

LONDON (INP): Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Hamza Shahbaz Sharif on Wednesday reached London. During his tour, the former Punjab chief minister is due to hold meetings with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz.

@thefrontierpost

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

AL KHOR: Defending champion France will face Argentina in FIFA world cup 2022 after defeating Morocco by two goals. Hernandez scoring first goal in 5th minute gave the lead to his team. Kolomuania scored the 2nd goal in 79 minute of the second half. Morocco have had comfortably more position against France. Final will be held on 18 December.

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIX

No. 327

Regd. No. 241

JAMADI-UL-AWAAL 20 1444 -- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 2022

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

Price. 20

Pakistan wants establishment of energy, rail, road connectivity with CARs: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan wanted the establishment of energy, rail and road connectivity with the diverse energy resources rich Central Asian Republics (CARs) for the development and prosperity of the entire region.

During a joint press stakeout with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, the prime minister said Pakistan desired early completion of the Central Asia-South Asia (CASA-1000) power project to meet its energy needs. He said Pakistan had been the first country that established ties with Tajikistan some 31 years back. Since then both countries had been enjoying excellent cordial and friendly ties.

Pakistan wanted to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation and ties in all

PM, Tajik president hold one-on-one meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon held a one-on-one here at the PM's House and discussed matters of bilateral interest.

fields including energy, trade, joint ventures in agriculture and food etc, he added. Prime Minister Sharif further said Pakistan attached immense importance to its bilateral ties with Tajikistan as it was a gateway to the CARs.

He informed that they held very productive meetings to further strengthen the bilateral relations and promote trade, investment and culture between the people of two brotherly nations. The prime minister expressed the hope that

In the meeting, the two sides discussed regional and international issues besides focusing on strengthening their ties in diverse fields. Later, the two leaders led the delegation-level talks.

Tajik President Emomali Rahmon's visit to Pakistan would usher in new era of cooperation and development between the two countries. He also welcomed the Tajik president and his delegation and said that the people of Pakistan were overwhelmed with joy and pleasure over their visit.

President Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, reciprocating the warm feelings for the government and people of Pakistan, said that his country attached high priority to its ties with Pakistan.

He said both countries had been making joint efforts to further promote the friendly ties and expressed the optimism that the MoUs signed between the two countries would give new impetus to these relations.

He said during their delegation-level deliberations, they had discussed government-to-government level contacts, security, economic situation, global economic decay, energy and connectivity activities and linking of port city of Karachi.

He said that both countries had useful exchange of views on CASA-1000, cooperation in agriculture, energy connectivity, joint ventures in food technology, trade, science and technology and cooperation between the business communities of the two countries.

President Rahmon further said that both countries shared commonalities which served to further strengthen these ties.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon sign Joint Communiqué of the visit of Tajik President to Pakistan.

US religious freedom violators listing 'biased & politicised': Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has rejected the United States' listing of Pakistan as a state of "particular concern" over religious freedoms and pointed out its bias as to how India has escaped the list.

The US, in November, had grouped Pakistan along with 11 other countries, including China, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and North Korea, as being states that were "engaged in or (have) tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom".

"It does seem that this is a slightly biased and politicised list," Bilawal Zardari told Channel News Asia in an interview during his official visit to Singapore, posted on its website on Wednesday. "Otherwise I do wonder why India is not on the list when its human rights, particularly religious freedom for their Muslim minority" had been a source of concern internationally, he said.

"Another ally of the US in the Middle East ... which perpetuates curbs against (its) Muslim minority (and) Palestine" also did not make the

list, FM Bilawal added, referring to Israel. Nonetheless, he acknowledged Pakistan's longstanding issues with religious extremism and violence, and pledged his government's commitment to tackle them.

"(We) don't need America to point out the problems that we in Pakistan face with religious extremism, with terrorism. That is a cause that is dear to my heart," he added.

Bilawal said, "We're absolutely cognizant of the challenges we face. And we're serious about facing those challenges. Not because the United States said so or anybody else (said so). It's because we believe that's important for the future of our country." On India, he said the country had changed for the worse.

"The India I grew up with ... it was the largest democracy in the world. It was a secular country, home to all its citizens - Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists. Unfortunately, the India I see today is not the India I recognise growing up.

"This is an increasingly fascist India. It is hostile to Muslims outside

its borders and within its borders, it is hostile to the Christians within its borders," he added.

On the Ukraine issue, Bilawal said although he sympathised with Ukraine, Pakistan had its own issues to deal with and did not want to be involved in other conflicts.

"There is too much misery going around in my own neighbourhood for us to be driven to engage with what is of course a devastating situation being carried out in Ukraine." The foreign minister termed Pakistan's relationship with China "very comprehensive", with much economic potential.

"We've seen a commitment to incredible economic opportunity in our engagement with China. For example, with the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), we have seen our communication and energy infrastructure really come up in the last decade," he said. "We call ourselves all-weather strategic partners, and we pride ourselves on the history of our relationship with China. There's a lot of economic potential for us to unlock," Bilawal added.

IHC to hear plea for Khan's disqualification on 20th

ISLAMABAD (TLTP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has fixed for hearing a petition seeking the disqualification of former premier Imran Khan as a lawmaker for "concealing" his alleged daughter in his nomination papers. The IHC's Registrar Office has issued cause-list showing that the date of hearing of aforementioned case is December 20.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq had issued a pre-admission notice to the PTI chief and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on December 9 in the petition of a citizen Sajid Mehmood, asking their coun-

sels to help the court decide if the petition is maintainable. The petitioner is seeking the disqualification of the PTI chief, an MNA from the NA-95 Mianwali-I constituency, contending that all candidates contesting elections for either national or provincial assemblies are required to furnish an affidavit with respect of their credentials and assets.

He said one such information is about the children who are dependent on a candidate, and in this regard, Imran had wrongly mentioned two children - "Qasim Khan and Sulaiman Khan" - and had omitted the third. "The respondent no. 1 [Imran

Khan] has deliberately and willfully failed to declare his daughter Tyan White in the relevant columns of the nomination papers and the affidavit appended therewith, hence he is not sagacious, righteous, honest and a man of good character in terms of Article 62 of the Constitution," according to the petition.

It continued that "Article 62 of the Constitution, as interpreted by various judgments of the superior courts, prescribes that a candidate shall only qualify to be elected as a member of the National Assembly if he is of good character and is not

SC adjourns PTI's petition against NAB law amendments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing till the second week of January (2023) of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's petition against amendments in the NAB law.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, who was heading the three-member bench which heard the petition, observed that many cases with regard to the resignations of PTI lawmakers were pending, but the court should not comment on political matters.

The CJ said joining the parliament or not was the political decision of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). There was a need that all institutions should be functional. How the parliament could be functional in the absence of a big political party, he added.

Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan observed that no National Assembly constituency could be left vacant. The PTI's members were receiving salaries without attending NA sessions, while the party argued that the assembly was incomplete, he added.

He further observed that the IHC had asked the PTI MNAs to appear before NA Speaker for verification of their resignations. It was a constitutional matter instead of a political one. He asked why the PTI had not approached the court if the resignations of its members were not being accepted. Whether the party was ready if the speaker accepted the resignations in four days, he remarked.

NAB to not challenge Maryam, Safdar's acquittal in Avenfield case

RAWALPINDI (INP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has decided to not challenge the acquittal of PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz and her husband retired Captain (Safdar) in the Avenfield graft case.

NAB Rawalpindi Director General Farmanullah has approved the decision to not move courts against their acquittal. A written order in this regard has also been issued by the anti-graft watchdog. In September last, the Islamabad High

Court (IHC) annulled sentences awarded by an accountability court to Maryam Nawaz and her husband in the corruption case.

During the hearing, Justice Amir Farooq had remarked that an assets beyond means case could not be made against the PML-N vice president by the NAB since she was not a public office holder. IHC Justice Amir Farooq underscored that the NAB had failed to prove Avenfield case against the PML-N leaders, and the

court acquitted the PML-N leader and her husband of the charges.

In July 2018, the accountability court had sentenced Maryam to seven years in prison and imposed a fine of two million pounds on her. Safdar was sentenced to one year in prison. The couple was later released on bail, after which they challenged their sentence in the IHC. While, the PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif had been sentenced to 10 years in prison in the Avenfield reference case.

Imran Khan making desperate attempts to get NRO: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's mayhem, whining, and shrieking were meant to get a National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) like a concession to save his skin in the corruption cases.

"The people know what the two parties (PML-N and PPP) have done, and what the PTI has done for them and the country. It all has been fully exposed before the nation," she said in a news statement while reacting to the PTI chief's remarks.

The minister asked Imran Khan why he did not prove even a single allegation of corruption levelled by him against political opponents. "Why did he fail to produce evidence before the courts to justify his allegations?" she questioned. Marriyum dared Imran Khan to tell the people how he had pushed the country into the economic quagmire while looting the national exchequer with impunity. It was a question mark as to why he was in a hurry or so much worried (for election).

She said the PTI leader seemed to be 'mentally disturbed' as he was naming his opponents as thieves and also calling upon his workers to strive for the 'Haqqeqi Azadi' (real freedom). The real freedom would only be achieved

when the country would get rid of the "conspiratorial Fitna", she added "Old habits do not die so easily," she said while referring to Imran Khan's failure to decide the date for the dissolution of provincial assemblies.

Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said Imran Khan-led government had closed down several projects of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's previous government and even renamed some of them which were inaugurated by the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

"The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime changed the name of the PML-N's era Youth Programme with Kamyab Jawan Programme and shelved 80 per cent of its projects," she said while addressing a news conference flanked by Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja. Nawaz Sharif, as the prime minister, had launched the Prime Minister's Youth Programme in 2013 to provide employment opportunities to young people, she added.

"No ruler can achieve the objective of development by affixing their own nameplates on the existing projects," the minister said sarcastically. The projects became successful if the same were launched with a focus on people's wel-



fare, she added. Marriyum said the PTI government would not have sent its political opponents to death cells in jails by filing fake cases if it had anything to do with political norms and values. She said the nation fully knew how the PTI government ruined the national economy during its four-year tenure. It would have been better for the country had Imran Khan invited the heads of international firms to the Prime Minister's House instead of (Daily Mail's) David Rose to hatch a conspiracy against PM Shehbaz Sharif.

Imran says to announce Punjab, KP assemblies dissolution on Dec 17

LAHORE (NNI): Former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said he will make the announcement to dissolve Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies on Dec 17.

Addressing the people through a video link, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan said that there will be no more consultation on the matter of assemblies as he had taken the opinion of all the party leaders.

He said that the assembly will be dissolved this month and the date of the dissolution will be made public during his address to the people at Liberty Chowk Lahore on December 17. It is pertinent to mention here that PTI will stage a power show at Liberty Chowk in Lahore on Saturday, (December 17), in which party chief Imran Khan is also anticipated to announce the party's future course of action.

"I have completed consultations

with the party leaders and we have decided that in a gathering at Lahore's Liberty Chowk, I will give my nation the date for the dissolution of the KP and Punjab assemblies," he asserted. The former premier observed that the dissolution of assemblies would pave the way for elections.

He observed that the law says that as soon as assemblies are dissolved, elections should be held within 90 days. "So on Dec 17, I will give the date and after that 70 percent of the country will go into election mode," he added. "Simultaneously, our 123-125 National Assembly members whose resignations have not been accepted will ask the speaker inside the assembly to accept their resignations," he added.

He lamented that country's leaders are corrupt and convicts. "They do not care about what happens to

Pakistan and when bad times take over the country, they will exit the country," he said.

The former prime minister refuted a general perception about him and said that he was not asking anyone for help, he wanted the establishment to be neutral and its prestige to rise.

"During the tenure of Gen (r) Qamar Bajwa, the distance between the establishment and the people increased," he observed.

Lamenting his helplessness, the ex-prime minister - who was voted out in April through a no-confidence motion - said when he was in power, former army chief General (retired) Qamar Javed Bajwa asked him to focus on the economy and not accountability. "Gen (ret'd) Bajwa told me to grant NRO II to the then-opposition when [the government had to pass laws related to the] Financial Action Task Force.

CM KP formally performed the ground breaking of three mega development projects

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has formally performed the ground breaking of three mega development projects in Peshawar under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project (KPCIP) which would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs.4 billion cumulatively. These projects include Improvement and Rehabilitation of Water Supply System, extension and improvement of Bagh-e-Naran Park and establishment of Besai Park at Hayatabad Peshawar.

The inaugural ceremony of the projects was held at Bagh-e-Naran Peshawar on Wednesday with the Chief Minister Mahmood Khan as the chief guest. Provincial Ministers Faisal Amin Gandapur, Taimur Saleem Jhagra Ishtiaq Urmur, members of provincial assembly, Commissioner Peshawar and high ups of relevant provincial departments also attended the ceremony.

According to the details, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of a mega project regarding Improvement & Rehabilitation of Water Supply System in Peshawar which would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.8 billion. Under

the project, multiple construction and rehabilitation activities would be carried out including Rehabilitation of existing Overhead Water Reservoirs, Construction of New Water Reservoirs, replacement of 155 Km long water distribution network and installation of new household connections and water meters. Reconstruction and rehabilitation of tube wells linked to the overhead water reservoirs and solarization of the existing tube wells is also a part of this project. Similarly, the extension of Bagh-e-Naran would be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 535 million under which multiple facilities including jogging and cycling tracks, skating zone for the children, open air gym, recreational facilities, family area and playground would be established. Besides urban foresting, rose garden and provision of other allied facilities are also included in the project.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony, the Chief Minister said that Cities Improvement Project is worth Rs. 130 billion which on completion would prove to be a game changer in streamlining the municipal services and allied facilities in the major cities of the province. He added that after untiring efforts for

four years, the project has been put on ground. He made it clear that the provincial government has framed its development strategy keeping in view the available resources and requirements of general public in the different regions of the province. All the commitments made by PTI Chairman Imran Khan are being fulfilled one by one, he said and added that the provincial government believes in the investment on human capital and improving the quality of life for its citizens.

Mahmood Khan stated that the incumbent provincial government has established a model of sustainable development in the province with special focus on Peshawar which is the back bone of the province.

The government is also working to make this province a hub of trade and transit in the region for which work on various motorways has been initiated. Construction work has started on Swat Motorway Phase-2 after the successful completion of Phase 1. Furthermore, the Dir motorway followed by linking of Chitral and Gilgit Baltistan through road networks will prove to be a major game changer in promoting tourism and making the province a center for regional trade and commerce.



UAE Consulate organizes Thalassaemia awareness event

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The United Arab Emirates consulate in Karachi on Wednesday organized an event on Thalassaemia awareness with the support of Afzaal memorial Thalassaemia foundation. Provincial Minister Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon and Provincial Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah attended the event. Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Karachi H.E Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi was also present on the occasion. Renowned actor Javed Sheikh, well-known industrialist Zubair Motiwala, citizens of Karachi also attended the ceremony.

Speaking at the event, Provincial Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon praised the efforts of Afzaal Thalassaemia Foundation and added that the foundation is serving patients suffering from diseases like thalassaemia



across the province. The minister thanked the UAE government and especially the consul general H.E

Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi. He added that the UAE Consulate is engaged in welfare work in Sindh. Provincial Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said that today's important event of awareness on thalassaemia has been organized at the UAE Consulate. He said that thalassaemia is a fatal disease, which is spreading rapidly, there is a need to provide free treatment facilities to the patients.

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said that he is grateful to the government of the United Arab Emirates and prays that Allah Almighty increases the courage of the supporters of Afzaal Foundation so that the free treatment facilities for Thalassaemia patients continue. UAE Consul General H.E Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi said that Pakistan is our second home, the UAE government will continue to serve the people of Pakistan. At the end of ceremony, UAE Consul General H.E Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi presented commemorative shields to the provincial ministers.



LAHORE: MNA Shaista Pervez Malik is addressing the Lahore Workers Convention of PML-N in Model Town.

Baldia Town factory inferno: Demolition of building begins

KARACHI (INP): Demolition of the factory building in Karachi's Baldia Town has started, which was the location of an arson attack on September 11, 2012, that claimed 264 lives of factory workers. The Sindh Building Control Authority had declared the factory building as dangerous after the fire incident and ordered its demolition.

An anti-terrorism court in Karachi had awarded death sentence to two MQM accused Abdul Rehman alias Bhola and Zubair aka Charya in Baldia factory fire case. The anti-terrorism court, in its verdict, acquitted Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Rauf Siddiqui. The verdict was announced after eight years of the terrorism inci-

dent in 2020.

Three gatekeepers of the factory, Fazal Mehmood, Arshad Mehmood, Ali Mohammad, and manager Shahrukh were handed life imprisonment for abetment. Former in-charge of MQM's Karachi Tanzeem Committee Hammad Siddiqui and Ali Hassan Qadri were declared proclaimed offenders.

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA) CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF 0.3 MGD SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT AT NEW GWADAR INT'L AIRPORT, GWADAR.

1. Referring to the tender notice published in the leading newspapers including daily Dwan and Daily JANG as well as on PCAA and PPRA websites on **26th October 2022** for the subject Project.

2. The Date for obtaining the documents and submission/ Opening of Bidding Documents for subject work is extended to **29th & 30th December 2022**, respectively. The time for submission and opening and all other terms & conditions of the Tender Notice published earlier shall remain the same.

DIRECTOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY, B-6, KDA SCHEME NO.1, KARSAN, SHAHRA-E-FAISAL KARACHI
TEL: 021-34370374 EMAIL: DIRECTOR.PDEV@caapakistan.com.pk
PID/K#1695/22 www.caapakistan.com.pk

NOTICE OF TENDERS

1 Application are invited for provision of following furniture works from Contractors / Firms borne on the approved list of QMG / Formation & Garrison Commander:-

Ser	Name of Works	Estimated cost	Completion Period	Date of receipt of Applications for bidding / Tenders	Date & Time of Closing of Tender	Date and Time of Opening of Tender
a	Provision of Office Furniture against Dft - Gar HQ Kohat (Job No. 1643 of 2022-23)	1977060/-	Two Months	21-12-2022 At 01:00 PM	30-12-2022 At 11:30 AM	30-12-2022 At 12:30 AM
b	Provision of Unit Furniture against Dft - Gar HQ Kohat (Job No. 1648 of 2022-23)	1971072/-	Two Months	22-12-2022 At 01:00 PM	02-01-2023 At 11:30 AM	02-01-2023 At 12:30 AM

Contractors / Manufacturers borne on the approved list of Central, Provincial, PWD and Railway who have broad based manufacturing setup can also apply alongwith Rs. 1000/- earnest money in the shape Treasury Chalan (for each tender), proof of their being on list approved contractor and detail of furniture work carried out during last two years. Interested firms are requested to forward their applications for issuing of bidding / tender documents to **Garrison Furniture Yard C/O HQ 9 Div Kohat Cantt** as per above mentioned schedule. Incomplete applications / tender will not be entertained. The tender notice is also available at PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk

Lt Col, AA & QMG (Gar) (Javed Iqbal)

Sarhad Cigarette Industries (Pvt) Ltd
Akbarabad, Nawar Killi, Distt: Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan

The Following revise Rates of our Brands are applicable From 1st December 2022

Brand Name	Packing	Retail price	Sales Tax	Total price
Style KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Boss Soft Cup	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Silver Gold KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Omega KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Big Boss KFS	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Channel-5 KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Dollar KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Euro KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Boss KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Relax KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Globe KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Canton KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Manhattan KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Captain KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88
Super KSF	20,S	64.00	10.88	74.88

Tel:(0938)311553,311303,530320 Fax: (0938) 530148

RESERVE SUPPLY DEPOT ASC PESHAWAR CANTONMENT

TENDER NOTICE

1. Reserve Supply Depot Army Service Corps, Peshawar Cantonment invites sealed quotations from all government contractors for provision of materials for development / upgradation of this depot out of budget allotment for FY 2022 / 2023.

2. Quotations will be deposited in envelopes named as "CO RSD ASC Peshawar Cantt"

3. All quotations / bids will be submitted latest by **06 January 2023 at 1400 hours** and will be opened in the presence of all bidders on **06 January 2023 at 14:30 hours** in Commanding Officer, RSD office.

4. The Commanding Officer, Reserve Supply Depot Army Service Corps Peshawar Cantonment reserves the right to reject any or all quotations / bids at any time by assigning plausible reasons to the bidders.

5. List of goods and other related information may be obtained from Reserve Supply Depot, Army Service Corps Peshawar Cantonment during working hours.

Mob No: 0345-4888423 - 0345-9309446

Wafaqi Mohtasib of Pakistan held a press conference at Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat

F.P Report

KARACHI: Ejaz Ahmad

but also we try our best to implement it within 1 to 3 months. Our decisions are

without asking them any lawyer or legal expenses that they may pay for their



Qureshi, Wafaqi Mohtasib (OMBUDSMAN) of Pakistan held a press conference at Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat Karachi today. He said that the role of media in sensitising public regarding their rights and the solutions to their problems is very important as the media has been the fourth pillar of state. He further said that he is proud to serve the Wafaqi Mohtasib more than 10 years and this department is transparent and corruption free.

While apprising the registration and disposal of cases at Wafaqi Mohtasib, Wafaqi Mohtasib said that when he joined services in Wafaqi Mohtasib during 2009, the number of registered cases was approximately 20000, while approximately 106000 cases have been registered this year so far. Our main concern is not only to dispose the case within 60 days,

almost 99% implemented, he added. Mr. Qureshi said that overseas Pakistanis are great assets of Pakistan as they contribute major source of income in the growth of this country. Therefore, Wafaqi Mohtasib has established special wing to facilitate overseas Pakistanis at airports as they have been countering many issues at airports. Our vision is to serve the downtrodden public especially in the case of NADRA, K-Electric, EOBI, Utility Stores Corporation and other organizations that are jurisdiction of Wafaqi Mohtasib.

Addressing to a question, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi said that the most of the complaints registered at Wafaqi Mohtasib are against electricity companies due to a very huge number of clientage. But we have tried our best to provide speedy and cost free Justice to Public

redressal at other available options to them.

Court Notice

In the Court of Abdul Haleem Civil Judge V /Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No 352/1, Institution 29/9/2022. Date of hearing, 10/1/2023. Said Rehman VS Islam Ali. Declaration Suit, Notice to no 1.Islam Ali s/o Amer Jawal Khan. 5.Mumtaz Ali s/o Gul Madad resident of Agarai thesels Mandan 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 duly authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 10/1/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

SAIDU TEACHING HOSPITAL, SAIDU SHARIF, SWAT JUNIOR REGISTRAR'S VACANCIES

Applications are invited for the following posts of Junior Registrar in Saidu Teaching Hospital Swat. All those who are eligible should submit their applications along with relevant documents/CV and first appointment order to this office up to 05/01/2023. Interview will be held on 10/01/2023 at 09:00 AM in the same office. Now TA/DA will be permissible.

S.No.	Posts	Vacancy
1.	Junior Registrar Ophthalmology	02
2.	Junior Registrar Dermatology	01
3.	Junior Registrar Orthopedics	02
4.	Junior Registrar Paeds	03
5.	Junior Registrar Psychiatry	01
6.	Junior Registrar Gynae/OBS	03
7.	Junior Registrar Surgery	03
8.	Junior Registrar ENT	02
9.	Junior Registrar Medicine	03
10.	Junior Registrar Cardiology	01
11.	Junior Registrar Radiology	01
12.	Junior Registrar Anaesthesia	04
13.	Junior Registrar Gastroenterology	01
14.	Junior Registrar Nephrology	01
15.	Junior Registrar Neurosurgery	01
16.	Junior Registrar Paeds Surgery	01
17.	Junior Registrar Plastic Surgery	01
18.	Junior Registrar Pulmonology	01

NOTE:- those who have already carried out Junior Registrar ship, are not eligible.

CRITERIA.

- Regular Doctor... BPS-17
- Preference will be given to those who have completed periphery service. (Periphery service certificate obtained from Director General Health Services, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar, should be attached).

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
SGTH, Saidu Sharif Swat

www.khyberpakhtunkhwa.gov.pk

Our Faith Corruption Free Pakistan INF(P)7007/2022

VACANCIES DETAIL

Online applications are invited for the following posts from Pakistani citizens having domicile of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the following posts, fulfilling the given criteria as per detail below:

S.#	Name of Post	No. of Posts	Age	Qualification/ Eligibility Criteria
01	Office Assistant (BPS-16)	Zone II= 01 Female Quota = 01 Total = 02	20-32 Years	At least Second Class Bachelor's Degree from a recognized University.
02	Computer Operator (BPS-16)	Merit = 01 Zone 1 = 01 Zone 2 = 01 Zone 3 = 01 Female = 01 Total = 05	20-30 Years	a) At least Second Class Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / Information Technology (BCS/BIT 4 years) or M.Sc in Computer Science (two years) from a recognized University; or b) at least Second Class Bachelor's Degree from a recognized University with one year Diploma in Information Technology (IT) from a recognized Board of Technical Education.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Candidates will be provisionally allowed to appear in the ETEA screening test. However detailed scrutiny will be carried out by the appointing authority and if any candidate is found ineligible in any respect at any stage of the recruitment process, he/she will be disqualified by the appointing authority.
- Interview calls letter will be issued to short listed candidates only.
- The ETEA test will only be considered for initial short listing and its test scores will have no role in the selection process. Recruitment will only be done purely under the government rules/policy.
- Candidates should be eligible in all respects by the last date of receipt of the applications, i.e. 10/01/2023
- Incomplete applications and applications received after due dates will not be entertained.
- Relaxation of age will be admissible as per existing Govt. Rules.
- The candidates working in Government/Semi-Government bodies should apply through proper channel.
- Candidates intending to apply for more than one post shall apply separately for each post with separate fee.
- Number of vacancies can be increased/decreased.
- Competent Authority reserves the right to cancel/reject any application with assigning reason.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for test/Interview.
- All government servants will provide departmental permission certificate at the time of interview.
- In case of foreign degree, equivalent certificates from HEC must be provided.
- Waiting list will only be valid for three months after completion of recruitment process.
- After recruitment, the credentials of selected candidates will be verified by the concerned institutions and all the expenses of which will be borne by the candidate himself.
- If the Information / documents / diploma degree or certificate provided by a candidate during selection process at any stage is proved to be fake, false or inaccurate, not only will the application / appointment of the candidate concerned be considered canceled but legal action under the rules will be initiated against the candidate.
- One (01) Year, Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) from a government recognized Board of Technical Education for the post of Computer Operator (BPS-16) will be accepted. Diploma from any other Board will be not be acceptable.
- Experience from government/Public sector/ Autonomous body will only be considered during selection process.
- Such shortlisted candidates will only be entitled for experience marks, who provide relevant valid documents like appointment order, termination order and last pay slip duly signed by the concerned government/Public sector/ Autonomous body with their experience certificate.
- Errors/Omissions in number of posts are subject to rectification.

HOW TO APPLY

- Interested candidates may first visit www.etea.edu.pk and apply for the posts online.
- After successful submission of online application, a prescribed UBL online deposit slip (having token number, Project code & candidates personal information) will be generated.
- Take a printout of the generated UBL deposit slip & deposit Rs. 500/- (for BPS-16 & below) and Rs. 700/- (for BPS-17 & above) as test fee (nonrefundable) in any branch of UBL Bank or at UBL OMNI agent on that prescribed printed deposit slip of UBL.
- After successful fee submission, please keep the original deposit slip (candidate copy) having bank desired stamp with yourself and do not share it with anyone else.
- After online apply, don't send documents/testimonials to ETEA office, copies of testimonials/documents will however, be provided by the candidates who qualify the screening test, as and when required by ETEA or the appointing authority for scrutiny purposes.
- Availability of online Application Form on www.etea.edu.pk on 20/12/2022
- Last date for submission of online Application is 10/01/2023.
- Candidates will be informed through SMS by ETEA to download and Print their Roll No. Slips from www.etea.edu.pk. Candidates are directed to do not give ported/converted mobile number.
- Test Date, Time & Venue will be mentioned on Roll No. Slip.
- No separate Call Letter will be issued to candidates for screening test through postal/courier means.

NOTE/IMPORTANT

- Please keep your documents and passport size scanned picture (soft copy) with you at the time of online applies.
- Read the instructions thoroughly before filling the online application form.
- ETEA shall verify deposited fee at any stage. If your payment is not verified, your candidature shall be rejected.
- Fee deposited on someone else CNIC shall not be verified.
- Unclaimed qualification will not be accepted.
- Keep the bank printed receipt safe with yourself and do not share it with anyone else.
- Applications of all those candidates who do not give correct information while filling the online application form, will not be rejected only, but would be proceeded against and strict action shall be taken against them.

Chief Conservator Wildlife
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar

INF(P) 6981/22



Efforts being made to make CNICs of transgenders to use right of vote: JPEC

PESHAWAR (APP): Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Elections) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Javed Rehmat Khan on Wednesday seeking cooperation of NADRA and Social Welfare Department said that efforts were being made to make the identity card of transgenders so that they could use right to vote in general elections.

Addressing a meeting here regarding issuances of CNIC to transgenders and their registration for casting vote, he said that the Election Commission of Pakistan is determined to

continue efforts to increase the participation of all the deprived sections of society including eunuchs in the elections.

He said support of all line departments and civil society was very imperative in this regard adding that vote is a very important part of a democratic system as participation of each and every individual in it was equally important for strengthening of the democratic process and prosperity of the country.

Earlier, Shawana Shah and Ayesha, a transgender gave a detailed briefing

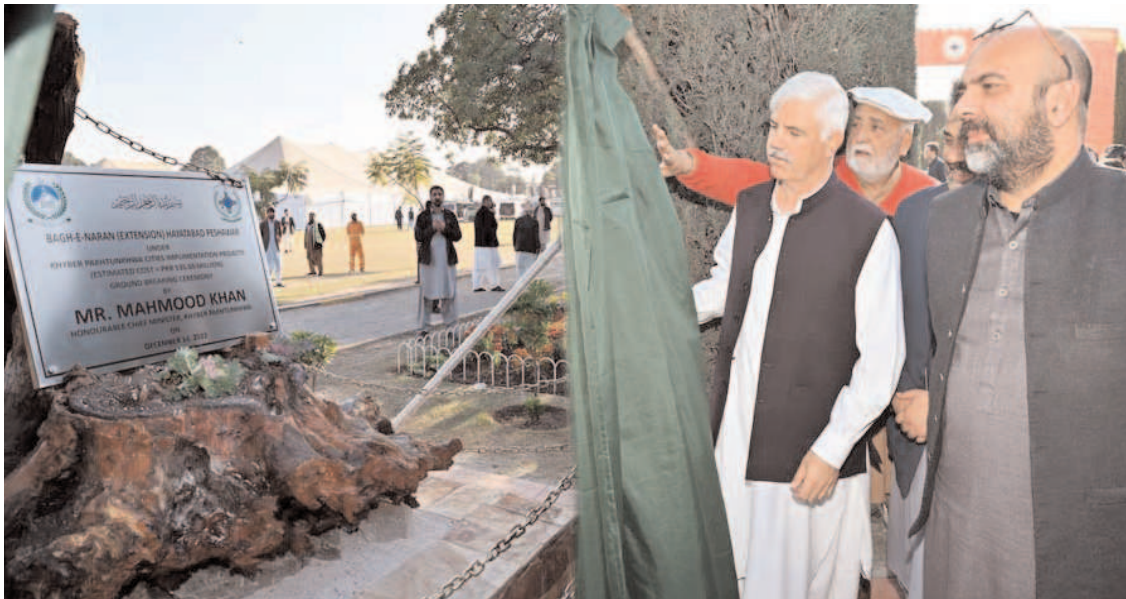
regarding the registration of eunuchs. It was proposed in the meeting that a joint counter of NADRA and Social Welfare Department should be established for the convenience of eunuchs.

They also presented their views and offered suggestions. Director Election Zulfiqar Ahmed said that a special meeting of Nadra Social Welfare and District Election Commissioner Peshawar would be called soon to resolve the issue of registration of this community.

The meeting was organized by “Da Hawa Lor” (Daughter of Eve), a non

governmental organisation, Director Local Government Elections Zulfiqar Ahmed, Spokesperson Provincial Election Commissioner KP Sohail Ahmed, Assistant Director Social Inclusion Syed Aun Ahmed Naqvi, Shawana Shah of Da Hawa Lor, Ayesha, transgenders Arzoo and Farzana of Manzil Foundation and other eunuchs participated in the meeting.

The participants of the meeting called for joint efforts to resolve the problems of trans-community and to devise effective strategies for their welfare.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan performing groundbreaking of Bagh-Naran Extension Project under KP-CIP at Hayatabad.

KP PA directs for activation of community schools

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly's Standing Committee on Planning & Development Department, Mohammad Shafiq Afridi has directed the concerned authorities of the Elementary & Secondary Education Department to activate community schools across the province.

Presiding over a meeting of the panel here on Wednesday, he has also directed Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) to take steps for resolution

of the electricity related problems in the newly merged districts to further ensure the promotion of education.

Besides, MPAs Sardar Hussain Babak, Zafar Azam and Pakhtun Yar Khan, the Additional Secretary P&D, Deputy Secretaries KP Assembly, Directors Jabba & Bara Dam, Superintending Engineer Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, district Khyber, Chief Engineers North & South, Deputy Director Small Dams and

other concerned officials also attended meeting.

The meeting reviewed in detail the Project Policy 2018, Regularized Projects, Jabba & Bara Dams (Khyber), Kehala Dam (Mansehra), floods preventive schemes, drinking water schemes in district Kurram, Water Supply Scheme Khojri (Bannu) and education sector schemes in the newly merged districts in detail.

The meeting expressed unanimity regarding approval and awareness

about projects from the forum of District Development Advisory Committee (DDAC).

The chairman of the committee issued directives for ensuring timely recruitments in educational institutions and directed for furnishing details regarding objections of the members of the committee relating to Government Post-Graduate College, Takht Nusrati (Karak) and Government High School, Sarmast Mira Khel in the upcoming meeting of the panel.



PESHAWAR: Provincial president of ANP Aimal Wali Khan meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali at Governor's House.

KTH employee's promotion ceremony held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A total of 15 employees were promoted to the clerical side from grade 4 to grade 11& 16. Hospital Director Dr. Zafar Afridi congratulates all the employees and said that KTH Management is very possessive about employee rights and takes care of its employees in every aspect and this promotional ceremony is a prove.

Furthermore, Hospital Director advises the employees to work honestly and qualify your probation period

successfully and don't misbehave with patients and tackle problems with your interpersonal skills, you people are responsible for the organization's reputation. Furthermore, he said that the staff will be given one-week training.

Medical Director Asst. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Siraj also congratulates the staff and said that it's a happy moment along with great responsibility and everybody has their own role to put their efforts into our vision.

Dr. Saud Islam Malik

was delighted with the staff promotions and congratulates them he stated that the ward clerk is a very responsible post and that you people will be liaison officers and coordinate effectively with other departments for smooth operational activities. Moreover, he said that there is 33% of quota for grade 4, and will be adjusted as per their test score results.

A happy employee is a highly motivated employee. We hope that this promotion will show you how much we value your efforts and contributions.

Spurious drug manufacturing unit raided, fake medicines recovered

PESHAWAR (APP): A team of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Directorate General Drug Control and Pharmacy Services Wednesday raided a drug manufacturing unit and recovered spurious medicines of various brands.

According to details, a team of drug control department led by Chief Drug Inspector conducted raid a service station near Tore Kabai Dalazak Road and recovered machinery and packaging material being used in manufacturing of fake drugs.

Spurious drugs of various brands and names including Coferb Syrup, Velosef, Risek, Zicon DS and Nitrofurantoin were also recovered during the raid.

The culprits were arrested on the spot and cases have been registered against them under Medicine Act 1976. Health authorities said that raids would be continued in future and elements involved in manufacturing and packaging of fake medicines would be dealt strictly.

10 arrested during operation

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration here Wednesday conducted a grand anti-encroachment operation on Khyber Teaching Hospital Road and arrested 10 people for resisting the action.

The action was taken by the Assistant Commissioner University Town, Sayyeda Zainab Naqvi, DSP Traffic, Hazrat Ullah and the demolition staff of the Director West.

According to the administration, the anti-encroachment officials also confiscated scores of encroached items and imposed fines on vehicle owners during the operation.

During the operation encroached structures were also demolished and 10 people were taken into custody for resistance. Several vehicle owners were fined for parking their vehicles on roads.

The AC University Town warned the shopkeepers to avoid encroachments so that people may not face problems while passing through the busy road. The shopkeepers were also directed not to block the footpaths otherwise stern action would be initiated against the violators.

Zahoor posted as SSP Coordination

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police chief on Wednesday posted Zahoor Babar (PSP) BPS-18 as the Senior Superintendent of Police Coordination CCP Peshawar. A notification issued by the Central Police Office said that through exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Act 2017, the provincial police officer has transferred Zahoor Babar (PSP), BS-18, Additional Inspector General of Police (AIG) Newly Merged Areas, and posted him as SSP Coordination CCP Peshawar upon completion of 35th MCMC.

CPSP team visited KMU for FCPS Training



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The College of Physicians and Surgeon (CPSP) Karachi inspection team visited Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar. The purpose of the visit was to review and approve the facilities required for FCPS training in the subjects of Public Health (Community Medicine), Anatomy, Biochemistry, and Physiology at KMU.

The inspection team consisted of Prof. Dr. Waqar Alam Jan, regional director of CPSP, Brig (Rtd.) Prof. Dr. Naila Azam, Prof. Dr. Huma Musarrat Khan, Prof. Dr. Alamgir Khan, and Prof. Dr. Amir Rashid, while on this occasion, vice chancellor

of KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, dean PGMI Peshawar Prof. Dr. Sahibzada Mehmood Noor, heads of various institutions and faculty of KMU were also present.

Earlier, vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq along with his team welcomed the CPSP team and gave them a detailed briefing about various departments of KMU. He said that in KMU education is being imparted in various disciplines from diploma and bachelor to MPhil, master, and PhD levels. He said that besides 26 private and public sector medical and dental colleges, more than 200 institutions of nursing, physiotherapy, and allied health sciences are affiliated with the university, in which 50

thousand male and female students are studying.

Prof. Zia said that earlier our vision was limited to becoming a model institution at the national level, but now we have set our goals at the global level in the field of medical education. He said that at that time, KMU is considered among the leading medical universities in the country, which is evidenced by KMU's 93% score in the field of quality, while the example of public service set by KMU during the Corona outbreak and subsequent vaccination campaign has been appreciated at all levels.

He said that the recent visit of CPSP will also open new avenues for FCPS training in public health and basic medical sciences. It will not only provide an opportunity for new talent to come forward in these fields, but it will also improve the overall health system in the province.

Later, the inspection team made a detailed visit to the Departments of Public Health (Community Medicine), Biochemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, and various laboratories and libraries.



PESHAWAR: Provincial president of PPP Senator Rubina Khalid presenting a gift to wife of Turkey's Ambassador. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali talking with a patient during his visit to Lady Reading Hospital.

Directorate to make intra-district transfers

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has withdrawn the powers delegated to District Education Officers regarding intra-district transfer of the Subject Specialist Teachers with immediate effect, said an official notification issued here on Wednesday.

The powers of the intra-district transfers of SSTs will now be exercised by the Directorate of Elementary & Secondary Education.

PESCO notifies power suspension of various grids

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO) on Wednesday notified power suspension from various grids of the province due to unavoidable maintenance work.

Power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Kohat Road Grid Station on December 15, 19, 22, 25, 26 and 29 from 9 AM to 3 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV PAF Express, Kohat Road, Wazir Bagh feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar City Grid Station on December 15 and 19 from 9 AM to 3 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Sikandar

Suri Bala, Akhonabad, Ring Road 2, New Chamkani feeders would face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Kohat Road Grid Station on December 15, 19, 22, 25, 26 and 29 from 9 AM to 3 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV PAF Express, Kohat Road, Wazir Bagh feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar City Grid Station on December 15 and 19 from 9 AM to 3 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Sikandar

Pura, Jalala, Hashtnagri, Chughal Pura, Chamkani, Jhagra, Radio Pakistan, Sethitown, Gulbargh 1,2, Zaryab, Phandu Road, City Home, Baghbanan, Urmur, Islamabad, Faqirabad, Shekh Abad, Molvie Jee, Nishtarabad, NHA feeders would face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Shahi Bagh Grid Station on December 15 from 8 AM to 2 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Sarbuland Pura and Dalazak feeders would face inconvenience.

Power supply would

remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar Industrial Grid Station on December 15 from 9 AM to 5 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Nodhia Payan, Sonehri Masjid, Nothia, Gulbargh, Sheedabad, PAF, Ameen Colony, Banamari, Murshad Abad, Cavil Quarter, Afrifi Abad, Kohat Road feeders would face inconvenience.

Meeting summoned

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Ghulam Ali on Wednesday took notice of public complaints about snail pace of development work on a bridge and drains on Warsak Road, besides low gas pressure and power voltage and conditions of highways in the merged district.

The governor summoned a meeting with officials of PESCO, SNGPL and KP Highways Authority (KPHA) on December 15 (Thursday) to explain their positions and the way out.

Cold weather predicted

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Wednesday predicted that mainly cold and dry weather is expected in most districts of the province, while very cold in hilly areas/ upper parts.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were as Peshawar City 22/05, Chitral 15/00, Timergara

mainly cold, dry and cloudy in most districts of the province, while very cold in hilly areas/ upper parts.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were as Peshawar City 22/05, Chitral 15/00, Timergara

22/04, Dir 16/00, Mirkhani 16/03, Kalam 11/-5, Drosht 17/02, Saidu Sharif 20/00, Pattan 23/09, Malam Jabba 08/00, Takht Bhai 23/04, Kakul 17/01, Balakot 21/03, Parachinar 21/-2, Bannu 24/05, Cherat 15/05, D.I. Khan 25/10.

The lowest temperature recorded in the province was -05°C in Kalam.



In brief

Workers get fire safety training F.P. Report

SWABI: Emergency Rescue Service 1122 here Wednesday arranged fire-safety training for workers performing duties on Pihur High Level Canal Project. The event was part of the fire-safety and first aid training series being conducted in various parts of the district on directives of Director General Rescue 1122 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Khateer Ahmad. During training Pihur Canal workers were briefed about various life saving techniques and procedures being used in emergency situation including fire and calamities. Workers were also informed modes of resuscitation and ways to minimize mortality rate during fire eruption incidents. Staff of Pihur canal appreciated the initiatives of Rescue 1122 and suggested these activities should be continued for the orientation of field workers.

Meeting on land management held F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Deputy Commissioner Lower Dir, Muhammad Zubair Khan chairing a meeting relating to land management Wednesday directed National Highways Authority (NHA) to include sewage project of Munda Bypass in next tender list. He said that all the stakeholders should jointly work on sewage system planning of Taimargara and construct protective walls on both sides of service road. He also directed Town Municipal Administrations to stop unauthorized construction and mark limits of Talash Khor. He informed that work would be started on Khal Japani Bridge and survey of River Panjkora would be completed very soon. The meeting among others was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Samarbagh and concerned officials of Public Health Engineering, C & W and Tehsil Chairmen of Munda, Khal, Taimargara and Adenzai.

Cleanliness drive kicks-off F.P. Report

BUNER: Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Gadezai kick-off cleanliness drive for a week in which sanitation and garbage should be pick-off for disposal on permanent basis to ensure sustainable hygiene environment. In this connection an awareness walk was started from the office AC Gadezai-Salarzai and ended at Jowkhela Chowk Pir Baba. Assistant Commissioner Gadezai Salarzai Fazal Wahid tehsil nazim Sher Alam Khan and TMO Ekhtiar Husain Bacha lead the walk. Large number of local elders and youth participated in the walk. The participants were carried banners inscribed with slogans in support of cleanliness besides a message for public to support sanitation staff and took part in it to help environment clean and healthy. On the occasion the AC Fazal Wahid the Nazim Sher Alam Khan the TMO Ekhtiar Husain Bacha in their speeches and media talks said the drive was launched on the directions of the KP government. They claimed during the drive the main business hub Pacha Pir Baba Bazaar would be cleaned and the villages would also be cleaned by the concerned quarters. They appealed public for supporting and cooperating the sanitation staff and also play their own role in the cleanliness and beautification of surroundings so as to ensure healthy environment for living healthy life.

8 die, 16 hurt in Battagram road mishap

F.P. Report

BATTAGRAM: At least eight people were killed and sixteen others badly injured when a van carrying passengers from Thakot to Jambira fell into River Indus, the Deputy Commissioner Office informed on Wednesday.

The ill-fated van carry-

ing at least 25 passengers was on its way to Jambira from Thakot when its driver lost control over the vehicle and it fell into River Indus near Jambira. The district administration said the death toll may rise as three to four passengers were still missing, adding that so far eight dead bodies have been retrieved from

the waters.

Soon after the incident, an emergency was declared in DHQ Hospital Battagram and RHC Thakot. Additional Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner Alai also reached the site of the incident to supervise the rescue and relief operation.

Police quash cases against Swati, court told

LARKANA (TLTP): The Sindh police submitted its report before a local court stating that it has quashed all cases registered against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati in Larkana division.

The incarcerated PTI leader was arrested by the Sindh Police from Quetta on Saturday, and presented in front of a judicial magistrate in Qambar on Sunday. The court handed over Swati to police on three-day physical remand. During

the proceedings, Abdul Rauf Korai, counsel for Swati, presented a report before Qambar judicial magistrate and civil judge Ali Bakhsh Mashori.

The TLTP learnt that he informed the local court that police have withdrawn cases registered against his client in three districts of Larkana division. Korai said that Swati's three-day physical remand has also expired but his client is still under the custody of Qambar police.

Earlier, Sindh High Court (SHC) barred the provincial police from arresting PTI Senator Azam Swati in cases registered against him. As per details, the divisional bench comprised of justice Adnan Karim and justice Mehmood A Khan heard the case. The Swati counsel said that there are several cases registered against the PTI senator in the same case which is also a violation of supreme court orders.

Christian community begin X-mass preparations

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): Christmas celebrations formally commenced by the Christian community across Azad Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate sacred festival of Christmas on 25th of December in various parts of AJK, wherever the Christians live. Head of Christian Welfare Trust and Women Wing AJK Younis Bhatti said that all preparations to celebrate Christmas have yet been given final touches.

He unveiled their plans to celebrate Christmas in AJK, where a large number of Christians are inhabiting in the adjoining town of Mangla. The religious festival will be celebrated by the Christian community

with full traditional religious enthusiasm in AJK, Younis said on Tuesday.

In Mirpur the advent of Christmas celebrations will be followed by a formal inaugural ceremony to be held at adjoining town of Mangla a day before Christmas. Community leader Reverend will formally inaugurate the ceremonies by cutting a cake and special prayer service.

These celebration ceremonies, would continue till December 25. Praising the traditional communal harmony between majority Muslim and the minority Christian communities he pointed out that with the blessings of Allah (Almighty) there had never

been any tension between the majority Muslims and the minority Christian community – since they pass their lives without intervening into each other affairs by fully respecting the religious and moral parameters of each other.

Bhatti said that the festivities of Christmas comprise special prayer services to be held at the local District Council Hall on December 25 besides at their major abode – Mangla with the renewal of the pledge to continue spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ (AS). The Christian community leader said that “They will offer special prayers for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan”.

Sasta bazaar setup to facilitate Christians

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: Foolproof Security arrangement for protection of Churches on the eve of Christmas will be ensured and a ‘Sasta’ Christmas Bazaar also be set-up at Central Church Hafizabad for providing daily used items to Christian Community on cheaper prices whereas salaries for the Month of December will also be released to Christian employees before Christmas so the they can celebrate their religious festival with religious enthusiasm without any financial problems.

This was stated by the Deputy Commissioner Touqueer Ilyas Cheema while addressing a meeting of District Interfaith Harmony Committee Hafizabad. Members Interfaith Harmony,

Ulema and leadership of Christian Community also attended the meeting. DC said that the Ulema belongs to different school of thought and religious leaders of minorities were playing their responsible role to maintain ideal atmosphere of brotherhood, unity, tolerance, religious harmony and tranquility in the district. DC said that minority was enjoying full freedom to celebrate their religious festivals in the country and Constitution of the Pakistan was protecting rights of minorities.

Computer-tabs distributed among Afternoon's Schools: While distributing Computer Tabs among heads of Insaf Afternoon Schools, Chief Executive Officer Education Hafizabad Javed Iqbal Babar said that Education

Department Punjab has given Computer Tabs for improving educational and other necessary activities in Government Insaf Afternoon Schools. The Tabs distributing ceremony was held at District Complex Hafizabad. DEO (W) Hafizabad Talat Mehmood, DDEO (F) Nargis Arif, DDEO (M) Imanullah Cheena and Assistant Education Officer Ishtiaq Nazir and other officers were present on this occasion.

CEO said that establishment of Insaf Afternoon Schools was revolutionary and laudable steps of the Punjab government for promoting education in the province. He said that with opening of Insaf Afternoon Schools in the province, enrolment of children in government school was increased significantly.



LANDI KOTAL: Polio workers sitting during a protest for acceptance of their demands. — F.P. photo

CTD foils terror bid in Sahiwa

SAHIWAL (INP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Wednesday foiled a terror bid in Sahiwal and arrested a ‘terrorist’ linked with the proscribed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA).

As per details, the arrest was made by the CTD during an intelligence-based operation in Sahiwal, Punjab. Explosives have been recovered from the ‘terrorist’ named Khurram Ali, the CTD spokesperson said. The outlaw associated with BLA was planning to carry out a terror activity in the city but was arrested by the CTD on an intelligence-based operation. A case has been registered against Khurram Ali at the CTD police station in Sahiwal.

QMC employees hold protest

QUETTA (PPI): All Balochistan Clerks and Technical Employees Association, Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Unit, on Wednesday demanded of the authorities to approve payment of salaries and pensions of the casual employees and pensioners of Metropolitan Corporation, Municipal Committees and Town Committees of the province besides ensuring payment of gratuity to the heirs of deceased employees.

The demands were made by the association in a protest demonstration held in the premises of QMC. Addressing the protest demonstration, leaders Nadeem Khokar, Lala Muhammad Raheem Baloch, Shaker Khwn Raisani, and Shams Kakar said that protest movement of ABCTEA would continue until the acceptance of their demands.

They said that the association had been protesting at the camp set up within the premises of QMCE, but no response from the authorities had so far been made to accept their demands. Demanding for early payment of salaries, they called on the authorities to fix Rs25,000 salary for the casual employees of the mentioned offices.

Polio workers boycott of duties

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Polio workers at Torkham border refused to execute their duties in protest against delay in their monthly salaries and lack of facilities. Almost 84 employees of the health department including 12 female workers who performed their duties as vaccinators in shifts at the Pak-Afghan border to facilitate the pedestrian children at the crossing gave up their official duties in protest on

Wednesday.

They were of the view that since 2015 a penny increase had been made in their monthly pay besides the authorities not pay them their salaries on time. For the last three months their wages had been paid to them that was equivalent to obliging their families to starvation, they lamented.

They demanded to pay them their salaries on time, recompense them 1000 rupees per day per person, bestow them four leaves in a week and provide securi-

ty and other facilities to the polio workers to execute duties at night shift. They threatened that till acceptance of the demands they would not join their duties.

Efforts were made to seek a version of the health highup but could not ascertain. It is to be stated here that a large number of pedestrian children crossing into Pakistan via Torkham border would deprive them of polio vaccination and would pose a health hazard to the children in Pakistan.

191 POs arrested in Malakand Division

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: The police force has shown better performance in various operational activities, carried out during recent days at all districts of Malakand region. On the directions of Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand Sajjad Khan, besides several intelligence-based and search and strike operations, snap checking, night patrolling and other operational activities were launched, whereas, a large number of proclaim offenders and other accused have been arrested and suspects interrogated. Moreover, police have also seized a

high number of illegal weapons, timber and drugs in various districts of the region.

According to details, in light of clear directions, issued by of the RPO Malakand Sajjad Khan, police in the districts of Swat, Bunir, Shangla, Dir Lower, Dir Upper, Chitral Upper, Chitral Lower and Bajaur, launched successful operational activities wherein, a total No. of 191 proclaim offenders (POs) have been arrested, while 1621 suspects have also been inter-rogated. In the same way, police have seized 40 SMG guns, 19 rifles, 77 short guns, 397 pistols and 7024

rounds. Moreover, 17 daggers, 101 magazines, 1.5 kg of explosives, 87 safety fuses and 205 dynamite have also been recovered. Police have seized at least 183.697 kg of hashish, at least 9.105 kg opium, 5.148 kg heroin, 2.68 kg of ice and 312 liters of alcohol. Similarly, around 269 timber sleepers have also been confiscated. Moreover, police have recovered an amount worth of Rs.14, 86,000, snatched in various incidents.

The police have also provided their full cooperation in tourist's facilitation, at all the tourism spots of the region, especially in Swat.

Training on ‘Harnessing Youth for Peace’ held

F.P. Report

MANSEHRA: A six-day training on “Harnessing Youth for Peace” held at University of Hazara for 30 students selected from newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The event was an initiative of Higher Education Regulatory Authority (HERA), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, supported by Community Resilience Activity-North (CRA-N) and implemented by International Organization for Migration

(IOM). Students from Kurram, Orakzai, Khyber and North Waziristan and 30 faculty members of Hazara University attended the event.

The keynote speakers of training were Rashad Bukhari, Kayenat Hameed Khan and Mufti Asad Gul. Their hands-on training sessions were focused on civic engagement and community resilience themes including tolerance, critical thinking, leadership, conflict resolution and positive social action.

This will help the young generation to break down existing negative stereotypes resulting in their positive engagement in the society, they said adding that only educating youth could help to cope up with the post violence scenario and would also play an important role in the reconstruction of the society and improving the quality of life. The closing ceremony was graced by Prof Dr Mohsin Nawaz, Pro Vice chancellor of University of Hazara and Dr Yasir Kamal, Member, HERA.

‘NAGHA’ The tradition and only hope to safeguard Biodiversity

Murad Khan

It was 15th May 2022, when we came to meet with our friend Mr. Ali Raza (who is now serving as Assistant Professor at Govt. Degree College EkkaGhund), for time being I was shocked, when I saw a large number of people gathered in his Hujra in Dawatkor (around 2-3 kilometers away from the main Mohmand to Bajure Road). On inquiring I was told that the Tribal elders, spiritual leaders and other people are gathered to impose ban on cutting of trees from the adjacent mountains from Dawatkor to Enayatkor and if anyone found violating the rules, he/she will be fined 5000 Pakistani Rupees.

After lunch talking with 45 years old RoohUllah, a spiritual leader belongs to Akhoonzadgan village of HaleemzaiTehsil, said “We have imposed NAGHA on Inayatkor, Dawatkor and Ghaiba Mountains. The Jirga being held before half a year in Dawatkor has decided that no one is allowed to cut trees from these

mountains, this band will be imposed for the next coming two years.” He added.

On inquiring about the said tradition and custom, Gul Bashir Sheraz, 38 years old Deputy Range officer of Wildlife department from upper Mohmand said that NAGHA custom is as old asPashto tradition (Pakhtunwali in Pashto Language), it comes incategory of the main components of Pakhtu Tradition-i

Pakhtunwali, Ashar, Lakhkar, NAGHA and Jelab. “In this tradition the Elders, Malik or religious leaders of a specific area impose ban on cutting of trees and other herbs and shrubs of specific area for a specific time period.” If someone breaks the rules fine has been collected from him/her by those Elders, who impose NAGHA, usually NAGHA is imposed on the trees, herbs, Shrubs, Climbers, Creepers and other and seasonal plants present in a specific mountain by the adjacent people. He added,

About the life saving tradition of NAGHA's history Gul said

that in olden days there were no documented proofs of NAGHA, the elders verbally decided a specific fine in form of money, which has been collected from the violators and this amount were used for the welfare activities of that community.

About the benefits of NAGHA he said that this is very old tradition, which gives life to countless number of organism, herbs, shrubs, trees, birds, animals and so many other species, besides this when ban of cutting trees is imposed on certain mountains, the trees and other herbs and shrubs grow very quickly there, which can be used by those community for making fire in their kitchen and making roofs of their rooms.

About the NAGHA tradition he said that on finishing the time period, it is said by an announcement from the elders (who imposes) that NAGHA has been lifted, so on those specific days all the people of village go to mountains and collect woods and Grass, which can be used for different purposes in their homes.

A 73 years old Malak Haji Jalat khan, belongs to Main Head Quarter Ghallani said that, I remember in 1961-62 we were impose NAGHA on the hands of offspring of Peer baba, the name of that person was said Abdul Lateef(who was famous on the name of BachaSaib), in the presence of our elders, we were gathered and make a verbal decision of imposing NAGHA in his presence, sometimes we just take signs from the elders on a blank page, after that all the people were strictly following that NAGHA. After the death of Bachasaib, we used to impose a fine of 3-5 hundred on NAGHA, now the fine reached up to 15 thousand, if someone cuts a single tree, a fine of 15000 is collected from him. The system of knowing the violators is so simple, if someone see the violation, he informs the elders and give a statement in his presence, if the violator is not agree with the statement of that person, he has to take oath on the Holy Quran and shows his innocence. He said that more than 20-25 time it happened that by force, the fine

has been collected from the violators, mostly the violation occurs in winter seasons, as the people cut trees for selling purpose. “I remember, the Last time a 15 thousand of fine has been collected in Akhonzadgaan area (around 5 km away from main District Head Quarter) from a violator of NAGHA system. He violated the NAGHA in spring, but the fine has been collected in summer”. He added.

Haji Jalat said that now we have more than 2 thousand acres of area, which have trees and where the NAGHA is imposed, the trees includes Acacia modest, olive, jujube, Blackberry (gwargara in Pashto), we used to cut these trees for marriage, Hujra and mosque purposes, but now we have imposed band on these as well.

Mr. Jalat said that after FATA merger the district administration is directly involved in this old tradition, they says that took violators in jail just for 2 days, then they release him, they are not collecting fine from them. Besides this, the watchers of forest department are directly/indi-

rectly involved in the cutting of trees, so the govt. should take action on this and I request the forest officers to save the trees as this is the only hope of life for sheep's, cows and other animals in Mohmand tribal districts. He said that once, Frontier corps men also helped us, they also used to save trees from cutting.

A 49 years old NooranAfridi, who is a Doctor by profession, belonging to Terah (a beautiful valley of Khyber Tribal District) said that NAGHA culture is still present in TerahMaidan area. In our village, the Elders of a Jirga impose ban on cutting of Cedarwood, PinusLogifolia (Chilgoza), and so many other precious trees for specific time period. These trees are used in manufacturing furniture, expensive ornamental things and so many other purposes. But if there is a marriage ceremony in someone's family, they have been allowed to cut a specific number of trees, depending upon their needs.

The Writer is Radio Producer and freelance Environmental Journalist, who tweets on @Muradonline123



US Navy hospital suspends care in Haiti after 19 overboard

JEREMIE (AP): A US Navy hospital ship docked in southwest Haiti has temporarily suspended medical services after 19 people with the mission fell overboard amid a heavy swell hitting the Caribbean region, officials said. It happened and involved 12 military personnel and seven civilians with the USNS Comfort who were returning to the ship after caring for patients on land, said Lewis Preddy, a US Navy spokesman.

All 19 were pulled back onto the small boat, which was then lifted by a crane onto the ship. He said the usual process is for personnel to use a water taxi and step onto a ladder to board the ship, but that the heavy surf made that impossible. He said two people were injured but are expected to recover.

Preddy said officials are figuring out how to continue the mission while ensuring people's safety.

The heavy swell is expected to last until at

least the weekend, according to meteorologists. Rear Adm. James Aiken, commander of the US Naval Forces Southern Command-US 4th Fleet, told The Associated Press that officials are working hard to bring the mission in Haiti back online after it began.

"The need is extremely great, and we're so excited to be able to provide some care," he said in a phone interview. Officials said they did not immediately have the number of patients that have been treated so far. Several hundred Haitians protested the ship's presence in the coastal town of Jeremie, yelling. "Down with the American people! We don't want them here!" Some demanded that the US government instead visit certain areas in the capital of Port-au-Prince to free neighborhoods from the control of powerful gangs.

In early October, Haiti's government requested the deployment of foreign troops to fight

gangs and help end a fuel blockade that has since lifted after one of the country's most powerful gangs allowed trucks to access a fuel terminal. No international troops have been deployed, but the US and Canada have announced a flurry of sanctions. Aiken brushed off the small protest in Jeremie, saying he is focused on the positive. "There are hundreds of thousands if not millions of people who want us there," he said.

The USNS Comfort has visited Haiti several times in the past decade as the country struggles with a broken health system hit by severe power outages and fuel shortages. The floating hospital has tended to people with ailments ranging from diabetes to cholera, with an ongoing outbreak killing more than 280 people and infecting more than 14,100 others. Haiti received more than 1.17 million of oral cholera vaccines with help from the Pan American Health Organization.

Climate change will fuel crises in 2023

MEXICO CITY (Reuters): Climate change will accelerate humanitarian crises around the world in 2023, adding to the issues created by armed conflict and economic downturns, according to a study by the NGO International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The agency, based in New York and led by former UK politician David Miliband, flagged that the number of people in humanitarian need has skyrocketed in the last decade, approaching 339.2 million versus the 81 million seen in 2014. Climate change is among the key factors accelerating humanitarian emergencies, the IRC noted, despite the fact that the 20 countries on its emergency watchlist - like Haiti and Afghanistan - contribute just 2% to global CO2 emissions.

"2022 has shown that the role of climate change in accelerating the global humanitarian crisis is undeniable," the report noted. It pointed to record-long periods of rains, which has "brought catastrophic food insecurity to Somalia and Ethiopia," and killed thousands in Pakistan. The IRC also flagged to need to more "proactively invest in climate change prevention and mitigation." Meanwhile, food insecurity is already rife due to growing conflict as well as the economic crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the coronavirus pandemic, it said.

In addition, the gap between humanitarian needs and its financing has grown to a global deficit of \$27 billion as of November 2022. "Donors are failing to respond proportionately," the report said. "The result is that communities affected by the crisis are unable to access the services they need to survive, recover and rebuild." The study - titled "Emergency Watchlist 2023" - also highlighted that the number of people forced to flee their homes has risen to more than 100 million today, up from 60 million in 2014, with Venezuela among the biggest drivers.

Mexico to host next round of Colombian peace talks

CARACAS (AP): Colombia's government and its largest remaining rebel group said they will continue to hold peace talks in Mexico following three weeks of negotiations in Venezuela's capital that have only yielded modest results. Negotiations between Colombia and the National Liberation Army, known as the ELN, were suspended in 2019 following a rebel attack on a police academy in Bogota, in which 23 people were killed. But President Gustavo Petro restarted peace talks with the group in November, shortly after he was elected and became the nation's first leftist president.

Petro has said that peace talks with the ELN are a cornerstone of his plan to bring "total peace" to the nation of 50 million people, where some rural areas are still under the grip of drug gangs and rebel groups despite a 2016 peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. Delegates from Petro's government and the ELN published a statement in which they announced they had agreed on a plan to provide humanitarian relief to rebel fighters in Colombian prisons and also to villages in two regions of Colombia that have been hard hit by the conflict.

UN ESCAP invites Pak NDMA delegation

F.P. Report

BANGKOK: A three-members delegation led by Chairman National Disaster Management Authority, Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, who is in Thailand in official capacity held meetings with various officials at the United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok.

Meetings were held with Ms. Taziana Bonapace, Director Information & Communication Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (DRR), Dr. Sanjay K Sarivasta, Chief DRR Division and Ms. Diana Particia Mosquera Deputy Chief, Regional Office for Asia and Pacific UNDRR, where prospects for enhanced future co-operation mechanisms to strengthen disaster risk management in Pakistan were discussed.

Chairman NDMA briefed the important UN officials about the context of Pakistan's resilience-oriented transformation



and remodeled plan to be adaptive. "Global focus needs calibration and greater financial stimulus required for technology based global and regional synergy on climate emergencies", Chairman NDMA explained.

ESCAP officials displayed their commitment to work on Early Warning capacity building exchange of intellects for Disaster Risk Reduction

in Pakistan at NDMA level. During the meeting, it was discussed that investment can be mobilized for risk analysis for transformation adaptation.

Whereas recently agreed upon loss and damage fund for climate change in COP-27 would be followed up subsequently. It was also informed by the officials of the ESCAP that

upgraded Risk and Resilience portal would be customized for Pakistan on Climate Change, and shall be made accessible for Pakistan to support its forecasting and digitizing the response.

It is pertinent to mention that Senior Officials of Pakistan Embassy in Thailand and Defence Attaché in Thailand also attended the session.

Somalia, Ethiopia top aid group's Watchlist

LONDON (Reuters): Somalia and Ethiopia, both Horn of Africa nations ravaged by drought and conflict, will be the countries of highest concern in 2023, according to an annual Watchlist issued by the International Rescue Committee aid group on Wednesday. The report lists 20 countries, 11 of them in Africa, that it says are at greatest risk of new or worsening crises next year and are home to 80% of all people facing severe food insecurity - despite accounting for just 13% of the global population.

Top of the list for the first time is Somalia, where the combined effects of a two-year drought, an Islamist insurgency and rising global food prices have caused catastrophic food shortages that are killing children now and are set to worsen. The Al Shabaab militant group impedes humanitarian access, and an escalation of fighting between it and government forces in late 2022 suggests conflict may continue to intensify in 2023, the IRC said.

David Miliband, head of the IRC, said millions of Somalis were hungry and rich countries should not wait until an official declaration of famine to plug a \$1 billion funding gap in the United Nations' appeal for Somalia. "The underfunding of the appeal is an obvious demonstration that the world thinks it's not an urgent moment. That's a mistake," Miliband told Reuters in an interview ahead of the release of the Watchlist. Speaking generally, Miliband said many rich countries were too focused on themselves and this was not right either morally or strategically.

"The insularity, the inward-lookingness of too many of the wealthiest parts of the world is leaving too many of the poorest parts of the world having to fend for themselves in a way that they're unable to do," he said. Miliband said the war in Ukraine was exacerbating the problem because rich countries were focused on that, but he singled out the United States for praise, noting that it was providing 90% of aid for

Somalia. "In the US, Ukraine is not being used as an excuse to step back from tackling global issues. It's being used by the administration as a reason to get involved in East Africa."

Somalia has been hard-hit by Russia's invasion of Ukraine because it is dangerously reliant on imported food, with 90% of its wheat supplies coming from Russia and Ukraine. In Ethiopia, where an estimated 20 million people do not have enough to eat, a ceasefire signed in November between the federal government and forces from the Tigray region after two years of war has raised hopes of improved humanitarian access. "There has been some aid flowing through," said Miliband. "But we've got an enormous amount of ground to make up." The other countries ranked in the top 10 on the IRC's 2023 Watchlist are Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Haiti and Ukraine.

DR Congo militias take fight to M23 rebels

DR CONGO (AFP): Casting his gaze far and wide from a hilltop in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, warlord Janvier Karairi commands his forces in the battle against the feared M23 rebel group. The self-proclaimed lieutenant-general leads a militia called the Patriotic Alliance for a Free and Independent Congo (APCLS), mostly made up of fighters from the Hunde ethnic group, in a coalition dedicated to thwarting the M23's advance.

The APCLS and other armed groups joined forces "to fight the aggressor", Karairi, 60, told AFP reporters in his operational headquarters, a thatched hut in the Kitshanga region of North Kivu province. Sporting a commando uniform, Karairi has spent more than a quarter of a century in the bush, including a spell fighting the M23 in 2012. The Tutsi-led M23 is one of scores of armed groups active in the DRC's

volatile east, many of them legacies of two brutal wars in the late 20th century.

It briefly occupied provincial capital Goma that year before being beaten back in 2013. It resumed fighting in late 2021, blaming the Congolese government for failing to honour a commitment to integrate its fighters into the army. In recent months, the M23 has conquered part of Rutshuru territory near the borders with Uganda and Rwanda. Kinshasa accuses neighbouring Rwanda of backing the rebels, who now lie around 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Goma and have made gains further west towards Masisi territory, Karairi's stronghold.

That prompted the battle-hardened militia leader to take up arms against his old foes once again, with his movement controlling much of the area. "We continue to protect the population," Karairi said at his headquarters in between phone calls to his troops on

the ground. A silence descends every time he speaks. Accompanying the veteran warrior was Heritier Ndagendange, who had just arrived from Goma with a heavy red bag that another militiaman carried on his head to present to the commander.

Ndagendange said it held ammunition he had brought from Goma after passing several checkpoints manned by the security forces on the road. "We are rebels, we are good at finding weapons. The government doesn't help us with anything in any case," Karairi said. He said his hundreds of combatants are unpaid volunteers motivated by the same desire to fight. "Our country will pay us when we finish the job," he claimed.

Baseme, a 25-year-old under his command, proudly declared that he was "fighting for my country." His comrade Mwisha, 23, said he joined the movement "to stand in the way of

the aggressors, Rwanda." An APCLS spokesman said the army's withdrawal from certain key routes had allowed the M23 to make rapid gains. Ndagendange said Congolese army officers had "betrayed" the cause, and this had forced the APCLS to intervene to stop the M23.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a report in October which claimed the Congolese army was collaborating with armed groups -- some of which stand accused of rights abuses - in the campaign against the M23. Among them are the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a mainly Hutu group that includes some actors involved in the 1994 Rwanda genocide against the Tutsis. HRW also said the leaders of several Congolese armed groups, including Karairi's APCLS, met in May to forge a "patriotic" coalition.

UK announces crackdown on illegal immigration

LONDON (Reuters): Britain said it planned to bring in new legislation to prevent migrants who cross the English Channel from remaining in the country, as the government tries to control a surge in people arriving in small boats on its southern coast. The number of people arriving in England across the Channel has more than doubled in the last two years, with government figures showing Albanians account for the highest number of people arriving by this route.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a new five-point strategy for dealing with illegal immigration, including plans to fast-track the return of Albanian asylum seekers, and clearing the initial backlog of almost 150,000 asylum cases by the end of next year by doubling the number of caseworkers.

"If you enter the UK illegally you should not be able to remain here," Sunak told parliament. "Instead, you will be detained and swiftly returned either to your home country or to a safe country where your asylum claim will be considered."

Migrants arriving on small boats has become a major political issue for the Conservative government, particularly in working-class areas in the north and central England, where migrants are blamed for making it harder to find work and stretching public services. Sunak said a new unit would be created to tackle crossings, and that in future migrants would be housed in disused holiday parks, former student accommodation and surplus military sites rather than hotels.

Britain's interior minister, Home Secretary Suella

Braverman, recently called the wave of arrivals an "invasion" and described many of the migrants as "criminals", leading to an angry response from Albanian prime minister Edi Rama. Sunak said that over the coming months thousands of Albanians would be returned home.

Successive British governments have promised to stop the arrival of small boats. Despite that, a record 44,867 people have crossed the Channel on small boats to enter Britain this year. Concerns over the level of immigration were a driving force the vote for Brexit in a 2016 referendum, with supporters calling for Britain to "take back control" of its borders. Sunak said the public are "right to be angry" and said the current system was unfair on those with a genuine case for asylum.

China's message to the people shifts from war to self-care

BEIJING (Reuters): On Nov. 21, Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, in charge of China's war on COVID-19, said infections had to be brought down to zero as they emerged. Nine days later, she said the Omicron strain of the virus had "weakened" even though new cases in the Chinese capital hit a high. Last week, in one fell swoop, China cut away most of the tenets governing its stifling zero-COVID policies, effectively ending its war on the pandemic. It has since turned to re-educating people on the harmlessness of Omicron and pushing the idea of self-care, a dramatic U-turn from quarantine camps and crushing lockdowns that sparked recent, rare public protests.

Saoirse Zhou, an undergraduate in Guangzhou, said she had been considering fleeing her campus, having lived in constant fear of being locked down in her dormitory. The overnight about-turn came as a shock. "The complaints of the masses were peaking, and policies needed to change before the lockdowns could cause any more discontent," she said.

Since the curbs were dismantled, China's massive propaganda machine has repeatedly assured people through news reports, public advisories and media briefings that most will have mild or no symptoms if they are infected and can self-isolate at home. "Be the first person responsible for the epidemic", it has said, which is emerging as China's new public health slogan. Some people have happily supported the view. In Shanghai, which endured a two-month long

COVID lockdown earlier this year, many residents could be seen out shopping or gathering with friends at restaurants and soaking up the Christmas spirit at crowded fairs.

But in Beijing, where infections have surged in the past week, the local emergency hotline has been overwhelmed by over 30,000 calls per day, prompting officials to remind those with mild or no symptoms to refrain from using the special line meant for emergency medical assistance. The challenge to re-educating the masses to the new narrative would be any surge in fatalities and obstacles to public healthcare.

So far, China's official COVID death toll remains unchanged at 5,235 since the domestic epidemic curbs were removed. "The

tone now will be how China is not going to see mass deaths, there will be few severe cases, and how the country managed to deal with a surge of cases without incurring lots of deaths - I think that will be the main narrative in the coming months," said Yanzhong Huang, a global health specialist at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), a US think tank. People amazed at the policy flip-flop were allowed to vent on social media, even though the platforms are heavily policed. One prominent epidemiologist was mocked for saying in October Omicron's fatality rate was up to eight times greater than that of influenza, and then saying this month the pathogenicity of Omicron had "obviously" decreased.

US immigration: ‘They’d rather die than return to Nicaragua’

WASHINGTON (BBC): Noé was somewhere on the outskirts of the gritty southern Mexican city of Tapachula when he realised how difficult his journey to a new life in the US would be. Just days after crossing the border from Guatemala, the meagre supplies in Noé's small rucksack had dwindled, and he had gone with barely any food for several days as he busied and trudged across the humid, forested landscape of Mexico's Chiapas state, where temperatures rose to a sweltering 34 C during the day.

Already reeling from exhaustion and an empty stomach, Noé then faced another hazard: corrupt and abusive members of Mexico's security forces, who he said repeatedly strong-armed migrants for "mordidas" - a Mexican term for "little bites", or bribes - at roadblocks. "Mexico was very hard," he said. "The police were bad. They looked for people to take their things and chased us. They charged us bribes

when we were already all hungry and tired". This, despite having paid a group of smugglers several thousand dollars for the 2,000-mile (3,332km) trip from his home on the banks of the San Juan River in southern Nicaragua through Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico - a small fortune for a man from a country where the average income per person stands at around \$1,850 (£1,533) per year. Several weeks after his journey began, Noé - a stocky and muscular figure whose sun-beaten face and reserved demeanour makes him seem older than his 38 years - was crossing the murky green waters of the Rio Grande into Texas aboard a small rubber raft alongside migrants from as far afield as Ecuador and Colombia, including young children and their mothers.

"It was very scary," he said. "I can swim, but the river is stronger than it looks. And it was dark." Safely on the US side, Noé voluntarily surrendered

to Border Patrol agents. Detention came as a relief. After a few weeks, he was released into the country to wait for a court date to decide his future in the US. "Here one feels protected. They [US authorities] even fed us well," he told the BBC at a migrant shelter in Texas. "It was hard, but I couldn't have stayed in Nicaragua."

Noé is not alone in feeling this way. Privation and poverty have been known to many Nicaraguans like Noé for a long time. But a recent crackdown on civil society, a faltering economy and an atmosphere of terror instituted by the country's long-serving president, Daniel Ortega, is now driving many to leave. US Border Patrol figures highlight the growing flood: a record number of nearly 19,000 were taken into custody in May, up from 12,600 in April and 16,000 in March. All told, a record high number of about 111,000 Nicaraguans have been detained entering the US so far in the

2022 fiscal year, compared with 50,722 in all of 2021 and just 3,164 in 2020. In December, a group of several hundred migrants, mostly Nicaraguans, crossed the border from Mexico into the Texas city of El Paso in one of the single largest mass crossings from that part of the frontier in recent years, according to the New York Times. Soon after being released from custody, Noé joined dozens of other migrants in temporary housing at a non-profit humanitarian shelter in Laredo, nestled in a quiet residential neighbourhood just 1.5 miles (2.4km) from the Mexican border.

On a sweltering hot in late May, he was among dozens of people - mostly men in their 20s and 30s - milling around a courtyard. Some were stretching in the Texas sun, while others used mobile phones to call friends and family back home or in the US. While a smattering of Colombians and Venezuelans were there, the vast

majority were Nicaraguan.

The stories shared by Nicaraguans at the shelter have two common themes: a struggling economy and fear of the government of Daniel Ortega, the leader of Nicaragua's 1979 Sandinista revolution who earlier this year was sworn into a fourth consecutive term as President. Affectionately known as Comandante Daniel to his supporters, Mr Ortega has long been accused of abandoning the revolution's ideals by turning into a dictator, harshly suppressing any opposition.

These crackdowns have become more pronounced since Mr Ortega was returned to office in November, in an election that saw opposition candidates arrested or exiled alongside prominent regime critics, journalists, business leaders, human rights advocates and students. Since then, the clampdowns have continued and escalated, with the UN's human rights chief warning that new criminal legislations are being

used to persecute perceived opponents of the Ortega government. In one week in early June alone, almost 200 civil society and non-governmental organisations were shut down in what the Paris-based Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders said was an attempt to eliminate "all social and political vision that differs from that established by the regime".

The harsh measures imposed by the Ortega regime prompted the US government to announce that Nicaragua would not be invited to the recent Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles. A senior administration official cited a "lack of democratic space" as the reason. The Nicaraguan American Human Rights Alliance, which helps citizens who have fled the country, has been inundated with daily inquiries from citizens who've drawn the ire of Mr Ortega's government, according to its president, Anita Wells.

The Frontier Post

JALIL AFRIDI

Managing Editor

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

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

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

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

“USA and Canada Toll Free Number 415-3704551

Institutional corruption and adjudicators’ Dogma

CHIEF Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial has admitted that the corruption in the country couldn’t be eradicated, despite the court decisions, due to the weaknesses in the system. During the hearing of a petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan challenging amendments in the NAB Ordinance, the JCP noted that it was the responsibility of the Parliament to introduce legislation for bringing betterment in the system. The Chief Justice was of the view that the IGs in provinces are changed after every five months while SHOs of police stations must be replaced within three months.

Unfortunately, our nation has lost its dignity and pride in the majority of the fields including industrial development and growth, tour and tourism, health and local governance, education, and sports as well as foreign investment and trade, however, we tremendously progressed in corruption and malpractices, extremism and intolerance, lawlessness, and crimes. Presently, Pakistan is one of the biggest victims of corruption in the world and this cancer has destroyed every aspect of our society. The Global Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021 ranked Pakistan at 140 positions in the list of the least corrupt nations. According to Transparency International (TI) Pakistan, Police, Contract and Tendering agencies, Judiciary, and Education sectors are the most corrupt institutions meanwhile rest of the government departments also have a due share in the promotion of this menace.

This is a highly shameful and grave situation for the entire nation which merits immediate attention from the relevant institutions. Interestingly, the monster of corruption has exceeded all limits, whereas multiple legislations, and numerous LEAs, SIAs, financial regulators, and anti-corruption watchdogs failed to curb this ailment. The government, judiciary, prosecutors, and investigators blame others for their failure and do not ready to address their shortcomings. Every person is ready to correct and reform others but no one is ready to bring reform and correctness in themselves, therefore problems are multiplying every single day and no signs of improvement are visible so far.

The honorable judges had expressed anger over ever-growing corruption in society and mourned the poor and shady legislation by the lawmakers Historically, Judges and Generals had caused significant constitutional, political, and monetary losses to the country due to their unwarranted and unjustified activism in the past. Corruption is a multifaceted nationwide curse, therefore each institution should remove technical and legal flaws to strengthen its anti-corruption regime without interfering with other states' organs, so, this common goal could be achieved through collective efforts.

Brazil political unrest

ACCORDING to the western media, the supporter of Brazilian far-right defeated leader Jair Bolsonaro attacked Police Headquarters on the eve of the federal electoral court’s certification of Bolsonaro's defeat in the October 30 election. According to the reports, thousands of protesters set on fire several private cars and buses and invaded Police Headquarters, while security forces fired stun grenades and tear gas to disperse the crowd. Many of the diehard supporters of the former President have blocked highways in protest and camped out in front of army barracks, calling for a military coup to bar sitting President Lula from office.

After experiencing months-long political uncertainty and a furious election campaign of the opposing political factions, Brazil is now witnessing violent protests in major cities by defeating Center-Left Liberal Party. The violence unfolded after a Bolsonaro supporter was detained by the court for allegedly organizing violent anti-democratic acts. Former President Jair Bolsonaro neither conceded defeat to his rival nor formally blocked his presidency. After weeks-long silence, Brazil's far-right nationalist leader silently mobilized his supporters to obstruct Lula's certification which entirely resembles America's Donald Trump legacy who incited January 5 riots during Biden's Senate hearing at US Capitol.

Ahead of the polls, Jair Bolsonaro swiped his political party and criticized Brazil's electoral system, and insisted on the use of ballot paper instead of Electronic Voting machines (EVMs) that might be tempered. He inked an alliance with a Conservative Christian Church to attract the sympathies of religious sections and bullied the Brazilian Electoral body through unjust criticism and continuous intimidation. Now, defeated politicians arranging public prayers, violent rallies, and inviting the Brazilian military to restore democracy and rule of law.

Interestingly, far-right leaders around the globe have the same guts and aptitude that they always perceive themselves on the right side of the track and others in a blind alley. The so-called nation savior has a sole agenda of leading the nation, thus all others must facilitate him otherwise they be ready for prosecution, detention, or execution.

Quote of the day

You can always amend a big plan, but you can never expand a little one. I don't believe in little plans. I believe in plans big enough to meet a situation which we can't possibly foresee now.
— Harry Truman, American President [1945-1953]

THE conference version of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act that passed the House last week demonstrates that the United States has two distinct policy responses to inflation: one for the Pentagon, and one for the public.

Any real or imagined drop in the Pentagon’s buying power is met with more money. Inflation informed President Joe Biden’s requested \$31 billion boost from fiscal year 2022 to 2023, and the issue is Congress’s primary justification for upping that proposed increase to \$76 billion. If enacted into law, the NDAA will spike military spending to \$858 billion in fiscal year 2023 — excluding supplemental funding for Ukraine military aid — putting even peak Cold War-era Pentagon budgets to shame.

The public gets a much different treatment. In inflationary times, Biden and most of Congress think that the Pentagon should get more money and the public should get less. Pandemic relief programs were ended in an ill-fated attempt to curb rising costs. Now nearly two-thirds of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. For most workers, real wages have failed to keep up with inflation over the past year. While Biden endorsed the NDAA’s historic topline figure, he hasn’t proposed any legislation that would lend the public a hand during a spiraling cost-of-living crisis.

In other words, only for the Pentagon is federal spending considered a solution to inflation. Non-military spending, meanwhile, is routinely blamed for causing inflation, despite there being far more relevant culprits like corporate greed, the war in Ukraine, Western sanctions on

American executives of the Houston-based oil company CITGO. These developments created a set of incentives that brought Maduro back to the negotiating table. In Mexico City last month, government and opposition representatives signed an agreement to address Venezuela’s humanitarian emergency. They created a “Social Roundtable,” with three representatives from both sides, that would jointly be able to access as much as \$3 billion in Venezuelan state funds that have been frozen by U.S. financial sanctions.

The funds will be overseen by the United Nations and used to address shared priorities which so far include health care, child nutrition, and restoring the country’s basic infrastructure. In exchange, the Treasury Department has authorized Chevron, the only major U.S. oil company still operating in Venezuela, to import oil for the first time since the imposition of U.S. oil sanctions in January 2019. This license does not allow Chevron to pay royalties or taxes to the regime.

This humanitarian agreement has significant potential. The United Nations estimates that some 7 million Venezuelans are in need of humanitarian assistance inside the country, and the crisis has led another 7 million to flee the country in recent years. Venezuela’s poor depend on a dysfunctional and corrupt health system, lack regular access to water and electricity, as well as to food or essential medicines. If the UN can guarantee transparency and oversight in the implementation of the agreement itself, these

Stephen Semler

Russia, and the seismic disruptions to the global supply chain caused by the pandemic.

What if the federal response to inflation was the same for the people as it is for the Pentagon? What would that look like? Another round of stimulus checks is probably the closest parallel.

Most Americans would approve of it. In an October survey, 63 percent of those polled said they support another round of stimulus payments to help combat inflation. Only 18 percent said they oppose the idea. Unfortunately, the White House is also opposed. Funding for any kind of inflation relief, then, must come from elsewhere.

Considering its outsized consumption of public funds, the Pentagon budget is an obvious choice. The

FY2023 NDAA authorizes enough funding to pay for another round of \$600 stimulus payments six times. An amendment to the bill could redirect \$141 billion from the amount authorized (excluding the military personnel and Defense Health Program accounts) to the Treasury to carry out a redux of the second round of stimulus checks, which provided a refundable tax credit of \$600 per eligible person, plus \$600 per qualifying child. Why \$141 billion? According to IRS data, that’s the amount disbursed through the second stimulus payments.

In addition to helping address the needs of everyday Americans, this conversion is supported by a growing body of expert opinion showing that more spending does not translate to a better or stronger mili-

tary. On the contrary, bloated Pentagon budgets decrease military effectiveness and incentivize the Pentagon to lavish itself with unnecessarily complex and often dysfunctional equipment. A leaner budget would actually increase military effectiveness by compelling Pentagon leadership to buy simpler and more efficient systems and invest more in its people instead of the unproven and overpriced technology hawked by for-profit contractors. Sometimes less is more.

This is a modest proposal. Adjusted for inflation, real military expenditures would return to about what they were the year before Trump entered office. Since then, we have ended the war in Afghanistan and it’s become evident that Russia’s military is far weaker than imagined and that cooperation with China

on climate is a far more sustainable and promising strategy than indefinite military escalation.

The amount needed to repeat all 147 million second round stimulus payments is still \$13 billion less than the amount of federal funding that went to just four military contractors in 2020. At its most fundamental level, Pentagon spending is a redistribution of wealth: more than half of the annual Pentagon budget goes to military contractors. At \$858 billion, the pending FY2023 military budget can be expected to lavish the arms industry — whose top five CEOs last year made a collective \$104.4 million — with over \$400 billion. A proposal like the one above simply says that, considering the cost-of-living crisis, some of these public funds should remain with the public.

It is difficult to imagine a decisive break from the status quo

Geoff Ramsey

funds could benefit the most needy.

It is also notable that the parties have expressed a renewed commitment to the initial agenda that was created in August 2021. In their joint statement from Mexico, the parties agreed to continue negotiations in the coming weeks on the remaining points of the agenda — which includes political rights, the rule of law, reparation for victims, the lifting of economic sanctions, and credible electoral conditions ahead of presidential elections in 2024. These talks will likely continue in Caracas, with Mexico serving more as a platform to announce finalized accords.

But while the international community has applauded the parties’ decision to restart the process, the development has met notable skepticism at home. Polls have for years shown that a majority of Venezuelans support the idea of a negotiated solution to the crisis, but there does not appear to be much enthusiasm for this process in particular. Following the signing of the agreement in Mexico City, several victims’ organizations have openly criticized the process for not taking into account their voices. Many Venezuelan human rights groups are wary and have warned against any deal that results in impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations and crimes against humanity.

The skepticism is understandable. This is the fifth instance of internationally-mediated dialogue in Venezuela in the last eight years, and each of these previous efforts failed.

Neither the participants in talks nor their main international allies have succeeded in communicating how this time is different. Even on the international stage, there is a lack of clear messaging regarding the future of Venezuela policy. Biden’s climate envoy John Kerry awkwardly shook hands with Maduro at the November climate summit in Egypt, and Colombian president Gustavo Petro, who recently resumed normal diplomatic relations with Caracas, raised eyebrows by suggesting a “general amnesty” for human rights crimes in Venezuela — which would violate international law.

Inside Venezuela, Maduro is taking full advantage of this communication gap. The Venezuelan government is explicitly framing these negotiations as the “defeat” of their political rivals, and officials in the ruling party have accused the opposition delegation of lying about the nature of the talks to the public. While opposition negotiators have attempted to highlight the political, electoral, and judicial items on the table, official statements and state media are laser-focused on sanctions relief — with little to no mention of the other agenda items. Rather than mentioning specific electoral guarantees, Maduro said only that all sanctions must be lifted as a precondition for free elections.

Navigating these waters will not be easy. In order to successfully advance the negotiations, the Biden administration will have to maintain a view of sanctions as a tool — not as an end in themselves. Since

the possibility of sanctions relief is one of the main incentives keeping Maduro at the table, it should be accompanied by clear benchmarks leading towards free and fair elections and the restoration of democratic institutions. These negotiations should incorporate the recommendations of the 2021 EU Election Observation Mission Venezuela to improve future electoral processes, and the recommendations that the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela has made regarding the need for judicial and security reform and advancing impartial investigations. Any further sanctions relief will need to be carefully coordinated with the negotiations process, and with an eye to monitoring compliance with any future agreements.

The U.S. government should also work with Venezuelan and international stakeholders to ensure a more robust communications strategy around negotiations. Instead of ceding space for the talks to be mischaracterized to an already skeptical population, proponents of this process should clearly communicate its potential to improve the lives of everyday Venezuelans. Public agreements should be widely disseminated and explained in accessible terms, not simply posted online with no context. Questions regarding transparency in the use of unfrozen funds should be addressed head on, not left to speculation. Above all, Venezuelans need to see that this dialogue is driven by more than U.S. oil interests.

Just as importantly, the Biden administration should urge the parties to make good on their promise to seek input from civil

society actors. While the initial agenda for talks includes a commitment to create “consultation mechanisms,” to date there has been no formal process through which victims, human rights groups, and other sectors of Venezuelan society can actually present their proposals, concerns, or petitions of the negotiating process. This is more than a cosmetic concern. Studies of political talks and peace negotiations in the last century have repeatedly shown a correlation between civil society participation and engagement and the long-term durability of agreements. Any consultation mechanism will need to ensure that civil society actors are not only given space to provide input to the talks, but also that this input will be taken into account by the parties. Given Venezuela’s authoritarian reality, participants in any consultation will have to be given credible guarantees that they will be shielded from any reprisals.

Ultimately, it is encouraging that the Biden administration has embraced a strategy of negotiations, after a year of an ineffective policy. Now that this process is up and running again, however, it is also time to ensure that it appeals to the broader Venezuelan society. Venezuelans should be given a clear reason to care about these negotiations, to believe that the process can succeed where past talks have failed. Without a population that is engaged and actively demanding political agreements that can restore their fundamental human rights, it is difficult to imagine a decisive break from the status quo.

‘Everyone around is corrupt, wealth is theft, bring the new elite’

Dmitry Kosyrev

IN Hong Kong, Jimmy Lai has been imprisoned for five and a half years - not the strongest, but perhaps the most striking figure among those who almost destroyed this wonderful special territory of China with endless protests. Clearly, the US State Department couldn't help but respond : Beijing was ordered to respect "freedom of expression" in Hong Kong, and the human rights choir habitually labeled this man as a fighter for democracy.

And everything would be predictable and uninteresting if one of the observers of the Hong

nounced one. A revolutionary, like a terrorist, has no nationality, this is some kind of universal type - something between a child forever offended by the whole world and a competent destroyer of that very world. In Russia, there were not only as many such types as you like, but there are no less. Here they are in China.

To begin with, we are talking about a completely non-poor person who, until recently, was, if not the richest, then the most influential figure in the mass media. Jimmy Lai became a publisher in the late 80s, but the main pearl in his crown - Apple Daily (now

who at one time tried to rake up self-proclaimed losers, a semi-literate and embittered electorate, disturbing his old, like Marx, idea: "Everyone around is corrupt, wealth is theft, bring the new elite." But if we are talking not about a political movement, but about a newspaper, then its owner turns (like Jimmy Lai), in fact, into a multi-station blackmailer. No one in Hong Kong wanted to get into the field of view of his salivating delighted reporters who shot close-ups of bloody and dismembered people... Here we have a hint at the psyche of

that we are talking about a man of 75 years old, but wildly active and full-blooded, as well as physically noticeable: a lot of centimeters of height and kilograms of weight. Revolutionaries are often like this - they enter a room full of people, and in a moment all communication begins to revolve around the newcomer, he seems to fill the whole space.

Such people cannot sit quietly and make some kind of secret plans - they need to thunder, for this you can take any risk, but they simply need this risk like air. Jimmy Lai was dra-

probably just as hard to prove that there was no such oppositionist in Hong Kong who would not receive money from Jimmy Lai, not to mention other support. And there wasn't a businessman who traded with the Chinese mainland who wasn't afraid to be on the radar of Apple Daily reporters.

Why did Jimmy Lai do all this and what did he struggle with? For the good of Hong Kong and for the sake of promoting democracy there? But here is an episode of his activity: in 2015, Beijing and the Hong Kong authorities decided that the head of the local administration could and

necessary to restore its status as a British colony, which it was before 1997, but something like that. By the way, Jimmy Lai himself is a proud bearer of a British, of course, passport. But he simply could not run and give up without a fight.

It is always interesting to dig into the early biography of a revolutionary and reveal there what forever turned him into a destroyer (and any revolutionary is a person deeply hurt in some way). But in our case, everything is simple. In 1959, a 12-year-old boy hid on a boat and covered 132 kilometers as a hare in a straight line - from his

Publishers are different. For some media, this is the prestige of an educator and the reputation of a person influencing the government and society. But who do you have to be in order to quite consciously bet on the most illiterate and vicious representatives of your people, launching a shameful tabloid into this people, working on the principle of "blood, disgrace and gossip"?

Kong South China Morning Post did not say on such an occasion that the international reputation of a democrat is one thing, but what about another: that is, what do many, many inhabitants of the city itself think about Jimmy Lai? Hong Kong, who lived for more than two decades under the media omnipotence of this man?

And then a portrait of our hero is built, in some ways typical, in some ways unique, but on the whole something very familiar. Democrat? No way. But a revolutionary - and a pro-

closed) - began publishing in 1996.

Publishers are different. For some media, this is the prestige of an educator and the reputation of a person influencing the government and society. But who do you have to be in order to quite consciously bet on the most illiterate and vicious representatives of your people, launching a shameful tabloid into this people, working on the principle of "blood, disgrace and gossip"?

In fact, there is something in common with the phenomenon of Navalny,

another domestic media character who caught someone with girlfriends instead of wives, dug up someone's medical diagnoses.

Such personalities constantly turn out to be egomaniacs who cannot live without flickering everywhere and speaking out on all topics with fantastic eloquence, Jimmy Lai, at least on a weekly basis, shared with his compatriots his opinions not only about how evil Beijing and other China are, but in general about everything, including the books just read.

Here it should be noted

ged into the courts two years ago when he had to clean up Hong Kong, and he reacted to his first small prison term with sincere words: "Yes, for me it's just a reward!"

By the way, he received the current prison term for fraud, and not for politics: he violated the rules of the lease agreement. This, of course, leaves a sour taste - something like the fact that good old Al Capone was imprisoned for tax evasion, without collecting evidence of his personal involvement in permanent terror in Chicago and beyond. It was

should be elected by popular vote. But Jimmy Lai intervened, one by one working on the members of the then legislature, and they voted against. Because democracy is not what democrats want. But permanent riots - with arson and smashing windows - is another matter, because it loosens the system and leads to the goal.

And what, exactly, is the goal? The Hong Kong revolutionaries, to put it simply, were wreaking havoc and destruction in order to turn history: to wrest territory from China. It is not

native Guangzhou to Hong Kong.

He worked in a textile factory for a salary of eight dollars a month. And then he went the classic way of a local millionaire: he bought a collapsed factory, started producing and selling something... And he became a world celebrity and a rich man, but in his heart he remained a poor boy from a textile factory, hating his China for something from that ultra-communist 1959 years (the "Great Leap Forward" campaign), which we do not and will not know.

Competing from a Winning Position

TODAY, the Western media blame "Russia's invasion of Ukraine" for all the troubles of the world. They just hang all the dogs on us. The famine in England, the impoverishment of Europe, the rebellions and riots that overwhelm the former "golden billion" - the NWO is to blame for everything. But who was the first to start in Ukraine?

The answer to this is given by the report of the American research center RAND Corporation. It was written in 2019, and there the actions of Washington for the next few years are sorted out in order to weaken and destroy Russia. Escalation in Ukraine is one of the most important points there.

the allies (well, you remember how Joe Biden recently begged for this from the Saudis and was refused).

At the same time, it was necessary to stop the construction of Nord Stream 2, transfer Europe to American LNG, and thus deprive Russia of income from the export of hydrocarbons.

Then, of course, sanctions - oh, that's a sweet word. Recall: this is a "vegetarian" 2019. There is still no SVO, not even the notorious coronavirus. But partners are already planning financial sanctions against our banks, sectoral sanctions focusing on the defense industry, secondary sanctions against countries that do not participate in them, and dreaming about how they will bankrupt Russia.

Victoria Nikiforova

Washington's orbit.

RAND experts wrote about all this in 2019. And how it happens today - we see with our own eyes.

The Americans are exploiting the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, "spud" the leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, persuade Georgia to take part in the conflict in Ukraine, and Moldova to expel Russian peacekeepers from Transnistria. Finland and Sweden are already trampling on the doorstep of NATO.

As you can see, the escalation in Ukraine was planned by the Americans long before the start of the NWO. And quite rightly, Putin noted : if it had not

dead (like Tony Deluca) citizens? It's not you who votes God knows who - without ID, without everything? Isn't it with you that millions of citizens consider the head of the country to be illegally elected? Okay, aside.

The second point is the exposure of corruption among high-ranking officials with an emphasis on the "wealth" of Vladimir Putin personally. Revelations must be thrown through the Internet. Blogger Navalny is mentioned.

Well, yes, just a few months later we saw Navalny's video on YouTube about "Putin's palace", which turned out to be neither a palace nor Putin. The blogger honestly read out a poorly translated

Western technologies and markets, especially in terms of hydrocarbons.

The NVO cut off this dependence on the West - not without losses, of course: we will not forget and forgive them for the 300 billion stolen dollars. However, in general, we got the opportunity to jump off the ship of the Western economy in time, which is right now sweeping the perfect storm.

By revealing the conflict with Washington and turning it in our favor, we win by no means only in Ukraine. Although vast lands and millions of people are the wonderful fruit of our victory. Today, everything that RAND experts honestly warned their patrons about is coming true. American sanc-



The Serbs have their own NWO in Kosovo

THERE is a crisis in Kosovo, and mid-night in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. The Balkan Gordian knot regularly gives pessimists a reason to sigh - "now it's definitely war", and journalists to remember about the "powder magazine of Europe." But there is still no new war, the end of the world has not happened, the cyclicity persists: you see, it has resolved again in Kosovo, and dawn has dawned in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

But now it's not like that or not quite like that. At least from the Serbian side, phrases like "a historic moment", or "at the last line", or even "there will be no surrender", as well as "it was my hardest day in public service" are heard (President Aleksandar Vucic after an urgent meeting with security officials).

In Belgrade, many hope that everything will resolve and dawn again. But there is little time left.

On Thursday, Serbia will send a request to KFOR (the regional brand of NATO troops in Kosovo) to send its military police to the north of the province, where it has not been since 1999. They will answer with a categorical refusal. If after that the Kosovo Serbs continue to protest and block roads, and the Albanian authorities send their special forces to pacify them, Vucic will have to choose between two difficult decisions.

Or he will do nothing but shrug his shoulders and say something like "at least I tried." This will mean shame for him, the loss of voters and political positions, and Serbian national pride will once again be trampled in the face of a formidable adversary in the face of NATO.

Or he will start his own, Serbian NWO, one of the fundamental reasons for which is the refusal of the Albanians to comply with the local analogue of the Minsk agreements - the Brussels agreements. They were concluded between Belgrade and Pristina in 2013 under pressure and with the mediation of the EU.

If one outlines the best option for a Serbian victory of all possible, it will look like the restoration of military and political control over Northern Kosovo, the so-called Ibar Kolasin. These are three municipalities inhabited by Serbs: Leposavich, Zvecan and Zubin Potok, as well as the local capital - half of the city of Kosovska Mitrovica, separated from the Albanian part by the Ibar River. In this case, the Ibar will become the border between Serbia and Kosovo, which will largely coincide with the ethnic picture on the ground.

Without such or almost such a scenario, the conflict will not be resolved for a very long time, crises will continue to arise again and again. But it is ideal only if the Albanians, and after them KFOR, do not react to all this, do not meet the Serbian special forces with fire, just put up with it. It would be better for everyone, but it won't be. Instead, a war will start,

Dmitry Bavyrin

and the Brussels agreements will share the fate of the Minsk agreements.

Restoring Serbian control over the whole of Kosovo, or at least over the last Serbian enclaves in the interior of the region, is a mission that is obviously impossible: Kosovo is not as small as it might seem on the map. The Serbian army is the strongest in the region (except for the Balkan country Turkey), but the proportion between Serbs and Albanians in the declared state borders (Serbia plus Kosovo) is one to three and a half in favor of the Serbs in the best case for the Serbs. At worst, one in three. At the same time, Kosovo Albanians and Albanians living in Serbia outside of Kosovo are a younger, more passionate, more armed society than Serbian. And most importantly, the bayonets and aviation of KFOR, that is, NATO, are behind them.

The victory of the Albanians will look in such a way that they will gain complete power control over Ibar Kolasin, oust as many Serbs as they can from there, put their collaborators in administrative positions and try to raise an uprising in the communities of Presevo, Medveja and Bujanovac, which adjoin Kosovo from the east and populated mainly by Albanians. Local supporters of the concept of "Greater Albania" consider the expansion of Kosovo's borders to these communities of Serbia "inevitable".

At the same time, the Albanians would also prefer that the Serbs "sit and not rock the boat", but this, of course, will not happen either. And then someone will take.

In Russia, they clearly understand who "ours" are there. But there are also several unknowns in this equation, of which at least two must be distinguished.

First, it is not known to what extent Vucic controls the protesters in Kosovo, that is, to what extent the escalation of the conflict is controlled on his part.

Officially, it does not control in any way, the Serbs are protesting on their own. A few years ago, this would have been pure truth, with which few would have dared to argue: because of the same Brussels agreements, the Serbs of Ibarsky Kolasin considered the president, impartially speaking, a traitor. But since then, much has changed, Vucic is perceived by them as a leader. But is he pulling the strings, is he capable of pulling, is he able, only he knows.

Secondly, it is not known what game Vucic and the European Union are playing between themselves and what game the European Union is playing against the United States. Some leads exactly.

Ultimately, the Europeans don't care who controls Presevo and Bujanovac, and who controls Leposavich and Zvecan: the main thing is that everyone sits quietly. But they are strongly interested in reducing US influence in Kosovo, which is still decisive and potential-

ly dangerous. Europe needs the Albanians to focus primarily on the EU. The US, which has the largest military base in Europe in Kosovo, does not want change.

As for the desires of the Serbs of Serbia as a people, they are also more or less known thanks to sociologists. The Serbs definitely do not want to recognize Kosovo, exchange this recognition for anything and give up their claims to full control over the Ibar Kolasin. They no longer want to join the EU - the number of Eurosceptics in the country continues to grow. What they want, for the most part, is military-political neutrality, further (and arbitrarily long) negotiations with Pristina, and the concentration of the Serbian authorities on socio-economic problems within the country.

The option in which Serbia restores control over Kosovo by force with all possible consequences - a military conflict and isolation from the West, suits only a quarter of the country's population. And only if Russia helps the Serbian NWO. At the Foreign Ministry level, Russia has already promised to support Belgrade, but it seems that Smolenskaya Square meant political support, while the Serbs mean military.

This is how the components of the local formula of war and peace look in its most simplified form. All the curls and ends of the Balkan Gordian knot can only be described in book-type formats, even if the time span is limited to only two or three years. But the main question now is not in the past, but in the future - whether the Serbian NWO will begin.

There are a thousand objective reasons why it should not start, and most of them boil down to the fact that a new war will be a disaster for Serbia. At the same time, the scenario in which everything will resolve and dawn again is understandable and quite simple:

The Albanians are releasing the hostages - all the Serbs who have been arrested in recent days, the Serbs are dismantling the barricades, Pristina is no longer trying to bring its special forces into the Ibar Kolasin, and Belgrade is its own. Negotiations will then follow up to a new crisis, which will begin at the latest in April. For this month, the Albanian authorities have postponed the elections of the leadership of the municipalities of Ibar Kolasin, and now there is anarchy: all Serbs have resigned in protest.

But sometimes it happens that circumstances are stronger than logic and someone else's desires. Sometimes a conflict turns into a military confrontation because of the slightest spark on its own and against the wishes of all its participants, simply because someday this should have happened anyway.

Most likely it will pass again. But it would, under circumstances that made a renewed slaughter in the Balkans more real than at any time in the last ten years.

Instead of the Afghan Mujahideen, Ukrainian proxy Cossacks are dancing a combat hopak today. Instead of a collapse in hydrocarbon prices, there are direct attacks on our gas pipelines. Instead of inciting protests in the countries of the Warsaw Pact, the organization of Maidans in the post-Soviet republics, instead of anti-Soviet propaganda, anti-Russian propaganda. As they say, find ten differences. The goal of all these ev-ents has also not changed - to destroy Russia in the same way as the Soviet Union was destroyed in its time. Inside our country, RAND experts propose to carry out information sabotage. The range of topics here is quite well-known. The first point of the plan looks especially funny - to compromise the Russian electoral system by organizing stuffing about "carousels", violations during the counting of votes, that's all. Guys, are you sure you didn't mix anything up there? Is it not you who elect insane (like Fetterman in Pennsylvania) or even dead (like Tony Deluca) citizens? It's not you who votes God knows who - without ID, without everything? Isn't it with you that millions of citizens consider the head of the country to be illegally elected? Okay, aside. The second point is the exposure of corruption among high-ranking officials with an emphasis on the "wealth" of Vladimir Putin personally.

The report is called Stretching Russia: Competing from a Winning Position. Have you seen how during a football match one of the teams suddenly stops in place, begins to endlessly pass each other, passes the ball to the goalkeeper, plays for time? Why, it would seem? And it is they who "stretch" the enemy's defense, trying to find a weak spot in it and break through to someone else's goal. That's exactly how three years ago Washington planned to "stretch" Russia's defense.

To begin with, the authors indulge in sweet nostalgia for the 1980s. Then, they believe, America managed to win the Cold War, thanks to the fact that, under the pretext of Star Wars, it dragged the USSR into an arms race, fought against the Soviets with the help of proxy mujahideen in Afghanistan, fanned anti-Soviet propaganda and supported the fifth column - oh, sorry, I wanted to say Soviet "dissidents".

It is proposed today to destroy Russia according to the same patterns: adjusted for the fact that, having decreased in size, Russia, according to our counter-parties, has become much stronger than the USSR.

The authors of the report remember very well that the sharp decline in oil prices in the 1980s contributed to the weakening of the economy of the Soviet Union. Therefore, the first thing the States should do is to achieve the same reduction. To do this, you need to increase your production to the maximum and demand the same from

From the inexorably growing sanctions, the Russian budget will lose hundreds of billions of dollars, there will be nothing to pay pensions and salaries, citizens will start protesting - Washington will profit. Yes, these sanctions will also hit the Americans themselves, the authors admit, but here it's "to hell with it, that the hut burned down, the main thing is that the neighbor's cow died."

However, all these dreams run into one problem: it is not clear how to force all the vassals of Washington to get off the needle of Russian hydrocarbons and force them to participate in collective sanctions.

On what to unite them all? And here the authors remember about Ukraine. Here is the perfect tool to weaken Russia. Let's pump it up with weapons, promise membership in NATO (given that the initiative will still be blocked by Old Europe). Then Russia will be forced to send troops to the Donbass and be drawn into an exhausting conflict that will deplete its defense industry and economy for a long time. Ukraine will become the second Afghanistan and lead our country to collapse.

At the same time, the case of Ukraine will make it possible to rally the European vassals. It will also provide the possibility of NATO expansion at the expense of Finland, Sweden and the expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance into the Arctic. As well as drawing Georgia, Moldova, and the countries of Central Asia into

started, "sanctions against us would have been imposed anyway." And wild Russophobia would be bred, and cancel culture would be launched "at maximum speed." And they would have tried to demolish Lukashenka in the same way: the change of power in Belarus is stated in the RAND report as one of the steps to weaken Russia. Because these are all stages of the same scenario that has changed little since the 1980s.

Instead of the Afghan Mujahideen, Ukrainian proxy Cossacks are dancing a combat hopak today. Instead of a collapse in hydrocarbon prices, there are direct attacks on our gas pipelines. Instead of inciting protests in the countries of the Warsaw Pact, the organization of Maidans in the post-Soviet republics, instead of anti-Soviet propaganda, anti-Russian propaganda. As they say, find ten differences.

The goal of all these events has also not changed - to destroy Russia in the same way as the Soviet Union was destroyed in its time.

Inside our country, RAND experts propose to carry out information sabotage. The range of topics here is quite well-known. The first point of the plan looks especially funny - to compromise the Russian electoral system by organizing stuffing about "carousels", violations during the counting of votes, that's all.

Guys, are you sure you didn't mix anything up there? Is it not you who elect insane (like Fetterman in Pennsylvania) or even

text from English, concocted by his owners. On YouTube they got views. Partners worked according to the methodology. It didn't give any results.

Further, the Americans, according to RAND, should start inciting protest actions in Russia in all formats - rallies, pickets, strikes, demonstrations. At the same time, you should not show off and act in such a way that the protests look spontaneous. "Even the opponents of the Russian regime are skeptical about the West's attempts to use the protests," the authors of the report note self-critically.

In the international arena, it is proposed to achieve exclusion of Russia from the G20, subjecting its citizens to visa restrictions and banning major international events. At the same time, it is necessary to wink all the time, hinting that the sanctions will be lifted if Moscow behaves "correctly."

And there is a lot more in the report about the military encirclement of Russia by NATO forces - both on land and at sea, and in the air, and in space. And the goal of all this is to change the power in the Kremlin, weaken Russia to the limit, and then ruin it in the same way as the Soviet Union collapsed. And Ukraine is just one of the important consumables in this "multi-move".

Russia's vulnerabilities - economic first of all - are described very clearly in the RAND report (thanks to colleagues). They were very real. The main one was dependence on

oil and gas sector contributions to the rise in the cost of energy. Uncertainty is increasing and there is less and less investment, market players complain. Once upon a time, shale companies were booming. Now they are marking time, despite high oil prices and requests from the White House to produce more, the Wall Street Journal notes.

"Drill stocks" The rapid depletion of wells also interferes. The problem has been pointed out many times in the industry. We need to constantly drill - but nothing, says Paal Kibsgaard, head of oilfield services firm Schlumberger. Investors are unwilling to buy securities of those who inflate budgets.

"Unlike Saudi Arabia and Russia, which adjust production depending on demand, American shale producers react exclusively to prices. This is a market without brains," says BP CEO Robert Dudley. For investors, the "shale revolution" has been a disaster, according to Steve Schloterbeck, former CEO of EQT, the world's largest natural gas producer. "Every time they drill, billions go down the drain,"

he stresses. "It's no wonder stocks keep falling."

Sharp deceleration Pioneer CEO Scott Sheffield agrees: "Investor pressure and limited well resource means that shale players cannot drill like they used to. Growth of 15-20% per year is out of the question. If you continue like this."

FLOW Partners has calculated that the top five U.S. shale players - EOG Resources, Devon Energy, Diamondback Energy, Continental Resources and Marathon Oil - will run out of reserves in about six years while expanding production at 15% per year.

According to Sheffield's estimates, the real figure is 2-3% per year, and this is at prices ranging from \$70 to \$100 per barrel. Before the pandemic, by the way, it was up to 30%.

Finally, the fact that the shale revolution is coming to an end is also evidenced by a significant decrease in the share of such oil in world production. OPEC has long regained control over the market and dictates its terms. In short, an "energy hungry" Europe should not rely on US shale resources if OPEC suddenly cuts production.

Shale boom in United States turned into a disaster

WASHINGTON promises Europe more and more oil and gas. Hope primarily for shale companies. However, they can no longer increase production. Drill-ling new wells is very expensive, and they are dep-leted quickly. At the same time, investors cooled sharply towards shale oil companies, without waiting for the promised profit. Experts expect a record drop in production.

Overgrown with debts

The US oil and gas industry has been hit hard by the pandemic. In 2020, one and a half hundred enterprises went bankrupt. The number of gas and drilling rigs has steadily declined, companies have suspended work. First of all, oil shale companies suffered, which even before the covid got into debt, in the face of an acute shortage of investment.

As the Fitch rating agency predicted in 2021, one should not wait for pre-crisis indicators for another two or three years. Producers are concerned with cost optimization and return on investment, rather than increasing production, analysts pointed out.

Apparently, the predictions are coming true. There is a critical lack of money. Operators have to drill wells - this is a huge cost. But tired of unprofitable projects, investors are losing interest in shale.

Investors disappointed The peak of investments fell on 2010-2014 - about 125 billion dollars were invested. However, the results of the "shale decade" disappointed investors. Several dozen leading companies spent almost 200 billion more than they earned. Only a few made a profit.

Thousands of wells drilled over the past five years are pumping much less oil and gas than their owners promised.

As a result, only \$56.6 billion was attracted to the sector in 2016, and \$19.4 billion in 2019, despite an increase in production. The oil industry was hit by a wave of bankruptcies: in 2020 alone, almost 50 enterprises went bankrupt. "The shale oil companies actively took out loans, issued bonds. And oil prices collapsed. This greatly frightened the market," explains Leonid Khazanov, an independent industrial expert.

Natalia Dembinskaya

Live within your means

From those who remained afloat, Wall Street demanded to live within their means. It is necessary to return investments, and not spend money on aggressive growth strategies. We have to observe financial discipline: profits go to dividends to shareholders and repayment of debts.

As a result, production is increasing much more slowly than before the 2020 crisis, and there are no prerequisites for a change in the situation, OilPrice writes.

One thing, then another

Another factor is inconsistent government policy. Biden's administration sends conflicting signals: on the one hand, it blames high gasoline prices and demands to expand production, on the other hand, it threatens to raise taxes on "dirty" energy. With record inflation, disruptions in supply chains, and problems in the regulatory framework, it is impossible to build far-reaching plans for drilling and production.

The lack of understanding by the administration of the investment cycle in the

Important Notice

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



SCCI urges relaxation in visa policy to boost Pak-Afghan bilateral trade

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) underscored the need of bringing relaxation in visa policy, besides taking of pragmatic steps to quell out of related factors that were creating hurdles in smooth issuance of visa to the business community so that bilateral trade between Pakistan-Afghanistan would be boost up trade at optimal level.

Shahid Hussain, senior vice president of the SCCI in a press statement issued here on Wednesday underscored the need of focusing on bringing relaxation and improvement in visa issuance to Afghans and traders' than holding conferences.

It is imperative to ensure issuance of visas to citizens and traders communities of both countries without any hurdle, the SCCI senior office bearer commented.

However, he made it clear that if such steps

aren't taken, the likely convening of conferences will not bear any fruits and won't gain desired results/objectives.

Giving reference to a recent survey report, Mr Hussain said Pak-Afghan bilateral trade volume that stood at \$2.5billion in 2012 that has been dropped by \$6million in 2022, which is highly worrisome and a matter of grave concern.

It is reportedly that alleged \$1000 illegally is being charged on issuance of visa to Afghans and traders, citing that some local and foreign elements and factors are allegedly involved in this illegal practice, the SCCI SVP elaborated.

Hussain questioned: "What expectation can be attached with regard to Pak-Afghan bilateral trade promotion under the prevailing circumstances"? He added the denial from these facts and ground reality, is equally tantamount in wild dreams.

Keeping in view the current fragile security situation in war-ravaged Afghanistan, the SCCI SVP noted Pakistani traders could not freely roam for conducting survey, marketing and business purposes in various Afghan cities.

He went on to say that Afghan traders and people can buy and transport themselves if they were provided a visa by relaxing policy.

There is neither issue of language, identification of locations and ways nor required any guidance for roaming to Afghans people in various cities of Pakistan, he added.

However, he said the only thing which is needed for Afghans is a smooth issuance of visa on simplified procedures and a prompt manner.

The SCCI senior office bearer asked to focus on bringing relaxation and improvement of visa issuance to Afghans instead of wasting time in conducting conferences, according

to Mr Ishaq, such meaningless initiatives would further drop the Pak-Afghan bilateral trade.

Shahid Hussain asserted that collective policies would be proved a catalyst to enhance Pak-Afghan mutual trade and onward trade to Central Asian Republics.

Approximately CARs market is \$100billion, in which Pakistan's share is completely negligible, Hussain noted. He said Pakistan has also been ignored due to various factors in this regard and citizens/traders of CARs states await for visa facility for two or more months.

He asked: "Who will come in the current scenario in Pakistan"?

The SCCI senior office bearer urged concerned authorities in Pakistan and Afghanistan to take consistent and regular initiatives to facilitate the business community and jack up bilateral trade volume between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing during a meeting with business community at FPCCI.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Maersk Sentosa, MSC Litezia, AMI, Sereno and MalhaRass LaffanOsprey, carrying Containers, Palm oil, Gas oil and LNG, called at the Port on Tuesday, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Oil Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile four more ships, CMA CGM Ivanhoe, EM Astoria, Chemroad Sirius and Saehan Intrasia carrying Containers and Palm oil also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the same day.

PQA berths were engaged by ten ships during the last 24 hours, out of them, two ships, FSM and Sea fortune left the port on Wednesday morning and a container vessel 'Maersk Sentosa' is expected to sail on today in the afternoon.

Cargo throughput during last 24 hours stood at 213,856 tonnes comprising 171,404 tonnes imports cargo and 42,452 tonnes export cargo including containerized cargo carried in 4,400 Containers (2,500 TEUs Imports and 1,900 TEUs export) was handled at the Port.

There are 12 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them, two ships, Nord Vancouver and EM Astoria & another ship X-Press Bardsey scheduled to load/offload Rice and Containers are expected to take berths at MW-1 and QICT respectively on Wednesday.

Gold price recorded increased

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of per tola 24 karat gold increased by Rs 100 to Rs 170,900 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs 170,800 during the previous day.

The rates of 10 gram 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 86 to Rs 146,519 whereas as the price of ten gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 134,309, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs 20 to Rs 1990 whereas that of ten gram went up by Rs 17.15 to Rs 1706.10.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$ 9 to \$1808 compared to its sale at \$1917, the association reported.

Commissioners assume charges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Three new Commissioners, appointed by the federal government have assumed charges of their responsibilities at the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

The federal government on December 13 has appointed Akif Saeed, Abdul Rehman Warraich and Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi as commissioners in SECP for a period of three years.

Following the new appointments, the number of commissioners now stands at five, completing the commission, said a press release issued here.

Akif Saeed has earlier served in the SECP as head of various divisions and later he was appointed as Commissioner from December 2014 to December 2017. During his tenure at SECP, he has contributed significantly towards instituting various legal and regulatory reforms.

Dar reiterates need for developing Charter of Economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Wednesday reiterated the idea of developing 'Charter of Economy' to keep the economy out of politics on a sustainable growth path and lead the country towards progress.

"Politics must be detached from the economy," the finance minister said at the Second Pakistan Prosperity Forum on 'Sustained Economic Growth: Roadmap and Roadblocks,' organized by Prime Institute and Business Recorder.

Instead of launching negative campaigns, the political parties should force the incumbent government to move the country back on the path where it was in 2017.

He lamented that Pakistan was going to be part of G20 in a few years owing to the policies of the Pakistan Muslim League government, however instead of making collective efforts to reduce this time line, negative campaigns put the country away from the target.

However, he was optimistic that it was not late to enable the country to become part of G20 with the collective efforts of all.

He said if conferences are held abroad and people are told that Pakistan was debt trapped country, or a corrupt country, who would

choose it for investment.

Talking about the debt issue, the minister said it was below Rs25000 billion when the Pakistan Muslim League (N) left in 2018 and if debt liabilities are added, it was calculated at Rs30,000 billion. However, it reached Rs44500 billion within a few months after PML(N) left and stands at Rs54500 billion currently.

"This is an unbearable increase in the debt," the minister remarked adding that the debt piled up due to two main reasons including skyrocketing fiscal deficit and a fall in rupee value. He said, Rs4000 billion were added to public debt on the external side due to the rupee depreciation.

He said, the rupee was allowed free fall to help enhance exports, which during the three years, increased only by \$800 million whereas the country was inflicted a loss of Rs4000 billion in terms of debt increase.

He said the incentive packages of Rs180 billion and Rs67 billion provided to export-oriented industry in 2017-18 were based on the performance of the industry in enhancing exports. Had the upcoming government followed the model instead of mismanaging subsidies, the conditions would have been different now.

Dar said, that his government had self-imposed

the debt limitation and fiscal responsibility and had fixed debt to GDP ratio at 60 percent.

He said, currently the debt to GDP ratio of United States was 110 percent, United Kingdom 101 percent and in Japan 257 percent. He lamented that debt to GDP ratio has been a hot topic in Pakistan but politicians in US, UK, Japan never make it an issue.

On exchange rate issues, the federal minister said in any system there are certain speculators, gamblers, and hundawalas, who take the country's currency as a hostage. So, if the state did not come in play, "then what will happen, is what has happened now."

He said, the Bank of England, Bangladesh and India do intervene, so the governments had to make sure that the abusive practices are checked. He said, Pakistan had constraints of foreign reserves, so it can not afford these malpractices.

He said, dollars and urea were being smuggled to neighbouring country adding Pakistan Customs caught smuggler with 100,000 dollars. He said urea fertilizer, which Pakistan imports for local consumption and had to give subsidy on domestic production, was being smuggled to neighbouring country, which he said was causing loss to the national exchequer.

Tokyo shares close higher ahead of Fed decision

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks closed higher Wednesday after US inflation data came in better than expected, while traders eyed the Federal Reserve's upcoming policy decision.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.72 percent, or 201.36 points, to end at 28,156.21, while the broader Topix index rose 0.60 percent, or 11.74 points, to 1,977.42.

The upbeat close followed gains in US stocks, although some investors went into a wait-and-see mode ahead of the Fed's decision later on Wednesday, Mizuho Securities said.

Official US data on Tuesday showed that inflation slowed more than expected, opening the way for the central bank to reduce the tempo of its rate hikes.

The consumer price index (CPI) reading "opens the door for the FOMC to set a slightly softer tone for longer-term rates at today's decision," said Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management.

"The question is, with inflation still at generational highs, will the Fed walk through that door?"

The dollar fetched 135.45 yen in Asian trade, against 135.59 yen in New York late Tuesday.

The Bank of Japan

released its quarterly Tankan survey before the opening bell, which showed that business confidence among large manufacturers slightly waned, but confidence among non-manufacturers improved.

The reading did not prompt a strong market reaction.

Chip-making equipment manufacturer Tokyo Electron jumped 1.89 percent to 46,150 yen, while Sony Group gained 1.45 percent to 11,150 yen.

Chip-testing equipment maker Advantest advanced 1.12 percent to 9,920 yen while SoftBank Group climbed 0.48 percent to 6,243 yen.

UK inflation slows to 10.7% in November

LONDON (AFP/APP): British inflation slowed in November from October's 41-year peak, data showed Wednesday, but remains elevated as a cost-of-living crisis sparks strikes across the economy.

The Consumer Prices Index eased to 10.7 percent last month, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

That compared with 11.1 percent in October, which was the highest level since 1981. Market expectations had been for a November reading of 10.9 percent.

The modest slowdown followed falls in the price of motor fuel, but inflation remains high owing to soaring domestic energy and food bills.

The data was published on the eve of an interest

rate decision from the Bank of England, which is widely expected to deliver the ninth hike in a row as policymakers try to tackle rampant prices.

It also comes as strikes spread across the economy, with workers protesting over salaries that have failed to keep pace with runaway inflation.

"Although still at historically high levels, annual inflation eased slightly in November," noted ONS chief economist Grant Fitzner.

"Prices are still rising, but by less than this time last year, with the most notable example of this being motor fuels."

Finance minister Jeremy Hunt blames Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine for fuelling sky-high energy prices, as

well as the reopening from Covid restrictions.

"The aftershocks of Covid-19 and Putin's weaponisation of gas mean high inflation is plaguing economies across Europe, and I know families and businesses are struggling here in the UK," Hunt said.

"Getting inflation down so people's wages go further is my top priority."

"I know it is tough for many right now, but it is vital that we take the tough decisions needed to tackle inflation -- the number one enemy that makes everyone poorer."

Economists meanwhile expect the BoE will lift its key lending rate from 3.0 percent to 3.5 percent on Thursday, further squeezing consumers with rising loan costs.

PSX continues with bullish trend, closes at 41,737.62 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 23.32 points on Wednesday, a slight positive change of 0.06 percent, closing at 41,737.62 against 41,714.30 points on the previous day.

A total of 146,710,701 shares were traded during the day as compared to 144,845,613 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 3.910 billion against Rs 3.756 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 332 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 126 of them recorded gains and

186 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 20 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were TPL Properties with 15,755,442 shares at Rs 19.70 per share, Unity Foods Ltd with 8,262,372 shares at Rs 16.02 per share and Dewan Motors with 7,975,500 shares at Rs 16.46 per share.

Bhanero Textile witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 74.10 per share price, closing at Rs 1063.00, whereas the runner-up was Pak Services with a Rs 67.24 rise in its per share price to Rs 1279.17.

Rafhan Maize witnessed

a maximum decrease of Rs 240.01 per share closing at Rs 9060 followed by Nestle Pakistan with a Rs149.99 decline to close at Rs5500.01.

Rupee sheds 2 paisa against dollar

The exchange rate of the Pakistan rupee depreciated by 02 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Wednesday and closed at Rs 224.71 against the previous day's closing of Rs 224.69.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 231.8 and Rs 234.1

respectively.

The price of the euro was increased by Rs 1.55 paisa and closed at Rs 238.71 against the previous day's closing of Rs 237.16, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen gained two paisa to close at Rs1.65, whereas an increase of Rs 1.81 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 277.65 as compared to its last closing of Rs 275.84. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal remained unchanged to close at Rs 61.17 and Rs 59.76 respectively.

Danish Ambassador vows to strengthen trade ties

SIALKOT (APP): Danish Ambassador to Pakistan Jakob Linulf expressed his resolve to make sincere efforts for cementing mutual trade ties between Denmark and Pakistan.

He stated this while addressing a meeting at Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) here on Wednesday.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer

Majeed Sheikh and local business community were present on the occasion.

Addressing the meeting, he urged the Sialkot exporters to come forward and explore untapped international trade markets of Denmark with an aim to strengthen bilateral trade between Pakistan and Denmark.

He assured of all possible assistance and said that businessmen would be facilitated.

He said that bilateral trade and business relations among two countries should be further improved with the exchange of trade delegations.

He said that farmers were producing high quality food items in Pakistan, therefore, collective efforts were needed to cope with

the impacts of climate change.

He evinced keen interest in SCCI's documentary 'Sialkot, the City of Progressive People' which was screened during the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik said that Denmark, known as the land of free, happiest and smartest people of the world, emerged as the most stable economies in the world.

He said the growth and sustainability of Denmark which was powered by one of the most robust employment generating SME sectors, a commonality that was found in the economy of Sialkot.

Denmark had one of the best education systems in

the world and brought many laurels in science and technology, he added.

The SCCI President said the volume of trade between two the countries, according to the Trade Map Data, was just over US\$ 344 million.

Earlier, SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, SVP Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh accorded a warm welcome to Danish Ambassador upon his arrival at the SCCI.

Later, he visited several leading industrial units in Sialkot.

He witnessed the craftsmanship of Sialkot based artisans and showed keen interest in the production process of sports goods and surgical instruments as well.

Asian markets extend US rally after inflation boost

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Asian markets rose Wednesday and the dollar struggled to recover as investors welcomed softer-than-expected US inflation data that could allow the Federal Reserve to slow down its pace of interest rate hikes.

The reading provided some much-needed Christmas cheer on trading floors and came the day before the US central bank's last policy decision of the year, which will be pored over for clues about its plans for 2023.

There is also some focus on China as it continues to roll back its strict zero-Covid strategy that has battered the world's number two economy, though fears of a sharp surge in infections is causing some unease among dealers.

All three main indexes on Wall Street ended in positive territory Tuesday in reaction to data showing consumer prices rose 7.1 percent last month, less than forecast and the slowest pace since December 2021.

The reading followed an

October slowdown and fuelled hopes that inflation has finally peaked, after several months of Fed rate hikes.

"Last month's positive surprise came with the caveat that it was 'just one month of data' but the November numbers add further weight to the interpretation that the long-awaited goods disinflation is showing up in the data," said National Australia Bank's Taylor Nugent.

Asian markets tracked Wall Street higher, though the gains were limited ahead of the Fed meeting.

Hong Kong, Tokyo, Shanghai, Sydney, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Manila and Jakarta all rose.

And the dollar held the losses suffered Tuesday in reaction to the inflation report, with the yen, euro and pound the main beneficiaries.

While the Fed is widely expected to increase borrowing costs 50 basis points Wednesday -- after four successive 75-point rises -- its post-meeting statement and boss Jerome Powell's comments are the

main focus for traders.

And while the slower inflation print was welcomed, there is still a growing concern among investors that the US economy will tip into recession next year as rates will remain elevated until prices are brought under control and within the bank's target around two percent.

Silvia Dall'Angelo, at Federated Hermes, said monetary policymakers would slow the pace of hikes so they could "assess the impact on the real economy from the large cumulative tightening that has taken place since March."

"However, the Fed will stress that it is still far from mission accomplished with respect to its fight (against) high inflation, and more hikes will follow in coming months," she added.

"Our expectation is that while inflation will decline over 2023, it will remain above target, which will prevent the Fed from easing next year." Oil prices edged down slightly after rallying on the back of the weaker dollar, though Brent held above \$80.



In brief

Meeting reviews

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Raja Jahangir Anwar has directed the concerned to organize the 18th International Cholistan Desert Rally in a befitting manner by completing all the arrangements on time. While presiding over a meeting at his office today, he said that all the roads leading to Derawar Fort must be repaired and widened before the mega event. He said that all the officers concerned must contribute to organizing the rally with national zeal and fervor because "the event helps in promoting the soft image of Pakistan". The meeting was told that a committee had been constituted to monitor the repair work of roads leading to Derawar Fort. Moreover, direction boards will be installed to guide the visitors to the site of the rally and a traffic plan has been devised to ensure a smooth flow of traffic.

Ittehad Club wins tournament

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Gold Cup Kabaddi tournament concluded here on Wednesday. Ittehad Club, Chak Jhumra won the title by defeating Gillani Club Chak No. 208. Eight teams including Sher-e-Punjab, Sajjadan Club, Ali Raza Wahla Kabaddi club, Chananke Azad club, Ittehad club Chak Jhumra, Bilani Club 208, KK club, King Kalan and Makkah club Sir Shamir participated in the event. A large number of people including political figures, officers, traders, civil society, and lawyers were present in the final competition. Jamat-e-Islami district Ameer Prof. Mahboob-uz-Zaman Butt was chief guest in the concluding ceremony. The winning team was awarded with cash prize of Rs 60,000 and trophy, runner up Rs 30,000 and third Rs 10,000. The coaches of all teams were also decorated with different prizes.

Players, organizers stage protest

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Hockey players and civil society members on Wednesday showed concerns and protested against the use of poor materials and enormous defects that were identified in the installation of AstroTurf and other works at the cost of 110.5 million rupees in Abbottabad Hockey Stadium. Abbottabad's various sports organizations and hockey officials, organizers and players have demanded of the Chief Minister and Speaker of Provincial Assembly Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani and DG Sports KP to address the irregularities and poor construction of the Abbottabad Hockey Stadium. They have demanded to take strict action against the contractors and officials concerned for leaving many defects in the turf installation and poor construction work of the Abbottabad Hockey S t a d i u m . Unfortunately, they noted, the astroturfing is being done under the nose of the regional and district sports authorities and their offices. Some of the hockey players revealed that the contractors are frequently using iron nails to drive out slots during the turf laying process which is damaging the new turf, and it has been repeatedly performed near the pavilion. Hockey players and administrators have rejected the poor method of installation of turf in the hockey stadium.

First ever ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup launched

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Cricket Council launched the inaugural ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup in Benoni, east of Johannesburg on Wednesday as excitement continues to build with one month to go until the first ball is bowled.

The event which is a first of its kind in world cricket will take place from 14 to 29 January 2023 and will see the future stars of the women's game compete in 41 matches played across four venues in Benoni and Potchefstroom in 16 days of competitive cricket.

At the competition launch, former Proteas women's cricketer and South African Olympic javelin silver medallist, Sunette Viljoen, was unveiled as the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup Ambassador. She was joined by Member of the Executive Council of Gauteng Sports, Arts & Culture, Mr Morakane Mosupoye, who gave the Keynote address, while other notable guests included Cricket South Africa Board Member and LOC Chair, Ms. Muditambi Ravele, CSA CEO, Mr Pholeisi Moseki, UNICEF South Africa Chief of Communications & Partnerships, Toby Fricker and South Africa women's team players, Sinalo Jafta and Raisibe Ntsozake.

The 16 teams in the fray include Indonesia and Rwanda, who will feature

in an ICC World Cup for the first time ever.

Eleven full member nations gained automatic entry in this historic edition: Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies and Zimbabwe.

Scotland, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States of America (USA) join Indonesia and Rwanda to take the remaining five slots, representing each of the ICC's five regions giving fans the opportunity to watch tomorrow's superstars today.

The teams will be divided into groups of four as follows:

Group A: Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the USA

Group B: England, Pakistan, Rwanda and Zimbabwe

Group C: Indonesia, Ireland, New Zealand and the West Indies

Group D: India, Scotland, South Africa and the UAE

Entry to all the fixtures will be free of charge. The semi-finals and final will take place at JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom on 29 January, followed by the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Cape Town, Paarl and Gqeberha which begins on 10 February 2022. The two events will play an important role in leaving a lasting legacy to grow girls and women participation in

South Africa.

Tournament Director Sivuyile Mqmgwana said: "This is a watershed moment for women's cricket in South Africa and for the game in our country. To host one ICC event in a year is cause for great celebration, but to claim two in such quick succession is beyond our wildest dreams.

"We are excited to promote the women's game in our region and look forward to hosting yet another world-class event on our shores. Today's launch just added to the festive mood and excitement that has been growing in our organisation as we count down to the first match of this historic occasion on 14 January."

ICC Head of Events, Chris Tetley said: "We are delighted to launch the first ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa. The women's game is a strategic priority for the ICC, and we look forward to the showcasing of our sport's future stars in the region of Africa, where cricket continues to grow in popularity.

"With the ICC Women's T20 World Cup following quickly on the heels of this historic tournament, we eagerly anticipate the delivery of two key events that will play a vital role in the promotion of women's cricket around the world, in this important time in the growth of our game around the world."

Secretary Sports Punjab distributes certificates

LAHORE (APP): Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Ehsan Bhutta distributed certificates among 150 trainees after the completion of their E-Rozgar courses at an impressive ceremony held here at Institute of Education and Research (IER), Punjab University on Wednesday.

Director IER Dr Rafaqat, Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan, IER focal person Dr Shahid, PITB representative and a large number of male and female students were also present.

Ehsan Bhutta congratulated all the successful students and thanked Director IER and PITB team for their key role in the successful completion of E-Rozgar courses.

Addressing the certificate distribution ceremony, Secretary Sports Punjab said that Youth Affairs Department Punjab, in collaboration with Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) has started E-Rozgar Centres in 27 universities and 18 colleges of Higher Education Department. "Around 30,000 students have been imparted training in three domains during the last five years," he added.

He further said that different universities of the province have so far trained hundreds of students in seven domains-web development, graphic designing, marketing, social media, content writing etc.

"Government of Punjab is providing skill enhancing training to young students at E-Rozgar Centres so that they can earn millions of rupees while working at home," he elaborated. The director IER Department thanked Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Ehsan Bhutta and government of Punjab for their help and support for holding such a useful programme in PU.

Secretary Sports also visited various stalls established by university students. He appreciated their remarkable work of designing new cards and brochures etc.

Lahore Open Polo Championship

LAHORE (APP): Salam Polo and Newage Cables/Master Paints registered victories in the Coca-Cola Lahore Open Polo Championship 2022 here at the Lahore Polo Club on Wednesday.

The heroics of Raja Arslan Najeeb and Nicolas Ruiz Guinazu helped Salam Polo overwhelm Guard Rice by a huge margin of 8-2. Both the players – Nicolas Ruiz and Raja Arslan – were in superb form and contributed with four and three goals respectively in their team's tally. Besides these two, Hashim Kamal also played a key role in his team's triumph by converting a fantastic field goal. On the other hand, no impressive show was witnessed from the players of Guard Rice as only Bilal Haye, who was playing in place of Saqib Khakwani, could pump in a brace while other players failed to contribute a single goal.

Kamran unbeaten century gives Khyber Pakhtunkhwa second successive win

LAHORE (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kamran Ghulam Imran bagged two for 69. In return, the right-handed Kamran Ghulam scored an unbeaten 123 off 115 balls, smashing six fours and as many sixes to help his side chase down the target in 49 overs. He was equally supported by Waqar Ahmed, who scored a 86-ball 87, hitting nine fours and two sixes. Kamran and Waqar stitched a 125-run partnership for the third wicket.

Khushdil Shah was other notable run-getter for the winning side, scoring 47 off 50 balls, laced with one four and three towering sixes.

For the losing side, Amad Butt and Khurram Shahzad grabbed two wickets apiece.

Central Punjab v Southern Punjab, NBP Sports Complex

In the Punjab Derby, Central Punjab captain Aamer Yamin's economical spell of bowling led his side to a 25-run win Southern Punjab in a low-scoring match. Opting to bat first, Central Punjab were dismissed for 153 in the 35th over, with opening batter Mohammad Faizan top-scoring with 40 off 51 balls, which included five fours and one six. Zafar Gohar,



FAISALABAD: Players in action during final cricket match between Lahore Women Cricket Club & Faisalabad City Women Cricket teams during T-20 Super Women Cricket Taakara at Iqbal Stadium.

Babar Azam to lead Peshawar Zalmi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Babar Azam, one of the leading batsmen of world and captain of Pakistan cricket team, has been handed over the reins of Peshawar Zalmi for the eighth edition of Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Babar Azam, who joined Peshawar Zalmi last month, said in a statement that the leadership of Peshawar Zalmi was an honour for him and he was excited

about the new challenge. "Peshawar Zalmi is one of the best teams of PSL and has performed consistently", he added.

Chairman of Peshawar Zalmi Javed Afridi said that Babar Azam was currently the best batsman in the world in all three formats of the game and the pride of Pakistan cricket.

"Peshawar Zalmi will perform brilliantly in the PSL 8, under his captain-

cy", he said.

He said that Babar's world-class batting and captaincy experience would help Peshawar Zalmi. Peshawar Zalmi's management also thanked former captain and the most successful bowler of PSL history Wahab Riaz, expressing the hope that Wahab would continue to give match-winning performances in the PSL 8 as he did in the past.

Pujara, Iyer put India in command against Bangladesh

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AFP/APP): Cheteshwar Pujara and Shreyas Iyer powered India to a strong 278-6 on the opening day of the first Test against Bangladesh in Chittagong on Wednesday.

Pujara hit 90 while Iyer remained unbeaten on 82, with both riding their luck. Axar Patel was out on the last ball of the day for 14, trapped leg-before as the second of off-spinner Mehidy Hasan's two wickets. Taijul Islam, the most successful bowler for Bangladesh with 3-84, bowled Pujara to end a dogged innings that featured 11 fours.

Pujara and Iyer came together after India lost their fourth wicket on 112, with signs of spin in the first-day track at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium. Left-arm spinner

Taijul had opener Shubman Gill out for 20 in the opening session before he trapped India's danger-man Virat Kohli leg-before for one. In between, KL Rahul dragged a Khaled Ahmed delivery onto his stumps after making 22.

Rishabh Pant launched a counter-attack, hitting six fours and two sixes to put India back in the driving seat after being 48-3.

Mehidy ended his attacking innings in the post-lunch session when he bowled Pant for 46.

Wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan dropped Pujara off Ebadot Hossain on 12 in the second ball of the second session.

Pujara and Iyer then took on the Bangladeshi bowlers before the hosts fought their way back into the contest with two late strikes.

India had made a brisk

start, reaching 41 runs in 13 overs after stand-in skipper Rahul won the toss and elected to bat first.

Gill attempted a paddle sweep but top-edged to Yasir Ali at leg slip. Taijul got the big wicket of Kohli after Rahul fell to Khaled.

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan passed a fitness test to lead the home side, with opening batsman Zakir Hasan making his Test debut. India have been hit by injuries, with captain Rohit Sharma out for at least the first match and fast bowler Mohammed Shami and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja playing no part in the series. The two-match series forms part of the ICC World Test Championship. India are fourth, having won six of their 12 matches. Bangladesh are in last place with eight defeats from 10 matches.

Australian Labuschagne equals Kohli with career-high rating

ISLAMABAD (APP): In-form Australia star and newly-crowned No.1 Test batter in the world Marcus Labuschagne has added to his bulging resume by drawing level with India great Virat Kohli on the all-time list and bringing up a new career-high rating on the latest ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings.

Labuschagne, 28-year-old has moved further ahead on the top of the list for Test batters following an outstanding series against the West Indies. The right-hander amassed a whopping 502 runs for the two-match series with his magnificent knock of 163 during the first innings of the second Test in Adelaide helping

him to join Kohli on a career-high rating of 937 points. That sees Labuschagne now hold the equal 11th best Test rating of all time and just three Australian players - Donald Bradman (961), Steve Smith (947) and Ricky Ponting (942) - have held better ratings.

Labuschagne has four former great players just one rating point ahead of him on 938 rating points, with West Indies trio Gary Sobers, Clyde Walcott and Viv Richards and Sri Lanka great Kumar Sangakkara well within his sights.

Labuschagne isn't the only Australia player holding on to a career-high rating following the series against the West

Indies, with left-hander Travis Head improving seven places on the Test batter rankings to sixth overall and a personal best 774 rating points. Head earns the rise on the back of his own century against the West Indies in Adelaide and the 28-year-old could jump even higher during the upcoming Test series against South Africa. England's series triumph over Pakistan also saw a host of their players improve up the rankings this week, with young gun Harry Brook moving up 15 places on the Test batter rankings to 55th overall after his century in the second innings and Player of the Match performance in Multan.

Waqas, Abid win 1st round clash of Benazir Bhutto Tennis C'ships

ISLAMABAD (APP): Top seed pair Waqas Malik and Muhammad Abid defeated Muzzamil Murtaza and Muddassir Murtaza in straight sets 6-4, 7-6 (5) in first round men's doubles clash of the 8th Benazir Bhutto (Shaheed) National Tennis Championships 2022 here at Islamabad Tennis Courts on Wednesday.

The 2nd set saw a seesaw battle as both pairs held their serves but in the tie-break Muzzamil and Muddassir committed unforced errors at crucial stages, losing the grip on the game to suffer a straight-set defeat. On Wednesday, 1st and 2nd rounds for different categories were played, including men singles, under 18 boys, under 14 boys, under 10, under 12 and men's doubles.

Results: Men's singles results: 2nd round: Asad Ullah bt Waqas Malik 6-2, 6-2; Abdullah Adnan bt Daisuke Unemi 6-1, 6-2; Bial Asim bt Imran Bhatti 6-4, 3-6, 6-1; Heera Ashiq bt Hamza Asim 7-5, 6-2.

U-18 boys' singles results:

2nd round: Uzair Khan bt Kamran Khan 7-6(7), 6-3; Mahtir Muhammad bt Hamza Roman 6-3, 6-4; Hamid Israr

bt M-Salar 6-2, 6-1; M.Talha khan bt Ibrahim Noman 6-1, 6-1; Ahmed Nael bt Sameer Kiyani 6-0, 6-2; Abdul Hanan bt M.Huzaifa Khan 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; Bilal Asim bt Haziq Aasim 6-2, 6-0;

U-14 boys' singles results:

2nd round: Abdul Hanan bt Saqib Ali 4-0, 4-0; Nabeel Qayum bt Ahmed Khan 4-0, 4-1; Muzamil Bhand bt Anees Khan 4-1, 4-1; M.Hassan Usman bt Haziq Areejo 4-1, 4-1; Hashir Alam bt Razik Sultan 4-1, 4-1; Haziq Asim bt M. Arsalan 4-1, 4-0; Abdul Khan bt Ali Zain 4-5(4), 0-4, 2; Hamza Hussain bt Abdur Rehman 4-0, 4-0;

U-12 Boys/ Girls' singles results:

First round: Ahsan ullah Kabir bt Abdul wasay 5-3, 5-3; Ahmed Khan bt Majid Ali Bachani 4-1, 4-2; Ahmed Shaikh bt Ali Bachani 4-1, 4-1; Romail Shahid bt M-Saqib (W-O); Shayan Afridi bt Moazzam Baber 4-1, 4-0; Essa Fahd bt Anees Khan 1-4, 4-1, 5-3; Razik Sultan bt Ahmed Ali Bhand 4-1, 4-1; Unasha Noor bt M-Maaz Areejo 4-0, 4-0. Ahmed Khan bt Majid Ali Bachani 4-1, 4-2; Junaid Khan bt Behroz Maimaon 4-0, 5-4(5); Saqib Ali bt Mahd

Mehmood 4-0, 4-0; Haziq Areejo bt Qasim ul Khair 4-0, 4-0; Zayd Zaman bt M. Ehsan Bari 4-0, 4-1; Rashid Ali Bachani bt M. Ibrahim Gill 4-0, 4-1; M.Hassan Usmani bt Chengiz Leghari 4-0, 4-0.

Men's Doubles results:

First round: Aqeel Khan/Asim Zaib Khan bt Usman Ijaz/Shahzad Khan 6-3, 3-2 Ret; M.Abid/Waqas Malik bt Muzamil Mumtaz/Mudasir Mumtaz 6-3, 7-6(4); Saqib Hayat/Asad Ullah bt Nofil Kaleem/Hasam Khan 6-7(5), 4-6, 10-8; Imran Bhatti/Abdullah Adnan bt M-Talha Khan/M.Huzaifa Khan 6-0, 6-2; Mahatir Muhammad/Bial Asim bt Muhamed Baber/Parbhat Kumar 6-1, 6-0; M.Sohaib/Barkat Ullah bt Daisuke/Hamza Asim 6-1, 6-1; Faizan Fayaz/Jabir Ali bt Murtaza Husaini/Amin Khan (W-O); Heera Ashiq/Yousuf Khalil bt Nael Qureshi/Hamid Israr 7-6(5), 2-6, 10-7;

U-10 Boys/ Girls' singles results:

First round: M.Faizan bt Amaila Aidrus 4-0, 4-0; 2nd round: Hajra bt Zayd Aidrus 4-0, 4-0; Moazzam Baber bt Alistair (w/o); Shayan Aidrus bt Zara Aidrus 4-0, 4-0.



In brief

Dacoit gang busted; two arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): In an operation against anti-social elements, Rawalpindi Police have busted a gang of dacoits and arrested its two members, and recovered cash Rs18,000, nine mobile phones, a motorcycle, weapons, and other valuable items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Pirwadhai police arrested two accused who were wanted in various cases. He said that the police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Pirwadhai Police Station on the directives of SP Rawal Babar Javed Joya conducted a raid and managed to net the gang members namely Muzamial, the ring leader, and Shahzaib. SDPO City said the arrested accused were being shifted to jail for an identification parade. As per the preliminary police record, the criminals were also involved in other crimes, he added. SP Rawal said that police officer had been directed to accelerate operations against gangs and other lawbreakers.

ICT administration conducts crackdown

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration on Wednesday in a crackdown against profiteers and trespassers, sealed two shops and confiscated six carts. Assistant Commissioners visited different areas for ensuring strict adherence to the government-notified rate list of essential items in markets. The ICT administration team sealed two shops, arrested three violators and imposed a fine of Rs21,500 on overcharging. Following the ban on the use of polythene bags in ICT, the administration confiscated 11 kg of polythene bags and directed the shopkeepers to adhere to the ban on polythene bags in the future. On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, encroachment operations were carried out at the vegetable market and three violators were held and shifted to the police station besides confiscating six stalls.

Police arrange workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police arranged a workshop for students of Bahria College Naval Anchorage to acquaint them with road safety tips and better awareness about traffic rules. More than 350 students attended the workshop and the efforts of the force in ensuring a safe road environment in the city were highlighted. The Education Wing of Islamabad Capital Police informed the students how special measures are being taken to curb various traffic violations in the city and also informed them about traffic rules and regulations. It was informed that educational teams of police visit various organizations as this exercise is helpful in providing a disciplined traffic system to the masses. It was told that personnel of the force has not only helped to establish a disciplined traffic system in the Capital but also reduced the ratio of accidents. They were briefed about the history of the traffic police force, its targets, and achievements. Students were told about safety measures while walking along the road, road crossing codes, causes of accidents and how to protect oneself, defensive driving and its requirements, practice to prevent risky situations on road, planning for a long journey, positioning car or lane discipline, right of way on junctions and road markings, safe overtaking, traffic sign boards and traffic light signals and perils of using a mobile phone and not fastening seat belts while driving.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan H.E Mr Mohamed Karmoune calls on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval headquarters.

Rs 49.84 bln disbursed under Kafalat Program from May to Oct

ISLAMABAD (APP): An amount of approximately Rs 49.84 billion has been disbursed among the beneficiaries of Benazir Kafalat Programme being executed through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), from May till October, 2022.

"The number of beneficiaries of the Kafalat programme, which is an Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) initiative, have been increased from 7.2 million to 8.5 million during this period (May-October)", an official source revealed on Wednesday while highlighting the six months performance of the BISP.

Currently, the number of enrolled/registered beneficiaries of the Kafalat programme is around 8.58 million. However, the present government has set a target to enhance this number up to 9 million by June 2023.

The BISP Board has recently approved a policy to include transgenders under the programme for which they are required to obtain a CNIC form NADRA clearly mentioning their gender as 'transgender'. About the Targeted Petroleum Subsidy Programme, the source told APP that an amount of approximately Rs 17.35 billion had been distributed among around 8.67 million beneficiaries under the initiative from May-October, 2022. The initiative was launched in order to protect the poor and the vulnerable families from the effects of

rising fuel prices by providing additional cash subsidy of Rs 2,000 to existing regular BISP beneficiaries as well as additional beneficiaries using National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) database.

About the Flood Relief Programme, the official source disclosed that from August till October 2022, an amount of approximately Rs 69 billion had been distributed among around 2.76 million families affected by the catastrophic floods this year, under the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Cash Assistance Programme. The immediate cash relief of Rs 25,000 per family was disbursed among the affected families due to the recent floods across the country through BISP. Under the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Programme, which is a Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) intervention, the source conveyed that since inception of the programme, 10.5 million children had been enrolled.

However, for the said period i.e. May 2022 to Oct 2022, 1.8 million children have been enrolled while an amount of Rs 15 billion has been disbursed as education stipend during the period.

The programme was launched, recognizing that many children in BISP beneficiary households were not attending school, in the year 2012 through provision of additional cash per quarter to BISP beneficiary families for pursuing primary education.

Since July 2021, the scope of the programme expanded from primary to secondary and higher secondary level, and is currently operational all over the country.

About the CCT Benazir Nashonuma Programme, the official source highlighted, "A total of Rs 162,964,000 has been distributed among the enrolled beneficiaries from May to October, 2022".

The programme aims to address stunting among pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and their children under the age of 2 years through the provision of additional cash of PKR 2,000/- per quarter per PLW for boy child and PKR 2,500/- per quarter for girl child of BISP beneficiary families.

In return, mothers must commit to attend regular antenatal health checks and awareness sessions during pregnancy, consuming specialized nutritious food (SNF), and taking their children for immunization and regular health checks.

About the current status of the Benazir Undergraduate Scholarship Project (BUSP), the source revealed that the process of enrollment had been completed by enrolling 10,000 students for the scholarship. The entire budget of Rs 7.346 billion, earmarked for FY 2021-22, was released in May 2022. In September 2022, a further amount of Rs 2.24 billion was released out of the total budget of Rs 9.27 billion earmarked for CFY.

Moroccan Ambassador calls on Naval Chief

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Karmoune on Wednesday visited Naval Headquarters and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional maritime security, and bilateral collaboration were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Both the dignitaries agreed upon enhanced maritime cooperation and collaboration between the brotherly countries.

Man dies after speeding car hit him

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A 40-year-old man died and a girl was injured when a smashed them by a car driven by 13-year old girl in D-12 area of Islamabad. According to details, Lubna Ifthikhar wife of Sardar Ifthikhar Hussain told Golra Police that she visited her under construction home along with 40-year-old servant naming Sultan Sikandar when a overspeeding Toyota car bearing registration number LWK656 hit them which was driven by a 13-year old girl naming Adin Taimor in D.12/I sector 92 street no. 910 area of Islamabad, in a result both Lubna and her servant Sikandar Sultan were injured and later the servant succumbed to injuries. The girl and her partner managed to escape after committing the crime.

Amir Muqam inaugurates exhibition of Quranic manuscripts

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs and National Heritage & Culture Engr Amir Muqam on Wednesday visited special Quran Exhibition here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts organized by National Heritage and Culture Division (NH&CD).

The Adviser to Prime Minister, who was accompanied by Secretary National Heritage and Culture Fareena Mazhar, Senior Joint Secretary NH&CD Abdul Sattar Khokhar, Director General PNCA and other senior officials of the division.

Adviser to PM Engr Amir Muqam said that looking at today's exhibition, I feel a sense of spirituality. He said that National Heritage and Culture Division is also taking substantial steps to promote Islamic calligra-

phy. Adviser to PM was briefed on the various section of the exhibition on the occasion.

Engr Amir Muqam highly praised the artist Khan Shahnawaz Malhi for his amazing way to knit Quran with threads on Shesham wood stick.

The exhibition, which will continue till December 15, is attracting a large number of people as well as foreign delegates at PNCA. Khan Shahnawaz Malhi, a retired Sindh police official, used a unique technique to hand-knit all verses and chapters of the

Holy Quran on around 8,000 pencils. The drawing has been his favorite subject since childhood.

He weave the Quran by nylon thread with the help of his fingers, which is absolutely unique and amazing. No one in the world has done such art before. This amazing art is so unique, have no example before, certainly deserves a part of world records.

Exquisite display of this unique and amazing Quranic manuscript was organized by the Ministry of National Heritage & Culture Division at PNCA.



Ethiopia wants to develop cooperation with Pakistan in education sector, says Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula has said that Ethiopia was looking forward to developing cooperation with Pakistan in the education sector.

He made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the education sector led by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and Minister of State Romina Khurshid Alam. The delegation which includes the University of Sialkot Executive Director Muhammad Rehan Younas and its Chairman Board of Governors Faisal Manzoor, was called on him here at the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Islamabad.

"We want our youth to be educated and skillful as our government under the leadership of Prime Minister of Ethiopia H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali is fully committed to promoting education in our country," the ambassador said while requesting the delegation to offer scholarships for the Ethiopian students in their universities.

Suggesting the start of the exchange programmes between the two countries, he said it was high time to develop south-south cooperation for the betterment, progress and prosperity of the people living in the southern regions of the world.

University of Sialkot Executive Director Muhammad Rehan Younas extended full assurance to the ambassador in this regard and said his university would look forward to offering scholarships to the Ethiopian students.

He said his institution had been developing a curriculum in consultation with the chambers of commerce to bridge a gap between academia and the industrial sector.

Rehan Younas said the work on establishing an Africa House in Islamabad was also underway which would promote ties between Pakistan and the African countries in diverse sectors including education, business, trade and investment.

The ambassador suggested the delegation to

establish an Africa Study Center within the planned Africa House to boost the cooperation between Pakistan and the African countries in the education sector. He also briefed them about the business, trade and investment opportunities in Ethiopia for Pakistani businessmen. A plan for arranging a visit of a Pakistani business delegation to Ethiopia was underway which would enhance business ties between the two countries by linking business communities of both countries.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister H.E. Romina Khurshid Alam, who is also Convenor of the National Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), said she would look forward to arranging a workshop conference on Pakistan and Ethiopia Relations in Sialkot to sensitize the business community on the opportunities offered by the Ethiopian markets in general and visit of business delegation to Ethiopia in particular.

Coalition govt's collective wisdom helps manage massive flood-devastation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The massive torrential rain floods in 2022 caused widespread devastation as the country's almost one-third areas, mainly in Sindh and Balochistan, got submerged, fully grown crops washed away, and road infrastructure wiped out at a large scale leaving the flood-impacted regions completely inaccessible for days.

Despite limited resources and financial constraints, the coalition government, under the dynamic leadership of Shehbaz Sharif, exhibited collective wisdom that greatly helped save precious lives in the flood-affected areas and ensure timely relief and rehabilitation measures after the country started enduring unmatched monsoon downpours started in June this year where over six-month coordinated effort helped reaching out to the flood impacted awaiting help. Without wasting any time, the government established the National Flood Response and Coordination Centre (NFRCC) comprising representatives of federal stakeholders, provincial governments and the Pakistan Armed Forces that overtook the national response to the monsoon rains and floods.

In the provinces, the PDMAs established sector coordination mechanisms to ensure better response coordination in partnership with the humanitarian community. The coordination between humanitarian partners with the district disaster management authorities (DDMAs) evolved to allow for more timely and effective information sharing and strengthened district-level coordination.

The severe monsoon weather

caused extensive flooding and landslides casting grave impacts on human lives, property and infrastructure.

The government was leading the humanitarian response for people in the affected areas, supported by the UN and humanitarian partners. The floods have impacted some 33 million masses looking for assistance whereas the UN and the international humanitarian community intended to cover around 5.2 million people in Pakistan over the next six months under the 2022 Pakistan Floods Response Plan. Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman said the scale of the disaster was so big that for the first time the largest inland deployment of Pakistan Navy troops was made to drive rescue and relief efforts.

Senator Sherry Rehman said, "Let's not talk about Pollyanna sustainable economics. First, we have to get those people on their feet." The Minister claimed that there was an unimaginable scale of loss and damage caused by unprecedented climate-induced floods in Pakistan. She underscored that the magnitude of calamity was beyond all previous climate disasters, affecting a population larger than the size of many countries.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar was of the view that Pakistan was at the heart disasters after disastrous floods and in many ways at present it would be starting from the scratch in building forward better.

The Minister noted that the country in 2010 and 2011 witnessed floods but after a decade the same occurred whereas if we

had to repeat the same things then it was wrong with the governance model.

"The world helps us or not we will have to support our people within our limited resources. The flood losses estimate by Pakistan accounts for \$32 billion and the world estimates \$16 billion but no one knows how much will be gathered. The most of the funding will be coming from within."

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha said the floods in Pakistan incurred huge economic and collateral damages leaving over half a million expecting mothers without home and under open skies which is a catastrophe.

The whole effort was mammoth but the UN and donor agencies and friendly countries helped and supported the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The floods have left life losses of 1,739 innocent souls, 12,867 injured, whopping deaths of 1,164,270 livestock animals and a towering pile of 2,288,481 houses damaged in various areas across the country during the floods. Some 84 districts of various federating units including 32 in Balochistan, nine in Gilgit Baltistan, 17 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, three in Punjab, and 23 in Sindh. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) situation report on Pakistan: 2022 Monsoon Floods provides a detailed account of the disaster damages and response of the government, the donor agencies, and departments concerned to manage the post-disaster situation.

The floodwater stagnation in below sea level terrain in the

provinces of Sindh and Balochistan aggravated the outbreak of waterborne diseases and epidemics further enhancing the vulnerability of the already distressed communities. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh claimed that an estimated 240,000 people remain displaced from their homes in the Province as of December 3 whereas the number had receded from 6.5 million displaced masses in early September.

The report states that around 90% of flood-displaced people were reportedly with host communities, while the remaining in tent cities and relief camps. It further underlined that since millions of people have repatriated to their native towns after declining flood waters but there have been reports of substantial service gaps in those areas along with wide-ranging impacts to homes, agriculture, and livelihoods. However, the situation of health crisis revealed in the report noted that the cases of malaria, cholera, acute watery diarrhea, and dengue were reducing, but it remained concerning in some of the flood affected districts with a dearth of medicine also reported in some remote health facilities.

The UNOCHA estimates claim that failing food insecurity would push additional 1.1 million people into Integrated Food Security Phase Classification in emergency phase (IPC 4) in early 2023. Despite, the fact that floodwaters continued receding in many flood-affected areas whereas the water stagnation persisted in Dadu, Kambar, Shahdad Kot, Khairpur, Mirpur Khas, Jamshoro, Sanghar, Umer

Kot, Badin, Shaheed Benazir Abad and Naushahro Feroze districts in Sindh and Sohbatpur and Jaffarabad districts in Balochistan. "United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) imagery indicates an estimated 8 million people still potentially exposed to floodwaters or living close to flooded areas," the UNOCHA report said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that cases of malaria, cholera, acute watery diarrheal diseases, and dengue fever were dropping in most of the flood-affected districts. "Overall, malaria cases have reduced to around 50,000 from over 100,000 confirmed cases in early October. Malaria cases have declined by 25% in Balochistan, 58% in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and 67% in Sindh provinces. However, high malaria and cholera cases are still being reported in some pocket districts in Sindh and Balochistan where standing water remains."

Moreover, the report claims that in November 2022, around 70 suspected cases of Diphtheria were reported from the flood-affected provinces of KP, Sindh, and Punjab. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in November organized the first winter contingency and preparedness planning conference as a proactive measure to save lives and infrastructure during the winter.

Furthermore, a number of bilateral partners provided in-kind assistance to the government to support agricultural production. The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) provided 60

tons of wheat seeds to approximately 700 small-scale farmers in the eight most affected districts of Sindh to boost food production. TIKa in cooperation with Sindh Agricultural University, Tandojam, and the Rural Agriculture Extension Department of the Sindh Government provided wheat seeds to small-scale farmers to increase local food production.

In addition, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provided 12,500 certified wheat seed bags to flood-affected farmers in five districts of Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Sohbatpur, Jhal Magshi, and Kachhi in Balochistan Province.

The assistance will enable 2,500 flood-affected families to cultivate wheat crops during the Rabi agricultural season. International and national NGOs continue to support people with food, health, non-food items (NFI), water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) members had reached 3.8 million people through its humanitarian response in food, shelter, education, NFIs, WASH, cash, health, and protection in 82 flood-affected districts. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) through the Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation-wide support had reached over 584,000 people with lifesaving assistance in shelter, health, WASH, food and non-food sectors. The PRCS prioritized life-saving food, water, medical, and shelter assistance in the first phase of the response but is now focusing on preventative public health interventions complementing health and WASH services.

Gas asphyxia killed 5 people

HERAT (Agencies): Local officials of Herat Ambulance department say that, gas asphyxia took lives of five people in Herat city of Afghanistan. The incident took place in Sheedayi area and Qaseba area of Herat city, according to the local officials of the province, the victims included three men, one woman and one child. Meanwhile, local Herat officials ask residents to take precautions when heating their homes using gas or coal.

Unauthorized Pharmacies, Health Clinics Closed in Baghlan

BAGHLAN (Agencies): Local health officials of Baghlan say their inspections team closed unauthorized private health centers and pharmacies in that province. Dr. Mohammad Nabil Noori, an official's health laws enforcement of Baghlan said that their team has closed 6 unauthorized health centers and pharmacies in that province. According to health officials of the province, 32 unauthorized pharmacies and health centers, lately closed after an inspection process.

Ministry for Disaster Management: 90% of citizens need Help

KABUL (TOLONews): The State Ministry for Disaster Management said that 90 percent of the citizens of Afghanistan need aid.

The acting minister for Disaster Management added that as the first step, they will help those families which were affected by the most recent flooding in the country.

“For people who lost their houses, we will provide food materials and other living needs, but for poor people, we will provide just food materials,” said Mohammad Abas Ak-

hund, acting State Minister for Natural Disaster.

Meanwhile, officials of this ministry started the distribution help process for three thousand families.

“For now, we distribute to their shelters and the distribution process is continuing,” said Mohammad Khoshhal Zamani, head of the Disaster Management Department in Kabul. Meanwhile, some families who have benefited from the aid said it is not enough.

“It helped me here, a sack of wheat, my fare is five hundred Afghani, what

should we do with this wheat from foreign countries, I request the government and foreign governments to increase aid to us,” said Muhab Ullah, a helped person.

“We are 15 people in our family, and they just helped us with one sack of wheat and that is not enough for us,” said Naqeebullah.

According to the Ministry for Disaster Management, in the past year, more than 1,500 have died and 20,000 houses have been destroyed in natural disasters.

\$40m cash aid reached Kabul

KABUL (Agencies): Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) on Wednesday announced the arrival of \$40 million in humanitarian aid to Kabul.

A statement from DAB stated that another package of \$40 million humanitarian aid of cash reached to Afghanistan today.

Da Afghanistan Bank welcomed the international community's humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and called for further cooperation with the war-torn Afghan people.

This turns the 51st package of humanitarian aid of cash to Afghanistan which transferred to one the country's commercial banks.

A total of nearly \$2 billion humanitarian assistance reached Afghanistan since the beginning of the aid delivery to the country after the establishment of Islamic Emirate.

Number of Afghan figures returning to country



KABUL (Agencies): The Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, in a meeting with a number of lawyers of the House of the People or Wolesi Jirga at the ex-administration.

The lawyers of the house of people at the ex-administration shared their experiences, advices and suggestions regarding the current political, economic and social situation of the country with Deputy Prime Minister of the IEA for

political affairs.

They termed Afghanistan their home and the Islamic system as their legitimate system and vowed to cooperate with the new Islamic Emirate system, added to the statement released.

Kabir said that Afghanistan is the common home of all Afghans, adding that everyone has responsibility toward the development of the country. The Islamic

Emirate of Afghanistan respects all Afghan personalities and cadres and welcomes their return to the country, Kabir added.

According to Deputy Prime Minister, Mawlawi Kabir number of Afghan figures and cadres returning to the country is increasing day by day, adding that Islamic Emirate respects the cadres advise and suggestion toward rebuilding the country.

Accessing to information right of nation: Farahi



KABUL (Agencies): Deputy Publication of the Ministry of Information and Culture, Mohajer Farahi, during the first meeting on access to information, said accessing to information is right of the nation, adding that reliable information can boost trust between the people and the government.

The first meeting of accessing to information attended by several officials including, Mawlawi Zabiullah Mujahid, the spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Bilal Karimi, the deputy spokesperson, the spokespersons of the min-

istries and independent journalists.

In this meeting, the head Information to Access Department, Hedayatullah Hedayat, expressed his commitment that the said department will spare no effort in fulfilling its responsibilities.

Mohajir Farahi, underlined saying that accessing to information is the right of a nation, adding that reliable information can create strong trust between the people and government.

Meanwhile, Bilal Karimi Urged, the spokespersons of the ministries, to spare no efforts in disseminating information and reaching

the public in object to allowed rumors.

He asked the spokespersons of the ministries to share information with the media on time so that the nation and the media do not face any daily in accessing information.

The participants shared their advices, requests and suggestions in terms of access to information in the end of the meeting, according to a statement.

Its mentionable that the Ex-Commissioner for Access to Information has now started its operations, under direction of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Panjshir had most tourist visitors

PANJSHIR (Agencies): The northern province of the country Panjshir had most domestic tourist visitors at the current year, says officials of the province.

The Department of Information and Culture of Panjshir, in its reports stated that in the summer season of this year, nearly ninety thousand domestic tourists and twenty-three foreign nationals have visited this province.

The provincial head of information and culture of Panjshir Mawlawi Nasrullah Malekzada, said that Panjshir, having recreational sites, natural attractions, refreshing weather, rough sea, good treatment of citizens and providing security, is one of the main reasons for the increase in the number of tourists.

He said that the Directorate of Culture and Tourism of the Department of Information and Culture is striving to draw their attention to this province, along with facilitating domestic and foreign tourists.

Panjshir province is one of famous provinces of Afghanistan, which has always had the most domestic and foreign tourists' visitors.

UNFPA creates health centers in rural areas of Ghor province



GHOR (TOLONews): The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has opened 10 health centers in remote areas of the province of Ghor in order to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality there.

In these centers, doctors and healthcare workers

treat mothers and children.

“The project's goal is to increase women's and children's access to health care. Safe births are also carried out at these centers,” said Sediqullah Hasan-zaei, the project manager in Ghor. These centers are based in rural areas of the

province where residents lack access to healthcare facilities. Previously, fifteen health shelters were created by the UN Population Fund in nine different Ghor districts.

“The center's doors are open to those with health problems. We will do all we

can to assist the sick,” said Naz Gul, a nurse.

“We have up to fifty visitors every day, including pregnant women,” said Zahra Ibrahim, a nurse.

Diseases become more common in Ghor during the winter season.

“We used to have to rent a car and transfer our patients to the large hospital, but now we take them here,” said Hora Gul, a patient. “They provide better services to the people and we are very happy,” said Abdullah, a relative of a patient.

“We are trying to activate health centers in remote areas and provide health services in a better way,” said Abdul Satar Mowafaq, head of the health department of Ghor.

The province of Ghor is one of the coldest in the country. Many of this province's districts' highways are closed during the winter due to the snowfall and chilly temperatures, depriving the people of health care services.

OCHA: Belgium pledges 3m to Afghanistan humanitarian fund

KABUL (Khaama Press): Belgium has donated, 3 million to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA) in Afghanistan.

The UN OCHA wanted to applaud Belgium's commitment of 3 million, or 3,147,957 in USD, to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, which will be used to lift the impoverished people of Afghanistan.

OCHA stated that this year, 25 million Afghan people received aid of some kind from the UN and other aid organizations, as the country struggles with one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Afghan women and girls are the most disadvantaged due to severe restrictions on fundamental rights, according to a recent UN report, which also stated that at least 6 million people in the country are currently on the

verge of starvation.

According to the World Food Program (WFP), 90% of Afghans lack access to enough food. The World Food Program (WFP) previously reported that 90% of Afghans lack access to enough food. The UN agency recently said that Afghan parents are unable to provide for their children.

Following a year of extreme economic hardships and natural calamities such as drought, earth-

quakes, and floods, the WFP has projected that the precarious situation of many Afghan families will get worse in the coming months, with the onset of the harsh winter.

The WFP reported that since the year's beginning, it has provided financial assistance, emergency food assistance, and livelihood support to 21.9 million people, many of whom lack the resources to survive the bitter winter.

New banknotes will enter market without disrupting value: Mehrabi

KABUL (TOLONews): A member of the Afghan Central Bank's supreme council, Shah Mehrabi, said that the newly printed Afghani banknotes will enter the markets through proper methods that will not affect the value of the Afghan currency.

Mehrabi, who is also a member of the trust fund of \$3.5 million of Afghan assets based in Switzerland, said that the final batch of the Afghani printed banknotes printed by the Polish Security Printing Works will arrive in Kabul in January. Mehrabi arrived earlier in Kabul and attended the Supreme Council meeting of Da Afghanistan Bank.

“The last batch of banknotes printed by PWPW will be delivered in January 2023. The contractual obligation of Oberthur Fiduciaire is to deliver half of the printing Afghani banknotes in May 2023 and the reminder at the end of that year,” Mehrabi told TOLONews.

Residents of Kabul expressed concerns over worn-out banknotes in the market. “The worn-out banknotes have created a lot of problems for the people because when we take the money from the clients and then give it back to someone else, they will not take it,” said Mohammad Ihsan, a resident of Kabul.

“If the Islamic Emirate collects the worn-out

money from the market, and injects new banknotes, it will benefit us,” said Mohammad Mohsin, a resident of Kabul.

Economists said that the newly printed banknotes can solve the cash liquidity problems in the market. “Printing and injecting

new banknotes into the monetary system of Afghanistan is effective economically and it will solve the problem of liquidity to some extent,” said Darya Khan Baheer, an economist. “When the Central Bank delivers the banknotes based on demands

and through a specific mechanism and monetary policy, of course, it will not affect the value of the Afghani,” said Seyar Qureshi, an economist.

Earlier, Mehrabi said that two batches of banknotes printed by the PWPW had arrived in Afghanistan.

Construction of girls' School completed



PARWAN (Agencies): Girls' secondary school inaugurated in Bagram district of Parwan province by the Acting Minister Refugees and Repatriation.

The construction of the school completed with financial assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, according to reports the school has 12 classrooms with all its necessary facilities.

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation is striving to build schools and clinics, extend water supply and electricity networks and provide all the necessities of life for its residents in all immigrant settlements location said Khalil ur Rahman Haqqani the Acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriation.

He stressed on the religious and modern education of male and female, adding that religious and national values should be taught to school students to be reminder to strives to build their country.

In the Haqqani reaffirms saying that the rights of the migrants will not be lost and the usurped lands of the migrants will soon be returned from the usurpers.

He stressed on the religious and modern education of male and female, adding that religious and national values should be taught to school students to be reminder to strives to build their country.

In the Haqqani reaffirms saying that the rights of the migrants will not be lost and the usurped lands of the migrants will soon be returned from the usurpers.

Elders demand building of girls' schools in Paktika

PAKTIKA (TOLONews): In the Gayan district in Paktika, tribal elders asked the Islamic Emirate to build schools for girls.

They underlined the importance of girls' education, noting that no schools have been built for girls in this district.

“Girls make up half of society; we ask that girls get an education,” said Sarbeland, a tribal elder.

“We really need schools, there are no girls' schools in Gayan district,” said Sabdar, another tribal elder. For the purpose of training girls in the district, some humanitarian organizations have created twenty short courses. The female students at these classes asked that schools be built for them.

“We ask them to build schools for us in the Gayan district of Paktika,” said Shahida, a student. “There is no school in

lack of funds. “We have requested the institutions that work with us in the education sector to build girls' schools for us in Gayan, Ziruk, and Nika districts of the province,” said Mirza Ali Khan, director of Paktika's education department. These demands have been made as more than a year has passed since the country's girls' schools above sixth grade were closed.

“They asked people of the village to send 30 girls, most of the people send their daughters happily,” said Arifkhan Urfan, a teacher of the short courses.

Meanwhile, officials from Paktika's education department said that no girls' schools have been built in this district due to a



‘Use of Information Technology in medical field is need of hour’

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday said that telehealth powered by digital and Artificial Intelligence-based technologies is key to provide counselling, advice and diagnosis to the masses in a most cost-effective and hassle-free manner.

He was addressing here at Pakistan's Second Digital Health National Conference, which was attended by health professionals, information technology experts, doctors, scholars and others. President Alvi said that Pakistan was facing many challenges in the health sector, which included lack of medical professionals, poor infrastructure, high cost of health services, and lack of medical facilities in the rural areas, besides insufficient allocation of funds in the health and education sectors.

He said that these problems faced by the nation could be significantly handled by bringing in Artificial Intelligence driven telehealth and digital health initiatives which would augment the health system. This would be without incurring substantial cost by providing health services through virtual hospitals, clinics, diagnostics and promoting preventive mode of treatment which will substantially reduce the burden of diseases in the country, he added.

The president said that the incidence of

Hepatitis in Pakistan was 9 percent of the total population, which made up around 20 million people whereas in Egypt, the percentage of hepatitis prevalence was 12 to 13 percent of the total population and it spent 3 to 4 billion US dollars to counter this deadly disease. He said that Pakistan being a poor country could not completely provide curative treatment but should focus on preventive measures of treatment. He said that Pakistan handled COVID-19 pandemic in a much better manner compared to many countries of the world by creating awareness regarding preventive methods and persistently conveying messages through all media of communication.

This best practice, he said, should also be copied to counter Hepatitis in country by creating awareness about the use of sterilized equipment and syringes, destroying the used syringes and promoting healthy lifestyle in the masses. The president said that the government could lay down laws and policies regarding digital and telehealth platforms for the country but the private sector had to campaign and advocate for such measures and become proactive partners for the implementation of policies and creating user friendly, cost effective and accessible health facilities to reduce the disease burden from country.

Work on ‘Lawyers’ Protection Bill’ to be finalized with consultation: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday said that the work on the Lawyers’ Protection Bill was being continued in a rapid pace and consultations were being held with the provinces to finalize it.

The bill would be finalized after consultation with a six-member committee of all the provinces, Islamabad and Pakistan Bar Councils representatives, he said. The minister expressed these views in a meeting held with a delegation of lawyers in the Ministry of Law and Justice, here, said a press release. The delegation of lawyers included members of Pakistan Bar Council, Vice Chairman Islamabad

Bar Council, Vice Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council, Vice Chairman Sindh Bar Council, Chairman Legal Education Committee Balochistan & Sindh Bar Councils and others.

On the assurances and promises of the minister, the lawyers’ delegation agreed to postpone the sit-in call in consultation.

On the demand to withdraw the review petition against Justice Qazi Faez Isa case, the law minister apprised that the approval had been obtained from the federal cabinet and the delegation of lawyers would be informed regarding further development on the matter. On the demands regarding grants to the Bar Councils, the minister said that for the

first time in the history of Pakistan, the lawyers grant had been made a part of the federal budget and finance bill.

The minister further assured that the meeting of the lawyers’ delegation would be arranged with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the demands of the lawyers would be presented before the latter.

The delegation of lawyers apprised the law minister about the other problems being faced by the lawyers. Meanwhile, the minister assured full cooperation and immediate steps to resolve their problems. In a meeting, a detailed discussion was also held regarding the Bars Vocational Course in the light of the orders of the Supreme Court.

COAS appointment made with Nawaz’s consent: Dar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal minister for finance Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said the process of appointment of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir went smooth and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif okayed the nomination of Gen Asim Munir by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

During an interview to a private news channel, he said government had plan B if president Dr Arif Alvi did not approve the summary. Talking about Nawaz’s return to Pakistan, he said it was not possible to give an indication of his date of return adding the PML-N and its allies were desirous to see him back.

Commenting on general elections, he said general elections would be held in October 2023 adding the constitution needed to be amended to conduct elections in time. Speaking about cheap petrol deal with Russia, he said the ban on buying cheap oil from Russia was revoked and the government would try its level best to buy oil at 30pc discount adding the price of petrol would not be increased.

He said the country needed \$16bn to put the economy back on track adding the government was meeting the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He further said Saudi Arabia and China had assured financial support to Pakistan to help with economic challenges.

Sheikh Rashid sees country moving towards default

RAWALPINDI (PPI): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid said Wednesday that the country was moving towards default, adding that the state of instability in the country could not be controlled without Imran Khan. Days from December 15 to 30 were important, he stated.

“Whoever loots the wealth of the nation should be executed publicly,” he stated while addressing a ceremony at a public school in Dhoke Elahi Bakhsh in Rawalpindi. While castigating the current rulers, Sheikh Rashid said that he had come from the House of Allah, and people did not like them even there.

“Technically, we have defaulted. Eight months have passed without any contact with the establishment. Pervaiz Elahi will do what Imran Khan says. The nation should prepare itself for the election,” he stated. In response to a question, Sheikh Rashid said that the nation was looking at the judiciary, adding that even the embassies ran out of money.

“The ambassadors are telling me that they do not have money. The chief justice should order to place the names of those who got their cases removed on the Exit Control List (ECL),” he demanded. “Corruption came to the fore even before the inauguration of Sukkur Motorway. They can cut as many ribbons as they want, they have got 15 days [only],” he maintained. While addressing the ceremony, Rashid also expressed his determination to build more educational institutions and an IT university in Rawalpindi.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Federal Minister for Law, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ECP rejects plea for disqualification of Faryal Talpur

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Announcing its reserved verdict, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday rejected a plea seeking disqualification of Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) MPA Faryal Talpur.

The ECP held that the petitioners failed to make a case for disqualification, as the respondent (Faryal Talpur) had disclosed her assets. It noted that disqualification requires material and concrete evidence, which the petitioner could not present. A petition seeking disqualification of Faryal Talpur, a Member of the Sindh Assembly and sister of PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari, was filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Arsalan Taj and Rabia Azfar.

It was prayed in the petition that the PPP leader

should be disqualified under Article 62 of the Constitution as she had been failed to declare details of her assets before the ECP, which meant that she was no longer ‘Sadiq and Ameen’- truthful and trustworthy. The petitioner had contended that Faryal Talpur owned properties in Larkana and Shahdaddock, which were not declared, besides she had been nominated in a case pertaining to billions of rupees corruption through fake bank accounts.

Faryal Talpur was elected from PS 10 Rattodero constituency of Larkana during the 2018 general elections with 53,627 votes. He rival PTI’s Ameer Buksh Khan Bhutto managed only 37,665 votes. Under Article 62(1)(f) of the constitution, a person cannot be qualified as a member of the national or provincial legislatures if he is not ‘Sadiq and Ameen’ -

truthful and trustworthy. Some provisions of Article 62 of the constitution were introduced into the constitution by military ruler General Ziaul Haq.

President, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Women’s Wing & Chairperson of Sindh Assembly’s Standing Committee on Home, Ms Faryal Talpur on Wednesday welcomed Election Commission of Pakistan’s (ECP) decision to dismiss Pakistan Tehrik Insaf’s (PTI) application filed for her disqualification. The ECP rejected the petition filed by PTI for the disqualification of Ms on the basis of lack of evidence and mere baseless allegations. The ECP had reserved its judgment on October 27 after arguments were completed on the filed application.

Ms Talpur called the ECP’s rejection of PTI’s request a victory for the truth, and

thanked the Almighty Allah on the dismissal of an application filed for the disqualification. She also termed this success as a victory of the truth and that victory belonged to Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari including all Jiyalas who prayed for its dismissal and stood steadfast during this time.

She said that this case was a conspiracy to deprive the people of their real representatives which stands exposed and failed, adding that the false cases, jails and negative propaganda never weakened us before or could make them weak, come what may happens in the future. She said that serving the people was her mission; for this the flag of a party of martyrs; Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto would be kept flying higher in all circumstances.

Legislative performance of NA significantly improves

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 15th National Assembly witnessed significant improvement in considering the legislative proposals during the last eight months and its role also increased in considering the interventions meant to highlight the issues of public and national importance.

The lower house passed a total of 43 bills, including 28 government bills which were mainly related to law and justice, economic affairs, education, governance, election and human rights. It is to mention that National Assembly has passed a total of 169 bills so far and more than 25 percent bills have been passed during the last eight months.

Another key feature of the legislative performance of the Assembly is that it passed around 45 percent of the total private members’ bills. The lawmakers were also keen on moving the private members’ bills as 37 such bills were introduced in the lower house during the last eight months.

In addition, the lawmakers moved resolutions highlighting various local, national, and international issues during the last eight months. According to the website of National Assembly, the House adopt-

ed 25 resolutions making recommendations to the government on the issues concerning foreign affairs, law and order, employment and human rights.

Parliamentarians have a duty to shape policy, guide the government in the national interest, and raise the issues of public concerns in the House. The tools for the oversight of the executive and the representation of public issues were effectively used by the lawmakers during the last eight months of the incumbent Assembly. After the change of the leader of the house, the performance of the lawmakers had remained quite objective despite the absence of PTI lawmakers from the House.

The 15th Assembly has also been unique in terms of the elections to the offices of the speaker and the Deputy Speaker. The Assembly had to choose the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker twice as the reelection to these both offices was necessitated due to resignations of former speaker Asad Qaisar and former deputy speaker Qasim Khan Suri after Imran Khan was voted out by the National Assembly as leader of the House. MNA Raja Pervaiz Ashraf (PPPP) and Zahid Akram Durrani (MMAP) were

elected unopposed as Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively who gave maximum time to the lawmakers to highlight issues of national and public importance on floor of the House.

More encouraging is the presence of the parliamentary leaders of main political parties in the House who often lead their party and ensure the pursuance of policy guidelines on various matters of the House. These parliamentary leaders remained present in maximum of the sittings during the last eight months and they encouraged their lawmakers for active participation in the proceedings of the house.

During the reporting period, 91 reports of the standing committees on the matters referred to them, including legislative proposals were presented in the House.

The ratio of Calling Attention Notices (CANs) – a tool for the representation of public issues – appearing on the agenda also remained significant. Likewise, the government’s response to the CANs during this period was also praise-worthy as the ministers and government functionaries effectively responded to the issues raised during this period.

LHC moved for voting rights to overseas Pakistanis in LG polls

LAHORE (TLTP): A petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court (LHC) seeking voting rights to overseas Pakistanis in the local government (LG) polls in Punjab. According to the details, the Lahore High Court has been moved to give the right to vote in local elections to overseas Pakistanis.

The petition moved by Mohammad Nadeem Yusuf, an overseas Pakistani has made the federal and provincial governments, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and NADRA as respondents in the case. The TLTP learnt that the petitioner has said that overseas Pakistanis are present in large numbers in different countries of the world and they have a major role in the country’s economy.

The petition has requested that overseas Pakistanis be given the right to vote in local elections. It should be noted that during the regime of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the bill for the right to vote for overseas Pakistanis was approved.

However, the current PDM government led by Shehbaz Sharif withdrew this right as soon as it came in and the National Assembly approved depriving Overseas Pakistanis of their right to vote.

Dar reiterates need for developing ‘Charter of Economy’

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Wednesday reiterated the idea of developing ‘Charter of Economy’ to keep the economy out of politics on a sustainable growth path and lead the country towards progress.

“Politics must be detached from the economy,” the finance minister said at the Second Pakistan Prosperity Forum on ‘Sustained Economic Growth: Roadmap and Roadblocks,’ organized by Prime Institute and Business Recorder.

Instead of launching negative campaigns, the political parties should force the incumbent government to move the country back on the path where it was in 2017.

He lamented that Pakistan was going to be part of G20 in a few years owing to the policies of the Pakistan Muslim League government, however instead of making collective efforts to reduce this time line, negative campaigns put

the country away from the target. However, he was optimistic that it was not late to enable the country to become part of G20 with the collective efforts of all.

He said if conferences are held abroad and people are told that Pakistan was debt trapped country, or a corrupt country, who would choose it for investment.

Talking about the debt issue, the minister said it was below Rs25000 billion when the Pakistan Muslim League (N) left in 2018 and if debt liabilities are added, it was calculated at Rs30,000 billion. However, it reached Rs44500 billion within a few months after PML(N) left and stands at Rs54500 billion currently.

“This is an unbearable increase in the debt,” the minister remarked adding that the debt piled up due to two main reasons including skyrocketing fiscal deficit and a fall in rupee value. He said, Rs4000 billion were added to public debt on the exter-

nal side due to the rupee depreciation. He said, the rupee was allowed free fall to help enhance exports, which during the three years, increased only by \$800 million whereas the country was inflicted a loss of Rs4000 billion in terms of debt increase.

He said the incentive packages of Rs180 billion and Rs67 billion provided to export-oriented industry in 2017-18 were based on the performance of the industry in enhancing exports. Had the upcoming government followed the model instead of mismanaging subsidies, the conditions would have been different now.

Dar said, that his government had self-imposed the debt limitation and fiscal responsibility and had fixed debt to GDP ratio at 60 percent.

He said, currently the debt to GDP ratio of United States was 110 percent, United Kingdom 101 percent and in Japan 257 percent. He lamented that debt to GDP ratio has been a hot topic in

Pakistan but politicians in US, UK, Japan never make it an issue. On exchange rate issues, the federal minister said in any system there are certain speculators, gamblers, and hundawalas, who take the country’s currency as a hostage. So, if the state did not come in play, “then what will happen, is what has happened now.”

He said, the Bank of England, Bangladesh and India do intervene, so the governments had to make sure that the abusive practices are checked. He said, Pakistan had constraints of foreign reserves, so it can not afford these malpractices.

He said, dollars and urea were being smuggled to neighbouring country adding Pakistan Customs caught smuggler with 100,000 dollars. He said urea fertilizer, which Pakistan imports for local consumption and had to give subsidy on domestic production, was being smuggled to neighbouring country, which he said was causing loss to the national exchequer.

Govt announces revival of various schemes under PMYP

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The government has announced the revival of various schemes under Prime Minister’s Youth Program (PMYP) with the aim to provide livelihood opportunities to the youth. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb and Special Assistant on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja shared details of the schemes at a news conference here in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The Information Minister said the program was launched in 2013 by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. She said soon after coming to power, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif started work to revive it. Marriyum Aurangzeb said the loan scheme under Prime Minister Youth Program is aimed at providing loans to

more than fifty million youth in the age bracket of fifteen and twenty nine. She said the youth can access these opportunities by visiting PMYP.GOV.PK.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja said approval has been accorded for the business and agriculture loans. She said the scheme is aimed at promoting entrepreneurship in the country. She said there will be no interest or collateral on the loan up to five hundred thousand rupees. She said the women will also be encouraged to get this loan. The Special Assistant said there will be five percent interest rate on the loan of 1.5 million rupees. Seven percent interest will be charged on the loan over 1.5 million and 7.5 million.

She said it is the first time that a national youth employment policy will be

prepared which will bridge the gap between the industries and academia. Under this policy, our aim will be to provide two million jobs to the youth every year. Under Skills Development Program, the Special Assistant on Youth Affairs said one hundred thousand youth will be provided with training in different fields with special focus on IT.

Shaza Fatima said that the laptop scheme is also being revived. This year, laptops will be distributed amongst one hundred thousand high achievers. There will be fifty percent share of women while transgender will also be accommodated. She said the quota of Balochistan in this scheme has also been doubled. She said the Prime Minister will soon launch this scheme which is aimed at enabling our youth better compete with the world.