan resident of Kowga tehsel Mandrn district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 21/12/2022 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (SOUTH) IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

Phone: +92-91-9212116, Fax: +92-91-9212152, Email: CESouth.Irrigation@kp.gov.pk

NOTICE FOR INVITING E-BIDDING

(SINGLE STAGE ONE ENVELOP PROCEDURE)

Chief Engineer (South), Irrigation Department, Warsak Road, Peshawar through Executive Engineer, Peshawar Canals Division, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, invites electronic Bids from the eligible firms / contractors in accordance with KPRA procurement rules 2014 on single stage one envelop procedure for the following works:

S.#	Name of Work/Sub Works	Estimated Cost in(M)	2% Earnest Money in the name of Executive Engineer Peshawar Canals Division Peshawar in Rs.	PEC Relevant Code
A.	210665 - Rehabilitation / Improvement of Canals and Other Infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. ADP No. 2214 during 2022-23.			
i.	Rehabilitation/ Restoration of R/Wall and PCC Lining at Kabul River Canal from RD: 72+000 to RD: 106+000.	47.39	947,800/-	CE-04 CE-10
ii.	Rehabilitation/Restoration of R/Wall and PCC Lining in Jue Sheikh Canal From Rd. 130+000 to 143+000	40.32	806,400/-	CE-04 CE-10
iii.	Construction of R/Walls In Jue Zardad Canal From Rd. 10+000 to 30+000.	42.37	847,400/-	CE-04 CE-10
iv.	Construction of Escape Gate & Channel on Kabul River Canal at RD. 106+000 outfall in Bara River.	20.31	406,200/-	ME-07 (V) CE-04 CE-10
B.	210455 - Construction of Flood Protection Works, Irrigation Channels And Ponds And Installation of Solar Irrigation Tube Wells in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (ADP No. 2206/2022-23).			
i.	Construction of flood protection walls in UCs Pahari Katikhel, Ziarat Kaka Sahib and Manki Sharif District Nowshera	29.855	597,100/-	CE-04 CE-10
ii.	Construction of flood protection walls/ VR Culverts in UCs Village Adamzai, Khairabad, Shaidu, Mera Akora Khattak, Jehangira District Nowshera	29.856	597,900/-	CE-04 CE-10
iii.	Construction of flood protection walls/ VR Culverts in UCs Village Suryakhel, Watter, Ismael Khel, Mera Akora Khattak and VC Madina Colony District Nowshera	30.147	602,900/-	CE-04 CE-10
C.	210462 - Construction of Canal Patrol Roads In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. (ADP No. 2209 during 2022-23)			
i.	Construction/ Improvement of Canal Patrol Road along Jue Sheikh Canal from Rd. 100+700 To 105+000.	75.288	1,505,800/-	CE-01 CE-04 CE-10
ii.	Improvement & Widening of Canal Patrol Road along Mian Gujjar Canal from RD. 12+000 To 15+000.	23.248	465,000/-	CE-01 CE-04 CE-10

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Bid Solicitation Documents containing all the terms and conditions and other relevant instructions for the work can be downloaded from the Department and or Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority websites (www.irrigation.gkp.pk) (www.kppra.gov.pk)
- Electronic bidding shall be done on "Above / Below system" on BOQ / Engineer's estimate.
- The bidder shall submit their bids on the following address "Administrative Officer, O/O Chief Engineer (South), Irrigation Department, Warsak Road, Peshawar" only through reliable courier Service on or before the deadline along with required documents as per details mentioned in Bid Solicitation Documents. The affixed labels of the Courier Service provider may be authenticated for tracking before opening. Fake courier delivery shall be processed as per the law and would not be considered.
- All bidders are required to have valid registration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority.
- The bidder shall submit 02% bid security of the estimated cost as mentioned above, in the shape of deposit at call (Original) enclosed along with their bid before closing date and time in the name of Executive Engineer, Peshawar Canals Division, Peshawar.
- Notifications issued by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority pertaining to procurement process issued from time to time shall be applicable.
- If the evaluated electronic bid costs of two or more bidders are equal, then the successful bidder will be declared through draw/loss.
- Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **26-12-2022 at 11.00 A.M** in the Conference Room of the Chief Engineer (South), Irrigation Department, Warsak Road Peshawar. The facility of virtual viewing participation through Zoom/Team link address might be provided to the bidders on request two days before the meeting date.
- The last date & time for Submission of the Bid along with relevant documents is **03-01-2023 upto 2:00 P.M** which will be opened on the same day at **02:30 P.M** in the Conference Room of the Chief Engineer (South), Irrigation Department, Warsak Road, Peshawar in presence of Contractors and their representatives who wishes to attend. The facility of virtual viewing/participation through Zoom/Team link address might be provided to the bidder on request two days before the opening date.
- Bid security of 1st, 2nd and 3rd lowest bidders will be retained till the approval of bids by the competent Authority.
- All Govt. Notifications/Rules/Taxes updated from time to time shall be applicable.

INF(P) 6961/22

CHIEF ENGINEER (SOUTH)

اِنَّ اللّٰهَ وَابَا النَّبِيِّ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

قُلْ / قرآن خوانی اور دعا

چیف ایگزیکٹو منیجر وی نیٹ ورک کامران حامد راجہ صاحب

کفرزند مختار حامد راجہ مرحوم کی ایصال ثواب کے لئے

قرآن خوانی 13 دسمبر 2022 بروز منگل بعد از نماز عصر

4 بجے بمقام فارم ہاؤس نمبر 5، آرچرڈ سکیم مری روڈ نزد (فیض آباد) اسلام آباد میں ہوگی، شرکت کر کے ثواب دارین حاصل کریں۔

منجانب: انتظامیہ و جملہ کارکنان خیبرٹی وی نیٹ ورک

اِنَّ اللّٰهَ وَابَا النَّبِيِّ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ



KP PA passes resolution to give tax exemption in merged districts till 2033

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution seeking tax exemption in all the merged districts till 2033 to provide relief to the local people and business community.

The resolution moved by Inayatullah of Jamat-e-Islami said that after merger of erstwhile FATA and PATA into KP the federal government gave an exemption in tax till 2023, adding that unfortunately the merged districts

remained stuck in different natural calamities including earthquake, floods, and corona pandemic during the last two decades.

He said that the recent incidents of law and order further aggravated the situation in these areas thus forcing the business community to leave the merged district for safe places.

In such a situation the House recommended the Provincial government to recommend the Federal government to further extend the tax exemption in

merged areas till 2033 to facilitate the local people as well as the business community.

Meanwhile Sardar Hussain Babak of ANP moved a resolution to make it mandatory for all mosques and seminaries to have Quran's translation and Tafseer in all national and local languages for understanding of the common man.

Wilson Wazir of minorities moved a motion seeking an increase in seats for minorities in the national

and all provincial assemblies as per the ratio of an increase of general seats in these assemblies.

The House unanimously passed all the three resolutions, however another resolution of Mir Kalam Wazir regarding restoration of allocation of quota for students of Balochistan and merged districts in all public and private medical colleges of the province was deferred after an objection raised by Minister for Higher Education Kamran Bangash.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali inspecting developmental work at Warsak Road.

Two-day 'Peace Fair 2022' at UoP starts today

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-day 'Peace Fair 2022' event would start at University of Peshawar (UoP) from 13 December under the auspices of Department of International Relations and International Relations Student Association.

The purpose of this ongoing event was to promote religious harmony through cultural diversity, empower the youth of the province and strengthen law and order. The co-sponsored of the event were ISPR, Department of Information and Public Relations of KP, Department of Youth Affairs and Hayat Marketing.

KP Minister for Sports Science and Information Technology and Food Muhammad Atif Khan, Chief Minister's Special Assistant for Information and Public Relations Muhammad Ali Saif and CFO Al-Hayat Marketing officials, intellectuals of the province, teachers and students would attend the fair.

In the event, an effort would be made to create awareness for the promotion of religious harmony, peace and brotherhood among the youth of the province through cultural diversity besides projecting a positive side of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province before the world.

NIRC directs Bank Al Falah to reinstate Manager

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: National Industrial Relation Commission (NIRC) has directed Bank Al Falah to reinstate Faiz Muhammad as Manager with all perks and privileges, on Monday.

The counsel Malik Shahbaz Advocate appeared before NIRC on behalf of petitioner and informed that Bank Al Falah has terminated Faiz Muhammad without listening him and letter was forwarded via E-mail in 2021.

The counsel argued that applicant was recruited in

2015 and served Bank Al Falah in different capacities with conviction and commitment. He added that latterly Faiz Muhammad was victimized by transferring to other districts despite the fact that applicant was recruited for Peshawar.

The applicant has made request to Bank Al Falah high-ups to ensure his posting at Peshawar, Malik Shahbaz Advocate added. He added that latterly Bank Al Falah has terminated Faiz Muhammad without provision of defense facility in his favor.

The counsel added that

applicant was terminated without any objections and complaints neither provided defense facility while termination letter forwarded by means of E-mail which is not satisfactory.

Neglecting defense facility to employees mean violating International Labor and argued reinstatement of Faiz Muhammad as Manager along with all perks and privileges, the counsel argued. However, Bank Al Falah's lawyer demanded dismissal appeal but NIRC has ordered to reinstate Faiz Muhammad along with perks and privileges.

Clean & Neat Peshawar campaign launched

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration on the special directives of Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has launched a week-long cleanliness campaign in the provincial metropolis.

In this connection an awareness walk led by DC Peshawar Shafiqullah Khan was held in Qissa Khawani Bazaar and Board Bazaar.

Besides, officials of the district administration General Manager (Operation) WSSP Riaz Khan, President of Traders Pesh-

awar City, Zafar Khattak and large number traders participated in the walk.

Deputy Commissioner, Shafiqullah Khan appealed people and shopkeepers to make the drive successful.

During the clean and neat Peshawar campaign awareness walks would be held in the bazaars to sensitise the people to the harmful effects of pollution caused by plastic bags and the open dumping of garbage on streets.

Deputy Commissioner

Peshawar also distributed awareness pamphlets regarding cleanliness in the shops and highlighted importance of cleanliness.

He said that all stakeholders under the supervision of district administration WSSP, PDA, concerned towns, local government, education department and concerned departments are participating in the cleanliness drive and monitoring progress in their localities in order to make the campaign successful.

Islamia College holds followers exhibition

PESHAWAR (APP): Alike every year, Islamia College Peshawar (ICP) here on Monday organized Gul-e-Dawoodi (Chrysanthemum) exhibition aiming to create awareness about local flowering traditions.

Secretary Higher Education Commission Dr Daud Khan was the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition while Vice Chancellor ICP Dr Gul Majeed Khan and other concerned officers were also present.

Addressing the event, Dr Daud Khan said that the chrysanthemum exhibition has become an identity of ICP that helps recall Peshawar City as the 'City of Flowers'.

He noted that flowers give a refreshing and healthy environment to the people besides adding to the beauty of the city.

The ceremony was also addressed by Vice Chancellor ICP Dr Gul Majeed Khan. He appreciated the efforts of gardeners for beautifully arranging chrysanthemum flowers in the exhibition that enthralled spectators.

On the occasion, Dr Daud Khan also announced Rs30,000 prize for participating gardeners.

Partly cloudy, cold weather predicted

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center on Monday predicted that mainly partly cloudy to cloudy and cold weather is expected in most districts of the province during the next 24 hours.

It said that isolated rain with snowfall over hilly areas is likely to occur in Chitral, Upper & Lower Dir, Swat, Shangla, Malakand, Buner, Kohistan, Battagram, Torgar, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Bajaur, Mohmand North and South Waziristan and Kurram districts.

Fog is also likely to occur over Swabi, Mardan, Nowshera, Charsadda, Peshawar and D.I. Khan districts, as well as over Peshawar to Swabi Motorway during night and morning hours.

During the last 24 hours cold and partly cloudy weather occurred in the province, whereas fog prevailed over most plain areas of the province.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were as Peshawar City 22/04, Chitral 12/00, Timergara 16/04, Dir 11/01, Mirkhani 15/03, Kalam 07/-5, Drosh 10/02, Saidu Sharif 17/03, Pattan 17/10, Malam Jabba 08/-1, Takht Bhai 21/05, Kakul 17/03, Balakot 18/04, Parachinar 21/00, Bannu 24/06, Cherat 13/07, D.I. Khan 27/10.

PHC directs Secretary's Home to appear today for framing of charges

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising of Justice Rooh-ul-Amin and Justice Abdul Shakoor ordered secretary's home to appear personally for framing of charges in Contempt of Court (COC) today (on Tuesday).

The COC was filed by Saad Ullah Khan Marwat and Syed Bilal Jan

Advocates along with others seeking implementation PHC's order regarding provision of Kalashnikov to lawyer fraternity during bad law and order situation.

Although, the lawyer community also facing security issues presently and COC was filed for implementation of Peshawar High Court's order in the regard but court's direction didn't make practical by competent forum, the

petition added.

However, the divisional ordered Secretary Home to appear before PHC because licenses didn't issue to lawyers despite issuance of several notices for framing of charges under COC.

PHC has issued notice Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to frame charge against Secretary Home as prosecutor while further should be continues from today (on Tuesday).

BoDs of KP HERF approves Rs60.04m

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting of the Board of Directors (BoDs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Higher Education Research Fund (KP HERF) on Monday approved Rs60.042861 million 30 potential research proposals in the fields of Engineering, Applied Sciences, Physical sciences, Medical, Biological Sciences and Social Sciences, Management, IT and Humanities.

The meeting was chaired by KP Minister for Higher Education Kamran Bangash, while Dawood Khan,

Secretary Higher Education Department, Vice Chancellors of Peshawar University, University of Engineering Technology, Agriculture University Peshawar, Officers of Management Unit, Higher Education Department as well as members of the Finance and Establishment Departments were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion said that research and development play a pivotal role in socio economic development of the province and the present

Government is determined to fully support the research ideas which have potential of commercialization.

He also formed a high level committee under the chairmanship of Special Secretary Higher Education with members including VCs of Peshawar University and Engineering and Technology University Peshawar to devise a 10-Year strategic Research agenda for the province, keeping in view the market needs, import substitution and commercialization.

Over 4000 penalized in crackdown on violators

PESHAWAR (APP): City Traffic Police has imposed penalties on 4100 people in crackdown against unregistered vehicles with fancy number plates and tinted glasses during the last one week, said a press release issued here on Monday.

During the crackdown launched on the special directives of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO), the traffic police have booked 1700

people for use of tinted glasses, 1520 persons for driving unregistered vehicles and motorcycles while 880 others for using fancy number plates and imposed cash penalties on them.

CTO Abbass Majeed Marwat has directed City Traffic to utilize their all-out capabilities to ensure the implementation of traffic laws and stern action against violators.

He further said that the use of tinted glasses and driving of unregistered vehicles are banned and traffic police are fully alert and showing no leniency with anyone as all are equal before the law.

He further urged the people to cooperate with traffic police by showing adherence to traffic laws to prove themselves as patriotic Pakistanis.

APUBTA to stage protest tomorrow in front of HEC

PESHAWAR (APP): All Pakistan Universities BPS Teachers Association (APUBTA) has announced to stage a protest in front of Higher Education Commission headquarters in Islamabad on December 14.

President of the association Dr Sami ur Rehman of Malakand University said here on Monday that purpose of the protest was to get approval of HEC for service structure and policy for promotion of BPS teachers of public sector universities.

He said all BPS teachers from across the country

would participate in the protest which would continue till fulfilment of their demands. He said previously HEC agreed to resolve all their issues related to promotion policy for BPS faculty till May 2022 but failed to comply with.

He said the BPS teachers were pushed to protest for their rights that the HEC was granting to the administration, TTS faculty, and the HEC staff only adding that this discriminatory policy had created severe seniority issues and sense of deprivation among the faculty of the universities.

Dr Sami said that the association had submitted a draft on the request of the HEC last year but its approval was continuously ignored despite more than 20 meetings held between the association and the HEC officials.

This deprivation and discrimination was ruining the universities and had declined the quality of higher education as HEC was imposing new criteria that was contradicting the previous policies and had imposed the same on in-service employees without their consensus.



PESHAWAR: A vendor displaying fancy tea cup at Sadr Road to attract customers.

WAPDA issues water position in rivers

PESHAWAR (APP): Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) issued the position of the river inflows and outflows at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoirs level and the barrages on Monday morning.

According to a spokesperson of the authority, the inflows and outflows in Indus River at Tarbela was 21100 cusecs and 42000 cusecs and inflows and outflows in Kabul River at Nowshera

was 8800 cusecs and 8800 cusecs while at Khairabad Bridge, the inflows and outflows in it was 16100 cusecs and 16100 cusecs.

Similarly, inflows and outflows in Jehlum River at Mangla was 8500 cusecs and 22000 cusecs while in Chenab at Marala, the inflows and outflows were 5100 cusecs and 2000 cusecs respectively.

Barrages: Jinnah: Inflows 46400 cusecs and Outflows 41400 cusecs,

Chashma: Inflows: 43300 cusecs and Outflows 43000 cusecs, Taunsa: Inflows 45400 cusecs and Outflows 40700 cusecs, Guddu: Inflows 38800 cusecs and Outflows 32800 cusecs Sukkur: Inflows 32000 cusecs and Outflows 13800 cusecs Kotri: Inflows 14100 cusecs and Outflows 3000 cusecs Trimmu: Inflows 5800 cusecs and Outflow Nil cusecs Panjnad: Inflows 4100 cusecs and Outflows Nil cusecs.

Meanwhile, Tarbela Dam was operating at the level of 1497 feet against the minimum operating level 1398 feet. Maximum conservation level 1550 feet, live storage on Monday morning was recorded 3,079-million-acre feet (MAF).

Mangla: Minimum operating level 1050 feet, present level 1126.55 feet, maximum conservation level 1242 feet, live storage on Monday morning was 0.970 MAF.

Chashma: Minimum operating level 638.15 feet, present level 640.70 feet, maximum conservation level 649 feet, live storage on Monday morning was 0.035 MAF.

The inflows and outflows of River Indus at Tarbela, Jinnah and Chashma, River Kabul at Nowshera and River Jehlum at Mangla have been reflected as mean flows of 24 hours, whereas the other flows have been gauged at 6.00 a.m.



In brief

Two killed near Gujranwala

GUJRANWALA (PPI): Two persons were killed and one other was injured in a road accident in Chianwali area near Gujranwala on Monday. According to rescue sources, a speeding truck hit a rickshaw near GT Road in Chianwali area near Gujranwala, killing two persons, including the rickshaw driver, and injuring one other. Those died were identified as Luqman and Munir. The identity of the injured could not be ascertained. The bodies and injured were rushed to Kamoke Tehsil Headquarters Hospital for medico-legal formalities and treatment, respectively. The police have registered a report and started a probe into the incident. A mourning atmosphere prevailed in the victims' houses.

Two perish, eight injured

MORO (PPI): Two persons were killed and eight others injured in traffic accident on Dadu-Moro Link Road near Moro. According to police, a speeding van collided with a tractor-trolley laden with sugarcane on Dadu-Moro Link Road near Moro. As a result, two persons, Syed Mardan Shah and eight-year-old Isra Shah, were killed and eight others injured. The bodies and injured were rushed to Taluka Hospital Moro for medico-legal formalities and treatment, respectively. The police have registered a report and started a probe into the incident. A mourning atmosphere prevailed in the victims' houses.

24 criminals arrested

SARGODHA (INP): Sargodha police on Monday arrested 24 criminals and recovered jewelry, motorcycles from their possession. Police said that the teams of different police stations conducted raids in the areas under their jurisdiction and arrested 24 criminals, besides recovering three motorcycles and jewelry worth millions of rupees from them. The crackdown would continue against criminals on daily basis to maintain law and order situation across the District, said police.

Security demanded

F.P. Report

KOHAT: One Muhammad Bilal resident of Bostikhel area of Dara Adamkhel requested Commissioner and District Police Officer Kohat to provide security to his family after demolishing of his residence by powerful rival, on Monday. This he demanded while addressing press conference at Kohat press club and added that his rival Ilyas along with others had demolished his house while opened firing on them over female's dispute. He claimed that Ilyas and others are threatening his family after his brother court marriage. Muhammad Bilal said the he is condemning his brother's act and didn't know his whereabouts but jirga has demanded cash along with returning of bribe for interrogation for 20 days. He requested competent authority to provide security to his family because his children neither goes to school nor to Madrassah.

Illegal LPG agency sealed

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Assistant Commissioner Paharpur Aneeq Anwar inspected the LPG agencies in the Tehsil and sealed one of them here in Union Council Kotjai after finding it illegal.

Turi opens Labour Complex in Taxila

F.P. Report

TAXILA: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi on Monday inaugurated 504 residential flats for labours and industrial workers in Workers Complex Taxila.

The Minister was accompanied by Minister of State Sardar Salim Haider. The inaugural ceremony was attended by representatives of labour unions, local political activists, dignitaries and a large number of workers. Workers of Pakistan People's Party, Rawalpindi district enthusiastically participated in the event and shouted slogans of Jaye Bhutto.

Addressing the ceremony, Sajid Hussain Turi said these moments were very contented, ecstatic and eminent for him to handover more than 500 flats to hard work class of our society. He said today the government is fulfilling a promise to provide houses for every labour. He said Pakistan People Party and the Labour and Worker class of the society have cordial relations as protecting Labours rights is part of its manifesto. "To facilitate the workers to their doorsteps is the ideology of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and under visionary leadership of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, we are following this ideology", Turi said.

Sajid Husain Turi said that PPP never forget the martyrs of the nation so 70 residential flats are allotted to the martyred workers families who sacrificed their lives in terrorism. He, on the occasion, felicitated labourers and workers of Taxila on behalf of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chairman of Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. He appreciated

tireless efforts and hard work of the team of Workers Welfare Fund who within short span of time completed the project to deliver.

The Minister further said that this government neither makes tall claims nor false promises of giving millions of jobs and millions of houses but believes to work, work and work on ground. He said "Bread, Cloth and Shelter is the promise of PPP and PPP is fulfilling this promise". He said a country progresses if its labourers are happy and we will take every step for the rights of our labours for a happy, peaceful and progressive Pakistan.

He said labour productivity drives economic growth that leads to a highly productive economy and we have to provide better working environment for our working class. He said that soon after taking charges as Minister, he had clear instructions to complete the colonies within few months so that flats could be handover to the workers. The Minister said that previously, he inaugurated residential flats for the labourers of Baluchistan and in other cities, the completion work on the colonies is in progress and will be inaugurated soon. He assured provision of all basic facilities in labour colonies.

He said in each labours colony mosques, community centers, working folk Grammar schools, BHUs and Vocational centers will be opened for children and families of labours. Minister of State Saleem Haider also addressed the ceremony and highlighted the role of PPP in empowering the working class of Pakistan. He said this complex was brainchild of Pakistan Peoples Party. He appreciated the Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi for his tireless efforts to compete and handover flats to the workers.

Corruption a big obstacle in development

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Corruption is a scourge which was the biggest obstacle in the development and prosperity of any country or society and it was imperative to eliminate the menace at all levels to get a dignified position among comity of nations.

These views were expressed by Assistant Director of Anti-Corruption Kohat Ibrahimullah Khan in a programme of Pakhtunkhwa Radio especially organized in connection with "Anti-Corruption Week". He said that eradicating corruption was the need of the hour, but it was difficult to get rid of this scourge without full coop-

eration of each and every individual of the society, adding that people should have to play their imperative role in this regard.

He urged people to register their complaints against any government official or provincial department if they observe corruption or misuse of authority at any level and assured that the name of the complainant would be kept secret. He further said that after a complete investigation and inquiry, action would be taken with the culprits adding that in case of false allegations the complaint could also be taken to task.

Ibrahimullah said that five districts of Kohat

Division including Kohat, Karak, Hangu, Orakzai and Kurram are under his jurisdiction and people of these districts could register their complaints at any time. Assuring immediate action on the complaint, he said that during the last 5 months, his department had recovered 20 million rupees from corrupt elements while many cases were under consideration and action would be taken after completion of the inquiry. He also said that corruption was not only a problem of Pakistan rather it was an international issue due to which the anti-corruption week was celebrated every year across the globe.

Drug paddlers arrested, hashish recovered

F.P. Report

KOHAT: The Kohat police during an action on Monday arrested three drug paddlers and recovered a substantial quantity of narcotics and three liquor bottles from their possession.

Police said, a team of Riaz Shaheed police station headed by SHO Qismat Khan in two separate raids arrested three drug paddlers identified as Naseem Gul, resident of Barh, Anar Gul, resident of Mirozai and Safullah, resident of Togh Balaa. Police recovered 6025 gm hashish, three bottles of liquor, three pistols and dozens of cartridges from the possession of the arrested accused. Cases against the arrested criminals were registered at Riaz Shaheed police station.

Anti Corruption recovers Rs20 mn in last five month: Assistant Director Anti

Corruption Ibrahimullah Khan has said that people can lodge their complaints against corruption in any government

department without any fear.

Speaking on a radio program 'Mulaqaat' here on Monday, he said that current week was being observed as anti corruption week all over the world adding corruption is an international issue. He said that Kohat division consists of five districts including Karak, Hangu, Orakzai, Kurram and Kohat. He said the Anti-Corruption Department takes action against corruption after conducting thorough investigation on the complaint received.

He informed that the department has recovered Rs20 million in last five month while several cases of corruption were in progress. No one can eliminate corruption from society without the cooperation of the local people, he added. He urged people to come forward and play their role in complete elimination of corruption and dishonesty so that our soft image could be highlighted.

Irrigation deptt gets 1935 kanal land vacated from land grabbers: On the special instructions of Commissioner Kohat Mahmood Aslam Wazir, the Irrigation department conducted legal action in three districts of the division and successfully got vacated 1935 kanals of government land from illegal occupants and land grabbers within seven days.

According to official data released here the Irrigation department got vacated 208 Kanal of land in district Kohat 755 kanals in Karak and 972 kanals in district Hangu which the occupiers had been occupying for a long time.

Commissioner Kohat Division appreciated the performance of Irrigation department and district administrations of Kohat, Karak and Hangu and issued further instructions that each district administration should ensure that the assets of all government departments and well protected and keep eye on land grabbers.

cause of all evils like nepotism, favouritism, demerit, unaccountability and injustice in society. They said that a lust for gaining more wealth was the sole intention of corruption. They said the arrangement of the seminar and awareness walk aimed to raise mass awareness among citizens against the menace. The ADC also distributed trophies among the position holder students at the end.

Insaf lawyers' forum: The Insaf Lawyers' Forum deputy general secretary Muhammad Muazzam Bhutt on Monday said that his organization had planned a countrywide movement for the establishment of rule of law. Speaking at a news conference at the Chakdara press club here he alleged that an imported and unconstitutional government had been imposed upon the people of Pakistan that

had been misusing the law. The ILF divisional Organizer advocate Intiaz Khan and other office bearers were also present.

Mr Bhutt said the former acting speaker Qasim Sori had accepted the PTI MNAs' resignation according to the law but later the 'imported' government made it controversial. The ILF leader said that baseless cases had been registered against the aged PTI senator Azam Swati who was subjected to brutal torture. He said the Balochistan high court abolished all cases against him but he was taken into custody by the Sindh government. He said the ILF had submitted an application in the Supreme Court against the illegal detention of Mr Swati but the date for hearing was being delayed.

He also spoke about the FIR of the assassination bid against



TAXILA: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sajid Hussain Turi taking to media persons after inaugurating Labour Complex.

Transparency in recruitment of levies demanded

F.P. Report

SAKHAKOT: Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Fazl (JUI-F) demanded to ensure transparency and merit in recruitment of levies in Malakand otherwise it should be resisted at every forum.

This was demanded by JUI-F Malakand Emir Mufti Kifayat Ullah along with Maulana Fazal Ullah Shah while addressing a press conference at Sakhakot press club while added that law and order situation Malakand is worsening day by day.

They asked that all administrative powers congested in man's hand should lead to absolute corruption and added that drug-dealing along with other crimes are increased in the district which has made questionable livelihood of local residents. JUI-F also demanded complete exemption from taxes and provide comprehensive developmental package of Malakand division to end deprivation of the region.

Students hold protest

F.P. Report

BUNER: The students of Government Degree College (GDC) Daggar arranged protest due to suspension of classes after adhoc teachers strike against nonpayment of salaries from last six months, on Monday.

The students had blocked main road in front of GDC gate at Swari chowk for traffic while dispersed peacefully after assurance from District Development Advisory Committee chairman Buner to resolve the grievances. DDAC's chairman Fakhar in his address claimed of having contact with the on strike teaching staff of the college besides minister higher education and director higher education for addressing the issue of teaching staff salaries.

MPA assurance satisfied the strike students and they peacefully dispersed. He later on held meeting with the college administration and also made phone calls to the concerned minister and director for resolution issue of teaching staff salaries in the best interests of the students.

Sharifs, Imran two sides of same coin: JJ

F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Emir and former Senator Prof Muhammad Ibrahim has said that Imran Khan and Sharif family are the two faces of same coin and they deceived masses and plundered national wealth and resources.

This he said while speaking at the oath taking ceremony of party's district chapter office bearers at a seminary in Serai Gambila town of the district. JI's district Emir Azizullah, secretary general Muhammad

Ismail, deputy Emir Abdul Samad and former district

council Irfanullah were also present.

Prof Ibrahim said that both the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and PDM looted the country and had no credit on their part to serve the masses. "The PTI chief deceived people on the slogan of making the country Riasat-e-Madina but he failed to keep his words during his four yearlong regime", he maintained, saying that being the head of PDM, Maulana Fazalur Rehman can avail benefits and perks and privileges but not for a longer time.

JI Emir said that Pakistan was established in the name of Islam and that the enforcement of

Shariah was the only solution to our problems. He added that the British era laws still prevailed in the country and the demand made by religious scholars and ulema to replace those with Islamic laws could not be realized so far.

"The solution to the country's political and economic problems lies in Islam", he maintained, saying that the Jamaat-e-Islami has the capability to change the system by bringing honest and righteous people to the corridors of power. He asked the people to support Jamat-e-Islami so that the country could be turned into a Islamic welfare state.

Islamia Varsity claims continuity of transport

Saqib Mushtaq

BAHAWALPUR: The spokesperson of Islamia University of Bahawalpur has said that on Thursday, December 8, some students blocked the road at One Unit Chowk in protest after the provocative speech of a retired professor. Taking action on this, the administration had to open the road and the university bus service was also restored immediately.

This retired professor, taking a very irresponsible attitude, provoked the students that the administration of Islamia University Bahawalpur is not giving their Ehsaas scholarship on purpose and the bus service was suspended due to not being able to buy diesel. There was no truth in these absurd and absurd words.

The provision of Ehsaas Scholarship is ongoing. Due

to a new verification process, the disbursement of these scholarships has slowed down. This was clarified on the same day. The Office of Financial Aid has said that the students should complete their verification process soon and get the scholarships immediately. Similarly, university transport service is available every half hour in Bahawalpur.

Even on the occasion of the protest, 20 buses were stopped on both sides while the students were being told that the buses should not be run because there is no money to buy diesel. In fact, on that day as usual, the transport division had two days of extra fuel and there is no question of not having fuel. Similarly, the bus service of the neighboring cities and towns has also been fully restored except on the day when the protest took place and the students were not

there to return.

The spokesman added that no incident of violence took place in the Baghdad Al-Jadeed campus on that day, nor was there any baton charge or air firing on the students by security in the campus. An old video of 2015 is being shared on social media in connection with this incident. Unfortunately, some media channels also played this video on which they were immediately informed.

These channels admitted their mistake and immediately stopped the video. The spokesperson said that the administration has been asked to take legal action against the retired professor for causing disturbance and inciting students to violence. Curricular and co-curricular activities in the university are going on in full swing and all campuses are functioning as usual.

Seminar on 'Int'l Day of persons with disabilities' held

FAISALABAD (INP): The Special Education Department, Punjab organized a seminar regarding 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' here at Allama Iqbal auditorium, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad on Monday.

The students showed their solidarity with the differently-abled by presenting stage performances and

photo exhibition. While addressing, Vice-Chancellor of Agricultural University Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that the students under special education department were entitled to our attention and were the guarantors of bright Pakistan.

"To complete this good work, we should continue to arrange such programs

so that the society could play its role to encouraging special children". Divisional Special Education Officer, Faisalabad Abdul Sattar said that, "we should make a commitment to disabled to make them an active part of the society", adding that restoring the rights of these people was our national duty and responsibility.

Corruption termed root cause of all evils in Pakistan

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The district administration and the anti-corruption circle Timergara on Monday jointly arranged a seminar and later an awareness walk against corruption here at Timergara. The function was attended by students, teachers, officials of different government departments, schools' heads and area elders. The students presented speeches regarding the effects of corruption and sang national songs.

The additional deputy commissioner Abdul Wali Khan, district education officer Muhammad Amin, district sports' officer Ibrar Ahmad, circle officer anti-corruption Sehat Ali and others spoke on the occasion. Terming the corruption a menace for society, the speakers said that it was the root

cause of all evils like nepotism, favouritism, demerit, unaccountability and injustice in society. They said that a lust for gaining more wealth was the sole intention of corruption. They said the arrangement of the seminar and awareness walk aimed to raise mass awareness among citizens against the menace. The ADC also distributed trophies among the position holder students at the end.

Insaf lawyers' forum: The Insaf Lawyers' Forum deputy general secretary Muhammad Muazzam Bhutt on Monday said that his organization had planned a countrywide movement for the establishment of rule of law. Speaking at a news conference at the Chakdara press club here he alleged that an imported and unconstitutional government had been imposed upon the people of Pakistan that

had been misusing the law. The ILF divisional Organizer advocate Intiaz Khan and other office bearers were also present.

Mr Bhutt said the former acting speaker Qasim Sori had accepted the PTI MNAs' resignation according to the law but later the 'imported' government made it controversial. The ILF leader said that baseless cases had been registered against the aged PTI senator Azam Swati who was subjected to brutal torture. He said the Balochistan high court abolished all cases against him but he was taken into custody by the Sindh government. He said the ILF had submitted an application in the Supreme Court against the illegal detention of Mr Swati but the date for hearing was being delayed.

He also spoke about the FIR of the assassination bid against

the PTI chief Imran Khan and the killing of prominent journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya and said the government had badly failed to ensure justice. He said that relief was being given to the Sharif's family and cases against its members were being squashed. He said the PTI was struggling for the rule of law, provision of justice and end to the state tyranny in Pakistan. He said that a strong justice system was necessary for the development of the country. He said the nation stood behind the PTI chief Imran Khan and he would sweep the next general elections.

Teachers' protest: The senior school teachers (SST) association Lower Dir on Monday threatened to stage a protest sit-in outside the PTI chief Imran Khan's residence at Bani Gala from Dec, 26 if its genuine demands were not accepted. The

announcement was made during a meeting held at the Timergara high school with the association's district president Imranullah in the chair. The meeting was also addressed by the SSTs association provincial general secretary Farhan Takur and others.

They said the Peshawar high court and the provincial cabinet both had issued orders for awarding grade 17 to the SSTs but the education secretary was delaying the matter. They said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had approved the upgradation of SSTs from grade 16 to 17 in 2018 through a unanimously passed resolution but it was thrown in the dust bin. They said the teachers then moved the court that issued a verdict in their favour but still the matter was being delayed.

Police arrests 37 suspects,

15 accused, two terrorists: District Police Lower Dir have arrested 37 suspects and 15 accused including two wanted terrorists in strike and search operations in mountainous localities during last month, said a press release issued here on Monday.

On the directives of Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand, Sajjad Khan, district police officer under the supervision of District Police Officer (DPO) has launched crackdown against criminals. 13 gamblers have also been arrested during raids on various dens.

Similarly, 36 narcotics sellers have also been arrested from the jurisdiction of various police stations and recovered 32 kilograms of hashish, 468 grams of heroin, 283 grams of ice drug and two letter liquor from their possession.



Tensions run high in north Kosovo as Serbs block roads

PRISTINA (AP): Tensions were high in northern Kosovo, with Serbs blocking roads as shots and explosions rang out and the Serbian president warned that Serbian troops are ready to defend their "homeland" if peace doesn't prevail. The roads in Serbia's former province of Kosovo, which proclaimed independence in 2008, were blocked with heavy vehicles and trucks a day after Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said he would ask the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo to permit the deployment of 1,000 Serb troops in the Serb-populated north of Kosovo, saying they are being harassed there.

The roadblocks, which Serbs say were erected to protest the recent arrest of a former Kosovo Serb police officer, came despite the postponement of the Dec. 18 municipal election opposed by Kosovo Serbs. "Kosovo reduced tensions by postponing local elections," said German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock.

"Recent rhetoric from Serbia did the opposite. Suggesting sending Serbian forces to Kosovo is completely unacceptable. So are the latest attacks on EULEX," she said. Vucic said after a meeting of Serbia's top security body that he will do everything to preserve peace, but that the army is ready to protect the minority Serbs in Kosovo. "We have taken certain measures to protect our homeland," Vucic told Serbia's state RTS television. "I have issued orders and the National Security Council has accepted them. I am very proud of our soldiers and policemen. Before they receive orders ... we will try for a million times to preserve peace," he said.

Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti accused Belgrade of trying to destabilize Kosovo. He said Serbia also is trying to bring an end to the EU-mediated dialogue on normalizing bilateral ties and take it to the United Nations Security Council, where Belgrade hopes to get support from Russia and China. Kurti called on Kosovo's Serbs "to distance themselves from the criminal groups and Vucic's regime that is funding them and looking for a war."

The European Union rule of law mission, known as EULEX, reported that a stun grenade was thrown at an EULEX reconnaissance patrol overnight. There were no injuries or damage. EULEX, which has some 134 Polish, Italian and Lithuanian police officers deployed in the north, called on "those responsible to refrain from more provocative actions" and said it urged the Kosovo institutions "to bring the perpetrators to justice." European Union's high representative, Josep Borrell, said the EU "will not tolerate attacks on EULEX or use of violent, criminal acts in the north."

"Barricades must be removed immediately by groups of Kosovo Serbs," he said on Twitter. "Calm must be restored ... all actors must avoid escalation." Unidentified masked men were seen on the Serb barricades that blocked main roads leading to the border with Serbia, as Kosovo authorities closed two border crossings to all traffic and pedestrians. An increased presence of Kosovar Albanian police in areas with a mixed population, as well as more international police and soldiers, were seen in the north.

Serbia and Kosovo have intensified their war of words in recent days. Vucic said that he would formally request permission from the NATO-led KFOR mission in Kosovo to deploy Serbian troops in northern Kosovo, while conceding that the request probably wouldn't be granted. Serbian officials claim a UN resolution that formally ended the country's bloody crackdown against majority Kosovo Albanian separatists in 1999 allows for some 1,000 Serb troops to return to Kosovo. NATO bombed Serbia to end the war and push its troops out of Kosovo, which declared independence in 2008.

The NATO-led peacekeepers who have been deployed in Kosovo since the 1998-99 war would have to give a green light for Serb troops to go there. That's highly unlikely because it would de-facto mean handing over security of Kosovo's Serb-populated northern regions to Serbian forces — a move that could dramatically increase tensions in the Balkans. "We do not want a conflict. We want peace and progress but we shall respond to aggression with all our powers," Kosovar Prime Minister Albin Kurti posted on social media.

Kurti told the European Union and the United States that they should "punish" Serbia for orchestrating the violence to "destabilize Kosovo." Tension in the north has been high this week ahead of the polls initially planned for Dec. 18. They have now been postponed to April 23 in an attempt to defuse the situation. The election was due after ethnic Serb representatives resigned their posts in November to protest a decision by Kosovo's government to ban Serbia-issued vehicle license plates.

Tensions have simmered in Kosovo ever since it proclaimed independence from Serbia, despite attempts by EU and US officials to defuse them. Serbia, supported by its allies Russia and China, has refused to recognize Kosovo's statehood. Both Serbia and Kosovo want to join the EU but Brussels has warned they must resolve their dispute and normalize relations to be eligible for membership in the bloc. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has said that the NATO-led mission in Kosovo "remains vigilant."

Greek FM slams Turkey's missile threat

ATHENS (AP): Greece's foreign minister has lashed out at Turkey after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to hit Athens with ballistic missiles. "It is unacceptable and universally condemnable for threats of a missile attack against Greece to be made by an allied country, a NATO member," Nikos Dendias said Monday, arriving in Brussels for a European Union foreign affairs meeting.

"North Korean attitudes cannot and must not enter the North Atlantic Alliance," he said. Speaking during a town hall meeting with youths in the northern Turkish city of Samsun, Erdogan said Turkey has begun making its own short-range ballistic missiles called Tayfun, which, he said, was "frightening the Greeks." "(The Greeks) say 'it can hit Athens,' Erdogan said. "Of course

it will. If you don't stay calm, if you try to buy things from the United States and other places (to arm) the islands, a country like Turkey ... has to do something."

Relations between the NATO allies and neighbors have long been strained, with the two sides divided over a series of issues, including territorial claims in the Aegean Sea and energy exploration rights in the eastern Mediterranean. The two have come to the brink of war three times in the past half-century. But Turkey has been ratcheting up the rhetoric in recent months, with Turkish government officials openly disputing the sovereignty of inhabited Greek islands and Erdogan saying Turkish troops could land in Greece "suddenly one night". Even so, a threat of a missile strike is highly unusual.

Last week, Turkey

accused Greece of violating international agreements by conducting a military exercise in the Aegean. Turkey insists the deployment of soldiers or weapons on eastern Aegean Greek islands near its coast violates the islands' non-military status according to international law. Greece counters that it needs to defend them against a potential attack from Turkey, noting that Ankara maintains a sizable military force on the western Turkish coast, just across from the islands. Commenting on the military exercise last Tuesday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that "Greece needs to renounce its violation."

Either it steps back on the issue and abides by the agreement or we'll do whatever is necessary." He added: "Those who sow the wind reap the storm. If you do not want peace, we will do what is necessary. One night, suddenly."

Russian arms dealer joins ultranationalist party

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout, who was freed last week from US custody in a prisoner swap for American basketball star Brittney Griner, has joined the ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR), according to the party's leader, a Kremlin loyalist. On Telegram on Monday, LDPR leader Leonid Slutsky said "the party card of the Liberal Democratic Party" had been "personally handed" to Bout. "I am sure that Viktor Bout — a strong-willed and courageous person — will take a worthy place in it. Welcome to our ranks!," he wrote in a post that included a picture of the two men.

Founded in 1991, the LDPR espouses a headline, ultranationalist ideology that demands Russia reconquer the countries of the former Soviet Union. It has been one of the most vehement sup-

porters of the invasion of Ukraine, often calling for a more severe approach from Moscow. In recent years, the party has assumed a subordinate role in Russia's political system but provides token opposition to the ruling United Russia bloc while remaining aligned with the Kremlin on most issues.

Bout returned to Russia on December 8 after being released from a 25-year prison term in exchange for Griner, who was arrested in mid-February after officials at Moscow airport when cartridges containing cannabis oil in her luggage. Griner, who the US State Department has said was "wrongfully detained", was sentenced to nine years in prison in August.

Bout had been arrested by US authorities in Thailand in 2008, with prosecutors charging that his extensive arms smuggling in hotspots

across the world amounted to material support of "terrorism". The Kremlin has maintained the arrest was politically motivated. Dubbed the "merchant of death", Bout has also been implicated in violating or contributing to violating UN arms embargoes in Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The prisoner swap came during the ninth month of Russia's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine, a conflict that tanked already strained ties between Washington and Moscow and complicated release negotiations. In Russia, Bout's release was viewed as a victory for Moscow. Meanwhile, the administration of US President Joe Biden faced criticism for agreeing to the exchange, with detractors citing the disparity in the severity of charges against Bout and Griner.

Fire engulfs another Moscow mall

MOSCOW (AP): A massive fire gutted a shopping mall on Moscow's eastern outskirts on Monday, the second such blaze in four days. The blaze at the mall in Balashikha that trades in construction items and home decoration materials first erupted at a storage area and later spread to part of the building. The fire teams managed to localize it to an area of about 9,000 square meters (97,000 square feet) and prevent it from engulfing the entire mall.

Officials said the fire was caused by a short circuit that came amid heavy rain in Moscow. The blaze follows fire that destroyed the huge OBI construction materials store, part of the MEGA shopping mall in Khimki on the Russian capital's northwestern outskirts. Officials said that the fire that killed one security guard was sparked by welding that apparently violated safety regulations.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian girl

JERUSALEM (Reuters): Israeli forces shot and killed a 16-year-old Palestinian girl during a raid in the volatile city of Jenin, the Palestinian health ministry said, as the wave of violence in the occupied West Bank this year continued. The Israeli military said it was aware of reports of the girl's death and the incident was under review. It said troops were shot at while carrying out a raid to arrest three wanted individuals and returned fire.

Jenin, in the northern West Bank, houses a sprawling refugee camp in which armed militant groups including Islamic Jihad and Hamas operate openly. Along with the nearby city of Nablus, it has been at the centre of much of the violence in the West Bank this year as Israeli forces have conducted near-daily raids as part of a crackdown following a deadly series of attacks by Palestinians in Israel in the spring.

During one of the most violent years in more than a decade, Palestinian authorities say at least 165 Palestinians, including both members of militant groups and civilians, have been killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank this year. At the same time, at least 23 Israeli civilians and eight members of the security forces have been killed in Israel and the West Bank, while violent clashes between Israeli settlers and Palestinians have also increased.

Hungary to sign deal with Azerbaijan

BUDAPEST (AP): The leaders of Hungary, Romania, Georgia and Azerbaijan plan to meet in Romania's capital to conclude an agreement on an undersea electricity connector that could become a new power source for the European Union amid a crunch on energy supplies caused by the war in Ukraine. The agreement involves a cable running beneath the Black Sea which would link Azerbaijan to Hungary via Georgia and Romania, according to Bertalan Havasi, press officer for Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Havasi confirmed to The Associated Press that Orban intends to travel to Bucharest to sign the deal. Hungarian news agency MTI reported that Orban, Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev would attend the signing event alongside European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Hungary's foreign minister, Peter Szijarto, said in August that Azerbaijan would soon produce "large quantities of green electricity," and that Hungary would sign onto the connector project since it requires the participation of two EU member nations to receive funding from the bloc. Szijarto said the project could be completed within three or four years, and that it would be a major step toward diversifying energy supplies and meeting carbon neutrality targets.



SEOUL: A pair of dogs, Gomi, left, and Songgang, are unveiled at a park in Gwangju, South Korea.

Dogs gifted by North's Kim resettle in South Korean zoo

SEOUL (AP): A pair of dogs gifted by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un four years ago ended up at a zoo in South Korea after a dispute over who should finance the caring of the animals. Kim had given the two white Pungsan hunting dogs — a breed indigenous to North Korea — to then-South Korean President Moon Jae-in as a gift following their summit talks in Pyongyang in 2018. But liberal Moon gave up the dogs last month, citing a lack of financial support for the canines from the current conservative government led by President Yoon Suk Yeol.

The dogs, named Gomi and Songgang, were moved to a zoo run by a local government in the southern city of Gwangju after a temporary stay at a veterinary hospital in the southeastern city of Daeju, zoo officials

said. With Gwangju Mayor Kang Gijung in attendance, the dogs were shown off Monday with their nametags around their necks as journalists and other visitors took photos.

"Gomi and Songgang are a symbol of peace and South-North Korean reconciliation and cooperation. We will raise them well like we cultivate a seed for peace," Kang said, according to his office. The dogs have six offspring between them, all of them born after they came to South Korea. One of them, named Byeol, has been raised in the Gwangju zoo since 2019. The remaining five are in other zoos and a public facility in South Korea.

Gwangju zoo officials said they'll try to raise Byeol and her parent dogs together, though they're currently kept separately as they don't recognize each

other. Gomi and Songgang officially belong to state property. While in office, Moon raised them at the presidential residence. After leaving office in May, Moon was able to take them to his private home thanks to a change of law that allowed presidential gifts to be managed outside the Presidential Archives if they were animals or plants.

But in early November, Moon's office accused the Yoon government of refusing to cover the cost for the dogs' food and veterinary care. Yoon's office denied the accusation, saying it never prevented Moon from keeping the animals and that the discussions about providing financial support were still ongoing. Moon, a champion of rapprochement with North Korea, was credited with arrang-

ing now-dormant diplomacy on North Korea's nuclear program, but also faced criticism that his engagement policy allowed Kim to buy time and boost his country's nuclear capability in the face of international sanctions. Yoon has accused Moon's engagement policy of "being submissive" to North Korea.

In 2000, Kim's late father, Kim Jong Il, gifted another pair of Pungsan dogs to then-South Korean President Kim Dae-jung after their meeting in Pyongyang, the first inter-Korean summit since their division in 1948. Liberal Kim Dae-jung gave two Jindo dogs — a breed native to a South Korean island — to Kim Jong Il. The North Korean dogs lived at a public zoo near Seoul before they died in 2013.

Four people charged in EU parliament corruption investigation

BRUSSELS A Belgian judge has charged four people over allegedly receiving money and gifts from a Gulf state to influence decisions in the European Parliament, putting the credibility of the European Union at stake. Prosecutors searched 16 houses and seized 600,000 euros (\$631,800) in Brussels as part of an investigation into money laundering and corruption.

Six people were initially detained. Four have been charged and two released, prosecutors said in a statement. They did not name any of those involved. Prosecutors said they had suspected for months that a Gulf state was trying to influence decisions in Brussels. A source with knowledge of the case said the state was World Cup host Qatar. A Qatari official said in a statement sent to Al Jazeera that the country "categorically rejects any attempts to associate it with accusations of misconduct".

"Any association of the Qatari government with the reported claims is baseless and gravely misinformed. The State of Qatar works through institution-to-institution engagement and operates in full compliance with international laws and regulations," the official added. European Union Foreign Affairs chief Josep Borrell said on Monday that the news is "very worrisome". Borrell said the investigation did not involve anyone from the EU's diplomatic service.

"There is nothing and no one being referred to neither from the External Action Service nor from the delegations," he said. The European Parliament said on the weekend it had suspended the powers and duties of one of its vice presidents, Greek socialist Eva Kaili, in light of the Belgian investigation. The Greek socialist PASOK party said in a statement that it was expelling Kaili from its ranks. It was not immediately clear if she

had been charged in the case. Her office did not answer telephone calls or respond to an email requesting comment.

Prosecutors said they had also searched the home of a second EU politician, without detaining anyone. Belgian Socialist party member Marc Tarabella confirmed it was his home and that a computer and mobile phone had been taken. "The justice system is doing its work of gathering information and investigating, which I find totally normal. I have absolutely nothing to hide and I will respond to all questions of the investigators," he said in a statement.

European Economics Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni told Italy's Rai 3 television that the case appeared to be "very serious". "If it were confirmed that someone took money to try to influence the opinion of the European Parliament, it will really be one of the most dramatic stories of corruption in

recent years," he added. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said on Monday that the news is "damaging".

"This is a scandal that we need to expose the truth around so we can ensure it doesn't happen again," Coveney told reporters in Brussels. The credibility of the European Union is at stake, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock warned on Monday. "This is an unbelievable incident which has to be cleared up completely with the full force of law," she told reporters as she arrived for a meeting with her EU counterparts in Brussels.

"This is about the credibility of Europe, so this has to trigger consequences in various areas." The European Parliament is due to vote this week on a proposal to extend visa-free travel to the EU for Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Ecuador. Some legislators have suggested the debate and vote should be postponed.

Beijing swings from anger over zero-Covid to coping with infections

BEIJING (Reuters): Beijing's COVID-19 gloom deepened with many shops and other businesses closed, and an expert warned of many thousands of new coronavirus cases as anger over China's previous COVID policies gave way to worry about coping with infection.

China dropped most of its strict COVID curbs on Wednesday after unprecedented protests against them last month, but cities that were already battling with their most severe outbreaks, like Beijing, saw a sharp decrease in economic activity after rules such as regular testing were scrapped. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many businesses have been forced to close as infected workers quarantine at home while many other people are deciding not to go out because of the higher risk of infection.

Zhong Nanshan, a prominent Chinese epidemiologist, told state media that the Omicron

strain of the virus prevalent in China was highly transmissible and one infected person could spread it to as many as 18 others. "We can see that hundreds of thousands or tens of thousands of people are infected in several major cities," Zhong said.

With regular COVID testing of Beijing residents scrapped and reserved only for groups such as health workers, official tallies for new cases have plunged. Health authorities reported 1,661 new infections for Beijing, down 42% from 3,974 on Dec. 6, a day before national policies were dramatically relaxed. But evidence suggests there are many more cases in the city of nearly 22 million people where everyone seems to know someone who has caught COVID.

"In my company, the number of people who are COVID-negative is close to zero," said one woman who works for a tourism and events firm in Beijing who asked to be identified

as just Nancy. "We realise this can't be avoided — everyone will just have to work from home," she said.

Monday is a normal business day for shops in Beijing and it is usually bustling, particularly in spots like the historic Shichahai neighbourhood packed with boutiques and cafes. But few people were out and about and malls in Chaoyang, Beijing's most populous district, were practically deserted with many salons, restaurants and retailers shut. Economists widely expect China's road to economic health to be uneven as shocks such as labour crunches due to workers calling in sick delay a full-fledged recovery for some time yet.

"The transition out of zero-COVID will eventually allow consumer spending patterns to return to normal, but a higher risk of infection will keep in-person spending depressed for months after re-opening," Mark Williams, chief Asia econ-

omist at Capital Economics, said in a note. China's economy may grow 1.6% in the first quarter of 2023 from a year earlier, and 4.9% in the second, according to Capital Economics. Epidemiologist Zhong also said it would be some months before a return to normal.

"My opinion is in the first half of next year, after March," he said. While China has removed most of its domestic COVID curbs, its international borders are still largely closed to foreigners, including tourists. Inbound travellers are subjected to five days of quarantine at centralised government facilities and three additional days of self-monitoring at home. But there are even hints that that rule could change. Staff at the main international airport in Chengdu city, asked if quarantine rules were being eased, said that whether or not one needed to do the three days of home quarantine would depend on a person's neighbourhood authorities.

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Newest trend in Pak-Afghan ties

A highly regretful incident occurred on Sunday at the Pak-Afghan Chaman border when Afghan troops resorted to unprovoked and indiscriminate firing from across the border that resulted in the martyrdom of six innocent civilians and serious injuries to 17 others. According to the Pakistan Army media wing, the Afghan border forces used heavy weapons in the attack, while Pakistan's troops gave a befitting albeit measured response against the uncalled-for civilians in the area.

Pakistan's relations with the interim Afghan government are not going well over the past several months, Islamabad continuously receiving pellets and bullets from across Turkham and Chaman.

Historically, the Pakistani State and its institutions had always failed to assess, manage and neutralize geostrategic threats to the nation, and their myopic bureaucratic recipes proved to be counter-productive and caused additional damage to the country. Ranging from local political engineering to Afghan Jihad, and participation in the global war on terror to the recent peace accord with the Pakistan Tahreek-e-Taliban (TTP), all decisions were based on ambitious ideas and imaginary calculations without any rational assessment of the situation and psychological study of the people and the area that finally led to a strategic failure or unendurable success for the country.

Presently, the country is in a pre-2007 situation when terrorism was taking momentum in KP and Erstwhile FATA while the NATO and Afghan troops were attacking Pakistani border posts in the Bajor and Mohmand areas including the Salala check-post. Unfortunately, Pakistani strategists have lots of personal and family commitments and often lack spare time to deliberate on national security issues to conceive a plausible strategy to secure national interests, thus the state pays price for their incompetence and slackness. After the assassination attempt against Pakistan's Ambassador to Kabul, we have categorically stated on these pages that there is a clear change in the Afghan interim government's policies toward Pakistan, those who are unable to steer Afghanistan, have the desire to transform Pakistan in their way. Presently, there is an urgent need for the government to review its Afghan policy and reset clear goals to protect Pakistan's core interest in the region.

Throughout history, Pakistan sought its security and survival in foreign elements and regional geostrategic dynamics and mostly received backlash and anger for the failure and inability of other nations. Pakistan is a sovereign nation with a nuclear armed strong military, that is fully capable to thwart all internal and external challenges. After multiple failed experiences, the government must adopt a Pakistan-centric independent policy without any compromise and relying on external sticks so no external factor undermines Pakistan's internal peace and security in the future.

Sino-Taiwan trade row

TAIWAN'S premier has accused China of violating international trade rules and discriminating against the island after it halted more Taiwanese imports. According to the details, Chinese customs authorities had suspended imports of certain alcoholic beverages from the island because of the nonregistration of a few Taiwanese firms with Chinese Custom Authorities. However, Taiwan Prime Minister Su Tseng-chang accused Beijing of violating World Trade Organization (WTO) norms by making its own rules and meddling in trade through administrative means.

China-Taiwan tension has escalated during the rule of former Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen since 2016, because Tsai forged closer ties with Washington, and refused to accept the formula that her predecessor agreed to promote cross-strait ties between the Island and mainland China. Whereas, Beijing claims self-ruled democratic Taiwan as part of its territory to be taken one day, by force if necessary. Due to reason, China gradually adopted a more hostile approach toward Tai Pei and imposed bans on the trade of certain goods with the Republic of China (ROC).

Historically, the bilateral relations between PRC and ROC had deteriorated significantly, after the US House Speaker's controversial visit to the Island while a trip by a group of UK lawmakers further added to this controversy, and Beijing ramped up military and economic pressure against the tiny island. Recently, China slapped fresh bans on certain imports in retaliation for Taipei growing intimacy with the west, while the Taiwanese government plans to appeal to the World Trade Organization (WTO) to get assistance against alleged trade discrimination of Beijing.

The global community has set certain rules and regulations regarding interstate trade relations, however, these golden principles have never been fully employed by the powerful nations and every influential had coined its laws to betray the global community and defy the universal code. Interestingly, Taiwan's western allies had set numerous examples of monopoly and trade discrimination, while Tai Pei itself banned imports from Japan and South Korea multiple times in the past. In fact, face doesn't reflect personality flaws otherwise no crook ever hide in this world.

Quote of the day

There are plenty of recommendations on how to get out of trouble cheaply and fast. Most of them come down to this: Deny your responsibility.

— Lyndon Johnson, American President [1963-1969].

Beijing challenges Washington in the Middle East

THE main event of the past week in the diplomatic world was Xi Jinping 's visit to Saudi Arabia. Everything passed with emphasized friendliness and diplomacy, unlike Joe Biden's summer trip to the Middle East. At least this time there were no moralizing and sermons about democracy, and the handshake between the leaders of the two countries was defiantly long - in contrast to the summer trip of the patriarch of American politics. And the result of the US president's tour was a humiliating cut in oil production under the OPEC + deal, which almost cost the Democrats the election.

In Riyadh, Xi Jinping spent three days - in addition to bilateral negotiations with Muhammad bin Salman, he also met with the leaders of the countries - members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and took part in the Arab-

Chinese summit.

Why is all this important for Russia?

The true significance of the visit has yet to be realized, but one thing is clear - China has come to the Middle East in earnest and for a long time. Of course, the entire trip took place within the framework of Beijing's usual strategy of "economics before politics": the parties entered into multimillion-dollar agreements in a wide range of areas, Xi Jinping announced eight initiatives relating to various aspects of relations between the Arab world and China - from energy security to youth policy. However, the visit also demonstrates the activation of Beijing outside the usual East and Southeast Asia.

One of the most important results was the call by the Chinese chairman to the Arab countries to sell oil and gas on the Shanghai Stock Exchange for yuan. And this is already a very serious signal of Beijing's

David Narmania

intention to join the struggle for the de-dollarization of the world economy, which the United States themselves are actively pouring water on the mill with anti-Russian sanctions.

Another significant moment was the statement by the parties of Saudi Arabia and China on the coordination of their programs "Vision 2030" and "One Belt - One Road". And here Xi Jinping's speech arouses interest, he stressed that Beijing sees Riyadh as a reliable supplier of resources. It should be noted that at the end of 2021, it was Saudi Arabia that took first place in oil imports to China. At the same time, the Vision 2030 program provides for a reduction in the share of income from fuel trade. In other words, the Celestial Empire is trying to openly influence the plans of its Middle Eastern partner, if not abandon this undertak-

ing, then at least take into account the interests of Beijing. So far, carrots are being used - the parties also agreed to cooperate in the field of green energy.

But perhaps the most unexpected moment of this trip is the announcement of joint actions in the field of ensuring security and stability. And this is perhaps the first time that China - albeit with its characteristic caution and slowness - has come up with such a proposal so far from its own borders. Of course, it will not be possible to quickly replace the United States with its multibillion-dollar arms supplies, and there is no talk of this yet, but against the backdrop of the aggravation of relations between Riyadh and Washington, the statement sounds especially interesting.

Most likely, the visit will have a stabilizing effect on the entire Middle East region - rumors about the

impending war between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which until recently were actively spread at the suggestion of the Americans, have now been finally debunked. In both countries, Chinese capital plays an too important role, so Tehran is unlikely to want to openly answer Riyadh for actively supporting the protests in Iran.

But global players should watch Beijing's actions very carefully. Such an attempt to squeeze the Americans out of the region, primarily economically, cannot but rejoice. Moreover, China has all the conditions to achieve this goal.

He does not seek to impose his values, and this is especially important for the Arab countries in the light of everything that is happening with the so-called liberal ideology in the US and Europe.

At the same time, China is not trying to take on the role of a gendarme, realizing the complexity of this

undertaking, since the example of the shame of the United States in Afghanistan is extremely convincing. However, the transformation of Beijing's economic capital into political capital is a matter of time.

For Moscow, the expansion of the influence of the Chinese partner is good as long as it is associated with limiting the role of the United States, but not with turning the Arab world into its own gas station.

Of course, the existential interests of Russia after the successes in Syria in this area do not cause concern: Islamist terrorism has been defeated thanks to victories over IS, which means that this factor will not allow external forces to destabilize the situation in the Caucasus or in the Muslim regions of the country.

Another reason for calmness is the strategic nature of the visit - China is making plans not even for a historic tomorrow, but rather for the day after tomorrow.

What do we owe the future?

Paul Schwennessen

CREDIT Bill MacAs-skill for a Big Think piece. It's not every day, after all, that we're asked to take a "million-year view" or to allow our imaginations to roam about in celestial star clusters populated by hypothetical humans a thousand generations from now. Love the chutzpah. Unfortunately, the correlation between a book's ambition and its brilliance is not always linear. With What We Owe the Future, it's inverse.

In making the case that we should morally account for the (potential) trillions of future lives yet to be lived over the coming eons, MacAskill argues that we—the present generation—should "act as trustees...helping to create a flourishing world for generations to come." In the abstract, such a platitude is impossible to quibble with. He points out that, evolutionarily speaking, we are at the dawn of a typical mammalian species' lifespan, and that even conservative estimates place the number of future human lives in the trillions. "Future people count," he says, "there could be a lot of them. We can make their lives go better." And so opens his sweeping and seemingly-provocative opus...

If only it were so simple. The sheer enormity of MacAskill's vision is partly why, I'm afraid, the book fails to make its basic case. Its precepts are so grand, its judgments so sweeping, that when he boils his "longtermism" arguments down to prosaic prescriptions (controversial au courant activist positions like "fixing climate change" or "going vegetarian"), they fall more than a little flat. What We Owe the Future leaves the reader feeling as if they're reading an environmentally correct fraternity pamphlet masquerading as an ex cathedra sermon on the mount.

"Positively influencing the longterm future is a key moral priority of our time," MacAskill gravely asserts, deploying an ethics-saturated rhetoric that underpins the rest of the book. "Morality," he tells us, "...in central part, is about putting ourselves in others' shoes and treating their interests as we do our own." Fair enough, perhaps, in the most general sense, but it is precisely this moral positioning, and the grand normative claims behind them, that trip up the entire work.

"Positively influencing" the future? What exactly is that supposed to mean and by whose reckoning? MacAskill isn't helpful,

taking it as given which things are "good," and which things are not. Conservation? Good. Factory farms? Bad. Feminism? Good. Climate Change? Bad. It is obvious, he says, that "collectively we have the power both to encourage...positive trends and to change the course of the negative trends." But how are we to know which is which? MacAskill doesn't provide any objective framework for telling—he just implies that "smart, socially-minded" folks like himself intuitively will know the difference.

This is not to say there is nothing worth pondering here—MacAskill is not generally known as a vapid dilettante. To be charitable, and in the interests of avoiding the sort of "glib dismissal" that MacAskill himself initially brushed off the topic of long-term thinking, we should pause a moment to take the argument seriously: Decisions have consequences. Our species is young. We are capable of inflicting great self-harm—sometimes by accident (rogue Artificial General Intelligence or toxic emissions) and sometimes with intent (nuclear warfare or engineered pathogens). We are also capable, he says, of establishing the conditions for better outcomes that, multiplied geometrically into the future, can have vast consequences. Fair enough, in the broadest sense.

But it is this "better outcomes" bit that will leave readers stumped. Anyone with the slightest Hayekian streak will wonder where such certainty over relative "betterness" comes from. It doesn't take a great deal of imagination (since the book dabbles in grand thought experiments anyway) to challenge even MacAskill's premise that we should work to improve the future prospects of trillions of souls in the deep future. Even if such a program were feasible, how could we be sure, for example, that doing so wouldn't simultaneously destroy the prospects of an as-yet unknown interstellar species—a species that, by his own reckoning, would be equally deserving of our moral attention? It's turtles all the way down when you start up this logical-moral path.

While MacAskill isn't willfully blind to these problems of relative value preference, he proceeds as if he is. He admits that "it is extraordinarily unlikely that, of all generations across time, we are the first ones to have gotten it completely correct. The values you or I endorse are probably far from the best ones."

Yet he builds logical prescriptions on foundations of what he sees as our recent history of moral "improvement." He is keen, on this subject, to avoid what he calls "value lock-in," where any one system gains complete ascendancy.

He advocates for a "diversity of responses" to various challenges, is supportive of Charter Cities, "fairly free migration," and a "marketplace of ideas" a la J.S. Mill. So far so good—he almost sounds like an advocate for laissez-faire. But in the next breath he reveals his fundamental distrust in the phenomenon of emergent order and spends a great deal of the book building the case for some form of external, managing force: "...we would want to prevent any one culture from becoming so powerful that it could conquer all other cultures through economic or military domination. Potentially, this could require international norms or laws..."

Who is this "we," and how, given the deplorable history of "international norms or laws" would "they" (let's just cut to the chase) effectively steer such a course? Perhaps they would be the same shadowy, omniscient ones he invokes for controlling speech? It seems that techniques for duping people—lying, bullshitting, and brainwashing—should be discouraged, and should be especially off limits for people in positions of power, such as those in political office.

It astounds me that he can trot this out as some peculiarly profound insight. Just make lying politicians "off limits"? Why didn't we think of that 3,500 years ago? It's infantile. Who, precisely, gets to define "bullshitting" and who would enforce such "off-limits" protocols?

MacAskill does not say (though I'm betting his initials are not D.T.). He does go on to say (disturbingly) that these same norm-enforcers should be mobilized to prevent "...any single country from becoming too populous, just as antitrust regulations prevent any single company from dominating a market and exerting monopoly power." "Too populous?" I shudder to consider the implications in that little slip of the pen. And even a perfunctory assessment of the history of "antitrust regulations" (Public Choice 101) should ring warning bells, especially when applied to matters as weighty as human reproduction.

MacAskill plunges gamely on: "How should we act when we know we don't what the right thing to do is?" His advice is that we should "delay events which risk value lock-in. Such potentially irreversible events might include the formation of a world government, the development of AGI, and the first serious efforts at space settlement." I'm with him on the world government thing, but this stop-the-presses approach to change is mystifying. In fact, unless I am sorely mistaken, the only force capable of any sort of global "delay" in technological development would be, well, a world government. You can't help but wonder, then, if he really means it. The printing house that gives us this book is "OneWorld Press," after all, a publisher intent on producing extremist Leftist tracts that invariably seek one-party domination of the commanding heights of political power.

No, I'm afraid MacAskill is excited by power and has little faith in spontaneous, undirected action. His dirigiste penchants are on full display when he announces that, "if we wish to avoid the lock-in of bad moral views, an entirely laissez-faire approach would not be possible; over time, the forces of cultural evolution would dictate how the future goes..." and this is something MacAskill does not trust to get "right." This, then, is the basic contradiction in MacAskill's work: he doesn't think we can allow any single entity to become too powerful or it will "freeze" moral progress and reduce the quality of life for trillions of future-folk. He also thinks, however, that we can't just let things evolve willy-nilly, for they might end up in the moral ditch, condemning posterity to lives of misery. Instead, he suggests we place enlightened, socially-minded folks at the tiller—people with the moral training and refined sensibilities to steer this great ark toward a safer, distant shore. The basic thrust seems to be: it's fine for power to be concentrated as long as it's in the hands of the "right" sort of people.

Where does MacAskill derive such a faith in this new breed of philosopher-kings, with their special knowledge and their special brand of ethics? It seems to stem, as is so often the case, from an extraordinarily poor grasp of history and economics: his argument about the "special contin-

gency" of the elimination of the slave trade (Quaker activism), for instance, rings hollow in light of evidence from economic historians showing how it really fell apart. He could stand to read Julian Simon or Matt Ridley to temper his concerns about the imminency of "burning through our finite fossil fuel reserves." He should read Steve Koonin or Michael Shellenberger for a more thorough and nuanced view about the complex science of climate change. He makes ludicrous economic claims like, "thanks to long-standing policy support from environmentally motivated governments, the cost of solar panels has fallen by a factor of 250 since 1976..." and couples it with an equally ludicrous infatuation with German state-environmentalism (now imploding in the face of an energy crisis). "Longtermists" like MacAskill seem constitutionally disposed to dismiss the laws of economics in favor of "correct" ideas by leaning on taxpayer-funded state subsidies. But the truth will inevitably out: "costs" don't really "fall" when you play shell games with other people's money. Even when the project seems really really cool and feels really really good.

In short, MacAskill needs to do more homework. Doing so will, I suspect, affirm a steadier faith in the capacity of undirected human societies to chart extraordinarily interesting courses toward material and moral improvement. "There's no inevitable arc of progress," says MacAskill. "No deus ex machina will prevent civilization from stumbling into dystopia or oblivion. It's on us. And we are not destined to succeed." On this point, history would suggest he is dead wrong. The human race has lurched and groped its way through many a scrape, somehow developing along the way the resources and institutions that have seen more people live better, happier, more fulfilling lives than ever before. Since that is MacAskill's ostensible goal for the future, maybe we ought to leave well enough alone?

"By choosing wisely," MacAskill tells us, "...we can be pivotal in putting humanity on the right course. And if we do, our great-great-grandchildren will look back and thank us, knowing that we did everything we could to give them a world that is just and beautiful." Cute.

Such a sentiment, I'll note, has been used to justify every centralized coercive program in history:

Chairman Mao (also a devotee of the "long view") made much the same point: "Both the name of our Party and our Marxist world outlook unequivocally point to this supreme ideal of the future, a future of incomparable brightness and splendor." The number of great-great-grandchildren eliminated from the future by Mao's "ideal of the future" is incalculable. I know MacAskill superficially seems to be advocating against Maoist-style social organization, but I'm not sure he recognizes just how vanishingly thin is the line between "choosing wisely" and the next Great Leap Forward.

And in any case, when I look back at my great-great-grandparents (which is rare) I'm not over-inclined either to thank or disparage them. It's inconceivable that they could have foreseen any sort of "right course" open to their distant progeny, or any planned outcome for which I'd be especially thankful. Did a great-great-grandfather throw off some tyrannical yoke, or a great-great-grandmother board a ship to seek more freedom someplace else? Probably, if my genetic probabilities are any indication. But do I appreciate their special foresight, their careful management of the unfolding of time in my direction? Not in the least. I'm glad, of course, that they were able to keep at least one of their children alive to procreate, but all else equal, I'm rather glad they didn't engage in any kind of forward planning, since at least some of the values in vogue in 1847 (rigid Calvinism and strong attachments to all forms of porridge) aren't especially interesting to me.

Yes, a healthy distrust of centralized planning and monolithic, humanity-crushing fundamentalism, is appropriate. On this point, What We Owe the Future, is spot-on. But that's unfortunately not really the book's primary takeaway. Instead, it's largely an advocacy piece for a certain brand of self-consciously lefty causes. Gone unremarked is that humanity-crushing fundamentalism can come equally from the kind of enlightened Greens MacAskill extolls as from the Xis or Putins of the world.

What do we owe the future? We owe it our best now, our best efforts at solving current problems and seeking current happiness. We owe it the chance to unfold as it will, free from the fetters of arbitrary authority which presumes to know what is "good" for it.

remains to hope for the support of Western countries.

First of all, the USA. According to the German portal Statista , America leads by a huge margin: from January to October, Washington sent more than 47.8 billion euros in aid to Ukraine. At the same time, the lion's share falls precisely on the military component - 22.86 billion. In the format of financial support, 15.05 billion were

(Continued on Page 7)

With the world on a string

David Narmania

tested in combat conditions. Such supplies, according to representatives of the American defense industry, will be a kind of compromise between the requests of Kiev , which has long required ATACMS with a range of 300 kilometers, and the White House mantras to prevent the escalation of the conflict.

However, this is not the only reason why, as noted

by Reuters , manufacturers have stepped up. In November, Army procurement officer Doug Bush said the Pentagon needed to ramp up production of 155mm rounds. They are made only at state facilities, but the military department considers it necessary to attract private contractors.

With the world on a string

Now the conflict in Ukraine for the most part is

an artillery confrontation. According to The New York Times , in the summer, the Armed Forces of Ukraine spent from six to seven thousand shells daily, Russian troops - up to 50 thousand. Even the American military-industrial complex produces only 15 thousand shells per month.

It is not easy for Kyiv to make up for such an expense on its own - Russian missiles regularly fly to the factories. It

Biden admin. continues to avoid cold war with China

THERE have been relatively few foreign policy successes for the United States over the last 12 months, and 2023 looks to be a year plagued by more avoidable crises.

As the Biden administration approaches the halfway mark of the president's term, U.S. foreign policy has been marked by increasing militarization, the entrenchment of bad client state relationships, and an increase of U.S. security commitments when the United States was already overstretched.

The Biden administration deserves credit for its alliance management and organizing military assistance for Ukraine following Russia's illegal invasion in February. U.S. and allied support for Ukraine helped to halt Russian advances and drive their occupying forces out from several of the territories that they had seized. While the administration has responded capably to the war in Ukraine, that has come at the expense of distracting it from other important issues that have required more attention from Washington.

Failed sanctions policies remain firmly in place and have gone mostly unchanged since Biden took office. Biden inherited almost all the broad sanctions that Washington is imposing around the world, but with few exceptions he has either left them untouched or added to them. A slight easing of Venezuela sanctions at the tail end of this year stands out as an isolated example of the administration's willingness to show some flexibility in how the United States wages its

many economic wars.

In every other case, however, the administration has shown no interest in providing sanctions relief. These holdover "maximum pressure" campaigns have not only failed to achieve any of the goals their advocates set for them, but they have also backfired by provoking more of the activities that they were supposed to discourage.

There are serious problems brewing with Iran and North Korea that might still be headed off with more creative diplomacy, but that seems unlikely to happen. North Korea policy remains stuck in the past as U.S. officials recite mantras about denuclearization that have become increasingly fanciful. Many arms control and Korea experts now recognize that the current policy cannot succeed on its own terms and must change if negotiations are to have any chance at making progress, but this criticism seems to have made the administration cling to the existing policy even more.

Insisting on a maximalist goal of denuclearization in the face of a growing and increasingly sophisticated North Korean nuclear arsenal makes no sense, and it could set the stage for a new crisis on the Korean Peninsula in the coming year.

Negotiations with Iran have been stalled for much of this year, and now they are all but moribund. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is on its last legs, and if it survives through the next year it will likely be in name only. The Iranian government shares in the blame for the failure

Daniel Larison

of these talks, but the Biden administration could have moved to rejoin the agreement earlier than it did and it should have shown greater flexibility on sanctions relief on account of the previous administration's violations of the agreement.

The fact that the United States still isn't a party to the JCPOA in December 2022 is itself an indictment of the administration's mis-handling of the issue. If the nuclear deal cannot be salvaged, there will be tremendous pressure on the administration from regional client governments and from many members to Congress to launch an illegal attack on Iran. At best, there would be more regional instability and increased risks for U.S. military personnel in a post-JCPOA Middle East, and at worst the United States could be blundering its way into another avoidable war in the region.

Despite promises of "consequences" for Saudi Arabia and accountability for the crimes committed on the orders of the crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Biden administration has effectively shielded both the kingdom and the crown prince from both. There are reportedly no plans for Washington to take any action in response to the OPEC+ production cut, and once again Biden has shown that his threats to make changes to the relationship with Saudi Arabia are empty ones that Riyadh can easily brush off.

The Biden administration has also protected the crown prince from any legal

liability he might face in U.S. courts by asserting that he has immunity on account of his formal appointment as prime minister. As it happened, the administration delayed and dragged its feet on its determination in this matter until the appointment had taken place so that they could claim that their hands were tied. Many observers applaud the Biden administration's record in Europe because of its role in unifying NATO and rallying support behind Ukraine, but this has come at the cost of discouraging European allies from doing more for their own security and deepening European dependence on the United States.

The latest round of NATO expansion to bring in Finland and Sweden was an unnecessary increase of U.S. commitments in Europe when it already has too many around the world. The current increased U.S. military presence in Europe is unwarranted, and it encourages more free-riding from allies that have ample means to protect themselves. Because the United States rushes to take up the burden, European allies know that they will never be expected to increase their share of it, and that locks Washington into over-investment of scarce resources when other governments could do far more to take responsibility for their own defense.

Relations with both major Eurasian powers have worsened significantly in just the last year, and there is now a greater risk of direct conflict with nuclear-armed states than there has been at any time since the end of the Cold

War. It should still be possible for the United States to manage these relationships effectively and avoid a great power war, but Washington is drawing closer to collisions with both Russia and China at a time when the last remnants of the arms control architecture are collapsing around us. The prospects of negotiating a follow-up treaty to replace New START are dimmer than ever, and in just a few years there may be no treaties limiting the size and deployment of the world's largest arsenals.

The Biden administration continues to say the right things about wanting to avoid conflict and a new cold war with China, but then it goes out of its way to antagonize China with export controls and the president's unwise public pledges to defend Taiwan.

The president's recent meeting with Xi Jinping in Indonesia helped to halt a further slide in relations, but this was mostly an exercise in cleaning up the debris from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's ill-advised visit to Taiwan over the summer. There has been a temporary pause in the ratcheting up of tensions, but the current direction of U.S. China policy practically guarantees that it will resume in the second half of Biden's term.

The Biden administration has not had much success this year because it is still too wedded to status quo policies that haven't advanced U.S. interests. If it would like to see better results in 2023, it will need to break with current policy on at least a few of these issues.



‘Do you have a plan, General? - I have a whole OPLAN!’

JOURNALISTS from the influential and well-informed publication Foreign Policy revealed a curious conflict between the Pentagon and the US Congress. Officially, this confrontation is denied by both sides, the squabbling takes place only on the sidelines. However, the magazine spoke to high-ranking military officials and a number of legislators. On condition of anonymity, they told a lot of interesting things.

It turns out that General Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is unhappy that Congress is sending too many weapons to Ukraine. The general decided to go to the peacekeepers? Come on. It's just that Mark Milley is afraid that at such a pace the Americans will spend their main stash, intended for the implementation of operational plans (OPLAN) of the US Department of Defense.

"Do you have a plan, General? - I have a whole OPLAN!" The operational plans of the Pentagon involve military aggression in almost all parts of the world. One of them is dedicated to the full-scale war of NATO (read - the American army) against Russia. Under it, there are specific standards for the storage of equipment, missiles, ammunition. But now the warehouses are empty, and the Ministry of Defense does not have time to replenish stocks.

Congressmen, in turn, do not understand why stocking up in case of a big official war with Russia, if Ukraine is doing the same thing now. In a fit of enthusiasm, they are ready to empty all warehouses.

"It's already ten years old, this operational plan [war with Russia]," grumbles a Foreign Policy congressional source.

In the meantime, the Pentagon believes that Ukraine is using up the ammunition sent too quickly, and this promises huge problems for the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the winter. "We are worried about the too rapid consumption of ammunition (in Ukraine), - says Jim Townsend, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia and NATO. - It will become even more difficult for us to provide them (Ukrainians) if they think that we have a box full of ammunition. That's not the case at all."

Now, as Foreign Policy acknowledges, Ukraine is also complaining about the lack of weapons and ammunition. And Mark Milley complains about the same thing. What can we say about the European allies in NATO - they swear by their mother that in general they have already distributed everything. The partners have a shortage of ammunition and weapons.

Meanwhile, the ukrovoyks does not show any success on the battlefield. All the inhuman amount of missiles, shells and other ammunition flies into the world like a pretty penny. A hundred thousand unfortunate lads died - and all for what? To lose vast territories with millions of inhabitants? Well, such a

Victoria Nikiforova

cover up Washington's plans for a war with Russia, slipped a long time ago and got lost.

It is interesting, of course, what exactly is spelled out in Mark Milley's operational plan for the NATO war against Russia. However, the Pentagon does not share such information with anyone. Foreign Policy magazine mentions only one of the possible scenarios within this plan, according to which NATO could start hostilities against Russia in the Suwalki corridor - a hundred-kilometer zone on the border of Poland and Lithuania that separates Belarus from the Kaliningrad region.

However, the operational plan is indeed more than ten years old, it is obsolete and is unlikely to be useful to anyone, especially after the start of the NWO. But even without any secret plans, it is clearly visible where the US strategy is directed in a possible confrontation with Russia. Everything speaks for the fact that the matter will not be limited to one Ukrainian direction. Washington is diligently dragging Georgia and Moldova into the conflict, kindling it in Armenia and Azerbaijan, and is active in Central Asia. That is, he is trying to turn all post-Soviet countries into a future anti-Russian front.

This summer, the defense ministers of Japan and South Korea took part in the NATO summit - these guys should be pressing us from the east. Let's not forget about Finland and Sweden joining NATO with regular stuffing about the fact that American nuclear weapons will be deployed there.

Of course, there is also the Arctic. There, Russia is going to develop the richest deposits on the shelf, expand the use of the Northern Sea Route - all this in itself is unacceptable. But most importantly, the shortest route for Russian nuclear missiles to America lies through the North Pole. Therefore, NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg openly declares that the alliance should deepen and expand its presence in the Arctic.

That is, attacks by "partners" can be expected practically along the entire perimeter of Russia. Still, we remember the pictures from the history textbook of the period of intervention and the Civil War. Then the German "partners" occupied Ukraine, the Americans climbed into the Far East, the British massively killed and tortured people in our North, plus an international kublo accumulated in the Crimea, from which they also had to be kicked out.

The fate of Ukraine and other post-Soviet lands in the event of a confrontation between Russia and NATO is obvious. It was vividly described by Karl Clausewitz, showing the state of Poland before its partition: she turned into a "roadway, along which foreign armed forces roamed freely... Poland politically was nothing more than an uninhabited steppe." The fate of Russia is in our hands. We have nowhere to retreat.

However, the American military has been fighting in Ukraine for a long time and with might and main - it's just that while it's being done unofficially, it's like they were soldiers of fortune from Texas and Oklahoma. And all the frank escalation of the conflict, inexorably leading to a big war, is accompanied by lulling speeches that Washington wants to avoid an open confrontation with Moscow. To be honest, it's just unbelievable. The fig leaf called "Ukraine", which was supposed to

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With the world on a string

‘Thankfully, today the court recognised that right to protest’

IT is seldom, said Hume, that we lose our liberty all at once; rather, it is nibbled away as a mouse nibbles cheese. Perhaps the same might be said of the rule of law, especially in countries such as Britain where it has been long established and people take it for granted, as if it were a natural rather than an achieved phenomenon.

One of the enemies of the rule of law is sentimentality. Both a jury and now a judge have found that if protesters break the law for what the jury or the judge considers a supposedly good cause, they can be rightfully acquitted in the name of freedom of protest.

In 2020, young protesters in Bristol toppled a fine century-and-a-quarter-old statue of Edward Colston, a late seventeenth and early eighteenth merchant of the city, and threw it into the city's harbour. Colston endowed institutions in the city, and at least some of his money came from the slave trade. The action of the protesters was clearly criminal, but they were acquitted by a jury because their action was supposedly idealistic. Vandalism in the name of ideals has always been a popular pastime, of course, and the aesthetic contribution of the statue to the city was not mentioned in the subsequent debate on the matter.

More recently, six doctors and a nurse have been

acquitted by a judge of obstructing the highway after they were arrested for blocking Lambeth Bridge in London. The judge who acquitted them said "I was impressed by the integrity and rationality of their beliefs. Their evidence was deeply moving."

The doctors and nurse were demanding that the use of oil be halted, and no more exploration for it and other hydrocarbons be carried out. Of course, they believed that they were helping to "save the planet," but what they did was clearly illegal and likely to prevent their fellow-citizens going about their business in a normal fashion.

The Lancet, a medical journal that frequently exudes self-righteousness despite the fraudulent papers that it is sometimes fooled into publishing, claimed that "There is some evidence that disruptive or radical non-violent actions are successful in garnering public attention for a cause." There is nothing there with which a Nazi could disagree.

"Protest, like this one, is like attempting to shock a failing heart, in the hope that it will change its rhythm," said one of the doctors involved in the protest after the acquittal. "Thankfully, today the court recognised that right to protest."

One can only hope that the doctor is more precise in his thinking about his

Theodore Dalrymple

patients. Blocking a highway is nothing like shocking a patient for a clear and definable reason. Even if the cause were a good one, it is possible that the "shock" applied would have the opposite effect from that intended, namely a hatred of the cause which had so inconvenienced the public.

The judge was impressed by the integrity and rationality of the beliefs and intentions of the protestors: but did he hear arguments against their point of view? Did he hear that, in the present context, they and people like them might have contributed to the danger this winter of old and poor people dying of cold because they could not afford heating—that is, if such heating were still available? (Some years ago, the Lancet published an article suggesting that seventeen times as many people died of excess cold as of excess heat.) Did he hear of the fact that Britain contributes very little to the anthropogenic warming of the atmosphere—supposing that such warming were an established fact—and that to add to the financial burdens of British industry increased the risk of it relocating elsewhere, to the detriment and impoverishment of the country? Did he learn how the electricity was to be generated for tens of millions of battery-pow-

ered vehicles, and the environmental costs of providing batteries, and the infrastructure to make it possible—and so on and so forth?

Besides, it was obviously not the right to protest that was at issue. There are many public spaces in London where protests can be held without blocking the highway. No one would deny the doctors and nurse their right to protest, even if they were entirely in the wrong about what they were protesting about. The right to protest was not at issue: it was the illegal obstruction of the highway.

Moreover, it is easy to imagine a protest that the judge would not have allowed. Suppose instead of protesting against oil, the protestors had protested against the arrival of half a million immigrants into Britain in a single year (as has happened). Suppose that they had alluded to the pressure this put on an already overcrowded housing market; that if they found work, they might very well depress wages, or if they failed to work they would in effect exact forced labour from the rest of the population to pay for their upkeep; that the health service would face an additional burden that it could ill-afford to face; that communities in which the immigrants gathered might not welcome their arrival and would be changed without anyone having

With the world on a string

(Continued from Page 6)

provided, humanitarian - 9.9.

For comparison: the European Union - precisely as an organization - limited itself to a total of one and a half times less: 34.99 billion euros. Of these, 30.32 are financial support, 3.1 are military and 1.57 are humanitarian.

The third line belongs to Britain: London allocated a total of 7.09 billion euros to Kiev.

"West Stream"
Where the money is going, the State Department reveals, listing the weapons Washington has sent to Ukraine since February of this year:
—more than 1600 "Stingers" (each costing about 38 thousand dollars);
—over 8,500 Javelins (up to \$250,000 a piece);
—38,000 other MANPADS and ATGMs;
—over 700 Switchblade

drones;
—142 155 mm howitzers and almost a million shells for them;
—4200 guided 155mm projectiles;
—36 105 mm howitzers and shells for them;
—eight NASAMS complexes;
—20 Mi-17 helicopters;
—45 T-72B tanks;
—more than a thousand Humvees and almost a thousand other armored vehicles.

Above - only part of the "western stream". The full list on the State Department website includes 58 positions, dozens of different types of weapons and hundreds of thousands of ammunition.

In addition, the United States allowed NATO allies to give Ukraine American weapons, including 12,000 anti-tank systems of various types and more than 1,500 anti-aircraft missiles. Separate items of such

assistance remain non-public: the State Department claims that the total value of the provided weapons is \$19.1 billion.

In addition, \$11.3 billion in deliveries are under the Presidential Executive Order of Joe Biden, signed last August. The document allows for the transfer of weapons in an accelerated mode. The directive has already been applied to Kyiv 26 times.

Who feeds shell hunger
Some of the weapons that Ukraine receives are Soviet equipment left over from the former countries of the Warsaw Pact. This applies mainly to tanks, planes and helicopters - it takes too long to train Ukrainian tankers and pilots to operate new equipment.

In return, NATO partners receive more modern models from the States. For example, Prague is being compensated for T-72s with new Leopard 2A4s from

the Bundeswehr stocks.

But the US supplies artillery, MLRS and air defense mainly from its own storage facilities. Billions will be needed to fill the deficit.

Manufacturers in the States are only at hand. According to the Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the flagships of the American military-industrial complex have occupied the top five positions in the ranking of the 100 largest arms manufacturers in recent years: Lockheed Martin (sold \$60.3 billion in arms sales in 2021), Raytheon (\$41.8 billion), Boeing (33.4 billion), Northrop Grumman (29.9 billion) and General Dynamics (26.4 billion). And, apparently, 2022 will only strengthen their position.

For example, the head of Lockheed Martin, James Tycet, back in May, argued that the annual production

of Javelins would have to be almost doubled - from 2.1 thousand to four.

As noted by Reuters, the output of another product of the same company, the HIMARS MLRS, will also double. Now they will produce 96 pieces a year. Each will cost the US budget nearly \$3.5 million.

In this regard, the desire of the main competitor - Boeing - to be in time for the division of the "Ukrainian pie" is also understandable.

The confrontation in Ukraine will ensure the existence of the American military-industrial complex for a long time. The record military budget, which has already been agreed by the committees of both houses of Congress on armed forces, is proof of this. It is likely that it will amount to 858 billion dollars - 110 more than last year. And it could grow even more in the future.



Pakistan Stock Exchange loses 157 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) lost 157.73 points on Monday, a negative change of 0.38 percent, closing at 41,540.55 against 41,698.28 points on the previous day.

A total of 133,556,497 shares were traded during the day as compared to 191,388,906 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs3.236 billion against Rs3.583 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 323 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 92 of them recorded gains and 204 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 27 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Dewan Motors with 8,523,500 shares at Rs16.68 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 7,264,781 shares at Rs1.35

per share and Dewan Farooque Sp. with 6,513,000 shares at Rs4.57 per share.

Premium Textile witnessed a maximum increase of Rs44 per share price, closing at Rs668.90, whereas the runner-up was Indus Motor Co. with a Rs19.14 rise in its per share price to Rs995.01.

Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs750.00 per share closing at Rs25000 followed by Nestle Pakistan with a Rs131.00 decline to close at Rs5650.00.

Rupee extends losses against dollar

The exchange rate of the Pakistan rupee depreciated by 25 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Monday and closed at Rs224.64 against the previous day's closing of Rs224.39.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan

(FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs231.5 and Rs234 respectively.

The price of the euro was decreased by 68 paise and closed at Rs236.48 against the previous day's closing of Rs237.16, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen lost one paise to close at Rs1.64, whereas a decrease of one paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs275.03 as compared to its last closing of Rs275.04.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 07 paise each to close at Rs61.16 and Rs59.73 respectively.

Gold price recorded all time high at Rs.169,650 per tola

With an increase of

Rs2350 in price of 24 karats per tola, the gold rates reached to all time high at Rs169,650 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs167,300 on during last trading day.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also increased by Rs2016 and was sold at Rs145,448 compared to Rs143,432 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs133,327 against its sale at Rs131,480, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs80 and was sold at Rs1970 whereas that of ten gram silver increased by Rs68.58 to Rs1688.95.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by US\$3 and was traded at US\$1,794 against its sale at US\$1,797 the previous day, the association reported.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mehmood chairing a meeting with Investors at Export Processing Zones Authority.

Tokyo stocks end lower

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks ended lower on Monday, tracking Wall Street falls on renewed fears that the Federal Reserve will continue to aggressively counter inflation.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 0.21 percent, or 58.68 points, to end at 27,842.33, while the broader Topix index lost 0.22 percent, or 4.23 points, at 1,957.33.

The dollar fetched 136.97 yen, against 136.57 yen in New York on late Friday.

In Japan, investors "are likely to avoid engaging in aggressive trading" ahead of the Fed's next key policy meeting, Tokai Tokyo Securities said in a commentary.

The market took cues from US falls triggered by a "stronger-than-expected producer price index reading for November that accelerated fears over monetary tightening" by the Fed, it said.

"Producer prices in the United States rose more than expected last month, causing investors to recoil in the face of a possibly more naughty than nice FOMC," added Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

Among major shares in Tokyo, SoftBank Group edged up 0.59 percent to 6,205 yen and Toyota added 0.46 percent to 1,963 yen.

Meanwhile, Uniql operator Fast Retailing was down 0.30 percent to 83,900 yen and Sony Group lost 0.32 percent to 10,875 yen.

Further delay in release of Soybean-seed

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Monday demanded the government to implement the orders of the Federal Tax Ombudsman and release Soyabean seeds from the port.

President RCCI Saqib Rafique said thousands of tonnes of soybeans worth billions of rupees were in the open at the port.

He said that if the government would not clear the soybean, the country may face scarcity of chicken, meat and food.

Saqib added that due to the lack of timely clearance, there was a fear that around 30,000 poultry farms would be shut down while more than 300 feed mills would be directly affected, and the investment of about 1200 billion would be halted in this sector.

He said that the poultry industry accounts for 50 per cent of the meat demand in the country, and more than 1.5 million people were employed in this industry.

Non-availability of soybean meal across the country has started to have an impact, increasing the price of chicken and making it unaffordable for the common man.

Saqib informed that Soybean seed was the main ingredient of any feed; without it, the production of feed was impossible.

He demanded that authorities realize the seriousness of the issue and immediately release the soybean seed from the port to avoid food security in the country.

PCJCCI to set up Pak-China Cultural Exchange Programme

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki Monday proposed setting up of Pakistan China Cultural Exchange Programme in both the countries to pave the way for Pak-China Cultural Corridor.

The creation of Pak-China Cultural Corridor was a pre-requisite for sustainable success of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and One-Belt One-Road (OBOR) project.

Ghurki expressed these views during a think tank session held here at PCJCCI Secretariat.

He added that Pak-China collaboration on cultural aspects would not only strengthen the friendly relationship but also strengthen the economic relations on long-term basis.

He promised to advocate the idea of Pak-China Cultural Corridor under a

systematic culture exchange programme. He said both the governments should think about establishing specialised Pak-China Cultural forums in major cities of the two countries.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong said that cultural exchange between Pak-China would enhance mutual understanding between people and add fresh insight to broaden the horizons of people. "Our vision is to endorse culture exchange and harmony initiatives as an active player in the success of One-Belt-One-Road plan and more specifically CPEC," he maintained.

The joint chamber's Vice President Hamza Khalid informed the participants that currently 18,000 Pakistanis were studying in various disciplines at Chinese universities and these students form an important bridge between

the people of Pakistan and China. He also said that cultures were diversified and civilisations were different but these were by nature; neither for conflicts nor were these confrontational. The ultimate goal for cultures and civilisations was for dialogue, tolerance, peaceful coexistence, harmony, and shared growth. Diversity spurs interaction among civilizations, which in turn promotes mutual learning and understanding.

Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif suggested that the interactions between the Pakistani and Chinese media should also be encouraged along with joint ventures in creative arts like cinema, theatre and music, led by inter-governmental collaborations. He said that Pakistan had the potential to become the safest place of investment with collaboration with China in all fields of trade and industry.

PSX goes live with Public PRIDE

ISLAMABAD (APP): After implementing the PRIDE system, which automated the listing process for debt and equity issues, Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has gone live with Public PRIDE which is a one-stop solution focused on investors for all information on upcoming public offerings.

It has been developed to keep the investors and general public aware of the investment avenues available in the primary market, said a press statement issued by PSX Monday.

Public PRIDE concentrates all information relating to upcoming Main Board listings and publicly issued debt listings. It helps investors to know the status of these listing applications and to view their relevant documentation prior to making an investment decision.

The general public,

Public PRIDE is an extension of PRIDE which was soft launched in December 2021 and was fully launched in September 2022. Taking the vision of digitisation forward, Public PRIDE aims to ensure seamless flow of information to the general public through its webpage.

Earlier, the listing process used to be a manual with significant amount of allied documentation in hard copies involved. Moreover, there was some amount of duplication involved in the process of application filing and approvals for listing.

With PRIDE, which stands for Public Offerings Revolutionized through an Integrated & Digitized Experience, the process of listing has been fully digitised.

PRIDE is a one stop solution facilitating Consultants, Advisors and Lead Managers to electronically submit applications for the listing of equity, debt, mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). Furthermore, it can be utilised to submit applications for Reverse Merger or Voluntary Delisting as well.

"After successfully implementing PRIDE, which has been well received by consultants, advisors and issuers, we are excited to launch Public PRIDE, which will meet the needs of investors and provide information about upcoming debt and equity issues to the entire market in a transparent manner," said MD and CEO PSX, Farrukh H. Khan.

The general public, including investors, can keep abreast with the status of listing of Main Board companies as well as Publicly Issued Debt on PSX, he said adding this information would enhance and augment the experience for investors and assist them in investment decisions in the primary market.

Condolence reference for SM Muneer held

LAHORE (APP): Renowned businessman and philanthropist SM Muneer was a personality who left behind a number of success stories. His services for the cause of business community and the humanity would be remembered forever. As president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Chairman Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, he had achieved various milestones and hoisted the national flag at global level.

These tributes were presented at a condolence reference held here at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry to acknowledge the services of SM Muneer.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, former LCCI President Mian Muhammad Ashraf, Sheikh Muhammad Asif, Ilyas M Chaudhry, Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, Muhammad Ali Mian, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Shahzad Ali Malik, Mian Tariq Misbah, former

Senior Vice President Kashif Younas Meher, former Vice Presidents Fahim-ur-Rehman Saigol, Mian Zahid Javed, SM Tanweer (son of SM Muneer) and Executive Committee Members also spoke.

Speakers recalled the services of SM Muneer and termed his death an irreparable loss. LCCI President Kashif Anwar spoke about SM Muneer's contribution to trade and industry and recalled that he always preferred work over his health and always gave priority to his commitments. He said that it was enormous support that helped lift the FPCCI to its zenith. "A true, intelligent, honest and frank person, SM Muneer was a shining example of success stories," Kashif Anwar added.

Fateha was also offered for S.M. Muneer, and participants prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage and fortitude to members of the bereaved family to bear the loss with patience.

Medicinal products import drop by 66.70%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The import of medicinal products witnessed a decline of 66.70 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan imported medicinal products worth \$447.701 million from July-October (2022-23) as compared to the imports of \$1434.613 million from July-October (2021-22), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, however, medicinal imports witnessed a surge of 46.06 percent, as the country imported 13,619 metric tonnes of medicinal products during the months under review as compared to the imports of 9,324 metric tonnes last year.

Wheat sowing for Rabi 2022-23 completed over 91.74% areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wheat crop sowing for Rabi Season 2022-23 has been completed over 91.74 percent areas across the crop producing areas in the country as against the set targets in order to produce about 28.37 million tons of grains to meet the local requirements as well as for exporting.

So far, the wheat cultivation completed over 19.5 million acres as against the set targets of 22.37 million acres for the current season, said Food Security Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Imtiaz Ali Gopang.

While talking to APP here on Monday he said that crop cultivation targets were achieved by 85.34 percent and it was gaining momentum due to favorable weather conditions, particularly in rain-fed areas of the country and

incentives for Rabi crops by the government.

The crop cultivation targets in Punjab Province were achieved by 91.32 percent as so far grain has sown over 15.05 million acres against the set targets of 16.48 million acres.

The crop output targets for the Punjab had fixed at 21 million tons by the Federal Committee on Agriculture, he said adding that wheat sowing was still in progress and it was expected that more areas would come under wheat cultivation due to incentives introduced by the government and increasing price of the commodity in local markets.

Meanwhile, wheat was sown over 2.07 million acres of Sindh as the province was assigned a task to grow crop over 2.79 million acres in order to produce about 4 million tons of grains during Rabi

Season 2022-23, he added.

The crop cultivation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces were achieved by 81.98 percent and 41.18 percent respectively, he said adding that wheat sown over 1.82 million acres of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 0.56 million acres in Balochistan.

The crop output for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during current season was fixed at 1.8 million tons by growing the crop over 2.22 million acres and Balochistan it fixed at 1.57 million tons by putting about 1.36 million acres under wheat cultivation, he added.

It is worth mentioning here that Ministry of National Food Security and Research in collaboration with provincial governments providing over 3.183 million bags of certified wheat seeds to the farmers of floods affected areas to ensure maximum sowing of

major cash crop of the season to revive agriculture and avert the impact of catastrophe in the country, he added.

In this regard a digital application had been developed to deliver and distribute seeds among the flood-hit farmers in a transparent and efficient manner. Each seed bag would comprise 50 kg of different approved varieties while the cost of the scheme amounts to Rs17.16 billion and it would cover about 78% areas affected due to floods and torrential rains during current moon soon season.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister had announced a special package worth Rs1,800 billion to promote and develop the agriculture sector and provide farmers, particularly in the flood-hit areas free seeds, and inexpensive loans and to bring down prices of fertilizers and electricity.

SECP registers 2,380 new companies in November

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has registered 2,380 new companies in November, 2022, indicating an increase of 10% as compared to corresponding period last year.

Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) of the newly incorporated companies is Rs 1.9 billion. The total number of registered companies now stands at 182,598.

Among the newly incorporated companies, about 59 percent were registered as private limited companies, 39 percent as single member companies and 2 percent were public unlist-

ed companies, not for profit associations, trade organizations and limited liability partnership (LLP), said a press release issued here.

About 99.9 percent of companies were registered online. In November, the SECP also registered three investment companies / micro finance companies with paid-up capital of Rs 255 million.

In November, the real estate development & construction sector took the lead with incorporation of 407 companies followed by the information technology with 347 and trading with 300 companies subsequently, services with 258, food & beverages with 87, edu-

cation with 82, tourism with 81, corporate agricultural farming with 76, e-commerce with 70, marketing & advertisement with 63, engineering with 62, textile with 57, pharmaceutical with 50, healthcare with 43, mining & quarrying with 38, chemical with 37, fuel & energy with 35, transport with 31, power generation with 30, communications with 27, cosmetics and toiletries and lodging with 18 each, broadcasting & telecasting with 14, auto & allied and paper & board with 13 each, cables and electrical goods with 12, arts and culture with 9, and 102 companies in other sectors.

Foreign investment has been reported in 85 new companies from Afghanistan, Austria, Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Hongkong, Jordan, Korea South, Mauritius, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, UK and the US.

As a result of SECP's eServices integration with FBR and various provincial departments, 2,211 companies were registered with FBR for generation of NTN, 57 companies with EOBI, 32 companies with PESSI/SESSI and 43 companies with excise and taxation department.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, CMA CGM Fidelio, BochemBrussels and Coronet, carrying containers, palm oil and gas oil berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively of Port Qasim the other day.

Meanwhile, three more ships, MSC Ermina, MSC Letizia and World Progress carrying containers and gas oil also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

PQA berths were engaged by seven ships during the last 24 hours, out of them, two ships, CMA CGM Fidelio and Al-Deebal left the port on Monday morning. A cargo volume of 73,250 tonnes comprising 58,596 tonnes of imports cargo and 14,654 tonnes of export cargo including containerized cargo carried in 1,688 Containers (826 TEUs Imports and 862 TEUs Export) was handled at the Port during the last 24 hours.

There are eleven ships at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them, two ships, FSM and MSC Ermina and another ship, Lana carrying LPG and containers are expected to take berths at SSGC and QICT respectively later today.

PIF buys stake in renewables firm Skyborn

RIYADH (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund has acquired a 9.5 percent stake in German renewable firm Skyborn, as the fund continues its asset expansion in global markets.

The investment in Skyborn Renewables, which is one of the leading offshore wind developers in the European and Asia Pacific region, will allow PIF to accelerate its energy transition journey at an international scale, according to a press release.

It further noted that the German firm has over 20-year experience in the sector, with a track record of over 7 gigawatts of capacity developed to date, with a presence in over 15 European countries and multiple APAC markets.

Skyborn also has multiple under-construction projects in Germany, France and Taiwan with a pipeline of over 30 GW of highly diversified offshore wind projects which are currently in various stages of development.

The PIF is currently working toward achieving the commitment to devel-

op 70 percent of Saudi Arabia's power needs through renewable energy by 2030, as the Kingdom eyes fulfilling its net-zero target by 2060.

"Offshore wind has a key role to play in driving global decarbonization and we see significant growth opportunities for Skyborn," said Turki A. Alnowaiser, deputy governor and head of the international investments division at PIF.

The press release added that PIF is deploying capital both domestically and internationally to maximize its assets, which will in turn diversify Saudi Arabia's economy in line with the goals outlined in Vision 2030.

"We are excited to have one of our most important investor partners, PIF, invest alongside us in Skyborn Renewables. The investment supports our commitment to the energy transition through the continued growth of global renewable power generation," said Matt Harris, founding partner of Global Infrastructure Partners.

PIF has been allocating

major investments in renewable energy firms which include ACWA Power and the Sudair and Al Shuaibah Solar Energy projects.

The fund is also developing electric vehicles through investments in E1, and Lucid Motors.

Earlier in November, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched Ceer, the first Saudi electric vehicle brand, which is expected to contribute to the Kingdom's efforts toward reducing carbon emissions and driving sustainability to address the impact of climate change.

Reaffirming its journey toward sustainability, PIF auctioned off 1.4 million tons of carbon credits in October during the 6th edition of the Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh, as a part of its Voluntary Carbon Market initiative.

According to data from the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute, PIF is currently at the fifth spot among the largest sovereign funds in the world with assets valued at \$620 billion.



In brief

Swiatek named WTA Player of the Year

LONDON (Agencies): World number one Iga Swiatek was crowned WTA Player of the Year for the first time in her career, while Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova were named Doubles Team of the Year, the governing body of the women's game said on Monday. Poland's Swiatek went on a superb 37-match winning run and won the French and U.S. Opens as well as titles at Doha, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart, Rome and San Diego. The 2020 Newcomer of the Year enjoyed a stellar 2022, as she won 67 matches overall and topped the list of finals reached and trophies won. Krejickova and doubles world number one Siniakova took the team honour for the second season in a row after winning titles at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. Jessica Pegula's mentor David Witt was also recognised for his success, as he was voted by peers as the Coach of the Year after guiding her to number three in the rankings. Pegula reached the first WTA 1000 final of her career at the Madrid Open and won the Guadalajara Open in addition to reaching the quarter-finals at three of the four Grand Slams. Tunisia's Ons Jabeur won the Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award, while China's Zheng Qinwen was named Newcomer of the Year after she climbed more than 100 places this year to reach a career high ranking of 25. Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil was named the Most Improved Player of the Year after breaking into the top 20. Germany's Tatjana Maria was named the Comeback Player of the Year after reaching her first Grand Slam semi-final at Wimbledon after missing three majors last year due to the birth of her second daughter.

Hazlewood to miss 1st test

BRISBANE (AP): Josh Hazlewood has been ruled out of Australia's series-opening test against South Africa, leaving Scott Boland and Michael Neser as leading contenders to take his spot in the pace attack at the Gabba in Brisbane starting Saturday. Hazlewood and skipper Pat Cummins missed Australia's 419-run win over the West Indies in the day-night test, completed Sunday for a 2-0 series sweep, after playing in the 164-run first test win at Perth. Boland and Neser joined left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc in the bowling unit in Adelaide and collected important wickets but with Cummins set to return to take on South Africa, selectors will have to choose between them. With 21 wickets in four tests at an average of 10.33, Boland, who plays domestically for Victoria, has the better career figures. But Neser's home ground is the Gabba and he's more familiar with bowling in that arena and amid Queensland's hot and humid conditions. Cummins said he was 100% ready to start in Brisbane but Hazlewood hasn't recovered in time from a side strain to join the 14-man squad. Express bowler Lance Morris and batter Marcus Harris were included in the 14-man squad as backups in case of injury. "Pat continues to improve, bowled with freedom on Saturday and appears likely to play this match although Josh will need more time," chief selector George Bailey said.

England beat Pakistan by 26 runs to win 2nd Test, seal series

MULTAN (Monitoring Desk): Mark Wood led England to a 26-run win inside four days in the second Test against Pakistan on Monday at the Multan Cricket Stadium. Pakistan, in pursuit of a challenging victory target of 355, were bowled out for 328 within an hour after lunch on day four to send England into the third match with an unassailable 2-0 lead in its first Test tour of Pakistan in 17 years. England won the first Test by 74 runs at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi. Wood grabbed 4-65 including prized scalp of left-hander Saud Shakeel (94) who missed on his maiden Test hundred before lunch. Saud's patient, third successive half century in just over five hours nearly pulled off Pakistan's highest-ever

successful chase in a home Test after the hosts resumed on the fourth day on 198-4, needing a further 157. Saud shared 80-run stand with Mohammad Nawaz (45) before Wood struck in his first over with the second new ball. He first had Nawaz caught down the leg side off a short ball and then ended Saud's defiance with another short ball in the same area. Wicket-keeper Ollie Pope took a low catch down the leg side after Wood got Shakeel tangled. The third umpire, Joel Wilson of the West Indies, ruled in the bowler's favor after viewing several replays, after on-field umpire Aleem Dar referred the decision with a soft signal of out. Resuming the fourth day with an overnight score of 198 for four with still 157 required, Pakistan lost

Faheem Ashraf (10) in the day's sixth over when Joe Root had the lefthander caught at slip as Stokes chose to deploy spinners from one end. Saud and Nawaz stifled England for nearly 22 overs before Wood struck twice in quick succession to raise England's hope of clinching the three-match series late in the first session. Fast bowler Ollie Robinson thrice went past Nawaz's bat, but the lefthander showed aggression against Root and left-arm spinner Jack Leach with some crisp boundaries before Stokes turned to the pace of Wood and gained two crucial wickets. Abrar made a brisk 17 that featured three extravagant boundaries against Wood in one over after lunch before England

seamers Robinson (2-23) and James Anderson (2-44) wrapped up the tail to seal England win. **Scores in brief:** England 281 all out, 51.4 overs (Ben Duckett 63, Ollie Pope 60, Mark Wood 36 not out, Will Jacks 31, Ben Stokes 20; Abrar Ahmed 7-114, Zahid Mehmood 3-63) and 275 all out, 64.5 overs (Harry Brook 108, Ben Duckett 79, Ben Stokes 41, Joe Root 21; Abrar Ahmed 4-120, Zahid Mehmood 3-52). Pakistan 202 all out, 62.5 overs (Babar Azam 75, Saud Shakeel 63, Faheem Ashraf 22; Jack Leach 4-98, Joe Root 2-23, Mark Wood 2-40) and 328 all out, 102.1 overs (Saud Shakeel 94, Imam-ul-Haq 60, Abdullah Shafique 45, Mohammad Nawaz 45, Mohamad Rizwan 30; Mark Wood 4-65, James Anderson 2-44).



MULTAN: Ollie Robinson took the final wicket, dismissing Mohammad Ali.

Portugal's next step to be without Ronaldo

DOHA (INP): Cristiano Ronaldo is staying back in Qatar for now. The 37-year-old was one of 10 members of the Portuguese squad that didn't opt to go back with the side to Lisbon after their quarter-final exit at the hands of Morocco at the World Cup in Qatar. It was finally on Sunday evening, almost 22 hours after it all happened at the Al Thumama Stadium — the 1-0 loss having left him with another failed attempt at winning the trophy that has eluded him, that Ronaldo finally broke his silence in an Instagram post that hinted he was calling it a day. "Winning a World Cup for Portugal was the biggest and most ambitious dream of my career," he wrote. "Fortunately I won many titles of international dimension, including with Portugal, but putting the country's name on the highest foot in the world was my biggest dream. I fought for it. I fought hard for this dream. In the five appearances I scored in World Cups over 16 years, always by the side of great players and supported by millions of Portuguese, I gave my all. Left it all out on the field. I never turned my face to the fight and I never gave up on that dream. "Sadly, yesterday the dream ended. It's not worth reacting in the heat of the moment. I just want you all to know that much has been said, much has been written, much has been speculated, but my dedication to Portugal has not changed for a moment. I was always one fighting for the objective of all and I would never turn my back on my colleagues and my country. Not much more to say for now. Thank you Portugal. Thank you Qatar. The dream was nice while it lasted... Now, it's to hoping that time will be a good advisor and allow each one to draw their own conclusions." Ronaldo had skipped walking through the mixed zone for any interaction with reporters who waited for him to arrive, for that one soundbyte on what lies ahead for him.

Sidra Ameen bags ICC Women's Player of the Month award

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The International Cricket Council (ICC) has awarded Pakistan opener, Sidra Ameen, with the Women's Player of the Month award for the first time after her stunning display with the bat in November. Sidra scored 277 runs in the home ODI series against Ireland, including the fifth-highest individual score in women's ODIs in the first match in Lahore.



Sidra scored an unbeaten 176 off 151 balls against Ireland. Her partner Muneeba Ali also scored a hundred in that game, in a record-breaking 221-run stand for the opening wicket. Sidra's 176 was also the first score greater than 150 in women's ODIs by Pakistan. Ameen made another brilliant contribution in the series at the same venue, making 91* in the second match as Pakistan completed a series victory. Ameen also rose to 22nd on the ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings and is the highest-ranked Pakistan batter on the list. The Pakistani batter expressed great thrill at being awarded the monthly award. "I feel great to have won this award," she said. "It is also special following my teammate Nida Dar who won the award for October. "This shows our team has displayed some great performances in the past few months in international cricket. I would like to dedicate this award to my parents and to everyone who has always supported me and prayed for my success. My performance with the bat against Ireland which helped the side claim the sweep over Ireland in the ODI series at home will

always remain close to my heart. Individually, this year has been great for me, I have scored three ODIs centuries and all coming this year. And to top it off, ending the year by winning the ICC Women's Player of the Month for November is just amazing." "When you get an opportunity to score a hundred it is a special moment, but for Sidra to go on and make it a big one, 176 and then to back it up with 91 in the very next match, this shows not only that she has the skills, but she has the temperament," said ICC Hall of Famer and member of the voting panel Lisa Sthalekar. England captain Jos Buttler claims the ICC Men's Player of the Month award after being at his remarkable best with the bat in his side's charge to T20 World Cup triumph in Australia last month. England's triumphant skipper Buttler once again underlined his reputation as one of the most fearsome batters in world cricket last month. November started with a Player of the Match performance in the dramatic 20-run victory over New Zealand in Brisbane. Making his 100th T20I appearance, the opener smashed 73 from 47 balls to provide some much-needed momentum to England's campaign. After England had secured their passage to the knockout stages, he followed this display with arguably his highlight of the tournament. Chasing 169 for victory in the semi-final against India, he demonstrated the full array of his strokeplay in smashing 80 from 49 balls. His record-breaking opening partnership of 170 with Alex Hales saw them claim a historic ten-wicket win in Adelaide. Even though his scoring in the Final was somewhat quiet by his standards, Buttler registered a valuable 26 runs against a menacing Pakistan bowling attack. He then led the efforts in the field with his expert captaincy, forcing Pakistan to fall short, and claiming England's second ever T20 World Cup trophy.

Beating Pakistan on home turf is 'massive', says England skipper

MULTAN (Monitoring Desk): Skipper Ben Stokes hailed England's Test series win in Pakistan Monday as "massive", as the team's new-found aggressive approach continues to pay dividends. England beat Pakistan by 26 runs in the second Test — following their 74-run victory in the first encounter in Rawalpindi — to wrap up the series even before this week's final match in Karachi.

Both games came on the back of aggressive batting dubbed "Bazball", after the nickname of new coach Brendon "Baz" McCullum who has transformed the team since taking over in May. The victory gives England their eighth win in the nine Tests since McCullum and Stokes took charge. It is also England's third series win in Pakistan, although they have not toured there in 17 years because of security fears. "Not for one minute are we going to think it's just another Test series win," said Stokes, who has now three wins from as many series as captain. "Beating Pakistan in Pakistan is massive. We know what we've achieved, we know that it's a very special thing in English cricket to come here and win." Stokes said it was "a very special time to be an England cricketer" but that the team need to keep their feet on the ground. "One thing we do is we stay in the moment," he said. Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, in contrast, rued repeated errors made in the first two Tests. "We are committing the same mistakes and are not able to finish the games," said Azam, who has now lost two home series in a row after being beaten by Australia earlier this year. Azam deplored the batting collapses evident in both innings. Still, he had praise for spinner Abrar Ahmed who grabbed 11 wickets in his debut Test. "Ahmed used the conditions well and it was a good start for him," he said. The final Test begins in Karachi on Saturday.

Injury of main fast bowlers cost a lot in test series: Babar

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan Skipper Babar Azam said that the injury of the main fast bowlers before the test series against England cost a lot as the team could not get a remarkable achievement in the fast bowling attack. Addressing a press conference after the second test match at Multan Cricket Stadium on Monday, Babar Azam said that the team lost the match again after getting closure to victory like in Rawalpindi but we failed to finish it well to get desired results.



He said that the absence of senior and experienced players in the team could also be a reason for the defeat adding that the young players also played well and they were getting experience from every match. Babar said that decision of Saud Shakeel's out was the turning point but play-

ers were bound to honor the decision of the umpires whether it was in favor or not. He said that after the dismissal of Saud and Nawaz it was the tail to face England pace bowlers but Abrar and Salman kept pushing pressure on the guest team. "I accept the responsibility of loss," Babar said and added that efforts were being made to overcome the mistakes in the upcoming events. He said that the team would enter

the Karachi test with the best combination and positive mindset. To a question about pitch conditions, he said that pitch conditions were different in every country and players had to perform in every situation. He said that the surface offers limited support but there was no issue with the surface in Multan as there was most of the soft dismissal of Pakistani batters. He said that England's bowling attack was effective and their bowlers did well for their team. Babar said that Abrar Ahmed performed well in his debut match and he dismissed the top seven players of the guest team in the first inning and also grabbed four wickets in the second inning. He said that he changed his batting order to play at number three instead of four by accepting the challenge to face the situation.

Messi, Modric carry Argentina, Croatia into World Cup semis

DOHA (AP): Tears are flowing from soccer's biggest superstars as they make emotional exits from what might be their last World Cup. First it was Neymar. Then it was Cristiano Ronaldo. Could Lionel Messi be next? Momentum is building behind Messi's push to cap his career with the biggest prize in the game. The 35-year-old Argentina playmaker has carried his team to the semifinals, almost in the same way Diego Maradona — the man with whom Messi is so often compared — led the South American nation to its second and most recent World Cup title in 1986. Now in Argentina's way is Croatia, a country with a population of 4 million which is establishing a reputation as the most stubborn and durable of opponents while also boasting one of soccer's most graceful players in Luka Modric. The teams go head to head at Lusail Stadium — also the venue for Sunday's final — in a meeting between the last two runners-up at the tournament: Argentina in 2014 and Croatia in 2018. Argentina might have been expected to be in this position. The team arrived at the World Cup as the Copa America champion,

on a 36-match unbeaten run and with Messi back in sublime form for Paris Saint-Germain. There was much less noise around the Croatians, yet they keep on surprising just like four years ago when their run to the final included a 3-0 victory over Argentina in the group stage. They also reached the World Cup semifinals in 1998. Both teams have come through uncomfortable moments. Argentina's darkest time was right at the start of the tournament, after a 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia in what will go down as one of the World Cup's biggest upsets. Inspired by Messi and one of the most fervent fan followings in Qatar, Argentina won its final two group games, ended up squeezing past Australia 2-1 in the round of 16 and then required penalties to get past the Netherlands in a wild quarterfinal match. Messi now has four goals in the tournament in Qatar, leaving him one behind top scorer Kylian Mbappé. They are probably the two standout players at a World Cup that has seen many other top players live up to their lofty reputations. Modric is a case in point. He might not have scored a goal. He hasn't even had an assist. But

don't underestimate the importance to Croatia of the little magician who keeps things ticking in midfield and manages to assert some control for a team which fights until the last minute. In 2018, each of Croatia's knockout games went into extra time before the team lost to France in the final, and the same thing is happening in Qatar, with victories in penalty shootouts over Japan in the last 16 and Brazil in the quarterfinals. Croatia looked more comfortable against Brazil than against Japan, which shows the team might be happier to invite pressure and choose its moments to break forward rather than control games and be more susceptible to the counterattack. Containing Messi will be key and much of the responsibility there lies with holding midfielder Marcelo Brozovic, who protected Croatia's defense so well against Brazil. Argentina will be without two players because of suspension: left back Marcos Acuña and right back Gonzalo Montiel. Acuña is the bigger miss, having impressed since coming into the team after the loss to Saudi Arabia, and he is likely to be replaced by Nicolás Tagliafico.

Yan Bingtao joins list of suspended Chinese snooker stars amid fixing probe



LONDON (AP): Former Masters champion Yan Bingtao has become the latest Chinese player to be suspended from the World Snooker Tour amid an ongoing investigation into match-fixing, the sport's governing body announced Monday. The Chinese world number 16, has been banned from attending or competing at events with immediate effect," said a statement issued Monday. "This decision is part of an ongoing investigation into allegations of manipulating the outcome of matches for betting purposes in breach of the WPBSA conduct regulations. Last week, five other Chinese players -- Lu Ning, Li Hang, Zhao

Jianbo, Bai Langning and Chang Bingyu -- were suspended pending the outcome of the investigation, with compatriot Liang Wenbo banned in October. "WPBSA chairman Jason Ferguson has taken the decision to suspend Yan Bingtao from attending or competing on the World Snooker Tour with immediate effect," said a statement issued Monday. "This decision is part of an ongoing investigation into allegations of manipulating the outcome of matches for betting purposes in breach of the WPBSA conduct regulations. Last week, five other Chinese players -- Lu Ning, Li Hang, Zhao

conclusion of the investigation or any subsequent charges that may or may not be brought. Yan Bingtao has the right to appeal this decision." Yan is the highest-profile player to be suspended during the ongoing probe. The 22-year-old produced a stunning upset to win the Masters, one of snooker's leading tournaments, on his debut in the competition in 2021 and also has one ranking title to his name after winning the 2019 Riga Masters. Yan was due to play in the English Open this week, but first-round opponent Ashley Hugill has been awarded a walkover.



In brief

Int'l Migrants Day to be marked

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations (UN) International Migrants Day will be marked on December 18 (Sunday) across the globe including Pakistan to recognize the efforts, contributions, and rights of migrants worldwide. International Migrants Day recognizes the efforts, contributions, and rights of migrants worldwide. Each year the UN invites governments, organizations, and individuals to observe International Migrants Day by distributing information on human rights and migrants' fundamental freedoms. People are also invited to share their experiences and contribute to designing action plans to ensure their protection. According to a Global Commission on International Migration report in 2005, the number of international migrants increased from 75 million to about 200 million in the past 30 years, and migrants could be found in every part of the world. The report also found that migration could accelerate due to the growing developmental, demographic, and democratic disparities that existed between different world regions.

IRSA releases 77,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 77,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 43,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1497.52 feet and was 99.52 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 21,100 cusecs while outflow as 42,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1126.55 feet, which was 76.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,500 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 48,300, 40,700, 32,800 and 13,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,800 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

CDA changes property manuals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA) has exempted the family transfers of residential properties from the condition of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Building Control Section (BCS) to facilitate the masses. The CDA Board took the decision to improve public service delivery and also approved a summary submitted to it by Member Estate regarding changes in the authority Property Manual. According to the decision, no NOC of BCS that the residential property is not in non-conforming use or there is any violation of building bye-laws. The decision would apply in case of family transfers and gift deeds. However, an affidavit would have to be submitted with the concerned officials that any structure constructed in violation of building bye-laws would be demolished within a period of three months. Previously, the owner of a residential building had to demolish an illegal structure before the transfer of a property. Now the same condition has been lifted in the case of family transfers. In another major change in the Property Manual, the CDA Board in its meeting chaired by its Chairman Captain (r) Muhammad Usman Younis, also decided to extend the validity of NOC has also been extended from three months to one year.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque giving away shield to a participant along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Miss Shaza Fatima Khawaja during Inaugural Ceremony of 'Pakistan-ITU Digital Inclusion Week' at a local hotel.

Shahbaz Gill skips hearing at Islamabad court

ISLAMABAD (INP): A district and sessions court in Islamabad heard the sedition case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill on Monday. The hearing of the case was held in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra.

Public prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbasi appeared before the court. No one had appeared before the court on behalf of Shahbaz Gill till the filing of the report. During the hearing of the case, Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra remarked: "Ammad Yousaf says that the pro-

gramme-in which Shahbaz Gill allegedly incited the junior officers of Pakistan Army against their senior command-had been aired from Islamabad, and he has nothing to do with it." He added: "Ammad Yousaf asserts that any move for his indictment is not right."

Senate passes resolution

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate on Monday passed a resolution expressing deep grief and sorrow over the death of former Senator Begum Najma Hameed. The resolution moved by Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar, said Begum Najma Hameed was a seasoned and distinguished politician and her services will long be remembered. The resolution expressed deepest sympathies with the bereaved families.

Later, newly elected Senator Syed Waqat Mehdi of PPP took the oath of office. The Chairman Senate administered him the oath. At the outset, the house offered fateha for the departed soul of former Senator Begum Najma Hameed and those martyred in recent acts of terrorism in the country. The Senate today passed the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Bill 2022.

ECP delists five important cases over non-availability of bench

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) delisted five important cases, including the plea seeking the removal of former premier Imran Khan from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairmanship, which were scheduled to be heard on December 13 (Tuesday) due to the non-availability of the bench.

The ECP announced that the delisted cases will be heard on December 20. The ECP was about to hear the case against Imran Khan for not submitting details of election expenses tomorrow. The ECP

had also scheduled the hearing of the case regarding seizing prohibited funding tomorrow. The ECP has also delisted the case against Imran Khan seeking his removal from PTI chairmanship. The ECP had also scheduled the hearing of the plea regarding the non-issuance of victory notification of Imran Khan in by-elections for tomorrow which has been delisted now. However, the case of contempt of court against Imran Khan, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry will be heard tomorrow by the ECP.

VCs of Public, Private varsities 'concerned' on proposed amendments in HEC ordinance

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Vice Chancellors and Rectors of all the public and private sector universities have expressed concerns on the proposed amendments in the HEC Ordinance as well as the Public Account and Payment Procedure, 2022.

Two separate meetings of the university heads of public and private sectors were held at HEC quarters, in Islamabad on Monday.

Vice-chancellors from twin cities physically joined the meetings while those from other parts of the country virtually attended the meetings.

Both the forums unanimously opposed the proposed amendments and demanded that the government should strengthen the autonomous status of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) if it wanted the higher educa-

tion sector to develop as per international standards.

The vice-chancellors noted that the amendments in the HEC Ordinance like delegation of powers of the Controlling Authority from the PM to the ministry concerned, drastic revision in composition and reduction in size of the commission eliminating the representation of the provinces, authority of the Commission, etc would compromise the basic mission for which the HEC was founded.

The university heads also observed that the Public Account and Payment Procedure, 2022 would complicate the withdrawal and payment procedure for the universities when they were already facing a financial crisis and are compelled to shelve various development projects as it requires them to operate through an Asaan

Assignment Account in the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The deposit of self-generated revenue at the SBP would further reduce the financial control of universities over their own funds and would ring university operations into a standstill, they contended.

The participants emphasized that HEC and universities had worked hard for the progress of Pakistan's education sector and all these steps would prove detrimental to the progress that the higher education sector had made during the last two decades.

The participants agreed to ensure strong financial governance in the public sector universities and strict observance of the austerity measures prescribed by the government, and limit expenses to essentials only and hold those that can be delayed.

Govt committed to end digital divide: Amin Ul Haque

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque Monday said that the government is committed to end the digital divide between the urban and rural areas of the country.

Effective measures are being taken for digitalization in the country and the Ministry of IT is taking every possible step for a better digital future, the minister expressed these views while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Pakistan-ITU Digital Inclusion Week, 2022 here.

The two-day event is aimed at raising awareness about the importance of mainstreaming digital inclusion in Pakistan in addressing the digital divide, particularly among people in vulnerable situations such as girls, children, and people with disabilities. He thanks to International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for their splendid support for all the countries of the world in general and for Pakistan in particular, in the areas of women empowerment, ICT Accessibility and Child Online protection.

Syed Amin Ul Haque said that it is the topmost priority of the government to empower women. Steps are being taken to equip youth with digital skills, he said.

He noted that the digital revolution characterized by artificial intelligence, big

data, cloud computing and mobile robotics and many more such areas which were previously considered the technologies of the future, have now become the need of the time. The Minister said that the ICT For Girls Project of the Ministry was an important initiative to empower women.

He said that work on a number of projects is going on for the provision of telecom services in far-flung areas of the country. He said that the Ministry of IT has formulated National ICT Council for Persons with disabilities with the aim to support special people with assistive technologies and make them earning members.

He said that cooperation between ITU member countries regarding digital transformation is vital.

It is pertinent to mention here that the event of Pakistan-ITU Digital Inclusion Week is highlighting three main initiatives including Girls in ICT Day Pakistan, Accessible Cybercafé for all, and child online protection.

The ceremony was attended by Additional Secretary (Incharge), MoITT Mohsin Mushtaq, Chairman PTA Maj Gen Retd Amir Azeem Bajwa, Chairman P@SHA Zohaib Khan, senior officers of the Ministry of IT, ambassadors, heads of attached departments of the Ministry of IT and others.

Alvi urges students to acquire marketable skills, serve country with compassion

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday urged the student delegation from Balochistan to continue to gain knowledge and acquire marketable skills by tapping traditional and online resources of knowledge. Talking to the students and staff of Cadet College Qilla Saifullah here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, he stressed using the acquired knowledge to serve the country and its people with compassion and observing moral and ethical values.

President Alvi said quality leadership, timely decisions, learning from the past, benchmarking the best and proven practices, and overcoming issues and crises by setting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) would help the country to overcome its financial and economic issues.

He said knowledge and continuous learning were very important to build a comprehensive, well-groomed and balanced personality.

The president said Pakistan had great potential in terms of both its natural and human resources.

He said Pakistan created a nuclear deterrent in a short period to counter the hugely disproportional conventional weapons of a neighbouring country.

He said Pakistan also succeeded in defeating the scourge of terrorism and mentioned hosting four million Afghan refugees.

He said that tangible and time-bound steps needed to be taken to bring 22 million out-of-school children into schools, besides ensuring the inclusion of 10 percent differently-abled population (DAPs) into the mainstream as useful and productive citizens.

The president said that Pakistan was blessed with a vast coastline but unfortunately our exports of fisheries and related products were low compared to other countries.

He said the stakeholders in the higher education system should make tangible efforts to increase the number of students enrolled in higher institutions as currently only 9 percent of our students had access to higher education compared to 20 to 25 percent in our neighbouring countries.

The president also called upon the college management to train cadets in new technology trends like the Internet of Things, Robotics, Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence, which were going to have vast applications in every sphere of life. The establishment of Cadet College Killa Saifullah was announced on 18th December 2004. The College became functional on 17th April 2009. The College's 90 seats are given to the students from the Province of Balochistan with a token representation of other provinces.

Saudi Arabia issues 4m Umrah visas in 5 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has announced that 4 million Umrah visas have been issued for pilgrims coming from around the world since the start of the Umrah season of 2022.

The high number of Umrah visas was possible because of the ministry's efforts to facilitate the arrival process via electronic means in partnership with several departments

and agencies working in the Hajj and Umrah system, Saudi Gazette reported.

The pilgrims were able to submit their visa applications through the ministry's website or the Nusuk platform. Muslims from anywhere in the world with any type of visa that enables them to enter Saudi Arabia such as visit visas, tourist visas, and others, are allowed to perform the Umrah and visit the Prophet's mosque after reg-

istering for an appointment through Nusuk app.

Saudi Arabia has extended the validity of Umrah visas from 30 days to 90 days, and pilgrims are allowed to enter the Kingdom through any of its airports, seaports, and land crossings.

The Nusuk app helps foreigners who have obtained a visa register for an appointment to perform Umrah and visit the Prophet's Mosque.

Breast cancer awareness campaign continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Maroof International Hospital (MIH) has continued its breast cancer awareness campaign to educate people about the prevention and treatment aspects of the disease.

According to a spokesperson, during the breast cancer awareness campaign, started this year in October, many awareness events and camps were organized with the theme "prevention is better than cure".

On October 22, MIH's Surgical Oncologist was live on PTV to address public concerns and questions. This was followed by other TV appearances of foreign-quali-

fied Oncologists, Pathologists, Radiologists, and surgeons to raise awareness on self-checks, medical screening, and treatment options, he added. He said that Maroof team was on site at the Microfinance Bank to impart knowledge to the female employees regarding the importance of screening and self-examination for early detection of the disease.

The hospital arranged an internal refresher session for its consultants to guide and counsel patients. In the last week of October Maroof conducted online awareness sessions for the employees of the British Council and Ufone, he added.

The last in the long string of events came in the form of an awareness session arranged in the PM Staff Colony Islamabad which included cancer survivors as guests so others may learn from their experiences and may be able to take better and timely action.

He said that the hospital has been offering mammogram screening services at half price from October 1st till December 31st, 2022, offering free consultations on weekends with its cancer physicians and surgeons. Similarly, a support group has been set up at Maroof Int'l Hospital on that particular subject for supporting cancer patients and survivors.

19th Frontiers of Information Technology Conference launched

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A two-day International Conference on 'Frontiers of Information Technology' (FIT-2022), organized by COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) started on Monday, December 12, 2022 at COMSTech Secretariat, Islamabad. Minister, Planning and Development and Special Initiatives, Mr.Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary and Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Mohammed Nafees Zakaria graced the occasion and inaugurated the COMSATS University Islamabad's 19th International Conference on Frontiers of Information Technology on Monday.

Speakers from France, Netherlands, China, Ireland, Portugal, UK, USA and Pakistan are participating in the two-day conference organized by COMSATS University Islamabad in COMSTech Secretariat, Islamabad.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal speaking at the occasion highlighted the importance of Information technology in today's era specially for the economical growth of Pakistan. He shared that universities need to take rapid action to start new courses in entrepreneurship and exports for students which will help to boost economy of the country. He also shared the seven-point



framework for universities, academic excellence, research and innovation, social community service, technology enablement, corporate governance, industry academia linkage and quality of products.

Ambassador Dr. Mohammed Nafees Zakaria speaking at the opening ceremony lauded the efforts of FIT organizers for providing an esteemed platform to researchers, scientists, and industry practitioners from across the world to present their cutting-edge research as well as sharing latest industry insights. He mentioned that the COMSATS lays its emphasis on building indigenous capacity and competence in the emerging sciences and technologies. Moreover, efforts are being made by the Commission to bring the dividends of technological advancements in the areas of education, health, and energy to a large cross-section of the population, particularly of the

Member States. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, Co-Founder and CEO Knowledge Streams (Private) Ltd., Pakistan delivered a keynote address to the participating technical experts, students and dignitaries. In his address titled "Bridging the Academia - Industry Divide", Dr. Naqvi highlighted the importance of Bridging the Academia - Industry Divide and presented several initiatives which have led to novel solutions in present day Pakistan. He emphasized on the key steps to follow for successful entrepreneurial ventures.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal, Rector, COMSATS University Islamabad, in his welcome address appreciated the support extended by the government in promoting the research and development. He said that Pakistan was in a dearth of high-performance computing infra-

structure and there was a need to realize the economic potential of Information Technology through better training and resource management. Prof. Afzal said that the dearth of dollars confronted by the economy can be easily cured by encouraging IT related exports and technology-based startups.

The two days conference will comprise series of invited talks as part of its technical program while a PhD symposium will provide an opportunity to PhD scholar to present their ongoing research to gather feedback from industry experts. The last day of the conference will feature a panel discussion on the theme "Make in Pakistan: Need Assessment for a Strong Policy to Strengthen Indigenization". The conference is the 19th Annual event organized by COMSATS University consecutively in the last 2 decades and boasts of a very competitive acceptance rate among IT circles in Pakistan. The conference has been fostering new areas of IT since its inception and has this year captured attention of experts in Software Engineering, Pattern Recognition, Image & Natural Language Processing, Data Science, Water Informatics, Smart Grid, Energy & Electronics, Signal Processing and Cyber Security among others.

Insurgents hideout destroyed

KABUL (Agencies): Nangarhar security officials say; Intelligence Directorate forces killed three of them by conducting an operation on an insurgent's hideout in Jalalabad city. An operation, conducted late Sunday night in the 4th police district of Jalalabad city, said security sources adding that three insurgents, one Kalashnikov rifle, one M-16 automatic weapon, mines and other ammunition have been discovered in this operation.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 18, 1444 — Tuesday, December 13, 2022

33 different guns seized

BALKH (Agencies): The Counter-Terrorism department officials have seized 33 different Guns in several security operations in different areas of the province, says the Balkh security officials. The provincial's security spokesman Mohammad Asif Waziri said that the department of counter-terrorism have discovered 30 Kalashnikov, one PK machine, and one RPG in several security operations from different parts of the province.

Afghanistan needs development supports beside humanitarian aids

KABUL (Agencies): The country's Acting Finance Minister, Mullah Hidayatullah Badri met with the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Afghanistan Rosa Otunbayeva.

in a meeting, Minister Badri thanking the United Nations for the humanitarian aid to the Afghans and

urged that the humanitarian aid should be carry out in coordination with the government departments, adding that Afghanistan, beside humanitarian aids need support in development sectors of the country, said a statement released by the ministry.

For her part, the head of UNAMA, stressed for the

protection of economic stability in Afghanistan, the creation of the national budget and the implementation of development activities in addition to the regular budget.

She reaffirms that the United Nations will continue its positive interaction and humanitarian aid with Afghanistan.

People basic needs to be a priority, says Hanafi

KABUL (Agencies): The Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, in a meeting with the elders of Jawzjan, said that the Islamic Emirate will pay attention to the basic needs of the people in the next fiscal year's budget.

The Deputy prime minister, Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, during his trip to the north of the country, visited Darzab district of Jawzjan.

Hanafi meeting with the scholars, elders and youth of the said district, at the Abdullah bin Masoud school of that district heard discussed their suggestions and problems, according to statement released by his office.

Hanafi assured the residents of Darzab that the Islamic Emirate will consider the basic needs of the people in addition to taking care of the families of the martyrs in the next fiscal year's budget.

Chinese ambassador met Abbas

KABUL (Agencies): The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai met with Chinese ambassador to Kabul Mr. Wang Yu.

Both sides, discussed issues of mutual interest, including security during a meeting, said a statement released by Afghan Foreign Ministry. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, thanked China's humanitarian aid for Afghanistan, Stanikzai stressed the need of strengthening and expanding economic relations with China, according to the Ministry's statement.

For his part, the Chinese ambassador expressed his satisfaction with the overall security in Afghanistan and asked for more attention from the Islamic Emirate in securing the security of this country's political mission in Kabul. Afterward, Stanikzai assured the Chinese ambassador that the Islamic Emirate will not allow anyone to use Afghanistan's soil against another country. He assured the Chinese ambassador that the Islamic Emirate will not allow anyone to use Afghanistan's soil against another country, adding that the security of foreign political missions in Afghanistan is the priority of the Islamic Emirate.

Gunmen attack hotel frequented by foreigners



KABUL (Pajhwok): An unknown number of gunmen attacked a hotel frequented by foreigners in Shahri Naw area of Kabul on Monday afternoon, with the ensuing clash still ongoing.

The attack in the 10th security district of Kabul city began around 2:30pm today and was ongoing as of 4:30pm.

A Pajhwok reporter close to the area said a fire broke out on one of the hotel's floors and smoke billowed out of the multi-storey building.

He said security forces had cordoned off the scene and were allowing no one to go near the site.

Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said a hotel

building where ordinary people lived was attacked by 'evil elements'. He said security forces had reached the scene and were trying to secure the area.

According to him, further details will be released later. The attack comes a day after Chinese ambassador in Kabul met with deputy foreign minister

Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai and asked the caretaker government of Afghanistan to pay more attention to security of the country's embassy.

Residents of the area said Chinese and other foreigners usually stayed in the hotel. The shooting continued after a powerful explosion.

Development projects to be started in Faryab



KABUL (TOLONews): Second Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanafi during a trip to Faryab province said that the current government will begin several development projects in the province.

"I assure you that we will implement the development projects," said Abdul Salam Hanafi, Second Deputy Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, some Faryab residents called for the implementation of develop-

ment projects for road construction and sanitary drinking water.

"They have made promises, I hope that these promises will not be like the promises made to the people during the republic," said Mohammad Naseer Tatar, a Faryab resident.

"Our young generation spends its energy abroad and gets its education in other countries, if we have projects in our country they will not be compelled to go abroad," said Amir

Mohammad Aymaq, a Faryab resident.

According to them, lack of communication routes and lack of water is one of their main challenges.

The Kohistan- Maimana district route is one of the most difficult routes of the Faryab crossing, which is more than a hundred kilometers away.

The Second Deputy Prime Minister assured the district residents that they will start construction of the route.

Khost radio station offers educational programs

KHOST (TOLONews): A local Khost radio station has been airing basic educational programs for learning Pashto and English for the last year, and it has amassed a large following in the province.

According to members of the local Hawa radio station, women and girls who live in areas without access to schools or who are deprived of an education for cultural reasons are particularly interested in their programs.

This radio station's educational program is hosted by two teachers who have also created a textbook for the course.

"In many remote areas, most of our people do not have access to education, or there are no schools in their

areas. To solve this problem, we have started this radio program," said Mobin Mirza, deputy of the radio.

"We assess these students every three months when the book finishes, and we also collect their homework," said Arian, a teacher.

Sisters Sana and Tamana Samoon said that they have been following this radio station's educational programs for a year and have learned a lot.

"There are no schools in our region, so I'm really happy for Hawa Radio. They brought their radio teacher's books for us to study from, and my other sisters also learned a lot of information from them," said Sana, a program follower.

"I ask international organizations to help the

media so that the residents of the mountainous areas can learn from those books," said Tamana, another follower of the program.

Radio Hawa representatives said that they would put into action a plan to educate girls through radio if girls' schools above sixth are not reopened soon.

2 drug traffickers arrested

KABUL (Agencies): The Kabul Security forces counter-narcotic department officials arrested two people on charges of smuggling 11kg of heroin in the poli Charkhi area. The detained people were smuggling narcotics and amounts of money from Nangarhar province to Kabul, said Khalid Zadran a spokesperson for Kabul police commander. The detainees were referred to judiciary organs for interrogation, he added. Meanwhile, the security forces arrested 14 people in connection with robbery and kidnapping in Kabul city.

Prices of food, cooking supplies decrease in Kabul

KABUL (TOLONews): Residents of Kabul said that the price of food materials has decreased in the past month.

Some shopkeepers said that the price of food decreased in world markets and for this reason the price has decreased in Kabul.

They said that the price of flour, rice, and oil has

decreased by 300 afghanis compared to last month.

Currently, the price of a bag of flour is 2,150 afghani, sixteen liters of oil is 1,800 afghanis, 24kg of rice is 3,100 afghani, 7kg of bean is 700 afghani and 7kg of sugar is 430 afghani.

"The difference in the rates comes from the fact that it is the food season,"

said Shaifullah a shopkeeper.

"The price of oil has decreased in the world and also the dollars have decreased," said Noor Agha, a shopkeeper.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of the Industry and Commerce said that they are trying to increase the level of exports of food materials into the country.

"We will import foodstuffs from other countries into the Kabul markets, in the past month the prices have decreased," said Abdul Salam, a spokesman for the MoI.

"The global price is also very important because here we distribute cheaply to the people, when people sometimes raise the prices of the goods or sell them at a high price, this is not the truth," said Mohammad Younus Momand, head of the ACCI.

Meanwhile, some residents of the capital said because of economic challenges they are not able to buy food.

"Daily I work for 200 afghani and I cannot afford to buy food for my family," said Hasibullah, a Kabul resident.

"We call on the government to pay attention to people's financial state," said Younus, a Kabul resident.

Afghanistan imports foodstuffs from Iran, Pakistan and Central Asia countries.

3.5 tons of outdated food items disposed in Badakhshan

BADAKHSHAN (Agencies): In cooperation with the provincial's industry and commerce and public health institutions 18 different types weight 3.5 tons of food items in Fazyabad city has collected and disposed after.

The Badakhshan public health head Qari Attiqullah Fizi asked the traders to not export low quality or outdated food items to the country.

The provincials industrial and commerce department Head Mawlawi Sel-ur Rahman Rahimi chaired the collection committee of the expired date food items in Badakhshan province said that lower quality and outdated items dealing is prohibited adding that the violators will be introduced to the judicial bodies.

He asked the residents of the province to carefully check the date of items while, purchasing.

Will leave country if girls' schools remain closed

KABUL (Pajhwok): A number of residents of Kabul province say they will leave the country if girls' students above grade six are not allowed to return to their classes, but the government says work is underway on a mechanism in this regard.

Girl students above sixth grade have been kept out of schools since the political change in the country one and a half years ago.

In addition to Kabul, the residents of different provinces have since been complaining about the issue and have been urging the new government to reopen girls' high and secondary schools.

Ahmad Navid, a resident of Kabul, told Pajhwok Afghan News that nearly one and a half years had passed the people were pinning for the reopening of girls' schools but the government remained silent in this regard.

He warned if the government did not reopen girls' schools, people would be forced to leave the country

and migrate to other countries for education of their children.

Navid said: "If the situation continues like this, I will also leave the country and migrate to a neighboring country for the education of my children."

Another resident of Kabul expressed similar views and said as a father he would want to migrate to another country for the education of his children: "No one wants to have illiterate children in today's modern world and neither the circumstances allow girls not to study."

Wasim, another inhabitant of Kabul, held similar views regarding the closure of girls' schools.

He said: "The government must allow girls to pursue their education before the people are forced to leave the country and migrate."

Marwa Hashimi, a 12th grade student in Kabul, told Pajhwok that if the government continued to ban girls' education, it would have consequences for both

the families and society.

Najibullah Jameh, a political analyst, told Pajhwok: "The education of girls and the work of women, their participation in social, political, economic and cultural activities are the need of today's world. Also our religion, culture and history clearly support this."

He added there was no justification for closing girls' schools from 7th to 12th grade, but it widening the gap between the government and the nation.

He said this action was alienating Afghanistan and dividing the society besides creating economic problems in the long run and causing national distrust.

Government officials did not respond to Pajhwok about the matter, but the government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid last month told a meeting in Turkey that in Afghanistan the reopening of schools for all girls was necessary and work was underway to reform the curriculum and create a separate education system for girls.

KP Assembly passes eyebrow raising ‘helicopter bill’ amid opposition protest

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Monday passed the most discussed and eyebrow raising “aircraft, helicopter bill” that allows the use of aircraft or helicopters by functionaries of the government at public expenses amid opposition protest and criticism.

The opposition tried all its best to resist passage of the bill and staged a protest in front of speaker dice demanding further discussion on it in the relevant standing committee, but to no use. Minister for Labour Shaukat Yousafzai moved the bill in the House with Speaker Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani in the chair.

Inayatullah Khan of Jamaat-e-Islami said that the bill would allow everyone to use the aircraft, helicopter at public expenses like a ‘Raksha’, adding that the passing of such would have adverse effects in future. He said that the provincial government should discuss it with the law department and Advocate General.

Ikhtiar Wali of PMLN said that the provincial government should pass the law for the welfare of the 40 million population of the province rather for PTI and their blueeyed. He said that the province was already indebt of Rs1000 billion and the government intended not to be ques-

tioned about the illegal expenses of billions of rupees incurred on helicopters since 2008 at any stage now and in future.

Parliamentary Leader of ANP, Sardar Hussain Babak said that the opposition would request Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government to reconsider the bill and reject it as the opposition parties have severe reservations over it. Meanwhile the opposition members chanted slogans against the PTI provincial government and shouted “Shame, Shame” and “PTI seeking NRO”. The PTI government had tabled legislative bill in the provincial legislature to allow the use of aircraft or helicopters by the functionaries of the government at public expenses. The piece of legislation named KP Ministers (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the House last week.

Under the bill, the Chief Minister could hire an aircraft or helicopter from the open market or from Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force or Federal Government for official use, at public expenses. Similarly, the proposed legislation empowers the Chief Minister to allow any Minister, Advisor or Special Assistant to Chief Minister, public servant or government servant to utilize the facility at public expenses.

IHC dismisses petition against Bara Kahu bypass project

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday dismissed a petition against the Bara Kahu bypass project and allowed the continuation of work on it.

The court also withdrew its stay order against the project work to the extent of Quaid e Azam University Islamabad.

Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict which was reserved on the last hearing after listening to arguments from the respondents.

The petition was filed by the professors of the said university. It stated that the project would have effects on the educational activities in the university.

However, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) adopted the stance that it had given alternate land to the university. The civic body could introduce the project with regard to the public interest. However, the residents of Murree also prayed the court to dismiss the petition as the project was long awaited and it would benefit the residents and tourists as well.

Govt rejects NAB’s summary

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government on Monday rejected a summary of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) seeking abolition of its autonomy by declaring the Bureau as a Civil Service Occupational Group. The government has rejected the summary seeking the abolition of the NAB’s autonomy and also dismissed the suggestion to end the independence of the NAB chairman.

The NAB has sent the summary to the government and demanded that employment in the bureau be declared as a Civil Service Occupational Group. The Ministry of Law also wrote a letter to the NAB stating that employment in the Bureau cannot be declared civil servant. The letter further stated that the NAB would not remain an independent institution if suggestions proposed by the Bureau were given a green signal. It also added that the independence of the NAB chairman will also be culminated by doing so.

Nisar back in political arena

RAWALPINDI (INP): After a long hiatus, estranged PML-N leader Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan has announced that he will contest the next general election with a new strategy. The fresh elections in the country are due to be held next year but the PTI is exerting pressure on the coalition government to announce snap polls since the ouster of Imran Khan as prime minister through a no-confidence vote in April last. Chaudhry Nisar, in his address to a gathering near Rawat, said he would contest the elections and urged his supporters to get ready for it. “I was silent for four years but I have now decided to contest elections from two National Assembly seats,” he said, adding that the new strategy would be adopted in the 2023 election.

“I will decide about joining a party after the elections,” the former interior minister, said while asserting that he didn’t want to become a part of the politics of abuse.

He said that nowadays, Imran Khan was trusting Pervaiz Elahi for breaking the Punjab Assembly, and tomorrow he would say that he made a mistake by trusting Parvaiz Elahi.

He said that according to its manifesto, JUI-F considers every province as the owner of its resources, small provinces have to recognize their rights for the saving of the state and peace was indispensable for the stability of the country. A comprehensive policy has to be formulated to make Pakistan stand on its own feet, he said and added that the Holy Quran was the greatest guarantor of humans and the great powers have set the standard of democracy according to themselves. He said that we had already decided that the army should remain neutral, according to our opinion, all the citizens of Pakistan have equal rights, and it needed to be implemented. He said that the Pakistan-China friendship was sabotaged in 2014 when it turned into an economic partnership saying that he would make Pakistan the cradle of peace, there were international conspiracies against Pakistan which would be foiled for the interest of the country, he maintained.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in a meeting with Parliamentary Delegation led by Chairman Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan Yerlan Koshanov at the Parliament House.

Alvi terms continuation of policies essential for economic growth

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has termed the continuation of policies as essential for sustainable economic growth, promoting industrialization and attracting foreign investment. He added that hurdles in the process of filing taxes by the business community needed to be removed, besides providing facilitation to the business community and addressing their grievances and issues.

The President expressed these views while addressing the 2nd Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Taxpayer Recognition Awards, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Group Leader RCCI, Mr Sohail Altaf, President RCCI, Mr Saqib Rafiq, Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Dr Asif Mahmood Jah, representatives of FBR, and members of the business community attended the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, the President termed digitalization of the economy and business processes as essential for enhancing tax collection, promoting tax culture and transparency in the economy.

He regretted that the low tax-to-GDP ratio had been a perennial issue in Pakistan, ever since its establishment, adding that tax culture in the

country could be promoted by simplifying and easing the tax regime, reducing hurdles in the taxation system. He also called for encouraging businessmen to pay more taxes, judiciously and honestly spending the collected tax, reducing corruption and pilferage, and ensuring merit and transparency. The President said that Pakistan’s economy had been under stress due to multiple internal and external factors, adding that all stakeholders needed to act responsibly and display a unity of purpose to come out of the present situation.

The President also urged the need to focus on the skill development of youth and establishing partnerships between academia and industry, besides providing education to over 20 million out-of-school children. He said that it was the collective responsibility of the state and society to care for the most vulnerable sections of its population. He regretted that Pakistan’s education sector had declined, adding that efforts needed to be made to improve the educational standards throughout the country, besides enhancing the enrollment of students in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs).

The President also called upon the members of the business community to enhance the participation of women in businesses and industry,

besides providing them safe and friendly environment at the workplace. He also impressed upon the need to establish baseline KPIs regarding the inclusion of women and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the private sector, instead of merely paying lip service to the cause of women and PWD’s inclusion in the mainstream of society.

The Group Leader of RCCI, Mr Sohail Altaf, highlighted the need for political and economic stability, continuation of policies, providing facilitation to businesses, and taking steps to address their grievances.

President RCCI, Mr Saqib Rafiq, said that RCCI was making efforts to promote business activities in the country, enhancing exports, and developing linkages with foreign trading partners in different sectors, particularly the IT sector. He further said that continuation of policies for essential for promoting industrialization in the country, besides attracting foreign investors to invest in Pakistan. Earlier, the President distributed the RCCI awards among the highest taxpayers from the business community in different sectors, including retail, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, travel, construction, steel, poultry, and import sectors.

SHC restrains police from arresting Azam Swati in more cases

SUKKUR (INP): The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday restrained provincial police from arresting PTI Senator Azam Swati in additional cases while also seeking details of the cases already registered against him in the province.

The court’s directives were issued during a hearing on the plea filed by the senator’s son Usman Swati which sought to quash the charges registered against the PTI leader. Swati was arrested over a “highly obnoxious campaign of intimidating tweets against state institutions” by the Federal Investigation Agency on November 27 and has been in detention since and continues to face legal action. He is currently in the custody of Qambar Shahdakat police.

During today’s hearing, the petitioner’s lawyer contended that the

Balochistan High Court (BHC) had quashed all the cases registered against the senator in Balochistan. Justice Moham-mad Karim Khan Agha sought details of the cases against Swati from Sindh Inspector General Ghulam Nabi Memon, who was present during today’s hearing. He also questioned the registration of multiple cases in different cities under a single charge.

For his part, the Sindh prosecutor general sought more time from the court to gather the relevant information. However, Justice Agha turned down the request, saying no further time would be given and that the all relevant senior superintendents of police should be summoned to brief the court at the next hearing. “If all details are not furnished before the court, a case

would be registered against you,” the judge told the Sindh police chief. The court also sought the English transcripts of all FIRs registered against the senator in the province and adjourned the hearing till Dec 14 (Wednesday).

Swati was first arrested by the FIA on charges of posting controversial tweets about the armed forces in October and was later released on bail. The senator has alleged since that he was tortured in custody and demanded the removal of two military officials, one of whom he used foul language against in his tweet on November 26.

On November 27, the FIA arrested Swati for the second time over a “highly obnoxious campaign of intimidating tweets [.] against state institutions”.

Imran attack: ATC sends prime suspect on physical remand

GUJRANWALA (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Gujranwala has sent the prime suspect in the Imran Khan attack case on 10-day physical remand. As per details, the prime suspect Naveed Meher was presented before a special court of the ATC Gujranwala in the Imran Khan attack case.

The suspect will be presented before the court again on December 22. The joint investigation team (JIT) head

Ghulam Mehmood Dogar was also present in the court. The police told the court that a motorcycle was recovered from Naveed Meher, the prime suspect in the Imran’s attack case.

Earlier, the JIT formed to probe the attack on the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan had summoned Faisal Vawda. It is pertinent to mention here that Naveed Meher was arrested after opening

fire at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former premier Imran Khan on November 3 from the crime scene at Allahwala Chowk during the party’s long march. The First Information Report (FIR) of the gun attack incident had been registered on November 7. A joint investigation team - formed to probe the attack on PTI chief on November 3, has been constituted under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

‘Imran unlawfully attempts to impose his own will to treat every matter’

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Information, Transport and Mass Transit Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has said that the Chairman of Pakistan of Tehreek-e-Insaf, Imran Khan, insists upon imposing his own will unlawfully on every matter.

In a tweet on Monday, the minister slammed Imran Khan sarcastically and said: “My watches my

will. My Gogi my will. My helicopter my will.....” The Sindh Information Minister inquires whether Imran Khan treats Pakistan as his fiefdom.

Sharjeel Memon mentioned that Pakistan couldn’t be run at the will or whim of someone. He said that the state of Pakistan was blessed with a consensus document of the constitution in written form and no one in the country should consider himself

above the law. He predicted that very soon PTI Chairman would be in the grip of law. The Sindh Information Minister recalled that Imran Khan had also attempted to impose his own will in matters related to foreign currency accounts, money laundering, charitable donations, Peshawar BRT, Malam Jabba resort, by saying that all these belonged to him and would use them as per his own will.

PDM playing role for making country strong, stable: Fazl

QUETTA (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Democratic Movement and Central Ameer of Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Central Chairman of Pashtun Khawmli Awami Party (PkMAP) Mahmood Khan Achakzai said that PDM was playing the biggest role for making Pakistan strong and stable.

The past rulers destroyed the country’s economy and now under the leadership of PDM, Pakistan will be on the path of development and prosperity and the upcoming elections will be held on time and the current government can complete its term.

Early elections are not in the interest of the country and the nation. In the upcoming elections, all parties of PDM will contest the elections in the entire country from the same platform.

These views were expressed by Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman and Mahmood Khan Achakzai while discussing on the occasion of a special breakfast on behalf of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F Provincial Ameer and Federal Minister for Housing Works Maulana Abdul Wasay. On this occasion, the leaders of all the political and religious

parties belonging to the Balochistan level of PDM participated, including the senior vice president of the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) Malik Abdul Wali Kakar, Pakistan Muslim League (N) Balochistan provincial leader. President Jamal Shah Kakar, Agha Mahmood Shah, Maulana Kamaluddin, Haji Ghosullah Achakzai, Provincial Information Secretary Dilawar Khan Kakar, Assembly members Asghar Tareen, Abdul Wahid Siddique and other officials and workers participated. Maulana Fazlur Rahman said that a person was brought to power under a regular plan before the 2018 elections in Pakistan that person was destroying the new generation and was shouting for early conducting general election saying that Imran Khan was launched under the agenda, the planners had decided to impose it on the state.

The results are there for all to see, Imran Khan was an experiment launched in 2012-13, it was a misguided and disastrous experiment, he started selling watches, kits and chicks to the people, people were put on kits and chicks and Imran Khan used to say that he will break the assemblies for selling

watches to Murshid, he added.

He said that nowadays, Imran Khan was trusting Pervaiz Elahi for breaking the Punjab Assembly, and tomorrow he would say that he made a mistake by trusting Parvaiz Elahi.

He said that according to its manifesto, JUI-F considers every province as the owner of its resources, small provinces have to recognize their rights for the saving of the state and peace was indispensable for the stability of the country. A comprehensive policy has to be formulated to make Pakistan stand on its own feet, he said and added that the Holy Quran was the greatest guarantor of humans and the great powers have set the standard of democracy according to themselves. He said that we had already decided that the army should remain neutral, according to our opinion, all the citizens of Pakistan have equal rights, and it needed to be implemented. He said that the Pakistan-China friendship was sabotaged in 2014 when it turned into an economic partnership saying that he would make Pakistan the cradle of peace, there were international conspiracies against Pakistan which would be foiled for the interest of the country, he maintained.

SHC sets free Perween murder accused again

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court on Monday accepted the appeals of Perween Rehman murder case accused and ordered the Sindh police to release them. The court declared the MPO order null and void and directed the police to set free the detained accused.

Sindh IG police Ghulam Nabi Memon appeared before the court. Justice Karim Khan Agha who was hearing the appeals filed by the accused asked the IGP under which law the police detained them when the accused had already been acquitted by the same court. “Did they go to Orangi Town after their release from the court,” the judge asked the IG police.

IG Memon replied in negative saying that the police had got some intelligence reports. Expressing its exasperation, the court asked the IGP who told him about the intelligence reports. Justice Agha remarked that the court would not accept any excuse in this regard, rebuking the police that they were saying that the accused were criminals but not bringing any evident against them.

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