

## President summons session

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday summoned a session of the National Assembly on Tuesday in the Parliament House. The president summoned the session to meet on December 20 at 5:30 pm under the powers conferred by Clause (1) Article 54 of the Constitution of Pakistan. President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

# The Frontier Post

## Q wants seat adjustments

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q) leaders have demanded seat adjustments in 30 constituencies of Punjab with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. According to details, senior leaders of PTI and PML-Q held an important meeting at Imran Khan's residence in Lahore's Zaman Park ahead of the announcement of date to dissolve Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies.

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## PM terms political stability vital for economic prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday termed political stability a vital condition for economic prosperity and ridding the people of price hikes.

"It is required for the sake of loyalty to Pakistan and allegiance, that there must be economic stability," he said. In a press statement shared by PM Office Media Wing, the prime minister said it was the desire of

someone that Pakistan might be pushed into default, but neither it would happen, nor they would let it happen, Insha'Allah.

"The people who had laid land mines in the economic foundations of the country, are out to do the same in the political foundations of the country," the prime minister in a veiled reference to the political opponents of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, said. The people who had hurt public confi-

dence, were now out to dissolve assemblies, he said, adding their objective was to create political instability. "Political stability and economic charter can only strengthen Pakistan's national solidarity," he opined. The prime minister vowed that they would rid the public of the problems of food inflation and employment like the way they delivered by removing a liar and corrupt government' with the power of the constitution.

The political miscreants by spreading anarchy wanted to force the world not to invest in Pakistan, besides hampering the efforts for rehabilitation of the flood-affected people, he added. He said these political mischief makers were not concerned about the plight of the flood-affected population and the efforts to save them from winter, hunger, and diseases, as they were only self-centric and interested in their political inter-

ests. The prime minister said for providing employment to the youth, it was necessary to get rid of 'the politically unemployed.

## Coward Imran does not has courage to dissolve Punjab, KP assemblies: Maryam

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting

Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said Imran Khan would never dissolve the provincial assemblies of Punjab (Continued on Page-2)



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## Court Notice

In the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.233/1. Institution 21/1/2022. Date of hearing. 9/1/2023. Said Ghafor VS Sharif. Notice to no. 13.Jamil Mohammad son of Abdul Jalil resident of Elai village tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 9/1/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

## Court Notice

In the Court of District Judge/Zilla Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal No.68/CR. Institution 18/7/2022. Date of hearing. 4/1/2023. Sherullah Khan VS Zaidullah Khan etc. Notice to no.1. Zaidullah Khan. 2. Amanullah Khan sons of Shahzullah resident of Karapa tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 4/1/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

## Court Notice

IN THE COURT OF SHADAB CIVIL JUDGE IX KOHAT, Suit no.382/1 Date of hearing. 10-01-2023, Titled:- Muhammad Amir Vs Samina Taj (etc.) Notice against:- (5) Mrs. Haseena Wife of Tahir Khan R/O Mohallah Faqir Abad lachi Exchange lachi District kohat Presently Address (Abroad now in England) (Defendant) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a civil suit against you defendant in which date of hearing 10-01-2023 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you defendant is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 10-01-2023 ?otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order issued on.12-12-2022 (Court of C.J IX, Kohat).

# CM Pervaiz meets Imran, vows to abide by decision

LAHORE (INP): Ahead of the dissolution of assemblies, Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has reaffirmed his support for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, acknowledging that he owed his government to former prime minister.

According to details, the chief minister made these remarks during a meeting with former premier and PTI Chairman Imran Khan at the latter's residence in Lahore's Zaman Park.

The meeting comes just hours before the PTI chief is set to announce today the date for the dissolution of the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies.

Moonis Elahi and MNA Hussain Elahi were also present on the occasion. Moreover, the meeting was attended by KP Chief Minister (CM) Mahmood Khan, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Pervez Khattak

and other PTI leaders.

During the meeting, matters related to dissolution of assemblies came under discussion. Imran Khan will announce the date of dissolution of assemblies along with Chief Ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking on occasion, the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leaders vowed to support 'every' decision made by the former prime minister. CM Pervaiz Elahi noted that he owed the Punjab government to Imran.

"We will support Imran's every decision. We fully support those we choose to ally ourselves with," the Punjab CM said, adding: "Those spreading rumours will fail as they did in the past."

**PTI Punjab minister resigns after spat with CM Elahi**

LAHORE (NNI): A PTI provincial minister has

resigned from his post following his bickering at the Punjab Cabinet meeting.

PTI Minister Sardar Hasnain Bahadur Dreshak handed in his resignation after his tiff with Punjab Chief Minister Ch Pervaiz Elahi during yesterday's meeting of the provincial cabinet. Sources said soon after his spat with the CM, Dreshak left the cabinet meeting in protest.

They revealed that many ministers wanted to address the meeting at the same time but the chief minister insisted on the decorum. He said that only one minister could address the attendees at one time. Despite the CM's instructions, Dreshak continued his speech.

Chief Minister Elahi tried to stop him, but the incensed Dreshak threatened to resign and left the meeting. Sources said as soon as he left the meeting, Dreshak sent his resignation.

# PPP rallies to support Bilawal's branding of Modi as 'Butcher of Gujarat'



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan People's Party has announced to hold country-wide rallies tomorrow to express solidarity with Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari over his response to his Indian counterpart J. Shankir during the briefing in the United Nations.

The People's Party has also appealed to other political parties to participate in the country-wide rallies to be held tomorrow and to express full solidarity with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's statement because this is not only a issue of a political party but it is a matter of honor of the entire country.

This was announced in a joint press conference of Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Saftey Shazia Atta Marri and Sindh Minister for Irrigation and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon held at Clifton Karachi.

While talking to media persons, Federal Minister Shazia Atta Marri said that the statement of Indian Foreign Minister J. Shankar was a futile and irresponsible statement against the Pakistan, on which Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari gave him a strong and bold befitting response.

She said that we want to have good bilateral relations with all

South Asian countries and Pakistan People's Party has always supported better ties with neighboring countries, but current Indian Government is only prompting hatred among the peoples.

Shazia Marri said that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari did not talk against or criticize on Indian Government at first in the United Nations and Pakistan knows how to respond such remarks of Indian Government? She added that calling Pakistan a center of terrorism is a propaganda of India and we strongly condemned such remarks of Indian Foreign Minister J. Shankar. Mr Marri said that Narindra Modi's government is associating Muslims with terrorism, we were told that India is a secular country, but the Indian government is suppressing and violating Indian Muslim and also following the ideology of Hindutva.

The Information Secretary of PPP-P Shazia Marri further said that when Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he was behind the massacre of Muslims and now, extremists of India are protesting against Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in India. Indian Foreign Minister made a wrong statement against Pakistan and we want to remind Narendra Modi's government that we are not afraid of their terrorism and threats, our

decency should not be taken as our weakness.

Shazia Marri said that Shaheed Zulfiqar Bhutto had always fought the case of Kashmiris in the United Nations and today his grandson is also fighting for their rights of freedom. She added that Kashmir issue should have been resolved in 1947 and after the resolutions of United Nations. She said that the current Modi's government has made the Kashmir issue more complicated.

She announced that PPP will hold rallies across the country in solidarity with Pakistan and the response of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to his Indian counterpart against Pakistan and she appealed that all political parties should participate with us, because this is a day to show solidarity with Pakistan.

On this occasion, Sindh Minister for Information and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari responded to his counterpart of India in a bold manner and the whole of India has been shaken by Bilawal's response.

He said that trains were set on fire at the behest of Narendra Modi in India and foot prints all of terrorism acts happened in Pakistan linked to India and the Modi government.

While strongly criticizing the Indian Foreign Minister's statement, he said that Indian Foreign Minister's malicious propaganda campaign at the United Nations is highly regrettable and condemnable and on which the response of our Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was courageous and bold against false accusation of India. He said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that we are sitting in the country where entry of Modi was banned and he is a recognized as terrorist of the world and now he has become the Prime Minister of India.

Mr Memon further said the longest curfew in the history of the world was imposed in Kashmir during Modi's Government. He said that Modi government is committing human rights violations against innocent Muslims of India within his own country.

# Coward Imran does not has courage to dissolve Punjab, KP assemblies: Marriyum

(Cont: from Front Page)

and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which gave protection to him, his wife Bushra Bibi and her friend Farah Gogi against their corruption, loot and plunder. "The coalition government is not afraid of Imran Khan who is a coward, liar and hypocrite person and does not have courage to dissolve the assemblies which he believes will help him save his skin in foreign funding, Toshakhana and other cases," she said while addressing a news conference here.

She dared Imran Khan to dissolve the assemblies of both the provinces instead of just giving dates just like the 2014 sit-in when he only kept himself limited to giving dates of toppling the then Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government.

"We have all the options before us and have every right to exercise them as the country does not and cannot afford political instability at this time," Marriyum said, reiterating that the coalition government would complete its constitutional term and the general elections would be held in October 2023.

She said it was out of question that Imran Khan would dissolve the assemblies which helped him run his kitchen and arrange the public gatherings with pomp. Imran Khan just had one point agenda which was to get an NRO like concession from the coalition government, she said, adding those tactics would not help him pressurize those who had faced his brutalities during his "fascist" and "autocratic" regime.

"He believes that he can blackmail or put pressure on us with such threats, but he should know that we did not bow to his pressure at that time when he put us in the death cells," Marriyum remarked. At the outset of her presser, the minister said Imran Khan again wasted time of media and nation today by repeating his old speech which proved that his mental condition was not good. The faces of the chief ministers of Punjab and KP, who sat beside him, clearly showed that they lacked interest in what he was saying during his address to the PTI workers.

She said Imran Khan seemed confused and frustrated which showed that the loss of power had badly impacted his mental health.

"The National Assembly has been vacated from the propaganda group through the vote of no confidence motion and days are not far when Imran Khan's governments in provincial assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will also fall," she added. The minister said it had been proven that Imran Khan did not care about the democracy, politics, national interest, foreign policy and economy. He harmed the national interests and foreign policy by creating drama of cipher on realizing his imminent ouster from the power.

When his power ended, she said he ordered the PTI government's finance ministers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to write a letter to International Monetary Fund to sabotage the deal which was signed by his own government before its ouster.

Marriyum said Imran Khan started making noise on realizing that he, his wife and her friend Farah Gogi would have to answer about their corruptions after the removal of their government which was marred by incompetency, corruption and bad governance.

She feared that Imran Khan could attack the masses, democracy, political and economic stability as he did on the Constitution when he realized that the no-confidence motion was going to succeed against him.

This entire noise and distraction of Imran Khan was only aimed at saving him from the accountability, she said, adding the nation asked from him today that what had happened if he was ousted from the power in a democratic way.

She said Imran Khan's clamoring was only meant to suppress the voices which was being raised for his accountability in the foreign funding and Toshakhana case, and against his loot and plunder of four year rule, and for harming the national interests and foreign policy.

Marriyum said Imran Khan was a "shameless" person who claimed that his predecessor inherited him a fragile economy which contradicted the official statistics which spoke volume about the performance of the PML-N's previous government.

Nawaz Sharif, she said, left the government with 6.1 per cent GDP, 3.6 per cent inflation, zero load shedding, motorways and major

infrastructure projects, health insurance schemes and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme.

However, when Imran Khan was ousted from the power, the country had low economic growth, extreme inflation, loadshedding, unemployment and foreign debt at the highest level, she added. She said Imran Khan destroyed economy and industry, and now bent on bringing political instability in the country under a plan which he devised to comply the funding received by his party from abroad to damage the country. The minister said Imran Khan should have inform the nation about the interference of institutions in the government affairs when he was in power. He should have dissolved the National Assembly at that time, but ironically, he lacked such courage.

On the contrary, she said Nawaz Sharif himself write a letter to the Supreme Court for the investigation of alleged corruption as he (Nawaz Sharif) believed that all the allegations against him were fake and false.

"The Sharif family had given answer of 40 years, no family in the political history has done so," she added.

Maryam Nawaz did not get any relief from the courts under the NAB amendment, she said, adding the PML-N vice president was acquitted on merit. She said Imran Khan failed to prove a single allegation against his opponents despite abducting Tayyba Gul in the Prime Minister's House, blackmailing the then NAB chairman and locking up the then DG FIA in the bathroom of PM's Office. He used all the state resources to victimize his political opponents, but the entire leadership of PML-N vindicated in those fake cases, she added.

She said that all the political leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League fought their cases in a court of law. No leader of PMLN make make hue and cry like Imran Khan, and talk about the division of the country into pieces.

She alleged that Imran Khan and his fellow had no answer for their corruption.

"Imran Khan is responsible for all the problems being faced by the country and the nation," she said, adding the coalition government under the leadership of prime minister Shehbaz Sharif had made a promise

to the people of the country to solve their problems and make the country's economy stronger. "We are committed to taking the foreign and economic policy of the country in the right direction and providing relief to masses and creating job opportunities for youngsters," she added. The minister said the people of the country would not listen to the false narrative of Imran Khan anymore. She alleged that no mega-development projects were initiated by Imran Khan during his three and half years tenure in his government. She alleged that wife of Imran Khan was involved in the corruption and selling of toughakhan gifts. "No first lady in the past was found involved in the corruption," she added.

To a question she said, people were in trouble due to the policies and corruption of the Imran-led government. "Our entire focus is to control price hike, restore CPEC projects, create job opportunities and take the country's economy in the right direction," she added.

The minister said that all the coalition partners are unanimous that, Imran Khan is a liar, Fitna, thief and foreign agent.

## 72 shops, restaurants, marriage halls sealed

LAHORE (APP): The district administration teams conducted operations under anti smog campaign and sealed 72 businesses in the provincial capital during the last 24 hours.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali told the media on Saturday that 35 hotels and restaurants, 30 shops, four marriage halls and three mega markets were sealed over multiple violations.

He said five restaurants in Defence Housing Authority (DHA) phase-VI were sealed over business hours violation.

Similarly, more than eight restaurants and shops were sealed in Garishahu and Baghbanpura. Around nine business outlets were sealed by the AC Model Town. Eight restaurants were sealed in Safanwala Chowk and six cafes sealed in Mehmood Kasuri Road besides various others.

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- The bidders should submit their E-bids as per KPPRA Notification No. SOR(14)/Vol:1-24/2021-22 dated 10.05.2022.
- Complete detail of Bid Security in shape of CDR i.e. Bank Name, CDR Number(s) and Date(s) must be submitted electronically alongwith E-bid on the E-bidding System.
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**PESHAWAR:** Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan chairing the 11th meeting of PEDO Policy Board.

## PHC acquits smuggler from charges

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising of Justice Rooh-ul-Amin and Justice Arshad Ali has acquitted smuggler from charges.

According to prosecution, Shah Nawaz was charged in smuggling 15 kilograms hashish which was recovered from secret cavities from vehicle. However, session court Peshawar convicted Shah Nawaz convicted for life-time imprisonment in 2020.

The counsel Shahab Khattak Advocate informed that PHC evidences and witness produced against Shah Nawaz didn't established link between the commencement of offense and petitioner. The divisional bench comprising of Justice Rooh-ul-Amin and Justice Arshad Ali acquitted Shah Nawaz from charges after conclusion of arguments.

## Funeral of Durrani's mother offered

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The mother of the Opposition leader in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Akram Khan Durrani has passed away in Bannu. She was the grandmother of Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durani.

Her funeral prayer was held at Bannu Sports Complex on Saturday which was attended by large number of people besides political and religious figures including KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman, Maulana Amanullah Haqqani and Arbab Farooq. KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali extended heartfelt condolences and expressed grief over the demise of the mother of Durrani. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

## 23 suspects held, arms recovered

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: District police during action on Saturday arrested 23 suspects and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession.

Under the leadership of SHO Cantt Qasim Khan, 23 suspects, including a wanted proclaimed offender and drug dealer, were arrested from Muhammad Zai and Navay Kalay in a police operation. Among the detained persons three are facilitators of criminals.

A total of one Kalashnikov, three pistols, dozens of cartridges and 1,210 grams of hashish were recovered from the possession of the arrested drug dealers and suspects. Separate cases were registered in Cantt police station against drug dealers and armed persons detained during the crackdown.

## Section 144 imposed

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: District Administration under section 144 has imposed ban on sale and purchase of firecrackers, transportation of chemicals and pillion riding from December 17 to 23 as part of measures to enhance security measures.

## Three killed in firing on passenger coach

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Three persons including two women were killed and one injured when a passenger van was attacked by unknown assailants in Warasta area of Hungu.

According to details, unknown attackers started firing on a passenger coach in Warasta area of Hungu killing three including two women. Attackers managed to flee the scene after committing the crime.

The dead and injured have been shifted to District Headquarters Hospital for medico-legal formalities. Search operation has been started to

## SHOs directed to end tourism

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: District Police Officer (DPO), Swat, Shafiullah Gandapur has directed Station House Officers (SHOs) and incharges of Sub-Police Stations to end tourism and arrest of crime ratio in their jurisdiction.

He issued these directives during a meeting on law and order in the district on Saturday. Besides, DSP Legal, DSP City and DSP Khawaza Khela all SHOs and incharges of Sub-Police Stations attended the meeting.

The District Police Officer issued standing orders to all SHOs for ensuring recovery of illegal weapons and arrest of all proclaimed offenders (POs), narcotics sellers. He further directed furnishing of daily progress reports to him to maintain peace in the area. He further directed the formation of police station level teams to arrest suspects and proclaimed offenders.

arrest the elements one be allowed to disturb involved in the incident. law and order situation District Police Officer, and perpetrators would be Asif Bahadur has said no brought to court of law.

## Ashfaq Khalil among others promoted to BPS-21

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: After the Prime Minister's approval of the recommendations of the Central Selection Board, the Establishment Division has issued a notification to promote the senior officers of the Information Group to Grade 20 and 21. DGPID Peshawar Ashfaq Ahmed Khalil is also

among those who have been promoted to Grade 20. Apart from them, Syeda Ayesha Tasdeq, Aurangzeb Haral, while Tariq Mehmood and Akhtar Munir are included in grade 21, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has also issued a formal notification in this regard.

DGPID Peshawar

Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil is one of the senior officers of the Information Group, who has served in several important positions, he has previously been the Regional General Manager Pemra Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while some time ago he was the Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo. He has served as a press consul in Japan.

## Cleanliness situation of filling stations checked

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Additional Assistant Commissioner Tank Jamshed Alam Khan has visited several filling stations located on Tank-Pezu road in connection with the ongoing cleanliness week drive.

He paid these visits following the directions of the district administration to check the cleanliness situation at the filling stations. During his

visit, he directed the administration of the filling stations to ensure cleanliness at the stations, after which cleaning operations were started at different filling stations.

It is worth mentioning here that the week-long cleanliness drive was underway across the district with sanitary workers as well as concerned staff of all public departments

engaged to ensure cleanliness and a healthy environment for the citizens. The cleanliness week was started on December 12 at the width and breadth of the district to keep every nook and corner of the city clean under the direct supervision of Deputy Commissioner Hamidullah Khattak. The district administration is striving hard to make the campaign a complete success.

## HED inducts 16 junior clerks under employee son quota

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Higher Education Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recruited 16 junior clerks in BPS-11 under the employee son quota and posted them against their assignments in different colleges of the province.

A notification issued here on Saturday said that the

appointment has been made under the son quota of employees who died in the line of duty or retired on medical grounds.

Names of newly-appointed junior clerks are; Mohammad Osama, Sangar Shah, Mohibullah, Saqib, Niaz Khan, Chanzeb, Syed Zohaib Jillani, Muqadar Shah, Mansoor Khan, Asghar, Khizar Hayat Bacha,

Mohammad Ilyas, Abdul Ghaffar, Haris Ahmed, Mohammad Waseem, and Ahmed Murtaza.

All the educational documents of the newly-appointed candidates would be attested by the respective boards and universities. Candidates were directed to submit their medical certificates to complete the necessary departmental action.



**PESHAWAR:** Activists of PTI from Chitral holding a protest rally in favour of their demands. - F.P. photo

## Muqam hands over cheques to heirs of flood victims

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Adviser to the Prime Minister Engr Amir Muqam has handed over Rs one million cheques each to heirs of the deceased flood victims of Khwazakhela in Swat.

The cheques were handed over to the heirs of the flood victims on behalf of the federal government under the Prime Minister's relief package. Engr Amir Muqam said that the government would continue efforts till rehabilitation and resettlement of all flood victims in the country. He said the compensation amount was meant to bring ease in the lives of floods victims.

**PML-N Karak delegation calls on Muqam:** A delegation of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) of Karak district led by Vice President, Sirajuddin Khan called on Adviser to the Prime Minister Engineer Amir Muqam here Saturday.

Others members of the delegation were PML-N Youth Wing Karak President, Ziaur Rehman and General Secretary Zeeshan Baghi. During the meeting, different matters pertaining to the party affairs came under discussion. President Media team Hazara, Engr Usman Mughal were also present.

## Secretariat employees promoted

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The provincial government has promoted 119 secretariat employees BPS-4 to 16 to next grade.

In separate notifications issued here Saturday, 11 assistants of BPS-16 were promoted to BPS-17 as superintendents while 12 senior stenographers and 20 personal assistants of BPS-14 were promoted to BPS-16.

Similarly, 13 stenographers of BPS-14 were promoted as senior stenographers in BPS-16, 32 junior clerks of BPS-11 were promoted as senior clerks in BPS-14 and 13 Daftaris (messengers) of BPS-4 were promoted as junior clerks in BPS-11. The promotions were made on the recommendations of Provincial Selection board.

## Smuggled cloths, NCP vehicles seized

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Customs authorities have foiled a smuggling bid and seized foreign smuggled goods and five precious non-customs paid (NCP) vehicles, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

On a tip the Collectorate of Customs, D.I. Khan carried out anti-smuggling operations in various localities of Kohat. During the operation the customs authorities seized containers loaded with smuggled cloths and five non-duty paid cars. The value of the seized cloths and vehicles is stated to be Rs.125 million.

The customs authorities have registered separate FIRs of the cases and initiated proceedings against the alleged smugglers. Customs authorities of Kohat have been carrying out an anti-smuggling campaign for two weeks and have so far confiscated smuggled goods worth millions of rupees. Similarly, customs authorities of D.I. Khan has also seized smuggled medicines and tyres of estimated worth Rs.5.5 million and further proceedings against the accused are in progress.

**Police recovers 11kg narcotics, chemical, arrested two persons:** Narcotics Eradication Team (NET) and Pahari Pura police on Saturday during a raid on a house recovered eight kilogram heroin and three kilogram chemical and arrested two persons.

The NET and police teams on a tip off raided a house in Faisal Colony and recovered eight kilogram heroin and three kilogram chemicals and sealed the factory. The police arrested two brothers Hazrat Ali and Jawad Khan.

## Imran failed on all fronts: Muqam

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Engr Amir Muqam, Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture, Engr Amir Muqam here Saturday said that Hazara division was the stronghold of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and his party would sweep 2023 general election from here.

Addressing party workers convention here, Engr Amir Muqam said that PML-N was the strongest and most popular political party of Hazara division with strong roots in masses where former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had completed record development projects for benefits of its people.

He referred to Hazara Motorway completed by Nawaz Sharif Government that provided quality communication facilities to people of Haripur, Abbottabad, Mansehra and other districts of Hazara division. Hazara Motorway was a gift of Nawaz Sharif for people of Hazara that promoted trade and tourism in KP in general and Hazara division in particular, he maintained.

Engr Amir Muqam said that incompetent rulers of the province during their nine years long rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and four years in centre has completely failed to deliver and address the area's problems. He said Tosha Khana and PTI foreign funding cases have exposed the corrupt practices and lies based politics of Imran Khan.

He said that PTI Chairman had neither fulfilled the promise of construction of five million houses nor provided jobs to 10 million people and was proved a certified liar. He said reelection would be held in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in case of dissolution of KP assembly.

Engr Amir Muqam who is also PML-N KP President said that general election would be held in line of the constitution and the present government would complete its tenure. He said presence of entire leadership of PML-N Hazara in today's workers conventions has reaffirmed that the party was united under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif in Hazara.

He said that we are all

the workers of Nawaz Sharif who made Pakistan an atomic power, established network of motorways and enhanced the prestige and dignity of Pakistan. Muqam said that acquittal of PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif in Avenfield Reference, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah in narcotics case and Daily Mail's apology to PM testified their innocence.

Soon after arrival from abroad, Muqam said that he organized workers conventions at Peshawar, Mardan and Swat to celebrate Daily Mail's apology to PM. He said people have pinned high expectations from PML-N and would reject Tosha Khana looters in the next general election.

Muqam said successful holding of the convention on a short notice here was highly praised worthy. The convention was attended by all PML-N leadership including Murtaza Javed Abbassi, Sardar Aurangzeb Nalota, Inayatullah Jadoon and all wings of the party. The participants raised full throated slogans in favour of Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Amir Muqam.



**PESHAWAR:** Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with the students of FAST National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences during 72nd convocation. — F.P. photo

## Varsities urged to conduct activities for character building

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali here on Saturday urged universities to conduct activities for character building as the teachers are role models for students and can provide examples of good character.

Addressing the 72nd convocation of FAST National University as a

chief guest, the Governor said that graduate students have taken steps to be part of the country's scientific, engineering and technical workforce, which is an important component of our development framework.

He congratulated all the graduates and said that youth equipped with modern education should highlight their vision and technical skills to provide relief

to the people of backward areas of the province. Haji Ghulam Ali distributed degrees among 116 students of graduation, MPhil and PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences. He stressed upon utilizing learned skills with dedication and honesty in their respective fields so that the goal of a prosperous society would be achieved.

## PTI pushing country towards anarchy: QWP leader

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Imran Khan was pushing the country towards anarchy to avoid facing accountability for the misuse of his powers as the prime minister.

According to a press release, he made these remarks while addressing a well-attended public gathering at Tangi tehsil in the Charsadda district. Aftab Sherpao said that details of Imran Khan's illegal practices of how he sold the state gifts at throwaway prices and violated the relevant rules were now emerging with each passing day so he was trying to create political instability to divert the attention of the people from his corruption.

He said the PTI chairman took U-turns on every issue and was changing his narrative on a daily basis. He said Imran Khan had now started criticizing the ones, who helped bring him to power. "Who will trust Imran Khan? He has not even spared his benefac-

tors," he believed. The QWP leader said the former prime minister wanted the country to go bankrupt to pave the way for his return to power. However, he added the Pakistan Democratic Movement-led government was working hard and there was no chance of the country going bankrupt.

He said Imran Khan strained the country's relations with the US, Saudi Arabia and China when he was the prime minister. He said the PDM government was trying to restore the strained relations. The QWP leader said Imran Khan did not have the authority to dissolve the provincial assemblies of KP and Punjab. He said that even the chief ministers concerned and the PTI lawmakers were not in favour of dissolving the assemblies.

About the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister's threat to stage a protest sit-in against the federal government, he said it was a political gimmick to deceive the people. He said the chief minister should tell the nation how much money the province

received from the Centre when Imran Khan was the prime minister. He said the chief minister was performing groundbreaking of uplift projects in various parts of the province to win political support, but he would not be able to execute the schemes as KP did not have funds to give salaries to government employees let alone undertaking development work.

He said the provincial government did not have money to pay salaries, adding the debt of the province had soared from Rs97 billion to Rs791 billion. He said the PTI leaders were responsible for the economic crisis which the province was facing as they had been ruling KP for straight nine years. He said the PTI government introduced legislation for the use of the official helicopter to prevent Imran Khan from facing the law for the misuse of the copter. He said it was Imran Khan, who violated the agreement with the International Monetary Fund when he was going to face the no-confidence motion to save his government, but this tactic did not work.

## Fazl condoles over death of trader

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman here on Saturday visited the 'Raja House' here in Galli Bagh Wali area to condole over the death of President of Central Traders Union Raja Akhtar Ali.

During his visit, Maulana Fazlur Rehman was accompanied by Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood, Maulana Engineer Zia-ur-Rehman, JUI-F leader Kafeel Nizami, District General Secretary of JUI-F Chaudhry Ashfaq Advocate and others. The PDM chief

expressed condolence with the deceased's son Raja Fahad and brothers Raja Shaukat Ali and Raja Riyasat Ali.

He prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family members to bear this loss with fortitude.





## In brief

### Motorcyclist killed on road

FAISALABAD (APP): A motorcyclist was killed while the other sustained serious injuries in an accident in Sadar police limits on Saturday. A Rescue 1122 spokesman said the speeding motorcycle collided with a truck near Air Avenue City Jhang Road. As a result, Arsalan, 22, of Amin Town died on the spot whereas Ali Hasan, 20, was shifted to Hospital in a critical condition. The police took the body into custody and started investigation, he added.

### Repairing of Alipur road plan

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Deputy Commissioner Capt (ret) Samiullah Farooq and MPA Abdul Haye Dasti laid the foundation stone for repairing and rehabilitation of Alipur road project at a cost of Rs 600 million. Addressing the ceremony, the DC said that it was a long-standing demand of the people of Muzaaffargarh and Alipur. The project not only will provide relief to the people of Muzaaffargarh and Alipur but also provide relief to the people of adjacent areas and traffic problems will also be resolved. He said the project would be completed as soon as possible by utilizing all the resources. MPA Abdul Haye Khan Dasti said the condition of Alipur road was dilapidated for a long time, due to which the people of Muzaaffargarh, Alipur, Jatoi, Shahr Sultan and adjacent areas were facing problems. He said the road has been divided into five parts and the total length of construction and repair was about 6 kilometres. He said that construction and repair of road have been started from Pir Jahania. The DC has given special instructions for the early completion of the project on a priority basis. On the occasion, the dignitaries of the area including former Nazim Azam Baloch were also present.

### Govt dues recovered

B A H A W A L P U R (APP): Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Raja Jahangir Anwar chaired a review meeting held regarding the achievement of revenue targets in the division. The commissioner said that the revenue targets should be completed on time and the government dues should be deposited in the national exchequer. The meeting was told that during the last six months, revenues of Rs 1687 million have been deposited in the government treasury; of which Rs 549 million were land transfer fees, Rs 888 million were stamp duty, Rs 118 million were agricultural income tax, and Rs 133 million was received through water tax. The commissioner was told about the revenue targets of all the tehsils and a detailed briefing was also given about the situation of revenue collection. Meanwhile, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt (ret) Saqib Zafar has said that Bahawalpur Museum is preserving the historical and cultural heritage of Pakistan, especially of South Punjab. He made these remarks during his visit to Bahawalpur Museum on Saturday. On the occasion, Director Museum Zubair Rabbani briefed him about the museum. The museum is a tourist attraction and a handsome amount of Rs 70 million has been spent on the beautification of the museum building and the construction of the Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan Memorial Gallery to preserve the valuable traditions, history, and culture of the region for coming centuries.



**HANGU:** Ambulance carrying bodies of passengers moving from District Headquarters Hospital to their native villages.

## Arrangements of BB's anniversary reviewed

LARKANA (APP): The Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Larkana, Rabiya Siyal presided over a meeting on Friday evening to review the arrangements to observe 15th Death Anniversary of Former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohatma Benazir Bhutto which is to be held at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto on December 27.

The ADC-I Larkana apprised the meeting that the police department has been directed to prepare a foolproof security plan during the upcoming 15th death anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto to be observed at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto.

A control room will be established at his office to

monitor all activities and ensure the law and order situation, she said. She further said that close circuit cameras, walk-through gates and other security relating equipments will be installed at entry and exit points of the Mausoleum of martyrs of Bhutto Family at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto.

Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Larkana has directed officials of municipal administrations, works and services, Health Department, Public Health Engineering, SEPCO, Irrigation and other concerned departments to ensure their services and required facilities amongst potable water, the establishment of medical camps, installation lights, hand

pumps, cleanliness facilities, generators and others.

She directed to works and services department to expedite its efforts to complete the ongoing development works of roads and other schemes before the 27th of December 2022, adding that basic health units and dispensaries will be set up at various roads leading to Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto, where free medicines and health services will be provided to visitors round the clock. The meeting was attended by officials of Shahbaz Rangers, District Police, Assistant Commissioners of Larkana, Ratodero, Bakrani, Dokri and other concerned officials of various departments.

## Interfaith harmony committee meeting held

SIALKOT (APP): A meeting of the District Interfaith Harmony Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi here on Saturday.

The meeting was attended by DPO Faisal Kamran, ADCG Shahid Abbas, AC Sufian Dilawar, Committee members Hafiz Asghar Cheema, Maulana Muhammad Ayub, Mufti Kifayat Ullah Shakir, Bishop Siraj Masih, Shamshad Pervaiz, Pastor Henry, Hafiz Ghaffar, Hafiz Ghulam Mohiuddin, Pir Ghulam Hussain Yazdani, Ratan Lal, Mehboob Jan, Master Faiz Ahmed, Jaskaran Singh and others.

Addressing the participants, the deputy commissioner said the minorities had been enjoying their complete religious freedom

in the country and the government was making all out sincere efforts to protect their rights. The district administration was committed to provide all possible facilities to the Christian community on Christmas, he added.

He said Christmas bazaar would be set up in four tehsils while assistant commissioners and chief officers of the district government had been instructed to ensure cleaning and lighting arrangements in the churches. District Police Officer Muhammad Faisal Kamran said that a comprehensive plan had been made for security of churches in the district on Christmas.

**First convocation of USKT held:** The first convocation of the University of Sialkot (USKT) was held here on Saturday. According to a press

release, Chancellor and Governor Punjab Baligh-ur-Rehman presided over the ceremony while Faisal Manzoor, Chairman, BOG University of Sialkot, Prof Dr Saeedul Hassan Chishti, Vice Chancellor, University of Sialkot, distributed medals and degrees among 3,500 graduating students of ADP, BS Hons, Masters and M. Phill programmes.

The governor lauded efforts of the USKT faculty and its leadership for providing quality education to students. He said effective and comprehensive strategies were needed by universities so that students could take full advantage of innovations and discoveries in various fields and effectively prepare themselves for future challenges. Deans, directors, faculty members, students and parents attended the ceremony.

## Scores join QWP in Dir

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Qaumi Watan Party provincial chief and former senior minister Sikandar Khan Sherpao has said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has badly failed to maintain law and order situation in the province while the masses were crying for facilities in the education, health and development sector. He was addressing a gathering at Badwan as chief guest. Scores of political workers on the occasion announced to join the QWP in his presence.

Skiandar said the Pakistan democratic Movement (PDM) and Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) leadership were playing pol-

itics while the country was on the verge of economic collapse. He asked the PTI chief Imran Khan to inform the masses about his performance of his four years rule at the center instead of struggling for the PDM oust. He said the law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa deteriorated and its people felt insecurity.

The QWP leader said the PTI had no control over the deteriorating situation in the province. He alleged the PTI chief Imran was not sincere with the nation, rather he wanted to get the chair in the prime minister's house at any cost. He said the KP chief minister Mahmood Khan had been demanding the outstanding amount from the center but he had failed

to provide funds to local government institutions in the province.

He said the Lower Dir flood affected farmers and other residents had been ignored in the rehabilitation and relief activities of the government. He said the QWP would win a majority of seats in the next general elections and would form a government in the province. He said the QWP believed in serving the masses and would initiate mega development projects if it came into power.

The gathering was also addressed by the QWP provincial deputy general secretary Dr Farooq Afzal, former tehsil chairman candidate Imran Khan advocate and others.

## Nine held with narcotics

SARGODHA (APP): The district police on Saturday arrested nine accused, and recovered narcotics and weapons from their possession.

Police said teams of different police stations conducted raids and arrested Ashraf, Majid, Akram, Aqil, Azad Ali, Suleman, Sharafat, Riaz and Akhter. The policemen recovered 1.2-kg hashish, 25-litres of liquor, two pistols, one gun and a rifle. Separate cases were registered against the accused.

**DG PHA visits 'safe life thalassemia center':** Director General Parks and Horticulture Authority Syed Tauqeer Haider Kazmi on Saturday visited Safe Life Thalassemia Center at DHQ Teaching Hospital and inquired about health of chil-

dren. According to consultant media PHA Shafqat, the DG appreciated efforts of the center and also directed the PHA to make a team to arrange blood for Thalassemia patients. The PHA will organise various seminar and programmes with the coordination of Safe Life Center to raise awareness among people about the disease, he said. Incharge Safe Life Thalassemia center Dr Tanveer Ahmed Silhari briefed the DG about performance and patients treatment.

**'Precautionary measures necessary against smog':** Chief Executive Officer Health Authority Dr Khaliq Dad Niswana said precautionary measures recommended by the health department could save people from effects of smog.

## Balochistan to set up E-facilitation centres

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has planned to set up e-facilitation centers to provide up-to-date information and guidance to local and foreign investors about business opportunities in various sectors of the province.

The investors would be encouraged to benefit from business-friendly policies and opportunities, an official of the Balochistan government said. "The provincial government is providing all possible assistance to industrialists for the promotion of business in the province which would provide spacious employment opportunities for youth in various sectors," he said.

He said the economic development of the province was a top priority of the Balochistan government for which provision of a business-friendly environment was being ensured in the province. He said tourism was being introduced as an industry in the province while the development of tourism as well as other industries would further boost the revenue of the province while further stabilizing the economy.

Under the leadership of Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, a major step has been taken to promote local and foreign investment by implementing a comprehensive strategy to attract and make them aware of investment opportunities in the province.

## Two women killed in road accident

SUKKUR (INP): Two women were killed in a road accident in Kandhot and their father-in-law died of a severe heart attack after hearing the news at home.

The women, Bakhtawar and Hanifa, belonging to the Khoso tribe, were killed when the auto-rickshaw they were travelling in was hit by a speeding passenger coach near Malir bus stand along Indus Highway near Kandhot. When the incident was reported at their home, the victims' father-in-law suffered a severe heart stroke and died.

## Three killed in firing at Mir Ali

### F.P. Report

MIR ALI: Three persons were killed in firing incident occurred in Teshil Mir Ali of North Waziristan.

According to details, three persons were killed when unknown attackers started firing on a vehicle in Teshil Mir Ali. One of the killed was identified as Karam Khan. The car was set ablaze after the firing. The process to identify other victims is underway.

## Around 200kg of high-quality drugs recovered

QUETTA (INP): Customs officials in Balochistan recovered around 200 Kilograms of high-quality drugs from a vehicle in the Jalagir camp.

Officials said that the seizure was made during a raid on the camp, after receiving a tip-off. They said that during their raid, a search was conducted

# Education vital to counter extremism and militancy

### F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Tariqullah has said that education is the only effective tool to counter extremism and militancy and the menaces can be eliminated completely from society by promoting education.

This he said while speaking at the prize distribution ceremony at Government Shaheed Muhammad Ghassan Khan Centennial Model High School No. 1, in Lakki Marwat on Saturday. The ceremony was arranged by the elementary and secondary education department with support of district administration to acknowledge the achievements of top three position holder students of SSC and HSSC-2022 examinations.

The additional deputy commissioner along with

district education officer Mr Ilyas Khattak and Ms Farzana Sardar distributed shields and cash prizes among the position holder students. They also gave away commendation certificates to the schools' bosses for shining results of their respective institutions in annual matriculation and intermediate examinations.

Lakki tehsil council chairman Shafiqatullah Khan, Ghaznikhel tehsil council chairman Zeshan Khan, deputy DEOs Gul Faraz Khan and Nargis Jabeen, schools' heads, teachers and parents of students were in attendance. On the occasion, students and boy scouts sang national songs and presented tableaux. They also paid rich tributes to the martyrs of Army Public School Peshawar.

Dr. Tariqullah congratulated the students and their

parents and said that the district administration and local governments would continue to encourage talented students of public sector schools. He said that the students spent most of the time with their parents at home therefore they should focus on education.

"The teachers should realize their responsibilities to build character of students and impart them with quality education", he added, saying that the district administration will ensure provision of a better environment for teaching and learning activities and availability of basic facilities in government run schools. He said that the martyrs of Army Public School had left a message for all of us to boost the education sector and literacy rate to defeat extremism in society.

## Women' robber gang busted by Dir police

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Lower Dir police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a gang of women robbers involved in various cases and recovered the stolen gold ornaments and other valuables. Briefing local

journalists the district police officer Ikramullah and SP investigation Mushtaq Khan said that a house at Khaima was robbed on Dec. 8 and gold ornaments were taken away.

They said a police team led by DSP circle Pervez Khan worked day and night and succeeded to trace the case through CCTV cameras and mobile phone data. They said that five women and a cab driver including Mrs Gul Mena, Qamar Gula, Bakht Zareena, Niaz Malooka, Lalai and Arif, all residents of Rashakai and Atlang Mardan were arrested. The officials said the stolen ornaments and other valuables along with the car used during the crime were also recovered from the accused. They said the accused were charged at the Balambat police sta-

tion under section 380/34 crpc. They said the accused had confessed to the crime and more disclosures were expected from them.

Meanwhile the Lower Dir deputy commissioner Muhammad Zubair Khan Niazi imposed section 144 crpc on distribution and sale of fire crackers, transportation of chemicals, one wheeling, display of weapons, distribution of objectionable materials and large public gathering in public areas except mosques and other religious places in the district for a period of one week. A notification issued by the DC in this regard said that threat alerts and source reports from different agencies, seemed to be the cause for any untoward situation.

**Minorities get food packages:** The Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) on Saturday distributed food packages among the minority communities during a function held at the Balambat Church. The AKF incharge community services Aamir Mehmood Cheema, provincial vice president Fazal

Mehmood, district president Hafeezullah Khaksar, Church's Pastor Aqeel Bhatti and others distributed the packages.

Speaking on the occasion Mr Cheema and others said the AKF had been providing relief to the vulnerable communities irrespective of their religion, caste and creed. They said the Foundation would utilize its limited resources to serve the minorities. They said the AKF would also provide scholarships to the children of minorities for getting higher education.

**Class IV employees recruitment:** More than one thousand candidates appeared for the 125 posts of class IV employees, security guards and drivers at the Timergara Medical College for interviews held here the other day. The regional director health Dr Shaukat Ali, district health officer Dr Irshad Rughani and MS Timergara hospital Dr Ali Asghar conducted the interviews. Speaking on the occasion Dr Shaukat said that all recruitments would be made purely on merit and there would be no injustice in the process.

## IBA teachers salary be released, demands PTA

LARKANA (PPI): IBA test pass newly recruited teachers should be relieved from mental anxiety by giving them 9 months outstanding salary which has not been paid to them due to the lethargic attitude of education department bosses.

The newly appointed IBA test pass teachers in the education department are doing their duty with full of hard work and honesty. Before joining the education department, many teachers were working in the private sector or in any other department on

good salary, but after joining the education department, due to non-payment of monthly salary for the last 9 months, these newly recruited teachers are facing serious financial problems along with their family members who should not be punished for sheer negligence of education and finance departments.

They are facing and living a life of mental torture, former president of Primary Teachers Association (PTA), Larkana taluka, Ghulamullah Sangi, former district president Syed

Hidayatullah Shah, Sikander Ali Jarwar, Afzar Ali Qureshi, Ghulam Shabbir Chandio, Ijaz Dhamrah, Mohammad Sharif Umrani, and others demanded from the Provincial Minister of Education Syed Sardar Shah and Secretary Akbar Laghari to remove all obstacles in the salary of new primary teachers (each of BPS-14) and release the salaries of the teachers as soon as possible so that new teachers can get rid of mental anxiety and harassment.

## SHC directs Session Judge to submit report

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh High Court has directed the District and Session Judge of Dadu district to submit a report in the SHC about the state of encroachment and other infrastructure issues in the city by December 22.

The Hyderabad circuit bench comprising justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro and justice Adnan-ul-Karim Memon on Friday recalled that at the last date of the hearing the District and Session Judge was ordered to submit the said report. However, no report had been submitted.

The SHC gave one more week to the district, judge for compliance. Meanwhile, the focal person for district administration of Dadu Shah Nawaz Mirani assured the court that action against hard and soft encroachment and construction of the boundary walls of Lal Hindi and Pir Muhammad Murad graveyards would be started within a week.

He further gave his word that all the damaged roads in Dadu district would be made motorable and the traffic congestion problem mainly during the school hours and at the busy inter-

sections would be addressed through deployment of traffic wardens. The petitioners including Advocate Mumtaz Ahmed Lashari and others also complained about the presence of garbage heaps on the streets and the roads flooded under sewage.

They said the putrid smell of the solid waste and sewage had become a health hazard for the citizens. They added that the road from the city's entrance and exit roads leading towards the city's center were all under encroachment.

his vehicle. The customs spokesperson said that the hashish seized was worth at least Rs200m in the international market. He added that the drugs were being moved into Pakistan near the Pak-Afghan border area, which were to be later smuggled and sold in different parts of the country and even smuggled abroad.





## COVID-linked deaths seen in Beijing after virus rules eased

BEIJING (AP): Outside a funeral home in eastern Beijing, dozens of people were bundled up in parkas and hats against the freezing temperatures as workers in full protective suits wheeled out coffins one by one. When an employee with a clipboard shouted the name of the dead, a relative trundled up to the coffin to examine the body. One of the relatives told The Associated Press their loved one had been infected with COVID-19.

Deaths linked to the coronavirus are appearing in Beijing after weeks of China reporting no fatalities, even as the country is seeing a surge of cases. That surge comes as the government last week dramatically eased some of the world's strictest COVID-19 containment measures. The government said it would stop reporting asymptomatic COVID-19 cases since they've become impossible to track with mass testing no longer required.

That halt in reporting made it unclear how fast the virus is spreading. Social media posts, business closures and other anecdotal evidence suggest huge numbers of infections. It's also unclear how many people are dying from the virus. An AP reporter who visited the Dongjiao Funeral home was told by relatives that at least two people cremated there had died after testing positive. Health authorities had designated Dongjiao and one other funeral home to cremate those who die after testing positive, according to a relative of one of the dead. The woman said her elderly relative had fallen ill in early December, tested positive, and died in an emergency ward.

She said there were lots of people in the emergency ward who had tested positive for COVID-19, adding that there weren't enough nurses to take care of them. The woman did not want to be identified for fear of retribution. Over about an hour, an AP reporter saw about a dozen bodies wheeled from the Dongjiao funeral home. About a half-dozen people inside described how another victim had struggled to breathe that morning before dying, and the death certificate listed "pneumonia" as the cause of death, even after a positive test for COVID-19, one of those people said. The people interviewed did not want to be identified for fear of retribution.

Three employees of shops in the complex that houses the funeral home said there had been a marked increase in the number of people going there in recent days. One estimated about 150 bodies were being cremated daily, up from what is normally a few dozen a day. One employee attributed it to the coronavirus, although another said there are usually more deaths with the arrival of winter. The employees did not want to be identified for fear of retribution. China has not reported a death from COVID-19 since Dec. 4.

China's official death toll remains low, with just 5,235 deaths — compared with 1.1 million in the United States. However, public health experts caution that such statistics can't be directly compared. Chinese health authorities count only those who died directly from COVID-19, excluding those whose underlying conditions were worsened by the



virus. In many other countries, guidelines stipulate that any death where the coronavirus is a factor or contributor is counted as a COVID-19-related death. Experts say this has been the longstanding practice in China, but questions have been raised at times about whether officials have sought to minimize the figures.

Also, China's Cabinet ordered rural areas to prepare for the return of migrant workers this holiday season in hopes of preventing a big surge in COVID-19 cases in communities with limited medical resources. Returnees must wear masks and avoid contact with elderly people, and village committees must monitor their movements, the guidelines said, but didn't mention the possibility of isolation or quarantines. There are fears of a surge in cases around China's winter holidays, when tens of millions take to trains, buses and planes for what may be their only trip home all year.

The upcoming Lunar New Year falls on Jan. 22, but migrants generally begin heading home two weeks or more in advance. Some Chinese universities say they will allow students to finish the semester from home to help spread out the travel rush and reduce the potential for a bigger outbreak. Medical resources in smaller cities and rural communities, which are home to about 500 million of China's 1.4 billion people, lag far behind those of large cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. Rural medical infrastructure includes 17,000 county-level hospitals — many of which lack even a single ICU bed — 35,000 township health centers and 599,000 village clinics. China has been pushing to increase the number of fever clinics in rural areas to treat those with COVID-19 symptoms. Currently, about 19,400 such clinics or consulting rooms operate in communities and townships around the country, state media reported.

By March 2023, about 90% of health centers at the township level will have fever clinics, Nie Chunlei, head of primary health at the National Health Commission, said. "This will

effectively enhance the capability of primary-level health care institutions to receive patients with fever," said Nie, who also urged stockpiling of medicines and antigen test kits, many of which have become scarce even in big cities. The lifting of some travel regulations has spurred both relief and anxiety over the level of COVID-19 preparedness.

Health experts have said China will face a peak of infections in the next month or two and is trying to persuade reluctant seniors and others at risk to get vaccinated. The changes follow growing frustration with the "zero-COVID" policy blamed for hindering the economy and creating massive social stress. The easing began in November, and accelerated after Beijing and several other cities saw protests over the restrictions that grew into calls for President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party to step down — a level of public dissent not seen in decades. It's unclear what prompted the government's shift in policy. Experts cite economic pressure, public discontent, and the difficulties of containing the extremely infectious omicron variant as factors.

China wasn't fully prepared for opening up from a public health standpoint, and the decision was driven mainly by economic and social factors, said Zeng Guang, a health expert formerly affiliated with China's Center for Disease Control, speaking at a conference organized by the state-run Global Times newspaper. Under the relaxed rules, obligatory testing is no longer required and people with mild symptoms are permitted to recover at home rather than go to a quarantine center. Meanwhile, the semi-autonomous gambling enclave of Macao will scrap its mandatory hotel quarantine for arrivals from Hong Kong, Taiwan and overseas starting Saturday, the government said. However, travelers must spend five days in home isolation and undergo testing, and are barred from entering mainland China until the 10th day upon arrival. Both Macao and Hong Kong have scrapped most anti-COVID-19 measures.

## Putin sounds out military commanders on Ukraine

MOSCOW (Reuters): President Vladimir Putin has sought proposals from his armed forces commanders on how they think Russia's military campaign in Ukraine should proceed, during a visit to the operation's headquarters, the Kremlin said on Saturday.

A series of defeats in 10 months of fighting, resulting in Russian withdrawals from areas around the capital Kyiv and Ukraine's second city Kharkiv and most recently from the city of Kherson, have forced Putin to call up reservists and generated rare public criticism from military bloggers and some allies. Since the appointment in October of Air Force General Sergei Surovkin to lead the campaign, Russian ground forces have focused more on defence than attack, while waves of air strikes on cities have left millions of Ukrainian civilians without heat, light or water for days on end as winter sets in.

In video footage released by the Kremlin on Saturday, Putin presided at a meeting of around a dozen people at a circular table, flanked by Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov - both of whom have been heavily criticised by hawkish commentators. Putin was then shown at the head of another conference table at the joint task force headquarters, inviting suggestions from a row of military commanders.

"We will listen to the commanders in each operational direction, and I would like to hear your proposals on our immediate and medium-term actions," Putin said. Surovkin was also shown attending the meetings in still photographs on the Kremlin website. Putin spent the at the task force headquarters, his spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Interfax news agency. No other details of Putin's visit or the location of the headquarters were reported.

## Mexican leader slams Peru's state of emergency

MEXICO CITY (Reuters): Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador criticized a state of emergency imposed in Peru to tackle violent protests and slammed the US ambassador to Lima for meeting the South American country's new leader. Unrest in Peru erupted after the ousting of leftist President Pedro Castillo, who was arrested last week after trying to dissolve the country's Congress.

Lopez Obrador, a fellow leftist, has called Castillo the rightful president of Peru, even as he insists his foreign policy is dictated by non-intervention in the affairs of other states. Peru's state of emergency has granted police special powers and imposed limits on civic freedoms. Lopez Obrador described the Andean nation as being in a "state of siege." "Force must not be used, the people must not be repressed and freedoms must be guaranteed," Lopez Obrador said during a regular news conference.

Lopez Obrador took aim at the US ambassador to Peru, Lisa Kenna, for meeting President Dina Boluarte, who replaced Castillo. "Doesn't it seem to you like a display of arrogance, a failure to respect how things are done?," he asked reporters. Lopez Obrador later questioned whether the US government was aware of what its officials were doing in Peru.

"It may even be (US Secretary of State Antony) Blinken of the State Department doesn't know about it, and it was down to the embassy," Lopez Obrador said. "Because that's how they've always done it, especially in Latin America." Mexico's government has said it is consulting with Peruvian authorities about an asylum request Castillo had made to Mexico. Still, an opinion poll published this week by Mexican newspaper El Financiero said 52% of Mexicans opposed giving Castillo asylum, with only 37% in favor.

## Tensions rise between Armenia and Azerbaijan

TBILISI (Reuters): Russia expressed concern over escalating tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan as a key road linking Armenia to the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave remained blocked for the fourth day. The two countries have fought repeated wars over Nagorno-Karabakh - internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but home to about 120,000 ethnic Armenians - since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. As recently as September, more than 200 soldiers were killed in a flare-up of fighting.

A group of Azerbaijanis claiming to be environmental activists blocked the Lachin corridor, the only land route for people, goods, food and medical supplies to reach Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia across Azerbaijani territory, at the start of this week.

Reuters video showed a crowd of people, many carrying Azerbaijani flags, blocking the road in a peaceful standoff with Russian troops from a 5,000-strong mission deployed to the region after the last round of war in 2020.

Armenian Prime

Minister Nikol Pashinyan said the closure of the passage was a "gross violation" of that year's peace agreement between Baku and Yerevan and that the population of the enclave had been made into hostages. Armenia says the protesters have been dispatched by the Azerbaijani government in an attempt to block Armenia's access to the region.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said it was the Russian peacekeeping force that closed the route. It said the activists were involved in a genuine protest over illegal Armenian mining in Nagorno-Karabakh. They were expressing "rightful dissatisfaction" of the Azerbaijani public with the illegal economic activity, looting of natural resources, and damage to the environment", it said.

The statement accused Armenia of numerous breaches of agreements between the two sides, including the placement of landmines which it said had killed 45 people since 2020. The standoff is a test of Russia's authority as the main security guarantor in the region at a time when its struggles in the war in

Ukraine risk undermining its top-dog status among former Soviet republics in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova expressed Moscow's concern over the situation and said it expected the route to be cleared soon. She said it was "unacceptable and counter-productive" to blame the Russian peacekeepers for the situation. "Russia's defence ministry and the Russian peacekeeping contingent have been actively working to de-escalate the situation and we expect full transport links to be restored in the very near future," Zakharova told reporters.

Russia is an ally of Armenia through a mutual self-defence pact, but tries to maintain warm relations with Azerbaijan and has rejected calls by Yerevan to provide military support. The US State Department and European Union both urged Azerbaijan this week to unblock the Lachin corridor, with Washington saying its closure "has severe humanitarian implications and sets back the peace process".

## Croatia rejects joining EU mission of Ukraine support

ZAGREB (Reuters): Croatian lawmakers narrowly rejected a proposal the country should join an EU mission in support of the Ukrainian military after hours of heated debate reflecting deep divisions between the premier and the country's president. A majority of two thirds was needed to agree the proposal that would have included allowing up to 100 Ukrainian troops to be trained in Croatia over the next two years, which President Zoran Milanovic who is the supreme commander of the Croatian armed forces, opposed.

Of the 107 who voted in the 151-seat parliament, 97 supported it. Ten voted against. Opposition

deputies said they did not want to become hostages to the top leaders' political disagreement and said the constitution does not envisage parliamentary votes on matters normally approved by the president in agreement with government. In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine begun in February, the European Union agreed in October to set up the Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine), and appointed a Polish general to lead training that will mostly take place in Poland.

Milanovic declined to consider the government proposal for Croatia to join the EUMAM Ukraine. He

said Croatia should not be involved in the war and that the proposal would violate the constitution because it failed to clarify the basis for declaring Ukraine an ally, given that it is not a member of the EU or of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The government then sent the proposal to the parliament, hoping to secure the two-third majority needed to pass decisions on military matters.

"The participation in this military mission is just a consistent, principled and rational decision of Croatia, in its national interest," Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said ahead of the vote, dismissing criticism that legal procedures had been violated.

## Moise Katumbi to stand in DR Congo vote in 2023

DR CONGO (AFP): Moise Katumbi, a businessman and former governor in the Democratic Republic of Congo, announced he will stand in the country's presidential election in December 2023. His announcement came against a backdrop of violence in the country's east after fighting resumed between M23 rebels and rival armed groups after 10 days of relative calm.

"I am a candidate because I have a vision for my country," Moise Katumbi told the France 24 and RFI broadcasters, adding that the record of current president, Felix Tshisekedi, was "chaotic". "We are going to continue with real fighters, who want us to change the situation of our country together, for a better Congo," said Katumbi, who is also the

president of the TP Mazembe football club in Lubumbashi. In the DRC, the presidential poll is held at the same time as parliamentary, provincial and local elections.

The president-elect would then take office in January 2024. President Felix Tshisekedi came to power in January 2019, succeeding Joseph Kabila after 18 turbulent years as leader. It was the country's first peaceful handover of power. He has already announced his intention to run for a second term, despite clashes over the results. Other possible contenders could include Martin Fayulu, the runner-up in the 2018 presidential polls who claims he was deprived of a victory in the vote.

Augustin Matata Ponyo, another ex-premier, has

said he will run. Tshisekedi's inauguration ceremony in 2019 capped more than two years of turmoil sparked by Kabila's refusal to step down when he reached the constitutional limit on his term in office. The last two presidential elections before that, in 2006 and 2011 -- both won by Kabila -- were marred by bloodshed and dozens died in a crackdown on protests after he chose to remain in office in 2016. A country the size of continental western Europe, the former Belgian colony lived through two regional wars in 1996-97 and 1998-2003. M23 rebels, a mostly Congolese Tutsi group, resumed fighting in late 2021 after accusing the DRC of having failed to honour an agreement to integrate its fighters into the army.

## Thousands protest in Brussels over cost-of-living crisis

BRUSSELS (Reuters): Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of Brussels to protest against the rising cost-of-living, hitting public transport systems and disrupting this week's European Union (EU) summit. The Brussels police said 16,500 people had turned up at the demonstration, which was organised by trade unions representing many public sector workers demanding conditions as inflation rises across Europe.

"Increase Wages And Pensions!", read one banner held aloft by a protester. Gas and electricity prices have surged in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Belgium's headline inflation figure stood at 10.63% in November, while consumer inflation within the euro zone as a whole is at around 10%. "You get back home to your children, you want your

house to be warm. You should not be having to make calculations on using energy," said one demonstrator. The event passed off

peacefully, but Brussels Airport said flights had to be cancelled as a result of the protest, while local police said traffic had been disrupted.

## Nigeria leader confident of free elections despite attack

ABUJA (AFP): Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari voiced confidence in free polls in February, brushing aside any impact from recent attacks on electoral offices. "I am resolute in my determination to enable the conduct of free, fair and transparent national elections in the first quarter of 2023, whose outcome would be largely accepted to the contestants," he said at the US Institute of Peace in Washington.

Three gunmen were killed earlier this week in an attack on the main office of the Independent National Electoral Commission in Owerri, capital of Imo state, following similar assaults in the restive region. Buhari said such violence was limited and that he was committed to ensure that electoral offices were adequately funded. "I think, in relative terms, security is good," he said. Buhari is stepping down after two terms. In 2015, he was the first president to peacefully succeed an incumbent from a rival party in Africa's most populous country. Buhari was visiting Washington for a three-day summit of African leaders by President Joe Biden, who has vowed a renewed effort to preserve democracy on the continent.

## Caribbean divided as Netherlands mulls slavery apology

PARAMARIBO (AP): Dutch colonizers kidnapped men, women and children and enslaved them on plantations growing sugar, coffee and other goods that built wealth at the price of misery. The Netherlands is expected to become one of the few nations to apologize for its role in slavery. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte plans to speak in the Netherlands as members of his Cabinet give speeches in seven former Caribbean colonies, including Suriname.

Symbolism around crimes against humanity is controversial everywhere, and debates over Monday's ceremonies are roiling Suriname and other Caribbean countries. In Suriname, activists and officials say they have not been asked for input about the apology, and that's a reflection of a Dutch colonial attitude. What's really needed,

they say, is compensation.

In 2013, the Caribbean trade bloc known as Caricom made a list of requests including that European governments formally apologize and create a repatriation program for those who wish to return to their homeland, which has not happened. "We are still feeling the effects of that period, so some financial support would be welcome," said Orlando Daniel, a 46-year-old security guard and a descendant of slaves.

Suriname is an ethnically diverse country where roughly 60% of its 630,000 inhabitants live below the poverty line and 22% identify as Maroon — ancestors of slaves who escaped and established their own communities. The Dutch first became involved in the trans-Atlantic slave trade in the late 1500s but did not become a major trader until the mid-1600s, when they

seized Portuguese fortresses along Africa's west coast and plantations in northeastern Brazil. Eventually, the Dutch West India Company became the largest transatlantic slave trader, said Karwan Fatah-Black, an expert in Dutch colonial history and an assistant professor at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Hundreds of thousands of people were branded and forced to work in plantations in Suriname and other colonies. Portugal became the first European country to buy slaves in West Africa with help from the Catholic Church in the 1400s, followed by Spain. Some experts argue that large-scale sugar production in what is now Brazil then gave rise to the Atlantic slave trade that saw an estimated 12 million Africans transported to the Caribbean and the Americas over some 400 years, with at least 1

million dying en route.

Britain was among the first countries to ban the slave trade, in 1807. Dutch slavery continued until 1863. If, as expected, the government issues a formal apology on Monday, it will put the Netherlands, which has a long history of progressive thinking and liberal laws, in the vanguard of nations and global institutions seeking to atone for their roles in historical horrors.

In 2018, Denmark apologized to Ghana, which it colonized from the mid-17th century to the mid-19th century. In June, King Philippe of Belgium expressed "deepest regrets" for abuses in Congo. In 1992, Pope John Paul II apologized for the church's role in slavery. Americans have had emotionally charged fights over taking down statues of slaveholders in the South.

## Self-exiled Philippine communist leader Sison dies at 83

MANILA (Reuters): Philippine communist leader Jose Maria Sison died at the age of 83 after a two-week confinement in a hospital in the Netherlands, his party said on Saturday. Sison is the founder of the Philippine Communist Party, whose military wing - the New People's Army (NPA) - has been waging an armed rebellion in one of the world's longest-running insurgencies. The conflict between the NPA and the Philippine government has killed more than 40,000 people.

"The Filipino proletariat and toiling people grieve the death of their teacher and guiding light," the party said in a statement on its website. The self-exiled communist leader has lived in Europe since the late 1980s, after his release from jail following the fall of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, whose namesake son was elected president in a May election this year. Sison was put on a US terrorist list in 2002, preventing him from travelling.

The party said Sison died peacefully at around 8:40 p.m. (1240 GMT)

after being confined in the hospital in Utrecht. It did not give a reason for Sison's confinement. "Even as we mourn, we vow (to) continue to give all our strength and determination to carry the revolution forward guided by the memory and teachings of the people's beloved Ka Joma," the party said. Sison was also known as Joma. "Ka" means comrade.

President Marcos' predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, had prioritised ending the conflict with the NPA when he took office in

2016, but he abandoned peace efforts, infuriated by repeated rebel attacks during the talks. At its peak, the NPA had 25,000 armed fighters, but now has about 2,000, the military has said. Following Sison's death, the Department of National Defense (DND) called on the "remaining few believers ... (to) turn their backs on the violent and false ideology" of the Communist Party. "The greatest stumbling block of peace for the Philippines is gone; let us now give peace a chance," the DND said in a statement.



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## APS tragedy and today’s Pakistan

THE Pakistani nation has bitter and heart-breaking memories associated with December 16. Earlier, Pakistan was dismembered and East Pakistan separated its way on that day about half a century ago while terrorists and their financiers chose the same day to wage a carnage of the Army Public School in Peshawar 8 years ago. The enemies have an unending animosity toward Pakistan and they have repeatedly lacerated the country as and when they got an opportunity. Presently, India and other anti-Pakistan elements feel no scarcity of mercenaries and paid agents because the TTP and other terrorist groups are all time available to hire guns for them.

Unfortunately, Pakistan is passing through a very crucial phase in its history, as continued political uncertainty and persistent disagreement between the government and the opposition have shattered the national economy. The country is entirely dependent on the IMF program and foreign loans while sharply depleting foreign reserves and rising inflation along with deepening political chaos portray a genuine risk of the Country's economic default. The current situation resembles the pre-1971 East Pakistan crisis and offers a highly plausible and generative conditions for Pakistan's eternal enemies and terrorist organizations to implement their nefarious designs against the Country.

Awfully, neither the nation nor Pakistani leaders and institutions had learned a lesson from the past tragedies including the fall of Dhaka and the massacre of the Peshawar Army Public School.

Pakistan had suffered tremendous losses and missed numerous opportunities due to the irrational and myopic policies of our strategists, the country had reached the brink of utter failure. However, if Pakistani top brass revisit their policies they can pull the country out of this catastrophe.

## Global tussle and Ill-Fated Burkina Faso

ACCORDING to the media, the violence-hit Burkina Faso has struck an agreement with Russia's Wagner Group in which the shadowy mercenary outfit will assist the West African country deal with surging jihadi violence in exchange for mine rights. Ghana's President, Nana Akufo-Addo has informed the global leaders gathered at the US-Africa Summit in Washington that Ghana's neighbor has allocated a mine to the Wagner Group as a form of payment for its deployment of fighters to combat violent armed groups linked to Al-Qaida and the Islamic State in the West African nation.

Burkina Faso, a landlocked West African nation is battling a jihadist insurgency, religious violence, and extremism over the past several years. The violent clashes between the military and militant groups had resulted in the death of thousands of civilians and displaced over two million Burkinabes while large swaths of the land became a no-go area for the common public because of lawlessness and violence. An economically fragile and militarily weak African country witnessed two consecutive military coups over the past eight months for the sole aim of restoration of peace, even though Burkina's military failed to defeat the terror outfits so far. Interestingly, the throne-invading military officers finally decided to hire a private Army to defeat the enemies.

Presently, the resource-rich Africa has become a battleground between global players while the United States, Russia, France, China, and their allies are pushing for greater influence in the regional states to gain better access to untapped treasures of gold, oil and gas and other valuable minerals in the entire region. Earlier, the French had a strong military presence in Burkina Faso which had been sharply replaced by the Russian Wagner Group in recent months. Surprisingly, Burkina's residents had jubilated the military coups and the departure of the French military, while they welcomed the Russian mercenaries on their soil in a hope that Russian-hired guns might bring peace to their country.

In fact, power full nations exploit the issues of poor countries and comprehend their global agenda through them while innocent nations consider them guardians of civil rights, liberties, and democracy. At a time, Burkinabes are celebrating French's exit and Russia's arrival, soon they will realize that they have bartered a scorpion for a snake.

THE relative calm at the front and the approach of the New Year are helping to energize those who are in favor of preparing negotiations on Ukraine between Russia and the West. Henry Kissinger, the chief geopolitical strategist of the Anglo-Saxon world, published an article "How to avoid another world war" in the British The Spectator. This is not the first time the ninety-nine-year-old veteran of the Atlantic elite has laid out his idea of how the hostilities should end, considering various options, but each time it turns out that Ukraine remains with the West. At the same time, Kissinger's pathos is that it is necessary to start negotiations in order to fix a new situation, and not to set unrealistic and dangerous goals.

The essence of the current reasoning is simple: Kissinger recalls the First World War ("cultural suicide that destroyed the greatness of Europe"), in which the leaders "got involved like sleepwalkers", but in 1916 "began to explore the prospects for ending the carnage", but "since no conceivable compromise could not justify the sacrifices already made and no one wanted to give the impression of weakness, the leaders hesitated to start a formal peace process." As a result, the war went on for another

two years and claimed millions more victims, irrevocably upsetting the established balance in Europe :

"Germany and Russia were torn apart by revolution; the Austro-Hungarian state disappeared from the map. France was bled white. Great Britain sacrificed a large part of its young generation and its economic opportunities for the sake of victory. The punitive Treaty of Versailles, which ended the war, turned out to be much more fragile than the structure that he replaced."

That is, Kissinger leads to the idea that a protracted war can be a disaster for everyone, and the peace that will come as a result of it will be temporary and bad, so it's better to end the war as soon as possible. Indeed, Versailles, which humiliated Germany, in fact, led to the Second World War - it is no coincidence that both world wars are now increasingly considered as a single process, speaking of 1914-1945.

All these parallels are necessary for Kissinger to approve two theses: it is necessary to prepare for negotiations and refuse to stake on the fact that after the war Russia will be drained of blood or even fall apart. That is, in his own eyes, he acts as a kind of "dove" against the backdrop of "hawks" who are betting on the defeat of Russia? Partly yes, but the devil, as always, is in the details.

Petr Akopov

Kissinger explains the need for negotiations by the fact that now is just the new 1916:

"Is the world today at a similar tipping point in Ukraine as winter puts a pause on large-scale military action there? I have repeatedly expressed my support for allied military efforts to prevent Russian aggression in Ukraine. But the time is approaching to build on the strategic changes already made and integrate them into a new structure aimed at achieving peace through negotiations".

What changes does he propose to fix?

"Ukraine has become a major state in Central Europe for the first time in modern history. With the help of its allies and inspired by its president, Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine has stymied Russian conventional forces that have hovered over Europe since World War II. And the international system, including China, opposes Russian threat or use of its nuclear weapons.

This process brought up for discussion the initial questions of Ukraine's membership in NATO. Ukraine has acquired one

of the largest and most effective land armies in Europe, equipped by America and its allies. The peace process should link Ukraine to NATO, however expressed. The alternative

to neutrality no longer makes sense, especially after the entry of Finland and Sweden into NATO...

The goal of the peace process would be twofold: to reaffirm Ukraine's freedom and to define a new international structure, especially for Central and Eastern Europe. Ultimately, Russia must find a place in that order."

That is, what happens? Russia is invited to recognize that Ukraine belongs to the Western bloc, that is, to agree that it has not only been taken away from it part of its historical territory, but also built on this territory a state controlled by the Atlanticists, the main reason for the existence of which is to be anti-Russia. But precisely because of the rejection of such an option, a special military operation began, Russia is categorically not satisfied with such plans of the West. The world has already changed irreversibly after February 24, and we are offered to accept the same thing that we have already rejected, to agree with what we are fighting against. Yes, and to find "their place" in the new old world order.

Absurd, but Kissinger seems to think that all this is very reasonable, realistic and moderate. No wonder, because he opposes those for whom "the preferred outcome is Russia, which has become powerless as a

result of the war".

"I disagree. Russia's military failures have not eliminated its global nuclear capability, which allows it to threaten to escalate in Ukraine. Even if that capability is reduced, Russia's disintegration or the destruction of its ability to pursue strategic policy could turn its territory spanning eleven time zones into controversial vacuum."

It is clear that there is no concern for Russia, but a banal fear of the collapse of a huge nuclear power - well, and an unwillingness to repeat the mistakes of Versailles, that is, to program a new war by excessively humiliating the loser. But it is not clear why Kissinger considers Russia a loser, that is, unable to wrest Ukraine from the hands of the West. And how can he not see that the terms of the truce he proposes are in principle unacceptable to Moscow (not to mention that they cannot be the basis for any sustainable peace): "I recommended a ceasefire line be established along the borders that exist where the war began on February 24. Russia would return its gains, but not the territory it occupied almost ten years ago, including Crimea. This territory could be negotiated after the ceasefire."

If a pre-war dividing line between Ukraine and Russia cannot be achieved through fighting or negotiations, one could consider resorting to the principle of

self-determination. Self-determination referendums held under international supervision could apply to areas of particular contention."

Yes, there are clear contradictions here with the certainty that Ukraine is winning, in the discussions about referendums in the territories annexed to Russia this year. That is, Kissinger is, in principle, ready to leave to Russia what it already controls, if only to fix the main change - Russia's rejection of the rest of Ukraine and acceptance of its belonging to the West. It is clear that this will never happen, no matter how much effort and time it takes to achieve our goals.

And historical parallels are a very useful thing, especially if you know and remember real historical experience. And then it turns out that the First World War did not start because of European lunatics (that is, Germans, French and Russians), but as a result of a well-built combination of Anglo-Saxons to play off continental powers. And the defeat of Russia in it was the result of a double betrayal - by part of our elites and allies in the Entente, which led to the catastrophe of the February Revolution. Russia has paid dearly for neglecting the lessons of history, and now it will not repeat its previous mistakes, will not back down and stop halfway.

## Are the governments in Tokyo and Berlin willing to risk a repeat of the horrors of the Second World War?

Andre Damon

national defense strategy that would double the country's military budget and transform its military into an offensive fighting force. For the first time, Japan would procure long-range missiles capable of striking China in an offensive strike.

The strategy openly defies Japan's constitution, which declares that "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be sustained."

The Japanese population is overwhelmingly opposed

civilians, including in the fire-bombing of Tokyo and the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On Wednesday, the budget committee of the German parliament voted to approve the purchase of nuclear-capable F35 aircraft from the United States. While Germany does not have nuclear weapons of its own, as a member of NATO it participates in nuclear weapon sharing with the United States, and US nuclear weapons are stationed in

**Now, too, both Germany and Japan are making preparations for wars that risk consequences for their populations as devastating as those of the Second World War. In June, NATO published a strategy document declaring that the alliance, which includes Germany, must prepare "for high-intensity, multi-domain warfighting against nuclear-armed peer-competitors" including Russia and China.**

to military rearmament, stemming from popular horror both at the crimes committed by Japanese imperialism throughout Asia, and at the devastating toll the war with the United States took on the Japanese population.

The Japanese imperial government oversaw the murder of millions of people through massacres, starvation and forced labor. In China alone, which was invaded by Japan, it is estimated that between 10 and 25 million civilians died in the war. During its war in the Pacific, the United States and its allies killed over one million Japanese

German imperialism is also responsible for the murder of as many as 19 million civilians in the Soviet Union against which it conducted a brutal "war of annihilation."

Both the First and Second World Wars were preceded by years of military spending increases in a massive global arms race. During the Nuremberg tribunal, a key pillar of the case against the leaders of Nazi Germany was that they facilitated a years-long military build-up in preparation for waging aggressive war.

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In June, NATO published a strategy document declaring that the alliance, which includes Germany, must prepare "for high-intensity, multi-domain warfighting against nuclear-armed peer-competitors" including Russia and China.

The United States, Germany, Japan and other imperialist powers are preparing for a new imperialist world war. Their targets are Russia and China: two countries that, for many decades, were excluded from direct exploitation by imperialism as a result of the Russian and Chinese revolutions. They remained outside the direct control of imperialism even after the Stalinist restoration of capitalism. But while the primary tar-

gets of the imperialist war drive are now Russia and China, the logic of inter-imperialist rivalries will inevitably lead to the reemergence of open and bitter conflicts among the temporary allies of today.

The war in Ukraine, instigated, provoked and prolonged by the United States, has become the catalyst for this new global redivision of the world. That war is only intensifying, with US officials now openly discussing Ukraine's stated goal of retaking Crimea – a move that threatens nuclear retaliation by Russia.

In an interview this week with the Economist, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky doubled down on his declaration that Ukraine's aim is to retake Crimea, which was annexed by Russia in 2014. Asked what "price would be too high" for Ukraine to advance "to the 1991 borders," Zelensky made clear that his aim was to fully retake the peninsula, no matter the cost.

Over 100,000 Ukrainians have already been killed or injured in the war with Russia. When asked, "But how many lives are you going to lose" to retake the peninsula, Zelensky refused to reply.

Indeed, none of the imperialist governments are able to honestly answer this question. Are the governments in Tokyo and Berlin willing to risk a repeat of the horrors of the Second World War? They never say so in public, but the answer is yes.

## ‘To be honest with you, I don’t quite know why markets are so optimistic about inflation’

Sylvan Lane

THE Federal Reserve and the stock market are butting heads over the central bank's efforts to fight inflation.

Stocks capped a steep two-day sell-off on Friday, wiping out gains from a rally earlier in the week driven by hopeful economic news. Inflation as measured by the consumer price index had fallen for the fifth straight month — and far more than analysts expected — according to data released right before the Fed was set to slow down its interest rate hikes.

While the Fed did end up boosting rates by a smaller amount than its previous four hikes, a dour forecast from officials, including Chairman Jerome Powell, shook markets out of their optimism. Instead of signs of lower interest rates

ahead, the Fed warned rates would be even higher and stay that way for longer.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 281 points Friday, falling 0.9 percent on the day for its second straight week of losses. The S&P 500 index closed 1.1 percent lower, and the Nasdaq closed with a loss of 1 percent on the day, respectively.

"The Fed and the stock market are fighting. They're in a brawl right now," said Callie Cox, U.S. investment analyst at online investment firm eToro, in a Friday phone interview.

"The stock market's been itching for a pivot for months now, really since the summer, and the Fed time and time again has told us that they're serious about inflation, they want to get inflation under control, and if that means keeping rates

high for a while, so be it," she added.

As interest rates continue to rise, businesses will face steeper borrowing costs and have less money to invest in expansion, making their stocks less appealing to investors. Households will also have less expendable income to throw in the market as interest rates on their mortgages, car payments and credit cards rise.

The stock market's hardship, however, is an important part of the Fed's plan.

Fed officials know their tough talk about keeping rates high and snuffing out inflation at whatever the cost alarms investors and traders. Those warnings are intended to keep Americans' expectations in check and force businesses to feel the squeeze of high

prices without rising stock prices to buffet the blow.

"The Fed knows that its words are equally as powerful in a world where social media is so pervasive and information just moves so quickly," Cox said. "The Fed is preparing markets for what's coming before it actually happens. This time around, though, it just feels a little bit more painful because the Fed needs to get inflation down."

Powell said during a Wednesday press conference that the U.S. still had "a long ways to go" before inflation was down to a sustainable level. He added that the only way for the Fed to achieve that goal was to keep its foot on the brakes of the economy with high interest rates meant to boost the unemployment rate.

The November jobless rate of 3.7 percent is just 0.2 percentage point below its level in February 2020, then a five-decade record low. But the U.S. workforce has roughly 4 million fewer workers now than it did before the onset of the pandemic, while businesses are posting record numbers of open jobs. With fewer workers available to fill open jobs, businesses have been forced to boost wages to attract candidates — and prices to compensate for that higher pay. That dynamic, Fed officials say, is the reason why inflation has remained high even as prices for almost all goods other than food have fallen.

"We have too many jobs and too few workers, so that means that wage inflation is going to be far from a sustainable average, and we're going to have that passing

through to prices. That's what we're working on right now," said Mary Daly, president of the Federal Reserve of San Francisco, at a Friday event hosted by the American Enterprise Institute.

"To be honest with you, I don't quite know why markets are so optimistic about inflation," Daly said.

On Wednesday, Fed officials boosted their projections for how high they would need to raise interest rates and how long they would keep them at levels meant to hinder the labor market. They now expect to hike interest rates to a span of 5 to 5.25 percent by the end of 2023, up from the 4.5 to 4.75 range officials projected in September, and they don't foresee cutting rates until 2024.

The Fed also sees its rate hikes taking a serious toll on the U.S. economy, pro-

jecting the jobless rate to increase by 0.9 percentage points to 4.6 percent by the end of 2023 and economic growth slowing to 0.5 percent. While Fed officials say it may be possible to avoid heavy job losses in that scenario, most outside economists believe such an increase in the jobless rate would mean more than 1 million Americans losing work. "The Fed did not welcome the disinflation trends that have just started to emerge and focused on robust job gains and elevated inflation. Any hopes of a soft landing disappeared as the Fed seems like they are committed to taking rates much higher," said Edward Moya, senior markets analyst at OANDA, in a Wednesday note to clients.

A Fed-driven recession or steep slowdown would be more bad news for the

stock market as companies struggle with lower sales and fewer households have the flexibility to put money in risky assets. But higher rates in and of themselves could be a larger and longer-term damper on the stock market. Stocks exploded in value in the years following the Great Recession as the Fed kept its baseline interest rate range near zero. The market's stunning rally accelerated even more during the COVID-19 pandemic, when low interest rates and trillions of dollars in federal stimulus helped fuel new records across all three major indexes.

With rates likely to stay high for much longer, Cox said the days of the market smashing through record highs again are likely far away. "When we look at 2023, we kind of see a year of purgatory," she said.



# The ‘energy excuse’ in inflation estimates will be the key test for central banks

**WHILE many market participants are concerned about rate increases, they appear to be ignoring the largest risk: the potential for a massive liquidity drain in 2023.**

Even though December is here, central banks' balance sheets have hardly, if at all, decreased. Rather than real sales, a weaker currency and the price of the accumulated bonds account for the majority of the fall in the balance sheets of the major central banks.

In the context of governments deficits that are hardly declining and, in some cases, increasing, investors must take into account the danger of a significant reduction in the balance sheets of central banks. Both the quantitative tightening of central banks and the refinancing of government deficits, albeit at higher costs, will drain liquidity from the markets. This inevitably causes the global liquidity spectrum to contract far more than the headline amount.

Liquidity drains have a dividing effect in the same way that liquidity injections have an obvious multiplier effect in the transmission mechanism of monetary policy. A central bank's balance sheet increased by one unit of currency in assets

multiplies at least five times in the transmission mechanism. Do the calculations now on the way out, but keep in mind that government expenditure will be financed.

Our tendency is to take liquidity for granted. Due to the FOMO (fear of missing out) mentality, investors have increased their risk and added illiquid assets over the years of monetary expansion. In periods of monetary excess, multiple expansion and rising valuations are the norm.

Since we could always count on rising liquidity, when asset prices corrected over the past two decades, the best course of action was to “buy the dip” and double down. This was because central banks would keep growing their balance sheets and adding liquidity, saving us from almost any bad investment decision, and inflation would stay low.

Twenty years of a dangerous bet: monetary expansion without inflation. How do we handle a situation where central banks must cut at least \$5 trillion off their balance sheets? Do not believe I am exaggerating, the \$20 trillion bubble generated since 2008 cannot be solved with \$5 trillion. A tightening of \$5 trillion in US dollars is mild, even dovish. To

**Daniel Lacalle**

return to pre-2020 levels, the Fed would need to decrease its balance sheet by that much on its own.

Keep in mind that the central banks of developed economies need to tighten monetary policy by \$5 trillion, which is added to over \$2.50 trillion in public deficit financing in the same countries.

The effects of contraction are difficult to forecast because traders for at least two generations have only experienced expansionary policies, but they are undoubtedly unpleasant. Liquidity is dwindling already in the riskiest sectors of the economy, from high yield to crypto assets. By 2023, when the tightening truly begins, it will probably have reached the supposedly safer assets.

In a recent interview, Bundesbank President Joachim Nagel said that the ECB will begin to reduce its balance sheet in 2023 and added that “a recession may be insufficient to get inflation back on target.” This suggests that the “anti-fragmentation tool” currently in use to mask risk in periphery bonds may begin to lose its placebo impact on sovereign assets. Additionally, the cost of equity and weighted average cost of capital increases

as soon as sovereign bond spreads begin to rise.

Capital can only be made or destroyed; it never remains constant. And if central banks are to effectively fight inflation, capital destruction is unavoidable.

The prevalent bullish claim is that because central banks have learned from 2008, they will not dare to allow the market to crash. Although a correct analysis, it is not enough to justify market multiples. The fact that governments continue to finance themselves, which they will, is ultimately what counts to central banks. The crowding out effect of government spending over private sector credit access has never been a major concern for a central bank. Keep in mind that I am only estimating a \$5 trillion unwind, which is quite generous given the excess produced between 2008 and 2021 and the magnitude of the balance sheet increase in 2020–21.

Central banks are also aware of the worst-case scenario, which is elevated inflation and a recession that could have a prolonged impact on citizens, with rising discontent and generalized impoverishment. They know they cannot keep inflation high just to satisfy market expectations of ris-

ing valuations. The same central banks that assert that the wealth effect multiplies positively are aware of the disastrous consequences of ignoring inflation. Back to the 1970s.

The “energy excuse” in inflation estimates will likely evaporate, and that will be the key test for central banks. The “supply chain excuse” has disappeared, the “temporary excuse” has gotten stale, and the “energy excuse” has lost some of its credibility since June. The unattractive reality of rising core and super-core inflation has been exposed by the recent commodity slump.

Central banks cannot accept sustained inflation because it means they would have failed in their mandate. Few can accurately foresee how quantitative tightening will affect asset prices and credit availability, even though it is necessary. What we know is that quantitative tightening, with a minimal decrease in central bank balance sheets, is expected to compress multiples and valuations of risky assets more than it has thus far. Given that capital destruction appears to be only getting started, the dividing effect is probably more than anticipated. And the real economy is always impacted by capital destruction.



## Serbs hunted in Kosovo

**THE authorities of Kosovo have already detained a third Serb. Belgrade called it a "hunt" and reiterated its intention to send a contingent to the partially recognized republic. The parties are not ready for a compromise, which makes the current Serbian-Kosovo aggravation the most serious in recent times. And the diplomatic confrontation is fueled by military preparations.**

**Renat Abdullin**

Brussels on December 15. It was on this day that Pristina defiantly applied for membership in the union.

never again be ruled by Belgrade."

But the right to a limited military presence of Serbia in the region is given by UN Resolution 1244 of 1999. The only thing that seems to be holding back Belgrade is the danger of a collision with the NATO KFOR (Kosovo Force) contingent. That is why President Aleksandar Vucic is playing for time by submitting an application that he could do without: the UN document does not oblige to warn about the transfer of such a small force. Which, moreover, were in Kosovo before, but then they were taken out as unnecessary.

**Power Building**

In addition to Albania, the Serbian contingent initiative was criticized by more serious players, in particular Germany and the United States. The American Ambassador to Serbia, Christopher Hill, although he acknowledged that Belgrade has the right to apply to KFOR, noted that the final result of the application is unpredictable.

"This issue remains political and therefore requires a political solution. We need to bring the situation back to normal so that the Kosovo Serbs can have a clear idea of how their life will look like in the future," the diplomat commented on the situation.

Vucic, judging by public statements, understands himself that the Serbian military will not be allowed into Kosovo just like that. According to him, KFOR is obliged to comply with the wishes of Belgrade, but may well delay the answer. In this case, the Serbian leader is ready to submit the issue to the UN Security

Director of the Chancellery for Kosovo and Metohija (under the name of the autonomous region appears in the legislation of Serbia) Petar Petkovic condemned the actions of Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti.

"The new detention <...> shows that Kurti continues to hunt for the Serbs, does not want to reduce tension and de-escalate the situation. How suddenly there was evidence against the Serbs who left the (Kosovo) structures, but they (evidence) were not there while they were part of the Kosovo system?" - stressed the Serbian representative.

Trajkovic is already at least the third victim of the Kosovo security forces over the past month. Earlier, special services detained Milyan Adzic, as well as Dejan Pantic, also a

There are other states that do not want to see the country in a "common European home", although they have not yet announced this. An economically weak Kosovo can become a burden for the EU, and will not add tangible benefits to the union.

Finally, by applying for EU membership, Pristina has given Belgrade a free hand on the diplomatic front. According to the 2020 Washington Accords, Kosovo has pledged not to lobby for membership in any international blocs. Serbia responded by halting

**Finally, by applying for EU membership, Pristina has given Belgrade a free hand on the diplomatic front. According to the 2020 Washington Accords, Kosovo has pledged not to lobby for membership in any international blocs. Serbia responded by halting efforts to revoke third-party recognition of the province's independence.**

former policeman suspected of terrorism. His arrest on December 10 became the reason for another aggravation in the north of Kosovo. During the day, the Serbs erected barricades and blocked roads with trucks to prevent Pantic from being taken to Pristina.

For a week, the blockade was not lifted - despite Kurti's ultimatums. All this time, Pantic has been in a stronghold of the Kosovo police not far from the checkpoint.

The situation is complicated by the fact that the arrested person has a chronic illness. The necessary medicines were handed over to him only three days after his arrest.

Council. Although this is unlikely to give a result: if Russia and China support Serbia, then the United States will be able to use the right of veto.

As a result, the pause taken by Belgrade may turn against the Serbs themselves. Pristina, according to the press, is not only attacking diplomatically - it has become preoccupied with re-equipping the military in case of a hot conflict. The Kosovo Ministry of Defense is expecting a shipment of "modern weapons" totaling more than 27 million euros, the Serbian newspaper Kurir reported. The publication notes that at least 11 trucks with weapons are already on the Bulgarian-Macedonian border. They claim that the point of departure of the cargo is Turkey.

Although while Ankara officially distances itself from the Kosovo escalation, the information does not look unrealistic. As a NATO member, the Turkish side could well become a transit point for the alliance's supplies.

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## One step forward, two steps back

**THE Brussels-Strasbourg "pan-European house of exemplary culture and life" is covered by scandal after scandal and quarrel after quarrel. Just as an elderly couple, who have not loved each other for a long time, and those around them, strives to demonstrate tenderness and mutual understanding in public, and behind closed doors beats expensive antique sets from mutual hatred in the process of an almost permanent quarrel, so do the European Union members, proudly showing how much they united in the face of Russia's "aggressive imperial ways", behind the scenes they are twisting each other's upper and lower limbs in order to achieve at least a semblance of consensus.**

These elegant ladies and gentlemen, who subtly feel other people's pain and are so sympathetic to other people's suffering (no one is joking, we practically firmly believe in this), were surprised to find out: it turns out that everything that the bought press whistled into their ears for so long, no less biased professors from economics departments, as well as, of course, various "think tanks" (think tanks, if in a simple way) in relation to Russia, its industrial "weakness" and full guard with everything that makes up the life of a civilized country today, does not correspond to reality. To put it bluntly: the high assembly of the lights of progress and the fathers and mothers of democracy have been swindled to the fullest.

trade regarding the ninth package was more like an arm wrestling session, when even from behind tightly closed doors there are screams and squeals, rather than negotiations within the framework of decorous politeness. The current geopolitical crisis in Europe, without the slightest participation of Russia, has exposed the w-hole essence of the European establishment. And how exposed! And at what level!

What spiritual stripteases, what a demonstration of mental complexes, we all watched - and absolutely, by the way, for free!

The President of France deliberately made confidential conversations with his Russian colleague public. Simply because Macron wanted to portray himself as a great - no, not the right word - a great statesman. Almost de Gaulle. But the general uniform of a hero of two wars and a politician who always went against the current turned out to be about a dozen sizes too big for the current owner of the Elysee Palace. How he now intends to restore trust is his problem. Maybe that's why there is silence about calls to the Kremlin. Faithful following the advice of Kozma Prutkov that "it is better to shut up the fountain" than vice versa.

The chief (chief) of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany, Frau Merkel, admitted (no one pulled her tongue) that the Minsk agreements, with pomp and discussion and signing, for Europe were not even worth the paper on which they were printed, even the ink that was tucked into pens to sign.

And all this now and today is not a petty quarrel

**Elena Karaeva**

in the not too fragrant kitchen of a communal apartment. This is the style, manner and way of doing things at the very top (there is no higher) in European politics. Foreign policy.

One can only imagine the extent of the lies used in domestic politics, but, fortunately, these are not Russian problems at all. As someone was chosen, let them live like that. Another detail that is absolutely impossible to pass by.

And which, like mitochondrial DNA, highlights - from a different angle - all the nuances of a common European policy.

It is assumed that while the deputies of the European Parliament, one of the branches of power in the EU, unanimously discussed, and then unanimously voted for the condemnation of Qatar, where "human rights, minorities and migrants are violated", part of the top of this respected (actually not!) legislative institution quietly took money from the condemned Qatar.

It is assumed that she took it with scope and pleasure.

This, according to Belgian law enforcement officers, is about hundreds of thousands of euros. Cash. They were found not just anywhere, but in the house of the vice-speaker of the European Parliament herself.

Of course, the vice-speaker made big eyes and said that she did not know at all where all these banknotes neatly tied with a rubber band came from. And the same was said by her colleague, an unnamed MEP. In addition, 150 thou-

sand pieces of paper in the single European currency were found in the dwelling. And another 750,000 euros were found during searches in a Brussels hotel room.

To make it clear to the end: for the average pan-European - the very one who today the European Parliament, the European Commission and other institutions of goodness and justice are forced to tighten their belts and spend the night under three blankets - these amounts are unimaginable either objectively or abstractly.

They cannot be earned or even inherited. Not to mention the fact that their presence in the form of banknotes is in itself an offense. The same pan-European laws severely restrict the use of paper money for any payments. Though household and personal. Though business and legal.

A special charm: dizzying amounts of money, supposedly received by those who regularly walk their white immaculate clothes both in the stands and on the streets of Brussels, were discovered on the eve of the strike announced by the Belgians, practically finished by those who just wear white coats, to poverty (let's call again the wild decline in living standards and the unthinkable rise in prices by their proper names).

By the way, this is also why the ninth package, which not only limits, but softens, albeit with reservations, sanctions against Russia, was adopted swiftly. The leaders of countries and governments, if they stayed with the discussion, could simply not leave the capital of the Belgian kingdom for their native land.

## ‘Hunger levels in India are critical’

**INDIA is the second largest food producing country in the world and we are number one in the production of milk, pulses, rice, fish, vegetables and wheat. Despite this, a large population of the country is a victim of malnutrition. According to the United Nations' report 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022', people's struggle with hunger has increased rapidly after the Corona period of 2019. In the year 2021, 76.8 crore people in the world were found to be undernourished, out of which 22.4 crore i.e. 29 percent were Indians. This is a quarter of the total number of undernourished people in the world.**

Malnutrition is one of the most serious problems in India, yet it has received the least attention. Today

India has the highest number of stunted and 2.55 crore stunted children in the world. As a result, the burden of disease on the country is very high, National Family Health Survey-4 data shows that the prevalence of malnutrition in the country has decreased, but today more than half of the children in 51 percent of low-income families are stunted and 49 percent are underweight.

According to the Global Hunger Index report released on October 14 – “Hunger levels in India are critical.” India ranks 107 out of 121 countries in the world. India's score is 29.1, while ‘zero’ means no one is hungry. India also lags behind its neighbors – Nepal (81st), Bangladesh (84th), Sri Lanka and Pakistan (99th).

It is estimated that on average about 20 percent of children under the age of 5

**Vikas P. Meshram**

suffer from visible and life-threatening malnutrition. About 35 percent of children are not as tall as they should be. Of course, there is a fundamental difference between hunger, unhealthy food, and malnutrition.

The authors and compilers of this Global Hunger Index report have compiled data on hunger and malnutrition in India. Compared to a population of over 140 crores, the hunger situation in India presents a very alarming situation. India's Food Security Act, Public Distribution System, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Food Yojana, Poshan Mission, Anemia Free Mission etc. issued from 2020 onwards, malnutrition and hunger are not reducing.

Malnutrition is still a serious problem in India with more than 33 lakh

children being malnourished. Although the Government of India has launched a 'National Poshan Abhiyan' campaign to ensure a 'malnutrition-free India' by 2022, the goal seems far off.

In 2021, the number of undernourished people in the world was estimated to be 768 million. Of these, 224 million (about 29 percent) were Indians. Today the situation has improved a lot, as food security is a constitutional right of the average Indian. In this context it is also worth noting that India is the second largest food grain producing country in the world. India ranks first in the world in the production of milk, pulses, rice, fish, vegetables and wheat. How can such a country be 'hungry'? Yet there is widespread malnutrition in the country, which is an alarming situation. India has a consider-

able population below the poverty line. The Government of India needs to consider these figures from these aspects as well as through projects like Nutrition Mission 2.0 and Mid Day Meal, as India has changed completely since independence.

India is becoming self-reliant. The average growth rate of agriculture sector has been consistently positive

According to a report titled 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing Food and Agriculture Policies to Make Healthy Diets More Affordable' by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, it concludes that hunger and malnutrition in India are at critical levels?

The important question is whether we will take this problem seriously.





# Sialkot totally export-oriented city, says PSGMEA chairman

SIALKOT (APP): Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) Chairman Arshad Latif Butt has said that Sialkot is an important economic hub and totally export-oriented city of the country where 99 per cent products are exported to various parts of the globe.

Through export, Sialkot based small and medium industries were earning foreign exchange amounting over 3 billion US dollars per year and strengthening the national exchequer, he added.

Talking to APP here on Saturday, the chairman PSGMEA said Sialkot exporters were the 'Roaming Ambassadors' of Pakistan who were not only travelling for fetching valuable foreign exchange for the country but also making

efforts to introduce Pakistan through their products.

He said that thousands of small and medium sized industries were functioning in and around Sialkot and it was globally known for its quality products, unique export culture and for manufacturing value-added goods like leather products, sports goods, surgical instruments, gloves of all sorts, textiles items, sports wear, martial arts uniforms, accessories, musical instruments, kitchen ware, cutlery items etc.

He said footballs, field hockey sticks, cricket gear and boxing gloves were used in international games, including the Olympics and World Cups. It may be mentioned that surgical and sports goods industries were the oldest ones which were playing a tremendous role not only in

strengthening the national economy but also in providing employment opportunities to hundreds industrial workers, he added.

The chairman PSGMEA said Sialkot exporters had written a golden history after establishing two mega projects of Sialkot international Airport Limited (SIAL) and private airline AirSial Airline on self-help basis.

In terms of the FIFA World Cup, Pakistan's name had been promoted in the form of Al-Rihla, a positive image of the country had been promoted all over the world, he said and added a Sialkot-based exporting firm Forward Sports had produced Al Rihla football for Adidas which was playing officially in FIFA football World Cup 2022 in Qatar as it was a great honour and proud for Pakistan.

He said that now it was a matter of great pride that Forward Sports PVT Ltd produced consecutively three times footballs for the FIFA World Cup, adding that it was designed according to Qatar culture.

The chairman PSGMEA said that when the first kick was being applied to football in the first match of the World Cup, the commentators said that this football was also made in Pakistan which was a source of pride for Pakistanis. This also highlighted a positive image of the country and it was also a great source of earning foreign exchange, he added.

He said that industrialist and labourers of the city was earning foreign exchange for the country as well as highlighting a positive image of Pakistan at the international level.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor preparing flower garlands at his shop to attract customers.

## ICCI holds Quran Khawani

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Sunday organized Quran Khawani for its former president and renowned business leader Munawar Mughal (late) on the occasion of his 8th death anniversary.

ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Executive Committee Members, former presidents Abdul Rauf Alam, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Baser Daud, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajirana President Ajmal Baloch, Khalid Chaudhry, Nisar Mirza, and a large number of the business community participated in the Quran Khawani. Khursheed Ahmed Qadri offered Dua for the Esal-e-Sawab of Munawar Mughal (late).

Munawar Mughal (late) died on 20th December 2014 due to cardiac arrest. He was one of the founding members of ICCI. He served twice as the president of ICCI and was also elected as vice president of FPCCI.

## Minister: Hajj quota for chambers being worked out

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor said on Saturday that work on the Hajj quota for the members and workers of the chambers of commerce and industry was well under way.

He disclosed this in a meeting with businessmen here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), where LCCI President Kashif Anwar highlighted various issues being faced by the Hajj and Umrah operators. Lahore Chamber's Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Mahmood, Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Chairman Habib-ur-Rehman Gilani and Convener LCCI Standing Committee Abdul Jabbar Anjum also spoke.

The federal minister said that the ministry would soon find a way for Hajj

and Umrah quota system for the LCCI members and staff. "Our relations with the business community are very close to our heart," he said and added that all suggestions and demands, presented by the LCCI, would be forwarded to the platforms concerned. He said that the suggestions related to Ministry of Religious Affairs should be forwarded in writing so that these could be resolved as soon as possible.

He said that Islamic economic system was based on welfare of humanity. The business in a right way is also worship and the ranks of righteous businessmen are high in Islam, he added. He promised to take up all Hajj related matters with Saudi authorities in consultation with 65 ministers of Muslim countries.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that keeping in view the current economic

situation, there is an urgent need for amnesty scheme so that the dollars, that people have in Pakistan but not declared, could be circulated in economy.

By encouraging people through amnesty scheme, the government could bring a lot of foreign exchange into the country. He requested the federal minister to raise this proposal in the National Assembly.

Kashif Anwar said that there was a dire need to revamp the system of monitoring of private Hajj organisers. Apart from this, while fixing the package of the private Hajj scheme, other expenses including the fare of airlines must be kept in mind so that there was no injustice to any party. He said that during Hajj and Umrah, private Hajj and Umrah operators were harassed by monitoring teams and this issue should also be addressed.

## Stocks and oil prices extend losses on recession fears

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Stock markets dropped further Friday on prospects of more aggressive rises in interest rates to fight inflation, renewing concerns over the global economy entering recession next year.

After a healthy rally in recent weeks fueled by signs that price rises were slowing, the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and Bank of England this week dampened the holiday cheer by hiking borrowing costs again by sizable amounts and warning of more pain.

While inflation in many leading economies has started coming down -- helped by a drop in energy costs -- it still remains at or near multi-decade highs.

Observers have warned that economies could be

heading for a period of stagflation where prices keep rising but growth stalls. "In a nutshell, it is all about fears over a sharper economic slowdown in 2023 than previously expected," noted Fawad Razaqzada, market analyst at City Index trading group.

"While macro data have been weak of late, there was still hope that the downturn might be short-lived and that a recession might be avoided in some regions altogether, amid signs of inflation peaking in some regions like the US."

The latest rate hikes came as data showed US and UK retail sales dropping in November as consumers -- key drivers of growth -- feel the pinch from high prices and rate hikes.

Eurozone and London

shares all closed firmly in the red.

Wall Street stocks meanwhile extended losses too, with major indices ending about one percent lower.

OANDA analyst Craig Erlam said the prospect of a "Santa rally" was fading.

"Going into December, there was growing optimism that policymakers could be a source of optimism going into the new year but instead, they've taken on the role of grinch, bringing a swift end to the celebrations," he added.

Earlier, Asia had also seen losses, with Tokyo closing down 1.9 percent.

On the upside, Hong Kong rose on progress in talks over allowing US officials to audit Chinese firms listed in New York, easing concerns about a possible

delisting of some big names such as Alibaba and Tencent.

The news provided a little more help to Hong Kong traders, whose sentiment has been lifted also by China's shift away from the economically damaging zero-Covid policy as well as moves to open the city further to overseas visitors.

And a report in Hong Kong's South China Morning Post said the border with mainland China would be fully reopened next month, providing another much-needed boost to the beleaguered economy.

However, the mood was soured a little by a US decision to put 36 Chinese companies including top producers of advanced computer chips on a trade blacklist, severely restricting their access to any US technology.

## China to support Punjab for rapid industrialization

ISLAMABAD (INP): China will support Punjab for rapid industrialization, a senior Chinese diplomat said, according to Gwadar Pro.

Zhao Shiren, Chinese Consul General in Lahore during his visit to Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) held discussions on different areas for increasing mutual cooperation between the two sides.

During the interaction, the two sides resolved to enhance the collaboration for rapid industrialization in the province, especially for encouraging B2B level engagement of Chinese investors and businesses with their local counter-

parts from Punjab.

The Consul General deeply appreciated the efforts of the former and current Secretary Industries for promoting the relocation of labour intensive industries from China to Punjab by leveraging a strong network of Special Economic Zones across the province both in the public and private sectors.

Jalal Hassan Chief Executive Officer (CEO) PBIT, who is also the Secretary of Punjab Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Authority, apprised the participants about effective facilitation by PBIT for promoting private sector

led growth model which entails the recent grant of three new SEZs licenses to private sector developers in Punjab, two of which are a result of direct investment and cooperation by Chinese business enterprises.

Secretary Industries Punjab Sohail Ashraf emphasized that Punjab must develop its capacity to train a strong pool of skilled labor force as per modern industrial demands for local as well as international markets. A strong consensus was also developed between the two sides to further strengthen the technical education and vocational training canvas of

Punjab by benefiting from the Chinese experience, especially to uplift the on-going partnership between Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority Punjab and Tianjin consortium of technical universities for Punjab Tianjin University of Technology in Lahore.

The Chinese Consul General assured of complete support for reinvigorating the PTUT project and other steps to encourage Chinese investors to relocate to Punjab and form Joint Ventures based partnership with local investors. Other areas of mutual collaboration including visa

facilitation for Pakistan businesspersons, also came under discussion.

The Consul General was received by Secretary Industries Punjab, Sohail Ashraf, Chairman PBIT Fazeel Asif Jah, Chairman SEZs Authority Punjab, S M Naveed and CEO PBIT, Jalal Hassan.

Both sides deliberated upon a multifaceted strategy to enhance the collaboration between Punjab and China for rapid industrialization in the province, especially for encouraging B2B level engagement of Chinese investors and businesses with their local counterparts.

## Gold price up by Rs800 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prices of per tola 24 karat gold increased by Rs 800 to Rs 172,700 on Saturday against its sale at Rs 171,900. The rates of 10 gram 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 686 to Rs 148,062 from Rs 147,376; whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 135,724 from Rs 135,095. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs 20 to Rs 1980 whereas that of 10 gram silver went up by Rs 17.15 to Rs 1697.53. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$ 11 to \$1,793 compared to its sale at \$1,782, the association reported.

## European stocks close lower as trade deficit jumps

ISTANBUL (APP): European stock markets closed in negative territory on Friday amid a rising trade deficit.

The euro area saw a €26.5 billion (\$28.1 billion) trade deficit in goods with the rest of the world during the month of October, according to figures from Eurostat released earlier.

While exports of goods showed an increase of 18% year-on-year, imports soared 30.7% compared to the same month a year ago, the bloc's statistical office said. The STOXX Europe 600, which includes around 90% of the market capital-

ization of the European market in 17 countries, was down 5.17 point, or 1.2%, to 424.74.

The UK's FTSE 100 lost 94 points, or 1.27%, to close at 7,332. Germany's DAX 30 dove 93 points, or 0.67%, to end the session at 13,893. France's CAC 40 decreased 70 points, or 1.08%, to finish the final trading day of the week at 6,452. Italy's FTSE MIB fell 37 points, or 0.16%, to 23,688.

Spain's IBEX 35 was the worst performer of the day, plummeting 106 points, or 1.29%, to 8,112 at the closing bell.

## CPEC Agri Corridor sows seeds of economic growth: Report

ISLAMABAD (INP): As 2022 draws close, the agriculture sector has gained manifold tractions under China-Pakistan agriculture cooperation promising the phenomenal agri growth in the length and breadth of Pakistan, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

Given the comprehensive spectrum of cooperation under "CPEC Green Corridor" throughout the year in 2022, the agriculture sector has recorded a remarkable growth of 4.4% and surpassed the target of 3.5% as well as last year's growth of 3.48% during FY2022.

According to Economic Survey, the growth in the agriculture sector recorded 4.4% and surpassed the target of 3.5%.

This remarkable growth is mainly underpinned by China-led assistance to Pakistan of many facets relating transfer of hands-on experience in the fields of intercropping, high-yield seeds, pest control, hybrid cultivation, corporate farming, innovate irrigation technique, agri machinery training, agri research & development, protocol for Pak agri exports to China, digital farming and agri labor skills.

Since Sino-Pak agriculture has continued to deep-

en in 2022, Pakistan's agricultural products exported to China from January to August 2022 reached \$730 million with a year-on-year increase of 28.59%.

Pakistan's agricultural exports to China are expected to exceed a record high of \$1 billion next year.

On the back of 2022 agri sector's milestone achievement, the focus of next year under CPEC Green Corridor will be continuing on improving land cultivation area, water management, better access to markets for inputs (seeds, fertilizers, farm mechanization, credit, water) and outputs, improved infrastructure including storage and cooling facilities, reduction in post-harvest losses, greater investment in research, development and extension, improved quality and fulfillment of quarantine requirements for international markets and competitiveness, greater diversification, especially minor but high-value crops, farm input and effectiveness of markets.

The announcement of three new corridors under CPEC including China-Pakistan Green Corridor (CPGC), which focuses on agricultural environment and food security speaks volumes about the significance of agricultural coop-

eration in CPEC.

The inauguration of the Intercropping Research Center jointly established by Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU) and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) in 2021 showed fantastic results in the 2022 season.

According to a news report a few weeks ago, China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology completed harvest at 65 demonstration sites in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recently, and the production of maize and soybeans reached 8,490 kg and 889 kg per hectare respectively in the intercropped fields.

Compared with the production of solely cropped maize and soybeans at these 65 sites which are 8,995 kg and 1,531 kg per hectare respectively, the intercropping technology definitely creates much more economic benefits.

Good news is that the researchers are also developing the strip intercropping systems of maize-peanut, maize-pea, sugarcane-soybean, sugarcane-mustard, wheat-mustard, wheat-soybean, wheat-chickpea, potato-maize and canola-pea.

Another healthy development in the agriculture sector happened in June,

2022 when a newly developed centre at Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR), the CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Centre (ACC), announced to perform policy research, assist Chinese businesses in working in the agriculture sector, and foster institutional cooperation. Pakistan is also looking forward to enhance banana production with Chinese cooperation.

According to Noshervan Haider, CEO of the Sprouts Biotech Laboratories, Pakistan contributes less than 0.5% to the global banana market whereas China contributes about 4.5%.

Cotton germplasm is another significant component in Pak-China agricultural cooperation. For many years, China and Pakistan have cooperated in the field of gathering and identifying cotton germplasm resources.

In order to determine which cotton germplasms are resistant to heat, drought, diseases, and insect pests in various locations and environments, Institute of Cotton Research (ICR) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), collaborated with Cotton Research Institute (CRI), Multan, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), and some other uni-

versities and scientific research institutions.

During July, 2022, Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College (TMVTC), China and MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM), Pakistan signed an online agreement for an agricultural machinery training program of Luban Workshop in Pakistan.

The two institutions will jointly promote the sci-tech exchanges and cooperation on agricultural machinery, germplasm resources and agricultural environment.

Earlier this year, Zhang Jishu from Sichuan Litong Food Co., Ltd. announced that his company would implement a 1,000-acre pepper cultivation demonstration garden in Multan during the 2022-2023 growing season.

In partnership with local agribusinesses and farmers in Pakistan, it intends to take over 15,000 acres of pepper orders in South Punjab, with a planned harvest of 30,000 tonnes of dried pepper. Additionally, the company intends to construct two pepper processing plants in Lahore and Multan and is in the process of locating suitable sites.

Pakistan is also working to grow the sorghum crops as, along with the three ma-

in basic foods of the globe, sorghum is a crop that has increasingly gained acceptance around the world.

During the Symposium on Sorghum Industry Development of China and Pakistan organized during 2022, there was a consensus that, sorghum is a versatile crop that can be useful in supplying food and fodder.

Hybrid farming is growing in Pakistan in a variety of sectors, as the Executive Member of the Asia and Pacific Seed Association and General Manager of Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Company, Zhu Xiaobo said that the hybrid canola variety developed by her company has been planted in Pakistan on about 10,000 hectares of land, covering around 6000 households.

In the next three to five years, they expect it to expand to over 40,000 hectares and provide more and healthier edible oil to Pakistanis. Similarly Sino-Pak cooperation in cauliflower farming through hybrid seeds is also expanding.

As Pakistan faced one of the worst flood calamities in 2022, consequently losing drastic crop yield, Wuhan-based hybrid seed developer and supplier China also announced to don-

ate hybrid rice seeds to mitigate flood impact on agriculture and food security.

According to the Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, to raise the average productivity and output of Pakistan's crops and to mitigate the harm caused by the floods, experts from Pakistan and China are developing hybrid wheat types.

To facilitate the swift development of agri-sector in the country, the Punjab cabinet approved the leasing out of state land for corporate farming as part of the CPEC initiative in the first week of March 2022.

The move, according to agriculturalists, would be a revolutionary one for Pakistan's farming industry. Corporate farming describes the direct ownership or leasing of farmland by business organizations for the purpose of producing goods for their in-house processing needs or for the open market.

The Punjab Agriculture Department also made an effort to attract Chinese investment through the initiative by offering partnerships in organic farming, high-tech agricultural mechanization for both domestic and international markets, the development





## In brief

## Heera, Yousaf seal doubles Tennis title

ISLAMABAD (APP): Heera Ashiq and Yousaf Khalil were crowned champions as they beat the duo of Muhammad Shoaib and Barkat Ullah in a sensational men's doubles final of the 8th Benazir Bhutto Shaheed National Tennis Championships 2022 at Islamabad Tennis Complex on Saturday. They kept their nerves to register a 7-6(3), 7-6(4) win in the closely-fought fixture. In men's singles, Muzammil Murtaza caused an upset as he handed a straight-set 6-3, 7-5 defeat to top seed Aqeel Khan. Both players showed excellent form but the match finally went in the favour of Muzammil. Muzammil's first serve average was near 70 per cent, which gave him an extra edge. In the final, he will take on emerging national star Muhammad Shoaib, who in the other semifinal clash eliminated Muhammad Abid 6-2, 6-3. On Saturday, contests were also held in other categories. Results: Men's singles semifinal results: Muzammil Murtaza bt Aqeel Khan 6-3, 7-5; M. Shoaib bt M. Abid 6-2, 6-3 Men's Doubles final results: Heer Ashiq/Yousaf Khalil bt M. Shoaib/Barkat Ullah 7-6(3), 7-6(4) Ladies' singles semifinal results: Sarah Mehboob bt Soha Ali 6-3, 6-3; Esha Javad bt Meheq Khokhar 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 U-18 boys single final results: Bilal Asim bt Ahmed Nael 6-3, 6-2 U-18 Girls single final results: Soha Ali bt Amna Ali Qayum 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 U-14 boys single final results: S. Hamza Hussain bt Abdul Basit 4-2, 4-2 Boys/Girls U12 single semifinal results: M.Hassan Usmani bt Haziq Areejo 4-0, 4-2; Shayan Afridi bt Razik Sultan 4-2, 5-3; Boys/Girls U10 single s e m i f i n a l results:Shayan Afridi bt Rashid Ali Bachani 4-1, 4-1; Hajira bt Zayd Zaman 4-0, 4-0.

## Moreno mallets FG/D in Polo to a thumping win

LAHORE (APP): Marvelous mallet and polo pony work of Tomas Marin Moreno guided FG/Din Polo to a thumping 12-5 triumph over Remounts in the Coca-Cola Lahore Open Polo Championship 2022 only match played on Saturday, here at Lahore Polo Club ground. Moreno was in sublime form and played excellent polo, smashing in superb seven goals from the winning side while Raffay Shaikh and Shah Shamyil Alam banged in a brace each and Mian Abbas Mukhtar converted one goal. From team Remounts, Raja Temur Nadeem hammered a hat-trick while Sawar Naeem and Haseeb Naahas struck one goal apiece. Both the teams started the match well and matched fire-with-fire, equalizing the score at 2-2. Just before the end of the first chukker, Moreno successfully converted a 60-yard penalty to provide FG/Din a slight 3-2 lead. They dominated the second chukker fully by smashing in superb six goals to take a healthy 9-2 lead. The third chukker was evenly poised as both the teams played superb polo and slammed in two goals each, with FG/Din Polo still enjoying 11-4 lead. The fourth and last chukker saw both the teams trying their best to score more but they could add just one goal each in their tally, thus FG/Din Polo emerging as winners with a margin of 12-5. Jhon Fisher and Manuel Carranza supervised the match as field umpires.

# England lose early wicket after dismissing Pakistan for 304

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Spinners Jack Leach and teenager Rehan Ahmed shared six wickets between them as England dismissed Pakistan for 304 on Saturday on the opening day of the third and final Test in Karachi.

Leach grabbed four for 140 and Ahmed finished with two for 89 as Pakistan batters spoiled good starts after Babar Azam won the toss and batted on a turning National Bank Cricket Arena pitch.

But England also fell prey to spin, with mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed trapping Zak Crawley without scoring before the visitors closed the day on seven for one.

Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope were at the crease with four and three, respectively as England trail by 297 runs.

Skipper Babar Azam top-scored for Pakistan with 78 before running himself out in the post-tea session, while Salman Ali Agha made 56.

But the start of the day belonged to Rehan Ahmed -- who at 18 years and 126 days old became the youngest England player to start a Test -- when he dismissed Saud Shakeel for 23 in his seventh over.

Before Ahmed, Brian Close was the youngest England debutant at 18 years and 149 days when he played against New Zealand in 1949. Leach then came into the act, breaking a stubborn eighth wicket stand of 48 between Salman and Nauman Ali (20).

Ahmed, who was presented the Test cap by former England skipper Nasser Hussain in front of father Naeem, described the moment as 'great'. "It was probably the best moment," said Ahmed. "It's great to be part of it. I believe in myself and try to do my best when given an opportunity."

"They (England players) backed me the whole day and I couldn't ask for more. To play at such a young age is a blessing. It's

the best feeling in my life."

Pakistan's head coach Saqlain Mushtaq, also a great spinner in his days, praised Ahmed. "It was a very impressive performance considering it was his first game. He is a young chap and he has a lot of potential and looks a very good prospect for England team." Saqlain thought his team fell short by 60-70 runs.

"It's not a bad total, some 60-70 would have been better, but we have to play disciplined cricket to restrict them because I think the pitch will get slower by the day."

In the morning session, Pakistan lost Abdullah Shafique (eight), Shan Masood (30) and Azhar Ali (45) before Babar and Saud looked to have steadied the innings with a 45-run fourth wicket stand.

But Ahmed had Saud caught off a defensive shot at short-leg before Babar was adjudged run-out by wicketkeeper Ben Foakes after a lengthy review.

Babar, who hit nine boundaries, also added 71 for the third wicket with Azhar.

Azhar -- playing his last Test -- fell at the stroke of lunch when he gloved a catch to a diving Foakes off pacer Ollie Robinson. Sensing the pitch would take spin, England started the attack with Leach, who trapped Shafique leg-before in the sixth over of the day.

Leach becomes the first spinner to share the new ball in the first innings of a Test for England in 101 years -- Jack White did the same against Australia at Leeds in 1921. Shan fell to the trap of short bowling as he pulled fast bowler Mark Wood straight into the hands of deep fine-leg fielder Leach. Shan hit five boundaries while Azhar had six hits to the ropes.

Pakistan made four changes from the second-Test line-up, while England made two, bringing in Foakes and Ahmed.



DOHA: Lionel Messi trains with teammates during the Argentina Training Session ahead of their World Cup Final match against France.

## Messi seeks glory, Argentina meets France in World Cup final

DOHA (AP): It is now or never for Lionel Messi.

The Argentina superstar's once-in-a-generation career will be defined -- for many -- by whether he leads his country to the World Cup title on Sunday.

Can he finally, at the age of 35, win soccer's biggest prize to secure his place alongside Pelé and Diego Maradona in the pantheon of the game's greatest ever players?

Standing in his way is France, the defending champion, and Kylian Mbappé, the player best positioned to take over from Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as soccer's marquee name.

That's if he hasn't already. Mbappé also is standing on the cusp of history heading into the match at the 80,000-seat Lusail Stadium, a title decider that is filled with storylines.

The 23-year-old France forward is looking to emulate Pelé by being a champion at his first two World Cups and set up the prospect of a third title, a feat only ever achieved by the Brazil great who has been hospitalized during this year's tournament because of a respiratory infection.

Mbappé was 19 when he led France to its second World Cup title in 2018, becoming the youngest scorer in a final since a 17-year-old Pelé did so in 1958. While Pelé ended up being a peripheral figure in Brazil's 1962 triumph -- he didn't play in the knockout stage because of injury -- Mbappé has been France's go-to player in the team's bid to repeat.

Indeed, Mbappé enters the final tied as the tournament's leading scorer with five goals. The player alongside him? Messi, of

course. Who wins the Golden Boot -- the award for the top scorer -- is just one of the many other narratives around the final.

There's France, the dominant national team of this generation, looking to become the first to win back-to-back World Cups since Brazil in 1962. The country that produced Michel Platini, Zinedine Zidane, Thierry Henry and now Mbappé will be playing in the final for the fourth time in the last seven World Cups, more than anyone else.

Then there's Didier Deschamps, a World Cup winner as a player in 1998 and now bidding to win it two times as a coach. Vittorio Pozzo was the only other man to coach two world champion teams, with Italy in 1934 and 1938.

Like France, Argentina is seeking a third World Cup title -- after 1978 and 1986 -- to move into outright fourth place in the all-time list. It would end a 36-year wait for soccer's biggest prize, since Maradona's string of virtuoso performances in Mexico in 1986.

That made Maradona forever a hero in Argentina, and an icon around the soccer world. Messi now appears to be at that level -- win or lose on Sunday when he'll play in a record 26th World Cup match.

Messi has evoked comparisons with Maradona in the way he has pushed Argentina to the final, scoring five goals, setting up three more and thrilling his team's legion of fans, who have poured into Qatar throughout the World Cup in numbers only really matched by those from Morocco.

In that sense, it will seem like a home game for

Argentina, with France's supporters sure to be heavily outnumbered amid a sea of blue-and-white jerseys -- many of which will have "MESSI 10" written on them.

It is hard to pick a winner.

France is a hardened tournament team with plenty of experience and the quality to eke out wins when not playing at its best. Deschamps has kept France's level high despite losing key players ahead of the tournament like Paul Pogba, N'Golo Kante, Presnel Kimpembe and Karim Benzema, the reigning world player of the year.

The French are the masters of being pragmatic, defending compactly and breaking at pace, typically through Mbappé down the left and through Antoine Griezmann, reinvented over the past month as a midfield playmaker.

Indeed, expect to see Mbappé and Messi walking around a lot during the game, not bothering to defend or press. That is in the script, rather than them being lazy. Part of the skill of Deschamps and Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni is their ability to forge a team that has learned to defend a man light.

As for Argentina, the team is largely set up simply to get the best out of Messi, with Scaloni likely to select a quartet of central midfielders like in the 3-0 win over Croatia in the semifinals. They will scrap and press, and then give the ball to Messi to weave his magic. Or to Julián Alvarez, the striker who started the tournament as a backup for that unthinkable 2-1 opening loss to Saudi Arabia and now is undroppable with four goals to his name.



KARACHI: Rehan Ahmed, Ben Foakes, Ollie Pope and Joe Root celebrate after the dismissal of Saud Shakeel.

## Pakistan to host T20 Blind Cricket World Cup next year

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan will host the 4th edition of the T20 World Cup Cricket of the Blind from November 18 to December 3, 2024, Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) announced on Saturday.

The decision to award hosting rights to Pakistan was taken in the 24th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of World Blind Cricket Ltd (WBCL), held in Bangalore, India on Friday. "Due to the non-issuance of visas on political grounds, Chairman PBCC Syed Sultan Shah, who is also the president of WBCL, presided over the meeting via video link, a PBCC press release said.

The WBCL unanimously passed a resolution to regret the Indian government's insensitivity to refuse Pakistan blind cricket team visas for the Blind Cricket T20 World, held in India from December 5 to 17.

"The WBCL is of the view that Pakistan is currently top ranked T20 blind cricket team and the Indian government's insensitivity has deprived it to exercise equal rights to take part and win the title. Visa denial on political grounds has caused an irreparable loss to WBC in particular and global blind cricket in general because Pakistan was a serious contender to win the title.

"The WBC urges the states that sports should be kept above regional politics, particularly the special persons' mega sports events should be treated fairly and

all teams must be given equal chances to compete in the event. Most states have ratified United Nations Charter for Persons with Disabilities, which induces states to provide equal sports playing opportunities to persons with disabilities, hence this charter should be implemented in letter and spirit."

The elections of the Executive Committee of WBCL were also held during the AGM. Nine out of 10 full member countries' representatives participated in the meeting. Sultan Shah was elected unopposed WBCL President for a term of two years i.e. 2022-24. He has become the WBCL President for the fourth time in a row.

The other office-bearers of the newly elected body include, First Vice President Bhawani Persad (West Indies), Second Vice President Rajnesh Henry (India), Secretary General Raymond Moxly (Australia), Director Technical Maher Yousaf Haroon (Pakistan), Director Finance Pawan Ghimire (Nepal), and Director Global Development David John (India).

Meanwhile, the WBCL reassured its participation in the World Blind Games to be organized by International Blind Sports Association (IBSA) from August 18 to 27, 2023 in Birmingham, United Kingdom. Blind cricket has been added for the first time in the Games.

## Legendary jockey Dettori to retire after 2023 season

ROME (Agencies): Italian jockey Frankie Dettori, who has ridden more than 3,300 British winners and has 21 British Classic triumphs, said 2023 will be his final year in the saddle as he plans to retire after one last race at the Breeders Cup.

The British-based 52-year-old, who has enjoyed a glittering career in the sport he has dominated for 35 seasons, said he took the difficult decision after speaking to his father -- fellow jockey Gianfranco -- and his family. "Next year, 2023, will be my final professional year as a jockey," Dettori, who has three champion jockey titles, said in an interview with ITV Racing on Saturday.

"I'll break the news now. It's something I've been thinking about for a while and what an appropriate day to tell the racing world that it is going to be my final next year. "I'm riding Boxing Day in Santa Anita and planning to spend about 10 weeks in California and then I'll make my way back with Dubai and Saudi Arabia in between, to start the season in Newmarket."

"I'll be riding right through and it'll be my last Guineas, my last Derby, my last Royal Ascot and so on. Then I'll have the final farewell at the Breeders Cup." Dettori famously won all seven races during one afternoon at Ascot in 1996, costing bookmakers millions of pounds in payouts.



In 2016, he claimed his 3,000th winner to become the sixth jockey to reach that landmark in British Flat racing. Dettori said he did not want to end up like Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo who started on the bench in their final games at the soccer World Cup in Qatar.

"Not to make comparisons, but look at Ronaldo, he was playing one minute and on the bench the next. I don't want to end up like that," Dettori said. "Where I'm struggling to get rides in the big races, at the moment, I still have good horses to ride, and I want to finish it like that."

## Youthful Ahmed appears leader in Pakistan Open Golf C'ship

LAHORE (APP): Ahmed Baig (PAF Skyview) occupied the top of the leaderboard upstanding position on the third day of 49th Pakistan Open Golf Championship here on Saturday at the Lahore Garrison Greens Golf Course.

At the conclusion of the third round in this four rounds National Golf Event, the spirited 24-year old, Ahmed put up a fine performance which made him a probable aspirant for the Pakistan Champions Golf Title 2022-23 challenged intently by another young one, Muhammed Alam (Lahore Garrison) and an exceptionally seasoned and battle hardened one, Matloob Ahmed (Lahore Garrison).

As far as scores are concerned, Ahmed has a three rounds aggregate of 206, ten under par achieved through three rounds scores of 72, 68 and a luminous 66 on the third day. For the animated Ahmed this represents a remarkable moment in his career and though the final round on Sunday could be a frightful affair, the experts of the game including his mentor Brig Bajwa hope that Ahmed will apply his capabilities in a potent and fruitful manner.

During the course of third round Ahmed managed to upgrade his position by playing superbly. Eight birdies during the course of 18 holes golfing is morale boosting and enlivening for the confidence level. While

Ahmed enjoys the spotlight in the ongoing combat for honors and lucrative prize money, there are other contenders who look relentless in making a mark.

The dominant ones in this category are Muhammed Alam and Matloob Ahmed. Through a gross 69 on Saturday, Mohammad Alam is placed at a three rounds aggregate score of 211, five under par and intensely poised for a majestic show in the final round on Sunday. Another battle hardened one Matloob Ahmed, though placed six strokes behind Ahmed Baig, is all determined to put up a resplendent effort in the final round. His round of gross 65 on Saturday has elevated

his standing from 12th position to 3rd position.

Other performers are Anser Mehmood at 215, Waheed Baloch at 217, Mohammad Saqib at 217, Arif Ali at 218, Mohammad Waqas at 218, Khalid Khan at 218 and Mohammad Shahzad at 218. Following them are Mohammad Munir 219, Mohammad Zubair 219, and Mohammad Shabbir at 219.

In the race for honors amongst amateurs, the outstanding one is Saad Habib of Rumanza. Two others in line are Ali Amin and Irtaza. As for the senior professionals, Mohammad Akram is the leader while Mohammad Tariq is second and Tariq Mehmood, third.



ISLAMABAD: Sara Mehmoob plays a shot during women single tennis semi final match during Shaheed Benazir Bhutto National Tennis C'ship. —INP Photo





## In brief

### Six held for possessing illegal arms

RAWALPINDI (APP): The police have arrested six illegal arms holders and recovered arms, and ammunition from their possession during a crackdown here on Saturday. According to a police spokesman, Ratta Amral police held Wasim and recovered a 30-bore pistol from his possession. Similarly, Bani police recovered a 30-bore pistol from Asif while Gujar Khan police recovered a Kalashnikov from Nusrat. Following the operation, Mandra and Chakri police each recovered a 30-bore pistol from Yaqoob and Wasim respectively, while Civil Lines police recovered a dagger from Zahid. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was in progress. SSP Operation appreciated the performance of police teams, adding that crackdown would be continued against the illegal arms holders without any discrimination. He made it clear that it was the prime duty of the police to protect the lives and properties of people.

### Two held with cache of fireworks

RAWALPINDI (INP): The police arrested two fireworks dealers and recovered cache of firework items of different types here on Saturday. On a tip-off, the Gujmandi Police Rawalpindi intercepted two dealers transporting firework items. During operation two firework dealers identified as Aamir and Amaar were held with huge quantity of firework items including 25 'Anaars', 1000 'Soutar Golas', 57 'Shooter Boxes', two boxes 'Chirrian', 24 'Hawaai's, 16 'Electric Anaars', 28 boxes 'Match Patakhas' and nine 'Moon Golas'. The police confiscated the recovered fireworks and after registering a case against the detainees started an investigation.

### 15 criminals held

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad capital police apprehended 15 criminals from different areas and recovered drugs and weapons from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad, Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city. Following these directives, a Phulghran police team arrested an accused Amir Mehmood and recovered 1115 gram heroin from his possession. Similarly, the Banigala police team arrested two accused namely Rafi Ullah and Shah Zaib and recovered 750 gram hashish from their possession. Moreover, the Margalla police arrested an accused namely Hassnain and recovered one 30 bore Pistol with ammunition from his possession. Golra Police arrested an accused namely Faisal Nazeer and recovered 1200 gram heroin from his possession. Industrial-Area police arrested two accused namely Abdul Saboor and Dolat Khan and recovered two 30 bore pistols with ammunition from their possession. Noon police arrested two accused namely Muhammad Saleem and Muhammad Abdullah Nadeem and recovered two 30 bore pistols with ammunition from their possession. Shams colony police arrested two accused namely Janat Gul and Amjad Khan and recovered 525 gram hashish and one 30 bore pistol from their possession.

# Ashrafi hails Bilawal's bold stance against Indian atrocities

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council and Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has hailed bold stance of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari against Indian atrocities.

Talking to media on Saturday, he said that in the United States, Bilawal Bhutto had interpreted the

world pacifists' sentiments by unveiling the Indian atrocities.

Tahir Mehmood Ashraf said that said the foreign minister had boldly disclosed the world about the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brutalities made in Gujrat, Kashmir and other areas of the country.

Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and even Hindus of low-caste were being treated inhumanly in India, he added. The Chairman

Pakistan Ulema Council asked the Indian sanity to stage demonstrations against their Premier Modi and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideology for making innocent people's life miserable.

Ashrafi also urged the international human rights watchdogs to play their role to stop Indian persecution against Muslims and other minority communities and give them the right to live.



ISLAMABAD: CDA worker covering plantlets with polythene sheets to protect them from dew drops during cold weather in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

## SC witnesses decline in pending cases

ISLAMABAD (NNI): At the close of the Autumn 2022 Session of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, data about the disposal of cases as against fresh institution in the current calendar year 2022 (till 16.12.2022) showed a reduction in the number of pending cases by a figure of 2,653.

A reduction in the pendency has taken place for the first time in the year 2022 after the computerization of Supreme Court records was started in the year 2013, said a press release. The positive result has been achieved by the extraordinary efforts of the Judges of the Supreme Court, who have since February 2022 been working at less full strength of the Court. This data is

based on figures pertaining to petitions and appeals and excludes miscellaneous cases arising in the said matters.

A chart reflecting the comparative data since 2013 for institution and disposal of cases and its impact on the pendency of cases (difference) is reproduced below: It said that in 2013, institution cases were 12,223 and disposal number was 9,060 with a difference of +3,163, in 2014 institution cases were 12,677 and disposal 12,614 with a difference of +1,063, in 2015 institution and disposal cases were 15,544 and 12,277 respectively with a difference of +4,367, in 2016 institution cases number was 18,849 and disposal 14,638 with a dif-

ference of +4,211; and in 2017, institution cases were 19,469 and disposal number was 13,946 with a difference of +5,623.

Similarly, in 2018, institution cases were 19,390 and the disposal number was 16,961 with a difference of +2,429; in 2019, institution cases were 20,313 and the disposal number was 15,533 with a difference of +4,780; in 2020, institution cases were 16,860 and disposal number was 13,030 with a difference of +3,830; in 2021, institution cases were 20,541 and the disposal number was 13,280 with a difference of +7,261; while in 2022, institution cases were 17,379 and the disposal number was 20,032 with a difference of -2,653.

## ANF seizes 58.5 kg ketamine, 4.2 kg drugs in three operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan, while conducting three counter-narcotics operations, seized 58.5 kg ketamine and over 4.2 kg drugs, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday.

He informed that ANF Lahore, after tireless efforts, managed to bust a gang allegedly involved in drug manufacturing and smuggling.

He said that a private pharmaceutical company located in Lahore was involved in drug manufac-

turing and smuggling. The owner of the company was arrested along with other gang members.

The company used to purchase ketamine from other pharma companies under the guise of pharmaceuticals, manufacturing drugs and supplying to drug smugglers. During the operation, 50 kg of ketamine and two vehicles were seized.

In another operation at Islamabad International Airport, ANF and ASF recovered 726 grams Ice drug from the trolley bag

of a passenger, a resident of Kohistan who was going to Bahrain on flight no GF-771.

In the third operation, ANF conducted a raid at Karachi International Airport Cargo and recovered 8.5 kg ketamine, 3 kg heroin and 1.2 kg Ice drug from leather jackets being sent to New Zealand and London.

Separate cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act while further investigations were under process, he added.

## 10 Covid-19 cases reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Saturday said that 10 new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours.

As per data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio is 0.20 percent while 27 patients were in critical condition.

No death was reported from the Coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 5,115 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders, healthcare staff, vaccination teams, and administration working across Pakistan despite multiple challenges.

He advised all provinces and regions to administer booster doses to further improve protection against Covid-19 transmission. He said that in view of the global pandemic situation, the Central Health Establishment (CHE) will be strengthened to enhance its functionality.

The minister emphasized the importance of precautions, including social distancing and mask-wearing, especially in crowded places.

He also highlighted the need to strictly follow the guidelines for the management of markets.

## IRSA releases 76,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 76,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 41,400 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1492.84 feet and was 94.84 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 20,100 cusecs while outflow as 42,000 cusecs.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1122.15 feet, which was 72.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 7,200 cusecs and 20,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 47,500, 31,800, 30,300 and 12,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

## Flour smuggling bid foiled, two held

RAWALPINDI (INP): The police and food department foiled a bid to smuggle over 450 bags flour, impounded vehicles and arrested two accused.

The Nasirabad police along with food department conducted joint operation in Rawalpindi.

During operation, two vehicles laden with 452 bags of flour were impounded and police arrested the drivers Naeem and Sherullah.

SP Pothohar said that illegal transportation of wheat and flour will not be allowed and culprits involved would be dealt with iron hands.

# Imran Khan to suffer whether assemblies dissolved or not: Sanaullah

ISLAMABAD (NNI): While expressing his views on former premier Imran Khan's expected announcement regarding the dissolution of assemblies, Minister for Interior Affairs Rana Sanaullah has said that there is a competition between Imran Khan and Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi and it is yet to be clear who will take a

U-turn and who will take a smart turn.

While referring to Elahi, the minister said how is it possible that the one who didn't let the FIR lodged as per the desires of Khan will dissolve assemblies on his suggestion. He said that Imran Khan will suffer political loss no matter whether assemblies are dissolved

or not.

The minister said that the continuity of parliament is crucial for the country and its economy. He said that Imran Khan's agenda is not economy; in fact, he wants to overturn the government. He said that Imran Khan got foreign funding to create political instability in the country.

## Conservation and Energy Efficiency is the priority on Govt's Agenda

LAMABAD (PPI): Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch has said that energy conservation and efficiency is the need of the hour during these testing times for the national economy.

The potential of energy conservation and efficiency has not been fully realized while approaching the challenges of Energy-Water-Food security in Balochistan where agriculture sector is under tremendous pressure due to high energy costs and natural calamities.

According to an official statement issued here on Saturday, he said this while chairing a seminar on 'Promoting Conservation and Efficiency in Energy-

Water Nexus of Balochistan organized by the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) in Quetta.

The Federal Minister appreciated the institutionalization of energy efficiency and conservation in the country and directed that NEECA and relevant federal departments shall work hand in hand with the provincial departments of Balochistan to conduct solarization of tube-wells across the province.

He also appreciated the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations for launching a five-year programme worth 40 million Euro in

Balochistan on revival of water resources of Balochistan.

He also directed that development programmes shall be designed and launched for the agriculture and water sector of Balochistan and a donors' conference shall be launched in Balochistan to finance these development programmes especially tube-well solarization and development of water reservoirs.

He also informed that NEECA under his guidance is working with provincial departments to establish Balochistan Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency (BEECA) in the province.

## CDA anti-encroachments drive in full swing

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the instructions of Chairman CDA Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Usman Yunus, DG enforcement gave necessary tasks to the enforcement officers and staff against encroachment as in the light this department has carried out several operations in different sectors.

Apart from this, 1 truckload of equipment was confiscated by removing the encroachments from the green building. Several notices were issued while taking action under the building by-laws.

According to the

details, the operation started from sector G-10 where encroachments outside the plot line in the form of fences, additional gates and sheds were demolished.

While taking action against encroachment on Sector G-7/3-4, Green Bullet, 1 truckload of goods was seized by removing the encroachment. A natural drain was being narrowed in Sector D-17 and a written notice was issued to Nasir who was the supervisor of the society to stop the work.

Similarly, illegal plazas were being constructed

near Mauza Sing Jani, out of which written notices were issued to Aljanat Arcade, Green Seventeen and Arman Arcade. The government land near the PW stop on the express highway was being occupied for the purpose of nurseries.

Heavy machinery is being parked on Sector I-9 green belt, which was affecting the greenery of the green belt. Challan team took action and issued challan for two owners of machinery and sent them to Senior Special Magistrate CDA court for trial.

## CSB finalises names for promotion in BS-22

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The Central Selection Board (CSB) has completed its preparation for the promotion of bureaucrats in BS-22.

According to the sources, a meeting of the high-powered selection board (HPSB) under the chairmanship of the prime minister is expected to be held next week to consider the cases of officers of different cadres now working in grade 21 for their promotion to grade 22.

The HPSB of the Establishment Division is likely to consider at least 26 officers including Additional Secretary in-charge Capt (r) Muhammad Mahmood, Additional Secretary in-charge Power

Division Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Chairman NHA Momin Agha, acting Chief Secretary Punjab Muhammad Abdullah Khan Sumbal, CS Gilgit Baltistan Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Muhammad Mujtaba Piracha and others in HPSB meeting.

In the HPSB, nine officers will be considered for the promotion in BS-22 belong to the Pakistan Administrative Service, two to the Police Service of Pakistan, five officers to the Foreign Service, two to the Pakistan Customs, two to the Postal Group, one to the Pakistan Railways, one each to the Inland Revenue Service, Secretariat Group and Audit and Accounts

Service. IG Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Amir Zulfiqar Khan, Ghulam Rasool Zahid, Kunwar Shah Rukh and Aamir Ahmed Shaikh of the Police Service will be considered for promotion to BS-22, sources added.

It is pertinent that this will be the second HPSB in one year as the prime minister had in May this year promoted to BS 22 several officers including SPM Dr Touqeer Shah, Secretary Finance Hamid Yaqoob Shiekh, Special Secretary Cabinet Division Aizaz Aslam Dar, Special Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office Sara Saeed, Secretary Industries Imdad Bosal and others.

## Around 1.8m children enrolled under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Programme from May till Oct, 2022

ISLAMABAD (APP): A total of 1.8 million children have been enrolled under the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Programme with disbursement of Rs. 15 billion among the beneficiaries from May till October 2022.

The Programme is being executed by the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

According to an official source, since inception of the Programme, 10.5 million children had been enrolled 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.

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 has been expanded from primary to secondary and higher secondary level, and is currently operational all over the country.

Giving update on the statistics of Benazir Kafalat disbursements, the source told that an amount of approximately Rs. 49.84 billion has been disbursed among the beneficiaries of Benazir Kafalat Programme 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). 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 beneficiar-

ies 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 an 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.

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 Rs 2,000/- per quarter per PLW for boy child and Rs 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. Higher Education Commission (HEC) is in the process of disbursing the amount to all 132 participant universities across Pakistan.



### 6 people suffered casualties

BAMYAN (BNA) Local security officials of Bamyan province on Saturday said that six people suffered casualties in a car mishap in the province. Provincial Police Spokesman Mohammad Khoani told Bakhtar News Agency that a car accident killed three people and injured as many others in Shahidan village on the outskirts of the capital of Bamyan province. The injured people evacuated to the Provincial Civil Hospital for treatment, he said.

## The Frontier Post

# AFGHANISTAN

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 23, 1444 — Sunday, December 18, 2022

### UN call to end executions

KABUL (Agencies): Ten United Nations human rights experts called on the Taliban authorities to end public executions and punishment by whipping, including at mass ceremonies, after such practices began to be reported in Afghanistan in recent weeks. The de facto Afghan authorities "must immediately put an end to all forms of cruel and degrading punishment", the experts, including the UN special rapporteur for Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, said in a statement.

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

## Power outages irk Kabul residents

KABUL (TOLOnews): Residents of Kabul expressed frustration over "significant" power cuts in the capital city over the past month, saying the issue has created many problems for them amidst the cold winter.

The residents said electricity is provided four hours within 24 hours every day. "We are facing many problems. We have electricity only for one hour. It is frustrating that in some cases, we don't have electricity in 24 hours," said Azizi, a Kabul resident.

"It is winter and as you know everyone needs power for heating their homes. But there are power outages all the time and everyone is facing problems," said Noorani, a Kabul resident.

The business community said power cuts have negatively impacted factories' operations.

The Kabul Chamber of Industry and Mines said factories will be forced to halt their operations if the Islamic Emirate, particularly Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, fails to provide electricity for them.

"They should use all possible means to provide electricity to factories so that at least, we have 14 hours of power a day to compete in the market," said Mohammad Karim Azimi, a member of the chamber.

The country's power distributor, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), said the power cuts are due to "technical problems" in

the imported electricity from Uzbekistan, leaving the entity with no option but to distribute power four hours a day to Kabul residents.

"For the residences, two hours of power is supplied during the day and two hours at night. We also provide electricity to government organizations. For the industrial areas, we provide 10 hours of power which means five hours to one group and another five hours to another group of industrial parks," said Hekmatullah Maiwandi, a DABS spokesman.

Afghanistan imports 80 percent of its needed electricity from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Iran, which costs \$250 million annually.

### DAB auction \$ 13 million today

KABUL (Agencies): Da Afghanistan Bank will auction 13 million USA dollars today (Sunday) to keep the local currency rate stable in the market. ADB in a statement asked all eligible commercial banks, and money exchangers to participate in the auction.

It is mentioned in the newsletter that partial transaction is not allowed and the winner of the auction is obligated to deliver the amount in cash at a specific time to DAB. It's the second time in a week that DAB auctioned off \$13 million dollars for strengthening the Afghan currency.

Meanwhile, Saturday one dollar exchange to (\$7.65) Afghani in the market.

### 69,000 tons of goods transported

KABUL (Agencies): The Afghan Railway Authority (ARA) says that 69,130 tons of goods have been transported through the country's railways in the last week.

ARA in a statement on Saturday said that 43,533 tons of the goods were transported through the Haritaran Railway, 3,290 tons through the Aghina Railway, and 22,280 tons through Torghandi Railway port.

The source said that the main materials of transport included oil and other goods amounted to 67,499 tons which were imported from neighboring countries into Afghanistan while 1,654 tons of goods mostly dry fruit exported to neighboring countries.

ARA says that they are striving to provide better facilities for the transportation of goods. It says that the amount of transportation of goods increased by 22 percent this year compared to the last year.

The Authority was also able to collect over 1.4 billion Afghanis in revenue in the first six months of the current solar year.

## UN highlights Afghanistan's situation

KABUL (TOLOnews): The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres released his latest quarterly report on Afghanistan in which he highlights economic, humanitarian and political situation as well as the condition of human and women's rights in the country.

The report says there is some progress regarding connectivity, trade and transit, including the signature on of a contract for air traffic control with an UAE company for several international airports.

The UN Secretary General lists the economic progress as follows:

The announcement on 10 September of a quadripartite agreement to pilot a railway and road trade corridor connecting Afghanistan to China via Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The announcement on 27 September of imports of gasoline, diesel fuel, liquefied petroleum gas and wheat from the Russian Federation at advantageous prices. On 4 October the extension until March 2023 by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the gasoline transit permit. 31.

The de facto authorities regularly engaged with China on the inclusion of Afghanistan in the belt and road initiative and with Turkmenistan on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline.

On 10 October, the de facto authorities reported that agreements had been reached with Turkmenistan on several issues, including a schedule for land acquisition and pipeline construction, and gas distribution to industrial parks and residents in Herat.

On 2 November, in a joint statement, China and Pakistan conveyed consensus on the need to continue their humanitarian and economic assistance for the Afghan people and enhance development cooperation in Afghanistan, including through its inclusion in the China - Pakistan Economic Corridor.



On 25 October, the de facto authorities also inaugurated the Mazar-e Sharif International Airport, reconstructed with financial and technical assistance from Uzbekistan."

But the report calls the reduction in development aid, international financial transactions challenges, the impact on the banking sector and skilled workforce shortages as the most factors adversely affecting the economy since August 2021.

"Exports to India and Pakistan are higher than in the previous year, while essential commodity prices have stabilized, and in some cases declined – possibly owing in part to imports from the Russian Federation," the report reads.

According to the report, most Afghans remain impoverished with little prospect of meaningful improvement as over 90 per cent of the population is estimated to be food insecure.

The UN has transferred \$1.63 billion in cash between December 1 2021 and November 2022, the report says.

"The funds were distributed directly to 19 different UN agencies, funds or programmes, the World Bank and 30 international non-governmental organizations through the Afghanistan International Bank," the report said. "The cash delivery continued to contribute to stabilizing the Afghan currency and serve as an economic stimulus without directly supporting the de facto administration."

About political situation in Afghanistan, the report says the "political opposition, comprising exiled former Republic officials and political figures, continued to meet and issue statements."

"Amid those developments, the de facto authorities increased engagement with political figures based in Afghanistan and continued efforts to attract the return of exiled Afghans through the Commission for Return and Communication

with Former Afghan Officials and Political Figures," the report said. "Senior de facto officials met Republic-era personalities, including, in October, former parliamentarians, some of whom were returnees, along with former politicians and their cadres."

Regarding the conditions of human rights, the report said that the "de facto authorities continued to curtail Afghans' rights to freedom of opinion, expression and peaceful assembly."

Guterres said that in August and September, the UNAMA and UN-Women convened 15 in-country and online consultations in 12 provinces with 207 Afghan women leaders with diverse personal and professional backgrounds. "They unanimously emphasized the reopening of secondary girls' schools as the most immediate priority, followed by safety and security (flagged by 71 per cent of participants), and asked the international community to focus on reinstating the full spectrum of rights for women and girls, beyond education," he added.

## IEA urges Uzbekistan to maintain electricity balance agreed upon



KABUL (Agencies): The Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Sher Mohammad Abbas, discussed imported power shortage with his Uzbek counterpart Ismatilla Ergashev in a telephone conversation on Saturday.

Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Stanikzai told the special representative of the President of Uzbekistan for Afghanistan that due to the decrease in the imported electricity of Uzbekistan, problems have arisen in

some provinces of the country, including the capital city of Kabul.

Mr. Stanikzai asked the Uzbek side to bring the level of imported electricity to the level agreed upon between the two countries.

For his part, Mr. Ergashev acknowledged the problem, saying that he talked to the Ministry of Electricity of Uzbekistan on the matter, adding that the lack of electricity and some technical problems in the arrival of cold winter in

Uzbekistan the main reason for power shorts.

Mr. Ergashev said that on their efforts, the level of electricity transmission has increased, saying that they strive to increase the level of electricity to Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the country's residents complain about power shortages for at least a week, some residents raised voices on social media saying that they get a few hours of electricity 24 hours in a day.

## Qisas nullifies as top Jawzjan official pardon his father's murderer



SHIBERGHAN (Pajhwok): Jawzjan Deputy Governor Mawlawi Gul Mohammad has pardoned the murderer of his father who was expected to be executed under Qisas Law.

The move helped bring 30 years old enmity to an end between the two tribes as well.

Abdul Ghafoor, the one who has been pardoned said: "From the past 30 years I was put in jail so many times and suffered a lot of problems, the fact that today was forgiven so it ended the past thirty years of suffering and I am happy."

He hugged Deputy Governor Mawlawi Gul Mohammad and thanked him.

Ghafoor said: "I made a mistake and today I am disappointed by killing Mawlawi Gul Mohammad's father."

"Now I can live a free and comfortable life with my family and move forward with my life without any tension," he said.

Deputy Governor Mawlawi Gul Ahmad visited the court along with other officials and after hearing the court verdict he announced pardoning Mawlawi Abdul Ghafoor and asked

the court not to implement the Qisas order on him.

"The best principle in the life is pardon and forgiveness. Pardoning my father's murderer is my personal decision and now Abdul Ghafoor could continue his normal life in Shiberghan City."

According to judge Mufti Abdul Wahab Zahid Mawlawi Gul Ahmad's father was killed by Abdul Ghafoor in 1,991 in Shiberghan.

"Thirty years ago, the father of the deputy governor had a dispute with Abdul Ghafoor over the sale of about two hundred cattle which were brought from Dasht Laili to Shaberghan, but that dispute led to a conflict and Abdul Ghafoor had killed the deputy governor's father."

According to Zahid Abdul Ghafoor was arrested at that time but after some time he was freed but the incident triggered enmity between the two tribes and every time the elder of both tribes were dragged to the provincial councils.

He said that Abdul Ghafoor would be freed after the administration process is completed.

Mohammadullah, Abdul

Ghafoor's relative told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Our tribe faced a lot of problems and disputed after the incident."

He said after the takeover of the Islamic Emirate Abdul Ghafoor was in prison but due to the mediation of elders and their assurances his bail was approved and he was freed.

After his released, he went to Iran for work and the security forces of Islamic Emirate detained the elders who signed the bill until his return.

Jawzjan Intelligence Affairs Director Mawlawi Khoshal said all the instructions given by the Almighty Allah in the Qur'an are for the sake of order in the life of humanity.

"Pardon and forgiveness have a special place in Islam and are of great importance, the example of which was renewed today in the city of Shaberghan. I wish that other people in the society pay attention to this point and if they are involved in a similar case, they resolve the problems through pardon and reconciliation," he said.

Civil Society Activist Alisher Entizar said Forgiveness and understanding to resolve legal issues among the people through the Shura and consultation with tribal elders in this province is a long-standing culture of the people of this province.

He added: "In this society, I have witnessed many times that the residents of Jawzjan Province have resorted to ethnic councils to solve some cases that the government was unable to solve."

"When tensions occur between two peoples, it causes distance and disintegration of the tribes, and the resolution of these tensions brings peace and reconciliation between the people of the two regions, which we always support," he added.

### 461 children with Heart perforation received treatment

KABUL (Agencies): Officials of Ministry of Public Health discussed providing facilities for the treatment of children with heart perforation with officials Afghan Red Crescent Society.

Both administrations the Ministry of Public Health and Afghan Red Crescent Society signed a memorandum of understanding, to work jointly to provide better treatment services for heart perforation in the country in Afghanistan, according to officials.

The head of ARCS Mawlawi Matul Haq Khalis during a meeting said that at the current year, the organization has been able to provide medical treatment to 461 children with heart perforation inside and outside the country.

The cost of treatment for each patient is from 750 up to 2,350 US dollars according to the severity of the disease, which is paid by the Afghan Red Crescent, he added.

In addition, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has taken care of 300 mentally ill patients in Kandahar he said.

According to him, the ARCS plans to build a well-equipped hospital, to address people's problems.

Initially, providing all the equipment and facilities of the hospital will be from the budget of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, which will be supported by donors and organizations in the future, he added.

## Army cadets graduates, recruited from Panjshir



KABUL (Agencies): The Ministry of National Defense announced the graduation of 88 young army cadets, who were recently recruited into the ranks of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

According to the Ministry of Defense's statement 88 young army cadets who were recently recruited into the ranks of the Islamic

Emirate National Army from Panjshir province, graduated after completing their first period of military and ideological trainings.

On this occasion a ceremony held, attended by several officials of the Ministry of National Defense, during the ceremony, the officials of the Ministry assured to form a national Islamic army that would protect all national

and Islamic values, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

On their graduation the soldiers pledged to spare no effort serving the people and the Islamic Emirate system in the country.

In the end, the graduated cadets received their graduation certificates according to the Ministry of Defense's statement.

## Women Trade Center restored in Badghis



BAGHAIS (Agencies): A women's trade center restored by Qala Naw municipality with the financial cooperation of the United Nations office in

Afghanistan in the province of Baghais. An official of Qala Naw Municipality Farid Ahmad Sadiqi said that this center women's handicrafts of trade in

Badghis will be restored with a cost of 100 thousand dollars. A Friday market will be started with the complication this women trade center he added.

## Two major fires broke out in Kabul

KABUL (TOLOnews): Two separate fires started in Kabul, inflicting heavy financial losses on shopkeepers and residents.

A fire broke out in a market in PD 11 of Kabul. The market contained many gold and jewelry merchants.

The Kabul department of security said four gold shops were damaged in the

fire.

"The fire which took place due to an explosion of a gas balloon in the market burned four gold factories and the owners suffered 500,000 Afis," said Khalid Zadrar, a spokesman for the Kabul Department of Security.

According to the people working in the gold shop in Karta-e-Naw in PD 11 of

Kabul, the scene of the fire, the fire burned many of the tools and other objects in the shops.

"All the instruments that we used have been destroyed. Nothing remains here and other instruments are not useful," said Sayed Ishaq Rahmani, the owner of the shop.

"I have lost between \$100,000 and \$120,000.

This was not all of my property but some of my friends had a share in it," said Muzamil, a worker at the factory.

Officials of the Amini Market called on the government to take serious actions to prevent future fires.

"Our government provides the help on time, but we wish the government

would give us access to resources to prevent fires," said Sayed Masoud Joshan, in charge of the market's administrative affairs.

Another fire occurred in PD 9 of Kabul, which also caused financial damage to residents.

The fire took place at a military facility related to the Ministry of Interior.





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# CM Pervaiz meets Imran Khan, vows to abide by decision

LAHORE (INP): Ahead of the dissolution of assemblies, Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has reaffirmed his support for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, acknowledging that he owed his government to former prime minister.

According to details, the chief minister made these remarks during a meeting with former premier and PTI Chairman Imran Khan at the latter's residence in Lahore's Zaman Park.

The meeting comes just hours before the PTI chief

is set to announce today the date for the dissolution of the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies.

Moonis Elahi and MNA Hussain Elahi were also present on the occasion. Moreover, the meeting was attended by KP Chief Minister (CM) Mahmood Khan, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Pervez Khattak and other PTI leaders.

During the meeting, matters related to dissolution of assemblies came under discussion. Imran Khan will announce the date of dissolution of

assemblies along with Chief Ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking on occasion, the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leaders vowed to support 'every' decision made by the former prime minister. CM Pervaiz Elahi noted that he owed the Punjab government to Imran.

"We will support Imran's every decision. We fully support those we choose to ally ourselves with," the Punjab CM said, adding: "Those spreading rumours will fail as they did in the past."

## Masterminds of Gujarat massacre evade justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Office on Saturday rejecting a statement of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the masterminds of the Gujarat massacre had escaped justice and now held key government positions in India.

"With its statement, the Indian Government has tried to hide behind subterfuge and canard to conceal the realities of the 2002 Gujarat massacre. It is a shameful story of mass killings, lynching, rape and plunder. The fact of the matter is that the masterminds of the Gujarat massacre have escaped justice and now hold key government positions in India," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Responding to media queries, the spokesperson said no verbosity could hide the crimes of the "Saffron terrorists" in India, adding Hindutva, the political ideology of the ruling party, had given rise to a climate of hate, divisiveness and impunity.

The culture of impunity was now deeply embedded in Hindutva-driven polity in India. The acquittal of the mastermind and perpetrators of the heinous attack on the Delhi-Lahore Samjhota Express, which killed 40 Pakistani nationals on Indian soil, demonstrated the massacre of justice under the RSS-BJP dispensation.

"Intimidation and demonization of religious minorities receives official patronage in states across India. Hindutva supremacists have been unleashed to exercise cow vigilantism, ransack places of worship, and attack religious congregations," it was further added.

The spokesperson said as it peddled a fictitious narrative of victimhood, it was itself a perpetrator of repression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and a sponsor and financier of terrorist groups in South Asia.

## CM expresses satisfaction over PEDO's performance

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has expressed his satisfaction over the performance of Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) and directed the relevant authorities to complete the due for completion hydro power projects on priority basis. The provincial government is working under a well devised strategy to take full advantage of hydropower potential in the province. He added that Completion of ongoing projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will address power crisis at the national level, provide electricity to local people at cheaper rates and generate revenue for the province.

He was chairing the 11th meeting of PEDO Policy Board held here the other day. The participants of the meeting were briefed on the annual performance of PEDO and were told that PEDO is engaged in all-round efforts for the production of low cost hydropower in the province which has

become a major source of income. More than 43 billion rupees have been generated in revenue so far whereas the federal government also owes over 10 billion rupees to PEDO. It was informed that, 7 projects with a total capacity of 161 megawatts have been completed so far, which generate an annual revenue of Rs 5 billions. Moreover, seven additional hydropower projects are near to completion which will generate 224 megawatt electricity collectively while a revenue of Rs 4 billion is expected from these projects annually.

The forum was appraised that PEDO has successfully converted the Civil Secretariat, Chief Minister's House and Chief Minister's Secretariat to solar system by harnessing environment-friendly sources of energy production. Similarly, 4440 Masajid, 8000 schools and 187 primary health centers of the province have also been transferred to solar energy, while 13 solar mini-grids are being established to promote trade activities in the newly merged districts. Besides, 316 mini micro-

hydel stations have been completed in backward areas of the province which are generating around 29 megawatt electricity which is being provided to local people at cheaper rates. Similarly, 220 more mini micro hydel stations will be established in the second phase which will generate 45 mega watt electricity.

The forum was also told that recently 10MW Jabori Hydropower Project in Mansehra has been successfully completed while physical work has also been initiated on 300MW Balakot Hydropower Project. Likewise, 40 MW Koto and 11 MW Karora hydro power projects are also in completion stage. Other ongoing projects of PEDO include 84MW Mataltan Hydropower Project in Swat, 69MW Lavi Hydropower Project in Chitral, 6.9MW Barando hydro power Project in Torgar and 10.5MW Chapri Charkhel Hydropower Project in Kurram district which on completion will generate substantial revenue for the province.



## خیبر پختونخوا بیلته کیٹر سروس پرووائیڈرز اینڈ فسلٹیٹیز (تشدد اور املاک کے نقصان کی روک تھام) ایکٹ 2020

طبی اہلکاروں، مریضوں اور تیمارداروں کی ذمہ داریوں کا تعین کرتا ہے۔



**یاد رکھیے!** خیبر پختونخوا بیلته کیٹر سروس پرووائیڈرز اینڈ فسلٹیٹیز (تشدد اور املاک کے نقصان کی روک تھام) ایکٹ 2020 کے تحت

**KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA HEALTHCARE SERVICE PROVIDERS & FACILITIES (PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE & DAMAGE TO PROPERTY) ACT 2020**

**قانوناً جرم ہے**

- ❖ ہسپتال اور طبی مراکز میں عملے، مریض یا ان کے لواحقین پر کسی بھی قسم کا زبانی کلامی، جسمانی یا ذہنی تشدد کرنا
- ❖ ہسپتال اور طبی مراکز میں توڑ پھوڑ اور املاک کو نقصان پہنچانا
- ❖ طبی امداد کی سرگرمیوں میں خلل اور رکاوٹ پیدا کرنا
- ❖ ہسپتال اور طبی مراکز کے احاطے میں اسلحہ لانا

مریضوں کا طبی ضروریات کی بنیاد پر ترجیح کا تعین کرنا اور ہنگامی طبی امداد فراہم کرنا طبی اہلکاروں کا قانونی اور انسانی فرض ہے۔

محکمہ صحت  
خیبر پختونخوا

**یاد رکھیے!** قانون کی خلاف ورزی کی صورت میں آپ کو قید، جرمانہ یا دونوں سزائیں ہوسکتی ہیں۔