

2 alleged terrorists killed  
F.P. Report

BANNU: Two terrorists were shot killed during encounter with police while they were allegedly involved an attack on police party in which one Head Constable was dead and the other personnel was critically injured. As per the details, the deceased terrorists were involved in killing one policeman HC Pasham Khan and injured another Constable Shah Wali Khan.

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

Plea against Dar disposed off

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan has disposed of a plea urging the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to declare vacant the Senate seat of Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. The ECP on Monday pronounced its verdict which was reserved on 26 September 2022 on the application seeking ECP order to declare Ishaq Dar's Senate seat vacant for not taking oath.

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# 33m Pakistanis displaced, PM told moot

Shehbaz hopes to muster worth \$8b internationally for resilient recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction

GENEVA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Monday said that considering 'the gigantic task of resilient recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction of 33 million flood affected people', they were looking towards the global support to generate \$8 billion to meet the impending challenges.

Addressing a joint press stakeout with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the prime minister expressed the confidence that they would be able to generate close to about \$8 billion dollars domestically and also looking towards the international community to contribute with an equal amount to support these measures. He said in today's "Resilient Pakistan" conference, they, in consultations with the friendly countries and global partners, had worked out a comprehensive framework over Pakistan's resilient recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts with a robust financial mechanism.

Elaborating the large-scale devastation caused by the floods, the prime minister said it had crippled Pakistan's economy and they with meagre resources could not cope with



GENEVA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres addressing a joint press stakeout after the International Conference on Resilient Pakistan in Palais des Nations, Switzerland.

such a gigantic challenge. The prime minister said that he had never witnessed such a destruction in his lifetime. About 33 million people were displaced, with 2 million houses were completely or impartially destroyed. The country's econ-

omy suffered to the tune of \$30 billion. The prime minister thanked the UN, UNDP, World Bank and other financial institutions and friendly countries for their support and assistance to the flood victims.

The prime minister informed

that the government of Pakistan had already spent \$400 million to provide support to about 2.7 million households whereas another amount of \$575 million was spent in cash and kind which was contributed by the friends and countries across the

globe. He said they were now going for reconstruction and rehabilitation of infrastructure and to put back 33 million people affected by floods on their feet which was an unprecedented contemporary task.

The prime minister said that Islamic Development Bank had pleaded \$4.2 billion which was the largest contribution. He further assured that every penny contributed for the purpose would be spent in a transparent manner and they would be accounted for the amount as he had resolved for holding of a third party's validation of these contributions. The prime minister also thanked the UNSG for inspiring millions of people across the globe to support Pakistan in these hard times, and offered gratitude to all friendly countries, Presidents of France and Turkiye, the financial institutions, partners and representatives for expressing solidarity with Pakistan during the conference.

To a query, the prime minister said that even before floods, Pakistan faced numerous economic issues. Due to serious tensions in the Eastern Europe, rising food inflation and sky rocketing of the oil prices wors-

ened Pakistan's imported inflation, impacting lives of the common man in the country, he added. He said when floods hit Pakistan, everything was destroyed. Huge chunks of the lands in different provinces were still inundated by the standing flood waters.

Reiterating his government's resolve, the prime minister said that they were committed to comply with the terms and conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. He regretted that an agreement with the IMF was violated by the previous government. Speaking on the occasion, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres stressed that it was a time for the international community to reciprocate with generosity shown by the people of Pakistan by very generously hosting millions of Afghan refugees for decades.

Recollecting his past experiences, he said Pakistan had witnessed difficult moments as it was badly affected by natural catastrophe like earthquakes and floods. He lauded the people of Pakistan for their generosity, their resilience against scourge of terrorism and sup-

porting millions of Afghan refugees. Guterres further hoped that the global community would support Pakistan in rebuilding and reconstructing efforts as the country 'has been a victim of man-made destruction', adding that loss and damage fund would help support the developing countries like Pakistan. "We stand with Pakistan," he said, urging the international community to invest in the resilience of the people of Pakistan and express the enormous generosity.

He said if they came close to generating \$8 billion by the international community, 'it would be a huge success'. The UNSG further called upon the global concrete action to save the common future of humanity, adding that they were on the road to climatic destruction and warned that the future would be on the verge of collapse if collective efforts were not made. He termed the soaring global temperatures as a real challenge due to rising emission of greenhouse gases. The secretary general expressing his dismay said that he was deeply frustrated over the world leaders' response to the huge challenge.

## Dar seeks budgetary support to cope with flood challenges

GENEVA (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday sought budgetary support to create fiscal space for the Pakistan Government to continue substantive relief for over 33 million flood-affected people.

"Pakistan's urgent expectation from this conference is not merely a commitment of resources for reconstruction and rehabilitation in short-to-medium term but we are also looking forward for budget inflows and assistance during the remainder of the current fiscal year," he said while co-chairing the First Plenary Session: 'Pakistan's Resilient Recovery Strategy', during the International Conference on 'Climate Resilient Pakistan'. This, he added, would make it possible for the government to continue providing the much-needed relief to the flood-hit people.

"Let me say a few words that if considered appropriate by friendly countries, debt swaps and other use of financial instruments tied to the relocation of equivalent domestic budgetary resources would also free up these resources to be spent for this noble purpose." He said the support from the friendly countries and multilateral donors would not only help with flood relief and rehabilitation but would also create fiscal space and external debt sustainability for the country. The minister, however, clarified that Pakistan remained committed to its international obligation and was on track regarding its macroeconomic fiscal reform agenda "which focuses on increasing revenues, increasing spending on social programmes, decreasing expenditure to create more fiscal space for the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase which we have to undertake in the next here years".

## World showing exemplary compassion: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that international community and development partners had demonstrated exemplary compassion for flood victims of Pakistan.

In a tweet, she said that the Islamic Development Bank Group has pledged \$4.2 billion at the Geneva moot. She said that World Bank Vice President for South Asia Martin Kaiser announced \$2 billion, responding to PM's call for concrete action. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb

said the first plenary session of the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan had culminated in the generous outpouring of pledges from the international community totalling of \$8.57 billion to carry out rebuilding and reconstruction efforts in the flood-ravaged Pakistan.

"EU pledged \$93 million, Germany \$88 million, China \$100 million, IsDB (Islamic Development Bank) \$4.2 Billion, WB (World Bank) \$2 billion, Japan \$77 million, ADB (Asian Development Bank) \$1.5 billion, USAID \$100 million, France \$345 mil-

lion, total \$8.57 billion, in line with collaborative vision of coalition of willing," she said in a series of tweets.

The minister said the secondary plenary session would commence shortly. The International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, co-hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations in Geneva, has brought together heads of government, leaders from the public and private sectors and civil society to support the people and the Government of Pakistan to deal with the enormous challenge of post-flood reconstruction and rehabilitation.

# #KnowYourEconomy

## REBUILDING PAKISTAN

Let's know ! When did Pakistan's economic decline start?

Average GDP growth rate decreased by 1.2%



Tax revenues as percentage of GDP decreased



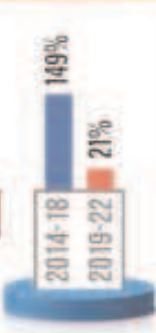
Imports increased by 30%



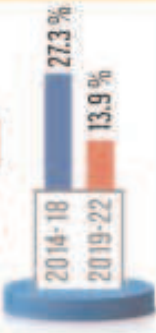
Unemployment rate increased by 0.5%



Growth rate of agricultural credit decreased by 128%



Growth rate of per capita annual income decreased by 13.4%



Trade deficit increased by 28%



Dollar rate increased by 83 rupees per dollar



Fiscal deficit as percentage of GDP increased by 2%



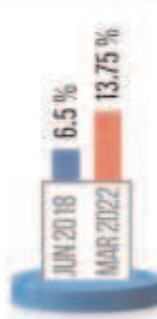
Food items inflation rate increased by 6.5%



Public Debt and Liabilities increased by 80%



Policy rate increased by 725 bps



Together we've averted default. Together we'll rebuild Pakistan.

(\*ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST)



Government of Pakistan

GovtofPakistan /GovernmentofPakistan www.moib.gov.pk

PID(1) 4276-D/22





## Woman axed to death by husband in Lahore

LAHORE (PPI): A husband axed to death his wife in Green Town in Lahore on Monday. According to police, accused Ghulam Rasool was an addict. He killed his wife, Sabira Bibi, with the help of an axe when their children were not at home.

Police collected evidence from the crime scene and sent the body of the woman to hospital for post mortem.

SP Investigation Irtaza said that raiding teams have been formed to arrest the accused. He assured that police would soon reach the culprit. In another incident of domestic violence, a man tried to slit his wife's throat with a knife in Hafizabad.

According to details, a brutal husband, Sanaullah tortured his wife along with his brother in Hafizabad. Then he tried to slit his wife's throat with a knife. But the woman managed to run away. The video of the incident went viral on social media. The victim woman reached the local police station to register her complaint but the police were reluctant to file her case.

## Court Notice

IN the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.274/1. Institution 16/12/2021. Date of hearing, 16/1/2023, Sultanat Khan VS Intiaz Khan. Notice to n o . 3 . N o r z a m i n Khan.5.Nazmin Khan sons.11.Bakht Zia d/o Sheren Khan. 15.Karom Khan. 16.Nawab s/o Mohammad Yad Khan. 23.Ajmal Khan s/o Amirsala Khan. 1/27/5.Fazilat d/o Amiridollah Khan. 28.Ali Gohar Khan.30.Sher Ali Khan s/o Qalandar Khan. 31/3.Said Rehman son. 31/5.Gul Rehman s/o Sherdar Khan resident of Torwarsak teshel 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 16/1/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

## Court Notice

IN the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.82/1. Institution 21/1/2022. Date of hearing, 19/1/2023. Khanzada VS Sher Gul. Notice to no. 19. Khanzada son of Balhshi. 29.Zarghon Shah son of Aqlimand resident of JangdaraTorwarsak teshel 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 19/1/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

## Court Notice

In the court of Kashif Ali Syed civil judge III Tungli. Suit no 226/1 next hearing date 11/01/2023. Case title - Mohammed Ayaz Khan vs Frooq Sha Summon to 1. Farooq Sha 2. Sher Khan sons Multan R/O char charon khat Ameer Abad tehseel Tungli . (Defendant ) The above Defendant is directed to appear before this court on 11/01/2023 personally or through attorney or through counsel in failure an ex-parte proceeding will be proceeded against you. Seal of the court.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Qadeer with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Nazir citizen number 1310108562951 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Khalida Bibi (Daughter) 2.Sajida Jalil (Daughter)3.Abdul Hafeez (Son)4.Muhammad Arshad (Son)5.Muhammad Munir (Son)6.Muhammad Qadeer (Son)7.Muhammad Shakir (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. PID(0) 4276/22 INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU

# Sharjeel directs to start operations of EV buses immediately



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Provincial Information , Transport and Mass Transit Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday has said that the first route of People's Electric Bus Service has been finalized and directed Sindh Mass Transit Authority and National Radio Transmission Company to launch the operations of Pakistan 1st EV bus service immediately on the route.

The minister gave these instructions while presiding over an important

meeting related to People's Bus Service at his office. The meeting discussed the procurement of new buses for People's Bus Service and it's operations on more routes in Karachi . The meeting also discussed the routes of the People's electric bus service. On this occasion, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh government has approved the funds for procurement of more buses for the People's Bus Service in it's recent cabinet meeting and directed Sindh Mass Transit Authority to gear up the process of procure-

ment of buses.

He said that the People's Bus Service has received immense acceptance in masses because of it's comfort and affordable fare and the citizens are demanding to start it's operations on various new routes. Secretary Transport Abdul Haleem Sheikh, Managing Director Sindh Mass Transit Authority Zubair Chana, Priject Director NRTC Sohaib Shafiq, Operations Manager Abdul Shakoor Arain, Assistant Director Legal SMTA Bashir Ahmed and others attended the meeting.

## DIRECTORATE GENERAL MINES & MINERALS

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

ATTACHED DEPARTMENT BUILDING, JUDICIAL COMPLEX, KHYBER ROAD, PESHAWAR

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR JOINT VENTURE (SOLICITED PROPOSALS)

01. Directorate General Mines and Minerals Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from public / private organization for grant of 30 years' large scale mining lease through joint venture for the blocks mentioned below on profit-sharing basis with the Government under section 10 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines and Minerals Act, 2017.

S.No.	Code	Minerals / Group of Minerals	District	Area
1	Reference Number/00877/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	1999.9955 ac
2	Reference Number/00878/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	2000.0064 ac
3	Reference Number/00879/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	1999.9905 ac
4	Reference Number/00880/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	1999.9951 ac
5	Reference Number/00881/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	2000.0071 ac
6	Reference Number/00882/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	2000.0051 ac
7	Reference Number/00883/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	1999.9966 ac
8	Reference Number/00884/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	2000.0079 ac
9	Reference Number/00885/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	1999.9982 ac
10	Reference Number/00886/2023	Copper	Dir Upper	1999.9865 ac
11	Joint Venture Project (Block - 4A)	Base Metal Group	Chitral	4662.4726 ac
12	Joint Venture Project (Block - 4B)	Base Metal Group	Chitral	4032.9846 ac
13	Joint Venture Project (Block - 4C)	Base Metal Group	Chitral	3822.5357 ac
14	Joint Venture Project (Block - 4D)	Base Metal Group	Chitral	4341.9183 ac
15	Joint Venture Project (Block - 4E)	Base Metal Group	Chitral	4391.9451 ac
16	Joint Venture Project (Block - 4H)	Base Metal Group	Chitral	2763.0108 ac
17	Joint Venture Project (Block - 7K)	Base Metal Group	Chitral	3845.1654 ac
18	Joint Venture Project (Block - 8A)	Base Metal Group	Chitral	3805.1047 ac

02. The organization shall submit a separate application for each block of their choice. The application on the prescribed Form shall be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of Rs. 100,000/- for each block deposited in the proper Head of Account in any branch of the Bank of Khyber. The Application Form, Treasury Challan, sketches of the areas/blocks, Pre-qualification criteria and net profit sharing proposal Form can be downloaded from the Department website [www.kpminerals.gov.pk](http://www.kpminerals.gov.pk) and also available on Mining Cadastral Portal or can be obtained from the Directorate General Mines and Minerals, Peshawar.

03. Interested organization shall also submit Call Deposit of one million rupees (Rs. 1000,000/-) in the favor of Director General Mines and Minerals Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Call Deposit must be deposited in any branch of the Bank of Khyber or the amount of Call Deposit must be deposited in the Account No. 00662008140092 Bank of Khyber Warsak Road Branch Peshawar.

04. The interested organization shall submit duly filled in application form along with Technical proposal (as mentioned in pre-qualification criteria) and Net Profit sharing proposal in two separate sealed envelopes complete in all respect to the office of Director General Mines and Minerals Peshawar on or before the closing date 01/2/2023 at 12:30 pm.

05. Technical proposal will be opened on the same day i.e. at 02:00 pm in the presence of the applicant or their authorized representative.

06. The Technical Proposal shall be evaluated as per pre-qualification criteria that can be downloaded from the Department website or can be obtained from the Directorate General Mines and Minerals Peshawar. All organizations are requested to submit supporting documents as per the said criteria.

07. The profit sharing proposal will be opened/considered of only such applicants who score a minimum of 60 marks in the pre-qualification criteria set by the Department.

08. The area/block are offered on "as is, where basis is".

09. All interested organizations are advised to visit the area or block of their choice before submission of application for joint venture to check the mineral potential and other details of the area. After execution of joint venture, no such claim shall be entertained.

10. No black listed/defaulting organization shall be allowed to participate.

11. Licensing Authority has the power to accept or reject the proposal and reason thereof to be recorded in writing.

12. The minimum profit share of the Government must be 10 percent and the contributions to the CSR must be 03 percent at least. However, the second party may voluntarily contribute more to CSR.

13. The qualified organization who offered the highest rate of profit sharing with the Government will be considered for grant of Mineral Title by the Mineral Titles Committee /Competent Forum thereof.

14. The successful organization for joint venture duly approved by the Licensing Authority will be issued offer letter for completion of formalities and execution of joint venture agreement with the Director General Mines and Minerals, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

15. If the successful organization fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the offer letter his Call Deposit will be forfeited and the second highest bidder / organization will be issued offer letter for joint venture. If the second highest bidder/organization also fails to comply his Call deposit will be forfeited.

16. The successful organization /lessee for joint venture shall also pay rents, royalty and other taxes/dues as notified by the Government from time to time.

17. The Call Deposit of the successful organization/lessee shall be treated as Security of the Mineral Title.

18. The successful organization for joint venture shall abide by the provisions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines and Minerals Act, 2017 and rules thereof as well as will comply with the instruction of Licensing Authority or its authorized officer.

19. The tenure of joint venture will be in accordance with the tenure of mineral title granted under joint venture as prescribed in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines and Minerals Act, 2017.

20. The successful organization whose proposal is approved for grant of mineral title shall also submit application form for Mineral Title along with requisite Fee and other formalities as per KP Mines and Minerals Act, 2017 and rules thereof.

21. All the Forest area have already been declined. However, if any Forest land/area is found overlapped with the joint venture block/area, the same portion shall be declined.

22. If restraining orders are received from any Authority/Court, the joint venture process of the same area/block shall be held in abeyance by displaying a simple notice on the notice board of Directorate General Mines and Minerals or its website.

23. In case of discovery of another mineral or group of minerals which is not included in the already granted mineral title, the mineral title holder shall apply for the newly discovered mineral or group of minerals as per the KP Mines and Minerals Act, 2017. The net profit sharing formula and terms & conditions of the joint venture for the newly discovered minerals or group of minerals shall remain the same as fixed in the joint venture agreement for the first mineral or group of minerals over the same area.

24. If any granted area / granted joint venture area found overlapped with the above mentioned solicited blocks, the same shall be deleted/declined by the Licensing Authority/Authority.

25. Interested parties may visit the Joint Venture Cell of Directorate General Mines and Mineral Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for further information on any working day before closing date.

DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINES AND MINERALS, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

INF(P) 124/23

# Traders' delegation calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): The delegation of All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran Sindh led by its President Javed Qureshi called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori here at Governor House on Monday. In the meeting, commercial activities, problems and difficulties faced by the business community were discussed, said a statement.

The Governor observed that businessmen were playing a key role in the national economy, and even in challenging circumstances the business community continued its business activity. He said that he will take steps to help the business

community in every possible way and will inform the quarters concerned about the difficulties faced by them.

The delegation told the Governor the business community had reservations about the decision regarding timings for closure of shops.

**Governor visits kidney hill park:** Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori along with Administrator Karachi Dr. Saifur Rehman visited Kidney Hill Park here on Monday.

The administrator briefed the governor on the occasion.

He said that the Supreme Court

had issued directives to remove encroachments on Kidney Hill Park. Dr. Saifur Rehman said that a best park had been built after removing the encroachments and different kinds of plants had been planted.

While lauding the renovation and construction of the park, Governor Kamran Tessori said that the Park was a great gift for the citizens.

He said that more work should be carried out in the park to provide good environment to the visitors.

Later, the governor planted a sapling under the Green and Clean Karachi campaign.

## CM directs CS to control artificial inflation on daily basis

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed Chief Secretary (CS) Sindh Mohammed Sohail Rajput to curtail artificial inflation across the province on a day-to-day basis for providing relief to the common man.

He also stressed that necessary directives should be issued to the commissioners and deputy commissioners (DCs) for controlling the high prices. He said that Assistant Commissioners (ACs) should check prices on a daily basis in the markets to extend relief to the people. The Sindh Chief Secretary, on the directives of the Sindh CM, has issued directives to the commissioners in this regard.

**Sindh govt increases 'Subsidized flour points', decides to take action against profiteers:** Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput on Monday directed the divisional commissioners to take stern action against profiteers. He said this while presiding over an important meeting on price control of essential commodities in the province.

Sindh Minister for Food Mukesh Kumar Chawla participated in the meeting through video link, while Secretary Home Saad Ahmed Mangrio, Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon, Secretary Food Raja Khurram Shehzad Umar, Secretary General Administration Muhammad Hanif Chana, including all Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioner attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary Sindh said that the provincial government had sufficient stock of wheat available and it would continue supplying wheat flour at subsidized rates to the people.

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Khushnuma with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Nisar Muhammad citizen number 1730128863405 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Alia (Daughter)2.Khushnuma (Daughter) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Syed Noman Mustafa with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Syed Iftikhar Hussain citizen number 1730167655273 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Amma Iftikhar (Daughter) 2.Shaida Parveen (Spouse) 3.Syed Noman Mustafa (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Raz Muhammad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Abdul Hasee citizen number 1730176319999 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Hajira Bibi (Daughter) 2.Shehnaz Bibi (Daughter)3.Lal Tila (Spouse)4.Sartaj Muhammad (Son)5.Haji Muhammad (Son)6.Muhammad Zakir (Son)7.Raz Muhammad (Son)8.Raj Muhammad (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU
<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Tahir Zaman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Mehtab Harem citizen number 1620208446912 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Urman Ghani (Spouse)2.Abu Zar (Son)3.Tahir Zaman (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWABI-SFU	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jawad Ahmed with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Mushaq citizen number 1350113461981 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Khadija Bibi (Daughter)2.Bibi Safina (Spouse)3.Jawad Ahmed (Son)4.Hamad Mushaq (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Gulzar Ali with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Iftikhar Id Din citizen number 1610124542203 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Zainab (Daughter)2.Zakia (Daughter)3.Zahid Shah (Son) 4.Iftikhar Ali (Son)5.Gulzar Ali (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MARDAN-SFU
<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Syeda Nazreen Ara with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shehzada Khnood Ul Hassan Naqvi citizen number 1430178446185 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Farwa Naqvi (Daughter) 2.Amshad Bibi (Daughter)3.Piao Shad Bibi (Daughter)4.Muzamil Bibi (Daughter)5.Shah Jehan Bibi (Daughter)6.Khan Begum (Spouse)7.Muhammad Ilyas (Son)8.Muhammad Ali (Son) 9.Muhammad Aslam (Son) 10.Muhammad Suleman (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KOHAT-SFU	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Musa Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shehzada Hussain citizen number 1430107822039 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Shehla Gul (Daughter)2.Sidra Bibi (Daughter)3.Khalida Bibi (Spouse)4.Musa Khan (Son) 5.Fahad Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abbas Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Munif Khan citizen number 4220102943145 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Jamilia Bibi (Daughter)2.Bibi Gulnaz (Daughter)3.Rifat Sultana (Spouse)4.Abbas Khan (Son)5.Nawaz Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU
<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Suleman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Waqee Khan citizen number 1410107822039 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Hazrat Bibi (Daughter) 2.Amshad Bibi (Daughter)3.Piao Shad Bibi (Daughter)4.Muzamil Bibi (Daughter)5.Shah Jehan Bibi (Daughter)6.Khan Begum (Spouse)7.Muhammad Ilyas (Son)8.Muhammad Ali (Son) 9.Muhammad Aslam (Son) 10.Muhammad Suleman (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HANGU-SFU	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Farhat Abbas with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Mehtab Hussain citizen number 1410107822039 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Samirna Rubab (Daughter) 2.Saba Rubab (Daughter) 3.Naima Rubab (Daughter) 4.Aikraz Begum (Spouse) 5.Farhat Abbas (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HANGU-SFU	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b> Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Khawaja Zahoor Iqbal with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Mehtab Hussain citizen number 1350374785377 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Tahira (Daughter) 2.Robina Khawaja (Daughter) 3.Zahida Intiaz (Daughter) 4.Khawaja Mazhar Iqbal (Son) 5.Zahoor Iqbal (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. PID(0) 4276/22 INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No.CCDB/Tender/AB/217

Date: 03/01/2023

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders on percentage rate basis (not on individual items) are hereby invited for the works mentioned below from the approved PEC registered Contractors duly renewed for the current financial year 2022-23. Tender documents can be received from the office of the undersigned during office hours on any working day on payment of tender cost (**Non-Refundable**) upto **24/01/2023** with written request on letter pad accompanied with attested copy of CNIC, Income tax Registration Certificate as active taxpayer (filer) Tenders will be issued to the proprietor of the Firm/Company or their legally authorized representatives having registered power of attorney (duly attested). The tenders in sealed cover should be received in the tender box kept in the office of undersigned on **25/01/2023 upto 2:00PM** and the respective tenders will be opened on the same day at **02:30 PM** in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives, having registered power of attorney.

The following instructions may be read and understood carefully in true letter and spirit, as in case of violation of any of these, the tender forms will not be issued. The documents under mentioned must be accompanied with the application, failing which no tender forms will be issued.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- No tender will be sold / issued on the date of opening of tenders.
- No tender will be issued / received through post, telegraph or E-Mail.
- According to PPRA Rule-25, Bid Security as stated below against each work in the shape of CDR/Call deposit shall be furnished from any scheduled Bank in the name of the Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division, Pak PWD, Bannu. No tender will be entertained without bid security as stated against each work or less amount.
- Tenders can be purchased on the prescribed cost (Non-refundable) in Cash mentioned against the below noted works from the office of the undersigned during office hours upto **24/01/2023**.
- All CDRs once received may be credited into the Government Account and will be refunded through Government Cheque.
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, lowest bidders CDR may be retained till acceptance of tender.
- The documents provided by the bidders if found ambiguous will be verified and in case of fake one, the firm will face immediate / appropriate penal action as per rules and law.
- Tender Notice is also available at PPRA Website ([www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk))
- Under Rule 33(1) of public Procurement Rules, 2004, the competent authority reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of bid or proposal.
- The submission of tenders by the contractor implies that he is fully conversant with the site of work, scope of work and terms and conditions as laid down in the tender documents.

**Note:-In case of any public holiday or surprise engagement of the undersigned the schedule of closing & opening will be on 26-01-2023 on same time.**

S.No	Name of Work	N.I.T Amount	Earnest Money/Bid Security amount	Period of Completion	Cost of Tender
1	Construction of Jirga Hall at Miawand Khadi and Rehabilitation/Renovation of Eidgah at Dargakhel Qoom Dargakhel North Wazirstan tribal (NWTD)	31233004	6,30,000	06 Months	2000/-
2	Construction of Janazga Muhammad Khel North Wazirstan Tribal District (NWTD)	25265241	5,10,000	06 Months	2000/-

PI(P) 003/23

(Noor Zada Khan Wazir)

Executive Engineer | Central Civil Division , Pak. PWD, Bann

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

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PI(P) 003/23

(Noor Zada Khan Wazir)

Executive Engineer | Central Civil Division , Pak. PWD, Bann

DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINES AND MINERALS, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

INF(P) 124/23





# JUIF stages protest against price hike and inflation — condemns PTI’s policies

PESHAWAR (APP): Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Peshawar chapter on Monday carried out a protest rally from Jamia Mosque Noshoh Baba to Firdous Chowk, GT road here and condemned PTI government for price hike and inflation

in the province. JUIF former provincial minister for information Asif Iqbal Daudzai said addressing the rally said that the wrong policies of PTI government had made life miserable for the poor people of the province.

He said there was no check on price hike in the province and the prices of different commodities of common use were out of the reach of the common man, adding that hoarders have created a price hike crisis.

He said that the 20 kg bag of flour was being sold at Rs 3300 while the price of roti (bread) has increased to Rs 30.

Asif said that the inability of PTI’s government had made the province bankrupt and even the government employees were not getting salaries on time.

He said that JUIF would continue to stage protests across the province till January 15 against price hike and inflation in the province. He deplored that the PTI, who was responsible for inflation, was also staging protests to deceive people.

Meanwhile, JUIF General Secretary Tehsil Matta, district Swat said that a protest would be carried out in Tehsil Matta after Jumma prayer on January 13.

## Ji holds protest against price-hike, load-shedding

PESHAWAR (APP): Jamat-e-Islami (JI) here on Monday staged a protest against recent price-hike of essential commodities and unannounced power load-shedding besides shortage of flour in the province. The protestors led by General Secretary JI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Abdul Washeh blocked Khyber Road in front of Provincial Assembly. They were holding placards inscribed with slogans against stoppage of flour by the Punjab government. Addressing the protestors, Abdul Washeh alleged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and said that besides spending nine years in power, the leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is involved in money grabbing and inflicted massive losses to provincial exchequer. He termed provincial government as responsible for the increasing price hike, adding that poor people are being humiliated in the name of providing subsidized flour. He said that provision of basic amenities of life to people was the responsibility of the state and Jamat-e-Islami would fight for the rights of masses. Peshawar District Ameer JI, Baharullah Khan Advocate, JI Ameer for NA-31 Sirajuddin Qureshi and other leaders were present on the occasion.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl chanting slogans during a protest against price hike and inflation. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

## Riaz hands over rehabilitated drug addict to parents

PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsood here the other day handed over 47 rehabilitated drug addict children to their parents during a ceremony held at the Rehabilitation Center of Dost Welfare Foundation.

According to the district administration, the Commissioner as the chief guest of the ceremony formally handed over the recovered children to their parents and urged them to take special care of these children in future so that they do not indulge drug addiction.

Handing over of the rehabilitated drug children was part of the second phase of Drug Free Peshawar campaign. Dost Foundation had taken into custody 48 drug addict children and shifted them to its rehabilitation center for a three month treatment pro-

gram. Due to memory loss of a child, the foundation was unable to contact his parents.

Addressing the ceremony, the Commissioner stressed upon the parents that it was their duty to take special care of their children so that they may not indulge in drug addiction in future.

The parents on the occasion offered special thanks to the Chief Minister Mahmood Khan and Commissioner Riaz Khan Mehsood and expressed the pledge that they would do their best to keep their children away from drug addiction.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Shafiqullah Khan, Assistant Commissioner Political Gul Rehman Marwat, lady assistant commissioners Sayyeda Zainab Naqvi, Misbah Waheed and other prominent personalities.

## Power suspension notified

PESHAWAR (APP): PESCO on Monday notified power suspension from various grid stations of the province from January 10 to 16 due to unavoidable maintenance work. Power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Jamrud Grid Station on January 10, 12, 14 and 16 from 9 AM to 3 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Kacha Ghari, Achini Mera, Hayatabad New feeders would face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Phase 7 Hayatabad Grid Station on January 10, 12, 14, 17 and 21 from 9 AM to 3 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Hayatabad 1, 9, 10, 13, Khyber 2 feeders would face inconvenience. Power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar Industrial Grid Station on January 10, 12, 14 and 16 from 9 AM to 3 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV New Deh Bahadar, Old Deh Bahadar, Dora Road, Sheikhhan, Sarband, Shahab Khel, Scheme Chowk, Landi Arbab, Sheikh Muhammadi, Bara, Pishtakhara, Saida Abad, Nodia Payan feeders would face inconvenience. Power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV PAF Base Grid Station on January 10, 12, 14 and 16 from 9 AM to 3 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Badabair, Hassan Khel, Badabair New, Mashogagar, Saphan, Zangal feeders would face inconvenience.

Power supply would remain suspended from 220 KV Mardan Grid Station on January 10 and 15 from 9 AM to 3 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Muhabatabad, Band Road, Muslim Abad, Nissata Road, Sheikh Maltoun, Ahmad Abad, Misri Abad, Rural 1, PRC, Bagh Iram, New Toru, Nawa Kale, Eid Ghah, Gujar Ghari, Charsadda Road, New Manga, Green Area, New Charsadda Road, New Sheikh Maltoun feeders would face inconvenience.

## Journalists’ team calls on KP Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of journalists from DI Khan called on the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali here at the Governor House and congratulated him on assuming his constitutional responsibilities.

A press release issued here said that the delegation was led by General Secretary of Bettani Press Club Nisar Bettani, Vice President of Digital Media Club Dera Asad Abbas and Bureau Chief of Pashto News One Masroor Qureshi and discussed various challenges faced by the journalist community.

Talking to the representative delegation of journalists, the Governor said that journalists are the eyes and ears of the society as they point out real issues of the society while putting themselves in danger.

He said that the government was aware of the problems of journalists and was trying to solve those. He assured the delegation that their problems would be solved on priority basis.

On this occasion, Governor Ghulam Ali congratulated DI Khan’s senior journalist Nisar Bettani over successful conduct of Bettani Press Club’s elections and being elected as General Secretary.

The delegation members included senior journalist of Dera Ismail Khan and General Secretary of Bettani Press Club Nisar Bettani, Vice President of Digital Media Club Asad Abbas and Bureau Chief Pashto News. 1 Masroor Qureshi.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan chairing a Progress Review Meeting on rehabilitation of archeological sites and construction of access roads to tourists destinations.

## 0.1m acres suitable land available for saffron cultivation in KP: Israr

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Agriculture & Livestock KP Dr Mohammad Israr has said that over 0.1 million acres land is highly suitable for the cultivation of saffron, which can earn a huge amount of Rs.870 billion per annum for the province.

He was talking during a meeting held in the Saudi Royal Embassy, said an official handout issued here on Monday. Besides, the DG Agriculture (Extension), Jan Mohammad, DG Research Abdul Bari, DG Agriculture (Extension) Newly Merged Areas, Murad Ali, agriculture experts including Ahmad Said and Mohammad Younas, Aqil Shah also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the

agricultural experts briefed the Commercial Attaché and other office bearers of the Saudi Royal Embassy for promotion of saffron and olive cultivation and Berry Honey and investment opportunities in this regard.

The Secretary Agriculture KP told the participants of the meeting that the saffron was cultivated in the province on experimental basis two years back, which bears positive results and on that basis, the provincial government has also approved a specific plan.

He said that KP offers a good investment opportunity for Saudi Arabian investors to import cheaper saffron from our province.

Regarding the potential of olive oil production, he

said that about 80% area of the province is suitable for olive cultivation and best quality oil could be produced of it. He said that according to a survey KP has 70 million wild olive plants, which could be easily transformed into the best variety.

He said that the cultivation and conversion of the wild olive plants into best quality can earn billions of rupees per annum for the province, saying for the facilitation of farmers oil extracting machines have also been installed for them.

Furthermore, he said that the province produces 12000 ton honey, out of which 6000 ton is berry honey. He said that 2000 ton honey is exported to various Gulf States.

## PTI’s MNA Nasir Khan Musazai’s house attacked with grenade

PESHAWAR (APP): Unknown miscreants hurled a hand-grenade at the house of PTI MNA, Nasir Khan Musazai on Sunday’s night however no loss to life was reported in the incident.

According to Inqilab

police, a hand grenade was thrown at the house of PTI MNA, Nasir Khan Musazai in Surezai area during night hours. The blast broke the window panes of the hujra and caused partial damage to the wall however no

harm to life was reported.

Police said some important evidence has been collected from the crime scene and investigation into the incident has been started. The police have also launched a search operation

in the area and said the case will be investigated from different angles to ensure the arrest of the perpetrators.

Musazai had recently announced to part his ways from PTI and join Jamiat Ulema e Islam.

## Human rights institutions reaffirm commitment to gender-equality in education

PESHAWAR (APP): Human Rights Institutions, government departments, and education stakeholders reaffirm their commitment to end gender inequality in education and take affirmative measures to promote girls’ equal access to elementary and secondary education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The commitment was made in a roundtable consultation held in Peshawar of Joint Working Group of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) on girls education, by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women KPCSW with support of Blue Veins.

A Joint Working Group is established by KPCSW with a core purpose of supporting the provincial government and education department to advocate, protect and sustain the rights of girls to quality education in KP. The Joint

Working Group comprises representatives from the Provincial Assembly, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women, Directorate General of Law and Human Rights KP, Directorate, Secretariat and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Right to Information Commission, Right to Services Commission, and KP Child protection and welfare commission.

National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR), Blue Veins and CSOs. Chairing the first consultation, MPA Ayesha Bano Parliamentary Secretary on Higher Education said “Bringing improvement in the education sector is the topmost priority of the current led KP Government and special focus being given to girls’ primary and secondary education. The focus will remain the same and

KP will serve as an epitome for the other provinces for the budget it spends on education particularly on girls’ education”.

The factor of climate change was also highlighted by Ayesha Bano, as it is one of the key factors, exacerbating already poor educational access, especially for girls.

The statistics on girls’ education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was shared in the consultation. The provided figure to the Joint working group states that 53 percent of girls of the age group 5-16 years are out-of-school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Qamar Naseem, Member Pakistan Education Champion Network PECN shared the data from Recent survey conducted by BISP’s National Socio-Economic Registry census. He said that “the BISP survey had put the number of out-of-school children at

4.7 million out of which 2.9 million are girls. Government need to establish over 15,000 additional schools to accommodate out-of-school children.” However, the given figure has been exacerbated by the recent flood, he added.

Dr. Rukhsana Aziz, Senior Planning Officer Elementary and Secondary Education Department said “in the preparation of annual development program, proposals for establishment of new schools, upgradation of Middle Schools to High level need Basis, emergency Response & preparedness, Repairs and maintenance of schools, are the forth priorities of the education department.”

“Furthermore, Joint Working Group of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) should call upon the Special Secretary Education KP in future meetings for improved

coordination and networking among the education stakeholders and Secretariat of E&SE for strengthening gender-responsive education policies and measures” she added.

Anna Durrani, Director Program KP Commission on the Status of Women KPCSW said “National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) hold contributing role to women’s/girls’ empowerment through their unique mandate and powers. Human Rights institutions at the National and Provincial level can play meaningful role in a variety of situations, from monitoring the state of girls’ education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to streamlining the problems as human rights issue and can help Government in reshaping inclusive, equitable and responsive education policies, laws, and initiatives.”

## PHRL employees seek service’ regularization

PESHAWAR (APP): The employees of Public Health Reference Lab (PHRL), a project of Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on Monday demanded of the provincial government regularization of their services otherwise they would stage protest.

According to a press release issued here, the 65 PHRL employees were assured that they would be converted from project to regular status on the basis of their outstanding performance, however, despite meeting the requirements and fulfilling their duties, including conducting around two million PCR tests, genome sequencing, microbiological and serology testing of infectious diseases, the regularization has not been granted.

As a result, the employees have been left in a precarious position, without the job security. Most of the employees have been

working in PHRL for several years, unable to plan for their future or make long-term commitments due to the uncertain nature of their employment.

The employees have reportedly raised their concerns with the provincial government, but their pleas have fallen on deaf ears and have so far been unable to secure the regularization they were promised.

The failure to follow through on the promise of regularization has not only had a negative impact on the affected employees, but has also damaged the reputation of the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

It is imperative that the government address this issue and make good on its promise to its hard working employees. They demanded the provincial government to regularize their job and save their precious times otherwise they would stage protest.

## Medical Canter Hassan Garhi looks-like ghost bungalow: Residents claimed



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Government Medical Center Hasan Garhi Peshawar showing ghost bungalow scene when the staff disappears after twelve o’clock. The transfer of paramedical staff to other places and the lack of basic facilities left the common people reeling. These views were expressed by Ejaz Ahmed President Progressive Social Welfare Organization Hasan Garhi in a press statement He said that the said center is the only fed-

eral health center in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which has been established to provide health facilities to the wives and children of federal employees. But on the contrary, the post of civil surgeon in the medical center has been lying vacant for the last several years while the hospital with the strength of seven doctors has been left at the mercy of a single doctor.

Due to the arbitrariness of the authority, the competent staff of the medical center has been transferred to other places due to which

the said center has lost lab technician, x-ray technician, store keeper, nursing attendant and deputy messenger.

Two doctors of Peshawar Medical Center have been posted on duty in Islamabad and their salaries are received from Peshawar. Calling it a toy with the public’s honor, he strongly condemned it and said that earlier the medical center had paediatrics, chest, gynaecology, medical and ENT specialist doctors who were later removed from here and the

hospital turned into a ghost bungalow.

State-of-the-art EEG and X-ray machines worth crores of rupees have become unusable due to minor malfunctions. The central lab is locked due to non-availability of free drugs and basic chemicals in the lab. And by transferring the concerned technician to Islamabad, the patients here have been deprived of basic facilities. The President of Progressive Social Welfare Society has demanded from the Federal Minister of

Health and related authorities to take immediate notice of the situation and re-deploy the lab technician and other paramedical staff in the said center.

In case of non-hearing, they have also threatened to stage a dharna in front of the provincial assembly along with the residents of the area and block the main GT road. He said that in case of any untoward incident, all the responsibility will be on Directorate of Border Health Services Karachi and Federal Ministry of Health.





## In brief

### Three held in Bajaur F.P. Report

KHAR: The district administration Bajaur here on Monday arrested three persons allegedly involved in selling subsidized flour in their private shop in Inayat Kalay Bazar. Acting on a tip off, Assistant Commissioner Khar, Mohibullah along with police teams raided the identified shop and sealed it after recovering subsidized flour which was being packed in private packaging. President Inayat Kalay Bazar, Imran Mahir also present on the occasion while the area people appreciated the action taken by the district administration and demanded strict legal action against the arrested persons. Speaking on the occasion, Mohibullah said that no one would be allowed to sell subsidized flour in black and warned traders to avoid the illegal practice otherwise they would be dealt with iron hands.

### JI holds protest against inflation F.P. Report

SAKHAKOT: Jammate-Islami (JI) arranged protest against high inflation and unemployment at Bathkela while set-up camp to mobilize public against incompetency as well as failure of government, on Monday. In this regard JI Malakand meeting held while chaired by Shah Raz Khan, Syed Bakhtyar Mani, Haji Rizwan Ullah, Fazal Wahab, Qazi Rashid Ahmad, Zakir Hussain, Nasir-ul-Mulk Khan, Rahm Gul, Muhammad Tahir and Sabir Rehman along with others were present. They termed both federal and provincial governments as incompetent as well as playing with livelihood of masses for their political ends. JI claimed that people are deprived from flour despite living in an agriculture country and added that mafias had created artificial shortage for their own economic means. JI threatened that the party will mobilize masses to pressurize government for availability of edible items on reasonable rates.

### Murderer convicted F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: Additional District and Session (AD&SJ) Takhtbhai Arbab Muhammad Kashif Khan has convicted murderer for lifetime imprisonment along with Rs5 lac fine, on Monday. According to prosecution, the murderer Ishaq has shot killed his neighbor Umar over irrigation dispute and escaped from the crime scene. Police has registered First Information Report on complaint of deceased's son against Ishaq while latterly the culprit. After conclusion of trial, AD&SJ Arbab Muhammad Kashif Khan convicted Ishaq for lifetime imprisonment along with imposition of Rs5 lakh fine.

### Weapon seized F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: A bid of smuggling of arms was foiled when guns and bullets were recovered from Afghanistan returned empty truck here at import terminal Torkham border. The custom official said that last night custom appraisal officials in their routine duty stopped an Afghanistan returned truck bearing registration no. KBL-2572 for examination. During checking the number of foreign origin new guns and its accessories were recovered concealed in various cavities of the vehicle. The weapons included 12 bore rifles (Turkish made) 31, 12 bore 524 Ammo, 12 bore rifles butts 11.



JAMRUD: Tribal women holding a protest as sitting on the bypass road against price hike of flour and other items. - F.P. photo

## High inflation compels tribeswomen to protest

Amjad Ali Afridi

JAMRUD: For the very first time in the history of Pakhtun, tribeswomen come to streets in protest against high inflation and blocked Pak-Afghan transit route for traffic, on Monday.

According to details, the rate of flour has hit Rs 160 per kilogram in Khyber in open market that has annoyed the residents and first time ever the tribal womenfolk have come to the streets against the price hiking of the commodity here in Shiekhwal village and Jamrud tehsil.

Separately scores of local women attached to

different labors appeared at the Pak-Afghan highway at Shiekhwal section and put hurdles on the road suspending it for all kinds of traffic. They were of the view that they brought woods from the mountain on their heads for their livelihood, however an unparalleled rise in the price of flour and other essential commodities had gone beyond their approach.

The protesters demanded the government to control inflation and provide relief to the people. In the same way, female working women wore burqa (garment covers whole body), took protest sit-in on the

bypass road, subdivision Jamrud against the price hiking. The protesters were on the view that they had zero source of income and how could they feed their children, they lamented.

Mutual conflicts of rulers, corruption and hoardings brought the country's economy at the verge of destruction, they remarked. They demanded of the federal and provincial governments to assure provision of needed edibles to poor segments of the society. The highway was resumed at both sections, remaining closed for hours for motorists after assurance of administration and police officials.

## Snow-trapped tourists rescued in Neelum Valley

NEELUM (INP): At least twelve tourist students have been rescued by the authorities in the Neelum Valley, Azad Kashmir who were trapped in heavy snowfall. All students who belonged to the Punjab University were visiting Kel the area of Neelum Valley when they were stranded due to heavy snowfall.

However, the rescue officials managed to reach the snow-blanketed spot and evacuated the students successfully. All students have been moved to the guest house safely. Some roads were reopened after they were cleared of snow but others remained closed, either because of icy condi-

tions or ongoing clearance work.

Earlier, a group of around 230 tourists found themselves stranded in heavy snow at the Pir Chinasi tourist resort in Muzaffarabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The tourists who had been visiting the popular high-altitude resort were unable to leave due to the severe weather conditions. Authorities sprang into action, launching a rescue mission to safely evacuate the tourists from the resort.

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the present weather spell is likely to continue for a couple of days over

the upper parts of the country.

The Met Office has forecast more snowfall over KP, Punjab, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during the next couple of days while rain-thunderstorm is expected at scattered places in Islamabad, upper Punjab (Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sargodha, Faisalabad, divisions) upper KP (Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, divisions), Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir during next two days.

More snowfall is also expected over the hills of Malakand, Hazara divisions, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir during the period.

## Cops directed to maintain traffic flow in snowy areas

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand Sajid Khan has directed the region police to take all possible measures for maintaining smooth flow of traffic in the upper and snowy areas of Malakand Division in current weather situation, said a press release issued here on Monday.

He also directed that police to remain alert on the main roads in snowfall areas so that passengers, tourists and other visitors coming there from outside, do not face any inconvenience due to weather conditions or snowfall. He said that tourists coming for the purpose of snowfall enjoyment, to get guidance from

the police deputed there, regarding going to the tourist places so that they do not face any unpleasant problem or inconvenience. The police force personnel will be present for the protection, assistance and needed help of the tourists and visitors there, the RPO added.

In a message issued to tourists, in view of the recent snowfall and weather conditions in Chitral, Dir Upper, Swat and other parts of the area, to maintain the flow of traffic on main approach roads passing through snowy areas and for tourists going to snowfall venues. The RPO said that the tourists should take all necessary safety measures during travel to the snowy areas so that they

were safe from any inconvenience.

He further said that the police will be present for the safety and convenience of the tourists and other visitors on the roads of the snowy areas in Swat and the areas near the Lawari Tunnel at Chitral, while in case of any needed assistance, they can call the emergency numbers of the local police. It is to mention that RPO Malakand had visited Malam Jabba on Sunday to review the tourist facilities provided by the police to the tourists there.

On this occasion he also inspected the Police Tourists Facilitation Center and directed the deputed personnel to leave no stone unturned in providing full assistance to the tourists.

## Seven die, several injured in road mishaps

QUETTA (INP): At least seven people died and several others received injuries in a collision between a passenger coach and a truck on National Highway near Killa Saifullah district.

According to Levies sources, the passenger coach carrying commuters was on its way when it hit a truck that was coming from the opposite direction due to over speeding as a result, seven people died and several others suffered wounds.

The bodies and the

injured were rushed to a nearby hospital. The treatment of the injured started in the hospital. Further investigation was underway.

**Flour price reaches Rs 160kg in Quetta:** The price of flour continues to rise in Quetta, as the latest rate of the commodity has reached Rs160/per kg in Quetta, Balochistan.

The price of the 10-kg flour bag has reached Rs1,600 in the area, while a massive flour shortage has also hit the Quetta utility stores despite the government's subsidized

flour scheme.

Balochistan food department said quota of wheat will be given to the flour mills till January 10 after which the price of the flour will come down in the market. The flour mills association said that 25 thousand bags are required for 18 flour mills daily in Quetta. They urged the government to arrange 9 to 10 lac four bags on daily basis. The mills associations further said flour will disappear from the market in few days, if wheat was not provided to them.

### Three die in Swat incidents F.P. Report

MINGORA: A man shot dead his wife on Monday in Baddi area of Bahrain in Swat district over some domestic dispute, said Bahrain police.

According to details, the body was shifted to Madyan Hospital for medico legal procedure. A police team collected evidence from the crime scene and started an investigation. Meanwhile, in Manyar area of Swat, a man and his wife died due to gas accumulation in their room. The bodies were shifted to Kabal Tehsil Hospital for post-mortem.

### 12 arrested in Pabbi F.P. Report

PABBI: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) and Chairperson Mining Committee Qurat-ul-Ain Wazir has arrested 12 culprits including manager while confiscated two loaders and one motorcycles allegedly involved in illegal mining, on Monday.

According to details, ADC general Miss Wazir has arrested 12 alleged culprits including Manager while confiscated two loaders and one motorcycles during her raid along with mining committee members against illegal mining at Mian Issa locality of Nowshera district. ADC stated that case should be registered against alleged culprits under sections 56 and 86 of KP Minerals Act 2017.

### Free medical camp held F.P. Report

GHALANAI: As many as 763 patients were facilitated in free medical camp arranged at Baizai tehsil arranged by security forces to provide medical facilities to tribesmen at their doorsteps, on Monday.

According to details, efforts are being made by the Security Forces to provide basic health facilities to the people in Mohmand district. In this regard, Frontier Corps North organized a free medical camp in Tehsil Baizai. In the free medical camp, doctors and nursing staff conducted free check-ups of 763 patients including men, women and children of the local population suffering from various diseases and provided them with free medicines.

On this occasion, the doctors also provided awareness to the public to prevent seasonal diseases. Residents of the area expressed their gratitude to Frontier Corps North and said that by organizing free medical camp in remote areas of Mohmand, basic health facilities are being easily available to the people and they don't have to go to other areas for treatment.

### Flour mills gutted

FAISALABAD (INP): Wheat stock was reduced to ashes when fire broke out in a flour mill, in the limits of Samundri police station.

Police said on Monday the fire broke out at a godown of a local flour mills situated at Samundri-Okara Bypass Road which engulfed the entire surroundings and burnt wheat stock worth millions of rupees.

## Street crimes on rise in Abbottabad

F.P. Report

ABBOTTABAD: Street Crimes have increased many folds in Abbottabad district where in recent examples, a deputy manager of Hattar based Cement Factory was deprived of costly mobile-phone with the wallet in the early hours of morning of Monday morning when he was waiting for his official van at the thickly populated area of Kunj Jadeed.

According to the robbery victim, two dacoits at gunpoint snatched his mobile phone and other valuables at 6:20am and escaped into nearby streets. FIR was lodged by the complainant in Cantt police station.

Another incident was reported by one FC employee who was coming back to his home when he was intercepted on the main road near main bus stand and was forced to sit in the Alto car. He luckily survived after some resistance and the gangsters ran away after seeing a vehicle coming towards them. Citizens have demanded the police high-ups an increase in patrolling in the city as it has been told that incidents of snatching of cellphones and cash has increased but most of the cases are not reported by the victims.

**Crackdown launched against wheat flour hoarders, profiteers:** District administration while taking action against the increase in prices of wheat flour, hoarding and artificial inflation, launched a crackdown and arrested a shopkeeper here on Monday.

According to the details, following the directives of Deputy Commissioner

Abbottabad Tariq Salam Marwat, Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad arrested one shopkeeper during a raid in the Nawanshahr area for hoarding subsidized wheat flour and selling it at high prices, while Additional Assistant Commissioner Galyat Zark Yar Khan also sealed one shop and issued instructions to other shopkeepers on increase in flour prices in Harno Bazar.

The district administration of Abbottabad continued to monitor the sale of subsidized wheat flour. They have also requested citizens to contact the District Control Room phone number 09929310553 or the District food Office Abbottabad phone number 09929310326 regarding irregularities in the sale of government flour so that action can be taken against the violators accordingly.

**Press club new cabinet congratulated:** The successful panel of Haripur Press Club and the Union of Journalists in the annual elections will play a key role in solving regional problems in the real sense. This was claimed by Amir Hussain Khan, the managing director of Dawn Bread, a well-known businessman and well-loved personality while congratulating the successful panel and calling it a good omen for the region. He said that media in any society plays an important role in eliminating evil and crimes from the society and providing justice by being the voice of the oppressed. The role of the media is commendable. Will use pen and camera and promote positive and constructive journalism.

## Huge quantity of timber recovered in operation

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: In a joint operation of district administration, forest department and the police recovered hundreds of feet of high-value timber at Timergara sub division in Dir Lower district, on Monday.

According to details, as many as 338 feet of high value timber by taking various operations and illegal machine stocks into their possession and after receiving a fine of millions of rupees from the accused, the valuable timber was confiscated by the government.

They said that an operation has been launched against the timber mafia in the entire district and no one will be allowed to cut forests and smuggle them. It is a national duty to fully cooperate with the Forest Department in protecting urban forests and preventing smuggling.

**JI hold protest against high inflation:** Against rising inflation and unemployment, a protest demonstration was held under the auspices of Jamaat-e-Islami Tehsil Khal. Citizens, traders and Jamaat-e-Islami workers and officials participated in large numbers

while the protesters demanded the resignation of the current central and provincial governments.

Addressing the protest demonstration, former member of the National Assembly Maulana Asadullah, Jammate-Islami tehsil khal Ameer Badshah Hussain, Akhonzada Hanifullah, Akhonzada Kaleemullah and others said that the present central and provincial governments have failed on all fronts and the rulers have given peoples nothing but inflation and unemployment and the rulers have taken away the daily bread from the people to fill their pockets.

There is ban on the supply of flours which is a shame for our rulers. He said that there is a difference between the prices of flour in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, yet our ruler is silent and there is no one to listen to the cries of the poor people. He said that the change government and PDM are a group of thieves and these parties have made the people of the area suffer from inflation to fill their pockets. They demanded the resignation of the rulers for the better interest of the people and the country.

Meanwhile, youth MPA and Jamaat islami Tehsil Balambat worker Malik Nikdar Roghani has said that instead of giving relief to the people, the federal and provincial governments started protesting on the streets. He said that PTI and PDM can't control the country so they should resign from the governments if they do not solve the problems and problems of the people. Addressing a press conference at the District Press Club, he said that there is an economic emergency in the country at this time.

There is no such thing as the federal and provincial governments, leaving the people helpless. The fun is returning, the poor people are struggling to get a daily bread, they are not getting flour from anywhere. The people who are protesting are being fooled. Both the governments are blaming each other for their failure while they are trying to eliminate the poor people completely. The voice is being raised, he said that the provincial and federal governments have left the quarrels and gone should be spared, otherwise they should resign from the government.



HYDERABAD: Women purchasing flour bags on subsidized rates from a delivery truck at Giddu Chowk.

## Govt urged to develop consensus on economy

F.P. Report

MARDAN: The President of Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and the Provincial General Secretary of the Traders Zahir Shah khan has said that the central and provincial governments should overcome political differences and be practical for the economy, survival and integrity of the country. Steps should be taken and create new business opportunities. If the country's economy is stable, the country will develop.

These views were expressed by Zahir Shah, President of (MCCI) and Central Organization of Traders, Provincial General

Secretary, while talking to journalists on Monday. He said that Pakistan is our country and we will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for its stability. The country's economy is going towards destruction. Inflation is increasing day by day.

The poor people and especially the business class are suffering from mental retardation. The rate of inflation in the country has increased by 1.09% in the recent week. Due to the current inflation in the country, the business community, the marble industry, the gold community and agriculture are going towards destruction.

On the other hand, the series of unannounced load shedding of electricity is also going on, which is affecting

the working class associated with the factories badly. There is a lack of investment in Pakistan. If the government does not control inflation, thousands of workers associated with factories will become unemployed.

But the central and provincial governments have kept a complete silence. Zahir Shah said that if the government does not abandon anti-business policies and bring down inflation, people will be forced to commit suicide. Zahir Shah has demanded from the government that if inflation, unemployment, undeclared load shedding and illegal taxes are not reduced, we will be forced to go out on the streets and protest against the government.





Tuesday, January 10, 2023



BANDA ACEH: Rohingya people children sit on a beach after they landed in Aceh Besar, Indonesia.

## Police in Armenia detain 65 protesters

MOSCOW (Reuters): Police in Armenia detained 65 protesters near a Russian military base demanding Moscow intervene to dismantle what they say is a crippling blockade by Azerbaijan of an ethnic Armenian enclave, Russia's Interfax news agency reported.

It said around 200 protesters, gathered outside the base in the northern town of Gyumri, were demanding that Russian peacekeepers unblock the sole road - the Lachin Corridor - which links Armenia and the predominantly ethnic Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Since Dec. 12, people identifying themselves as environmental activists from Azerbaijan have partially blocked the road, letting only limited traffic through. Azerbaijan says their action does not amount to a full blockade, but ethnic Armenian officials in Nagorno-Karabakh officials say food, medicine and fuel are running desperately short as a result.

The corridor, which allows supplies from Armenia to reach the 120,000 ethnic Armenians who control the mountainous region, has been policed by Russian peacekeepers since 2020. Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but its inhabitants are predominantly ethnic Armenian and it broke away from Baku's control in a war in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as the Soviet Union was disintegrating.

In 2020, Azerbaijan retook territory in and around the enclave after a second war that ended in a Russian-brokered ceasefire, and peacekeepers deployed along the Lachin corridor, which became the only route into and out of Nagorno-Karabakh.

## 'Turkey asking too much over NATO application'

STOCKHOLM (Reuters): Sweden is confident that Turkey will approve its application to join the NATO military alliance, but will not meet all the conditions Ankara has set for its support, Sweden's prime minister said. "Turkey both confirms that we have done what we said we would do, but they also say that they want things that we cannot or do not want to give them," Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson told a defence think-tank conference in Sweden.

Finland and Sweden signed a three-way agreement with Turkey in 2022 aimed at overcoming Ankara's objections to their membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. They applied in May to join NATO in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but Turkey objected and accused the countries of harbouring militants, including from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party.

At a news conference, Kristersson said the demands that Sweden could not or did not want to fulfil were outside the scope of the three-way memorandum. "From time to time, Turkey mentions individuals that they want to see extradited from Sweden. To that I have said that those issues are handled within Swedish law," he said.

## Covid: More than 88m people in Henan infected

BEIJING (BBC): Nearly 90% of people in Henan, China's third most populous province, have now been infected with Covid, local health officials say. Provincial official Kan Quancheng revealed the figure - amounting to about 88.5 million people - at a press conference. China is battling an unprecedented surge in cases after abandoning zero-Covid policies in December.

The move followed rare protests against lockdowns, quarantines and mass tests. Mr Kan did not specify a timeline for when all the infections happened - but as China's previous zero-Covid policy kept cases to a minimum, it's likely the vast majority of Henan's infections occurred in the past few weeks. He said visits to fever clinics in Henan province peaked on 19 December "after which it showed a continuous downward trend".

The Henan provincial figures are in stark contrast to Covid figures from the central government. According to official data, just 120,000 people in the country of 1.4 billion have been

infected and 30 died since the shift in Covid policy. Meanwhile, authorities reported three Covid deaths in mainland China, one more than the day before.

However, with the definition of Covid deaths narrowed and mass testing no longer compulsory, government data is no longer reflective of the true scale of the outbreak. Other local and provincial officials have also been providing very different data to that from the central government. On Christmas Eve, a senior health official in the port city of Qingdao reported that half a million people were being infected each day. Those case figures were swiftly removed from news reports. Meanwhile Chinese health officials said they would not include Pfizer's antiviral Covid medicine Paxlovid in its basic medical insurance schemes as a result of the high price quoted by the US firm.

The drug, temporarily covered by China's broad healthcare insurance scheme until 31 March, has seen a sharp increase in demand since China's

Covid cases surged last month. Pfizer would continue to collaborate with the Chinese government and all relevant stakeholders to "secure and adequate supply" of the medicine in China, the company said in a statement.

Beijing also lifted mandatory quarantine for all international arrivals and opened its border with Hong Kong. In the first wave of pre-holiday travel, official data showed that 34.7 million people travelled domestically. This represented an increase of more than a third compared to last year, according to state media.

Infections are expected to soar as the country celebrates Lunar New Year later this month, with millions expected to travel from big cities to visit older relatives in the countryside. Overall, more than two billion individual journeys are expected to take place, officials have said. Listen to more on what we know about China's Covid numbers: More or Less- Behind the Stats - Can China's data on Covid deaths be trusted- on BBC Sounds.

## Philippine defense chief quits in security shakeup

MANILA (AP): The acting Philippine defense chief has resigned, officials said Monday, in the latest in a series of top-level changes in the country's security establishment that has sparked speculation of renewed military unrest. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. accepted "with deep regret" the resignation of defense officer-in-charge Jose Faustino Jr. and offered the top defense post to Carlito Galvez Jr., another retired general who has been involved in peace talks with insurgent groups, presidential spokesperson Cheloy Garafil said.

Galvez has accepted the offer, Garafil said without providing other details, including why Faustino, a former military chief of staff, decided to resign. Marcos cut short the term of military chief of staff Lt. Gen. Bartolome Bacarro, whom he had appointed five months ago, and replaced him with a retiring general without explaining the surprise move.

Faustino is a supporter of Bacarro and the two were classmates at the Philippine Military Academy. Bacarro received the highest military award for combat bravery as a young army officer and his three-year term was sup-

posed to continue until August 2025. The appointment of military chiefs is a sensitive issue. The military has a history of restiveness, failed coup attempts and corruption scandals, and has faced accusations of human rights violations. Efforts have been made for years to instill professionalism in the military and insulate it from the country's traditionally chaotic and corruption-tainted politics.

Lt. Gen. Andres Centino, a military chief of staff whom Bacarro replaced in August last year, was reinstated by Marcos to the top post of the 144,000-strong armed forces. Centino, who was due to retire next month, was chosen over a dozen senior generals and will have a fresh three-year term. A new law that took effect last year fixed the term of the military chief of staff to three years to allow the top general more time to initiate reforms and press a years-long campaign to modernize the underfunded military, which faces Muslim and communist insurgencies and increasingly aggressive actions by China in the disputed South China Sea, where the Philippines claims contested islands, islets and reefs along with other nations.

Bacarro's sudden removal sparked speculation of renewed military restiveness after the national police went on alert over the weekend. But national police spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo denied the move was linked to any military restiveness and said personnel were placed on "heightened alert" mainly to secure an annual religious gathering in Manila. In a turnover ceremony at the main military camp in the capital, Bacarro handed the military's leadership to Centino. Neither Marcos nor Faustino attended the ceremony.

Bacarro's removal followed a decision by the national police chief, Gen. Rodolfo Azurin Jr., to tender his resignation after Marcos's interior secretary appealed to nearly 1,000 police generals and colonels to quit to allow a committee to investigate top officials involved in illegal drugs. Azurin asked top police officials to support Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos's drastic move. But he said some generals opposed the call for them to resign within the month because they were not facing any criminal lawsuits and had not been linked to the drug trade.

## Gunmen kidnap 32 people from southern Nigeria train station

YENAGOA, NIGERIA (Reuters): Gunmen armed with AK-47 rifles have abducted more than 30 people from a train station in Nigeria's southern Edo state, the governor's office said. The attack is the latest example of the growing insecurity that has spread to nearly every corner of Africa's most populous country, posing a challenge to the government in advance of a February presidential election.

Police said in a statement that armed herdsmen had attacked Tom Ikimi station at 4 p.m. (1500 GMT) as passengers awaited a

train to Warri, an oil hub in nearby Delta state. The station is some 111 km north-east of state capital Benin City and close to the border with Anambra state. Some people at the station were shot in the attack, police said.

Edo state information commissioner Chris Osa Nehikhare said the kidnappers had taken 32 people, though one had already escaped. "At the moment, security personnel made up of the military and the police as well as men of the vigilante network and hunters are intensifying search and rescue opera-

tions in a reasonable radius to rescue the kidnap victims," he said. "We are confident that the other victims will be rescued in the coming hours."

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) had closed the station until further notice and the federal transportation ministry called the kidnappings "utterly barbaric". The NRC last month reopened a rail service linking the capital Abuja with northern Kaduna state, months after gunmen blew up the tracks, kidnapped dozens of passengers and killed six people.

## 150 Rohingya refugees reach ashore in Indonesia

BANDA ACEH (AP): More than 100 weak and hungry Rohingya Muslim refugees were among the latest group to reach ashore in Indonesia after a long and dangerous journey aboard a wooden boat. The group of 184 people, including a pregnant woman and children, landed at the Kuala Gigieng beach in Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh, which has already received more than 500 Rohingya last year. The refugees say they're seeking a better life than in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh, where they fled military persecution across the border in Myanmar.

"In Bangladesh, there are no opportunities for Rohingya refugees. So we come here to Indonesia," said Faisal, one of the refugees who uses only one name. Fahmi Irwan Ramli, Banda Aceh city police chief, said the refugees appeared generally in good condition, but there was a pregnant woman and four were sick and being treated by doctors. The UN refugee agency said it will determine their status in coordination with Indonesia's government.

Fishermen reported seeing three boats suspected to be carrying refugees, but only one landed. The United Nations reported that 26 refugees died last month of dehydration and exhaustion after weeks at sea. More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled from Buddhist-majority Myanmar to refugee camps in Bangladesh since August 2017. Myanmar security forces have been accused of mass rapes, killings and burning thousands of Rohingya homes. Most of the refugees leaving the camps by sea attempt to reach Muslim-dominated Malaysia, but end up in Indonesia along the way.

## Marches in Europe back Iran protests

LYON (AP): Hundreds of people marched in France to honor an Iranian Kurdish man who took his own life in a desperate act of anguish over the nationwide protests in Iran. French police estimated the size of the crowd that gathered for Mohammad Moradi at about 1,000 people. They marched in the city of Lyon, where the 38-year-old Moradi took his own life in December, drowning in the Rhone river.

In videos in Farsi and French recorded before his death, Moradi criticized Iran's leadership and called for solidarity from Western governments against it. The recordings featured him saying, "When you see this video, I will be dead." The protesters marched with placards that read "stop executions in Iran" and other slogans. Some traveled from other parts of France.

Hundreds of protesters also gathered in Rome and London in support of the Iranian protest movement. Moradi arrived in France in 2019 with his wife and was pursuing a Ph.D. in history. His death resonated among the Iranian diaspora. "Mohammad took his life with incredible courage," said Lili Mohajeri, one of the Lyon march organizers, who addressed the crowd. "His hope was that the media and Western governments continue to support the Iranian people." The protests in Iran began in mid-September, over the death of Mahsa Amini. The 22-year-old woman died after being arrested by Iran's morality police for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code.

Women have played a leading role in the protests, with many publicly removing the compulsory Islamic headscarf, known as the hijab. Marchers in Lyon shouted Moradi's name. They also observed a minute of silence for him and for two men that Iran said it executed for allegedly killing a paramilitary volunteer during a demonstration. Iran's judiciary identified those executed as Mohammad Mehdi Karami and Mohammad Hosseini, making it four men known to have been executed since the demonstrations began in September.

## Iranians held in suspected poison plot after US tip

BERLIN (AP): Two Iranian men have been detained in Germany following a tip from US security officials that at least one of them could be planning an attack with deadly chemicals, officials said. Police and prosecutors said the brothers, aged 32 and 25, were detained overnight in the town of Castrop-Rauxel, northwest of Dortmund.

The authorities said in a joint statement the men are suspected to have planned a serious attack motivated by Islamic extremism, for which they had allegedly sought to obtain the potent toxins cyanide and ricin. Specialists wearing anti-contamination suits were seen carrying evidence out of the older man's home. Duesseldorf prosecutors later said an initial search of the premises turned up no toxic substances.

It wasn't immediately clear how far advanced the plans for an attack were and whether the suspects had picked a specific target, but prosecutors said they would ask a court to keep the men jailed pending further investigation. If convicted of jointly arranging a deadly attack, the men — who were identified by prosecutors only as M.J. and J.J. due to German privacy rules — could face between three and 15 years imprisonment. German news agency dpa quoted the top security official for North

Rhine-Westphalia state, Herbert Reul, as saying authorities had received "a serious tip that led police to intervene the same night." Duesseldorf prosecutors said the information came from authorities in the United States, but declined to elaborate.

Germany's top security official thanked police and specialists from the country's disease control agency who had taken part in the raid. "Our security services take any information about Islamist terror threats very seriously, and act," Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said in a statement, adding that 21 Islamist attacks had been prevented in Germany since the start of the century.

Faeser noted the importance of international cooperation in fighting extremist threats and said further investigations by Duesseldorf prosecutors would show whether the suspicions that triggered the police operation were warranted. Five years ago, German police arrested a Tunisian man and his wife on suspicion of planning to carry out a ricin attack in the name of the Islamic State group. They were later found guilty and sentenced to 10 and eight years' imprisonment, respectively. Even small amounts of ricin, which is produced from the seeds of castor oil plants, can kill an adult if eaten, injected or inhaled.

## Aid convoy enters Syrian rebel area

IDLIB (AP): A humanitarian convoy delivered urgently needed supplies to Syria's last rebel stronghold, a day before the UN Security Council is set to vote on a resolution that would determine whether aid deliveries to the war-stricken territory can continue. Syria's conflict has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million since it began in March 2011.

The convoy of 18 trucks entered the area of Idlib through frontlines held by Syrian government forces. Russia, which is allied with Syrian President Bashar Assad, has moved to replace humanitarian aid crossing the Turkish border into Syria with convoys like shipment, which pass through government-controlled areas. In the early years of the war, Turkey strongly supported Syria's rebels.

In July, the UN Security

Council approved a resolution extending humanitarian aid deliveries to Idlib, which is home to 4.1 million people. Many of the people sheltering in the area have been internally displaced by the nearly 12-year conflict. Russia is expected to abstain in Monday's vote. The draft resolution would continue aid deliveries through the Bab al-Hawa crossing to rebel-held northwest Syria for six months, until July 10.

In Idlib, dozens of paramedics protested outside a main medical center against any attempt by Russia at the UN to prevent the flow of aid from Turkey. At least 14 aid trucks crossed from Turkey through the Bab al-Hawa frontier point — Idlib's only land connection with the outside world.

Last month, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned in a report that the already dire

humanitarian situation in Syria is worsening, and said if aid deliveries from Turkey to Idlib aren't renewed millions of Syrians may not survive the winter. In July 2020, China and Russia vetoed a UN resolution that would have maintained two border crossing points from Turkey for humanitarian aid into the northern Syrian rebel stronghold. Days later, the council authorized the delivery of aid through just one of those crossings, Bab al-Hawa, and this has been the case since.

Russia has repeatedly said the cross-border aid deliveries that began in 2014 were meant to be temporary. Guterres said deliveries have increased across conflict lines within the country, like delivery, which Russia has pressed for. But he said they cannot substitute for "the size or scope of the massive cross-border United Nations operation."

## Thailand U-turns on COVID vaccination rule

BANGKOK (Reuters): Thailand has rescinded an entry policy announced at the weekend requiring visitors to show proof of a COVID-19 vaccination, its health minister said on Monday, citing sufficient immunisation levels in China and globally.

Anutin Charnvirakul said checking evidence of vaccinations was inconvenient and a panel of health experts had agreed to withdraw the new rule, which was announced by aviation authorities ahead of an expected deluge of visitors from China, where COVID-19 cases have surged. Anutin said those not vaccinated would also be granted entry without restriction.

"Showing proof of vaccination would be cumbersome and inconvenient, and so the group's decision is that it is unnecessary," Anutin told reporters. One

of Asia's most popular travel destinations, Thailand is enjoying an influx of visitors during its first peak season since the removal last year of tight entry restrictions that had caused its tourism sector to collapse.

In November, it recorded 1.75 million visitors, quadruple the number for the whole of last year when flights and foreign arrivals were limited. China has been crucial for Thailand, accounting for about a quarter of its annual visitors before the pandemic. Anutin said the government was now expecting 7-10 million Chinese visitors, compared to an earlier 5 million estimate. The first flight from China arrived in Thailand on Monday with the first group among an expected 3,465 passengers on the first day.

"We're very excited to come back to Thailand. We

have been waiting for three years already," said Wang Zhenyin, 39, one of the first to arrive. "Before the start of COVID, we came here every year. And this time I take my family to come here." Thailand's tourism authority is expecting arrival numbers for last year to have exceeded 11.5 million, just over a quarter of the record of nearly 40 million in pre-pandemic 2019, who spent about 1.91 trillion baht (\$55.17 billion).

The about-face on the vaccine rule follows similar policy U-turns by Thailand during the pandemic that have caused widespread confusion among travellers about its entry requirements. Thailand will still require foreigners to show evidence of health insurance cover for COVID-19 if their next destination requires a negative pre-entry test, Anutin said.

## Lula vows to punish supporters of Bolsonaro

BOLSONARO (BBC): Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has vowed to punish supporters of the country's ex-leader, Jair Bolsonaro, after they stormed Congress. Supporters of the ousted far-right leader also stormed the Supreme Court and surrounded the presidential palace. But police regained control of the buildings in the capital Brasilia after hours of clashes.

Brasilia's Civil Police said 300 people have been arrested and officials have vowed to track down others involved. On Monday morning, heavily armed officers in the city gathered outside a camp of Mr Bolsonaro's supporters - one of a number that have been set up outside army barracks around the country since

election. Meanwhile, Brasilia's governor, Ibaneis Rocha, has been removed from his post for 90 days by the Supreme Court. Justice Alexandre de Moraes accused him of failing to prevent the riot and of being "painfully silent" in the face of the attack. Mr Rocha has apologised for events.

Pro-democracy rallies are being called by leftist leaders and groups across Brazil. The dramatic scenes - which saw thousands of protesters clad in yellow Brazil football shirts and flags overrun police and ransack the heart of the Brazilian state - come just a week after Lula's inauguration. He toured the Supreme Court building to see the damage for himself.

The veteran left-wing

leader was forced to declare emergency powers before dispatching the national guard into the capital to restore order. He also ordered the closure of the centre of the capital - including the main avenue where governmental buildings are - for 24 hours. Justice Minister Flavio Dino said some 40 buses which had been used to transport protesters to the capital had been seized and he called the invasion an "absurd attempt to impose [the protesters'] will by force".

Mr Bolsonaro has repeatedly refused to accept that he lost October's election and last week left the country instead of taking part in inaugural ceremonies, which would have seen him hand over the iconic presidential sash.



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# Trembling economy and Dar's Dogma

**F**INANCE Minister Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves will strengthen very soon saying that the country's reserves stood at a total of \$10 billion. According to an accountant cum politician, Pakistan's reserves stood at a total of \$10 billion, including \$4 billion from the State Bank of Pakistan and \$6 billion from commercial banks. Dar was of the view that Pakistan is repaying its loans on time, and the foreign exchange reserves will soon boost.

Ishaq Dar is a seasoned politician and fifth times Finance Minister of the country, however, his latest assertion was purely out of senses as he declared \$6 billion of commercial banks as state money which is logically incorrect and also prompted fear among the masses because of PML-N previous history of freezing public money in the foreign currency accounts at the time of western sanctions against Pakistan after Country's successfully conducted six nuclear tests in Chaghi on May 28, 1998. The recent statement of the Finance Minister also gave birth to rumors and intensified anti-state propaganda regarding a possible economic collapse mainly due to the payment deficient crisis and trivial forex reserves in the national exchequer. Historically, Pakistan's foreign reserves had depleted sharply over the past weeks.

The successive Pakistani governments had always relied on foreign crutches to overcome economic problems, while our economy has become a permanent bed patient which needs oxygen at regular intervals to sustain its growth. Apparently, the economy has become a science for Pakistani economists, who failed to overcome economic issues over the past decades. The successive governments had used multiple recipes including appointing several west-turned Pakistani bankers, use of Economic Advisory Council along with an army of Special Advisors to open up the clutches of the national economy but failed thus accountants, bankers, and professors proved to be unfit for this job. The government must announce the General Elections to deal with the severe economic issues.

# COVID upsurge and China's tourism

**C**HINA has reopened its borders to international visitors for the first time since it imposed travel restrictions in March 2020. According to the Chinese media, the country has made a significant change in its COVID policy and incoming travelers will no longer need to quarantine themselves while entering the country, and a PCR test would be sufficient to prove no COVID infection.

China the birthplace of the deadly coronavirus has again seen an unbelievable upsurge in the COVID-19 infection after successfully containing the disease more than three years ago. The recent nationwide protests against Xi's zero COVID policy successfully dismantled all anti-COVID SOPs across China, but, liberties do not suit typical Huarens, and hundreds of thousands of Chinese contracted infection on regular basis in recent days. Several countries including the United States, Italy, Malaysia, South Korea, Israel, Japan, and others had imposed COVID restrictions on travelers coming from China, due to the possible transmission of the disease. Meanwhile, several countries had issued a travel advisory to their citizens regarding risks during a visit to the East Asian nation. Interestingly, as the pandemic takes momentum across the country and the global community put a curb on visiting China, the Chinese authorities not only scrapped all anti-COVID measures momentarily but also invited tourists to visit mainland China for tourism and leisure.

China's reopening comes at the start of Chunyun, the beginning of the Lunar New Year which has been celebrated as a festival in China before the emergence of the pandemic in late 2019. Thus visiting China amid fear of infection and the thrill of the new year festival is a unique experience for Chinese nationals and foreigners. Earlier, foreign students and businessmen across the world had been requesting Chinese authorities to relax their pandemic measures after the world fully returned to normal life but Xi's advisors were not ready to provide some relief to tourists and workers. Currently, the situation has dramatically changed and the Chinese government is inviting visitors from across the world but only a few numbers are considering this option because everyone loves life and is afraid of COVID infection. After all, the knowledge, technology, power, and precautions of resolute nations go in vain, and could not resist the virus. Thus the great nations must pause their rivalry and work for the collective betterment of humanity. That legacy will increase their prestige and ultimately install them to the position of the global chief.



**M**Y first year of graduate school I took a couple of courses on American politics, including “Voting and Elections.” Both courses began by noting that the framers of our Constitution feared, perhaps more than anything, the appearance of demagogues in our republican system. This point was repeated so often throughout the semester that I accepted it as democratic dogma. I never questioned the claim—and there is plenty of evidence in the Founding documents to back it up—and often repeated it to my own students. Who could doubt that our Constitution's architects feared anyone who could stir up a mob? Lincoln in his Lyceum Address identified mob rule not only as the great danger of the day, but also as the rejection of the Constitution. Weren't demagogues the great enemies of constitutional order?

In the thirty-plus years I've held to this view I've never had occasion to question it until I read Charles Zug's *Demagogues in American Politics*, a book by turns audacious, well-researched, well-written, and deeply engaging not only on points with which the reader might agree, but especially where the reader disagrees. In some ways, the mark of a truly interesting book is that the reader's reactions start with “that can't be right” and end with “maybe everything I thought was wrong.” The book is challenging in all the best ways—one can't help but be intrigued by the argument that “we have become a community of demagogues because we claim to hate demagoguery.” The challenge for someone with my own political views is intensified by the fact that Zug's analysis draws upon his commitment to a centralized administrative state as an operative principle for defending demagoguery.

Zug's presentation hinges on clarifying our understanding of demagoguery. We typically take the term to refer to self-evidently destructive rhetoric, but Zug seeks to rescue the word from such tendentious references. Eschewing the usual “inflaming of passions” approach, Zug defines demagoguery as “a form of public rhetoric, employed by governing officials, that attempts to induce one's audience to see the political universe through a distinct interpretive lens,” and thus attempts to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate demagoguery, and consequently between good and bad demagogues. Evidence of the former would be Winston Churchill, who understood that galvanizing the public was necessary when trying to get people to do hard things, and Donald Trump, whose demagoguery was (according to Zug) self-aggrandizing at best.

Zug stipulates the question-begging condition for the distinction: demagoguery when employed in the service of the common good is legitimate, and when it is self-serving or serving only a portion of the community, it is illegitimate. Since a system of

popular government is tethered to the whole of the people all at once, political rhetoric can never properly serve only a part of it. This is both the novel and the troubling part of Zug's argument. When employed rightly, he argues, demagoguery is “compatible with” and “can improve” both liberal pluralism and constitutional democracy, but a lot is assumed concerning how it can be employed rightly.

Much of this argument hinges on the differences between the ancient view of demagoguery and the modern one. According to Zug, the ancients tended to view demagoguery “moralistically,” that is, they took it as representative either of a character flaw or of weakness in the regime itself. The solution to “bad speech” was rigorous civic education that would effect the moral improvement of the citizenry, and a system of selection that would result in “the best men” governing the regime. The linchpin was the idea of rhetoric, the subordination of political speech to philosophical reflection. In other words, only speech that maintained its connection to the truth was worthy of inclusion in public deliberations. Since the truth proved elusive, however, dialogue and dialectic would become the central mechanisms for creating a just regime. Any speech which ran contrary to or subverted dialogue and dialectic was out of bounds tout court. In other words, political speech could only be considered legitimate if it served the general purpose of getting the audience closer to the truth, and in the process morally perfecting it.

The American framers had different ideas. They realized, in Madison's words, that “enlightened statesmen [would] not always be at the helm.” And as Madison famously observed, even if every Athenian were a Socrates, every Athenian assembly would still be a mob. The writers of *The Federalist*, having a sober view of human nature, a skeptical view of truth, and a realistic view of the role passion and interest would always play in human affairs, coupled these convictions with the fundamental premise of American political order: that a government could only legitimately derive its powers from the consent of the governed. Since, as Zug argues, the demagogic beast will roam in any system of popular government, it couldn't be eliminated according to the “moralistic” machinations of the ancients, but had to be defanged by the pincer effect of office-holding and the separation of powers. The framers, according to Zug, believed that “individual virtue ... is too fragile to function as a foundation for public order and good government.”

The paradox rests in this: in a popular system of government such as ours, with its competing interests and clashing ideas, any specific claim will always present itself as being in the public interest. Any part will typically argue that it represents the whole. Were the common good readily apparent, politics would be a relatively easy enterprise.

**Jeff Polet**

It's because we disagree on what it is and how it might be achieved that the very idea of the common good tends to raise political rhetoric to fevered pitches. The result, as Hamilton argues, is that the more tyrannical the impulse, the more likely it is to cloak itself in the attire of the people. Zug attempts to bypass this problem thusly: “Political speech and action ought therefore to be evaluated in terms of whether it makes a plausible contribution to the public good,” and such contributions are determined by rational actors who can weigh the merits of competing arguments. These determinations will in turn manifest themselves in the representative process. Illegitimate demagoguery, therefore, is any which forecloses the hearing of contrary or competing arguments. Without such weighing of the relative merits of any position, any resulting political action requires coercion rather than consent for its acceptance.

The advantage of this position ought to be clear: no public policy or governing of the polity requires “upright” leaders, nor does the moral character of the leaders become an overriding issue of public concern. Instead, the public's interest is served so long as a leader operates within a context of fragmented power, mutual contestation, and defined offices. If the leader can generate agreement toward an agreed-upon public good—“public” because it doesn't represent the interests of any specific group to the detriment of others who never got a fair hearing—any rhetorical strategy is permitted toward the achievement of that end. Put another way, the problem of demagoguery is not solved by self-restraint enacted by moral leaders, but by the twin effects produced by office-holding and by public debate.

Tellingly, this rubs against a standard historical interpretation of the Constitution whereby the convention was convened precisely to address the problem of demagoguery as it manifested itself in Shays' Rebellion. Taking this issue head-on, Zug devotes an entire chapter to the rebellion, its effect on our constitutional system, and how it has been interpreted. We have, Zug argues, “no good reason to believe” that Daniel Shays possessed any of the characteristics or actions attributed to him. Zug begins with the assumption that Shays and his compatriots had legitimate complaints that resulted from systemic failures and inequalities. If one understands that Shays was responding to structural failures in the political and economic systems of Massachusetts, then he looks more like a reformer than a rebel. But our understanding of Shays, Zug says, is shaped by immediate caricatures of him as presented by notable figures such as John Adams, who “had begun to work on his anti-Shays tract before it was discovered that Shays was the man to blame.” After all, it's not as if Adams had no interest in defending the system as it

was, and thus “slandering” Shays (Zug's word) served Adams' own political ends. The reaction against Shays thus amounts, says Zug, to little more than “scapegoating and demonization.” In other words, Shays' critics were more guilty of illegitimate demagoguery than he was.

Were this all there was to the story Zug's argument would be interesting enough. He further argues that the Constitution was not designed to avoid repeats of Shays' Rebellion, but rather to address the underlying systemic issues. Publius doesn't make many references to Shays' Rebellion, except for a most pointed one in *Federalist* 74 where Hamilton observed that the “sedition” that had lately happened in Massachusetts confirmed the suspicion that “the representation of the people [was] tainted with the same spirit which had given birth to the offense” [my emphasis]. Hamilton's subsequent defense of the pardoning power predicated itself on the likelihood that sensible people, having dealt with the same government failures, would have sympathy for the insurgents. Given the breadth of support for Shays and his fellows, the rebellion itself became an occasion to reframe and recommit to the public good. “In this interpretation, rather than embracing the moralistic conception of demagoguery as espoused by the elites who were responsible for Shays' erroneous reputation, the Constitution was instead designed to address the structural factors that were deemed responsible for that very insurgency,” most notably, according to Zug, in excluding “lower-class citizens...from the political process by preventing them from voting.”

Most importantly, the Constitution required that officeholders abide by the strictures of their office, restraint on ambition and power being provided by the office itself rather than by the formation of good character. This meant there had to be real consequences for the failure to abide by such official restraints, either through the election process or through legal or quasi-legal mechanisms such as impeachment. Political speech, therefore, restricted itself to areas of influence in terms of its implementation, and to “contestation and external verification” in terms of its public expression. This process gets strained in extreme cases, where “emergency situations” or “crises” can create a sense of urgency that bypasses limits and public debate. Thus office-holders in a Constitutional democracy will always be tempted to see emergencies and declare crises. The use of emergency powers becomes the central tool in the bad demagogue's toolbox. Zug nods at this possibility, but in my opinion doesn't give it its due.

Nor does he provide the reader with satisfactory criteria for adjudicating between good and bad demagogues. To his credit, he doesn't shrink from the challenge. His list of “good” demagogues

includes John Marshall, Joseph Story, Clayton Powell, and FDR. His “bad” list includes Samuel Chase, Antonin Scalia (against whom Zug inveighs by insisting that Scalia employed “highly personal and overheated rhetoric” to protect a fictitious and pristine notion of the Constitution against a left-wing ideology that was supposedly taking over the culture but instead was merely protecting the rights of the “marginalized”), Joseph McCarthy (he sees Huey Long as occupying a space between Powell and McCarthy), and Donald Trump.

What distinguishes the two camps other than Zug himself having a clearly stated preference for the policies achieved and ends promoted by the first group? Interestingly, Zug insists that deception doesn't matter so long as the deception is employed toward the “proper” ends. Zug claims McCarthy never provided a rationale for his demagoguery, while Powell translated his into “concrete political reform” aimed at the goal of racial justice. McCarthy's main error, according to Zug, was that he believed the threat of communism was so consequential that it ought to have been obvious to anyone, and so anyone who disagreed with McCarthy was a de facto fellow traveler. It's a logic that is very much apparent in much of today's race discourse. Zug's presentation, despite the author's protestations, wouldn't exempt Powell. But Zug is clearly more sympathetic to Powell's concerns than he is to McCarthy's.

Perhaps more tellingly, Zug's distinction tends to result in an argument from success: good demagogues accomplish their ends, while bad demagogues fail. To his credit, Zug does regard these as “constitutionally enjoined ends,” by which he means the vague articulations of the Preamble.

Those general goals require the specific means articulated in the subsequent articles, and Zug pays enough attention to those, but his overall presentation is marred by his indifference to or rejection of the federalist principle. In that sense, Zug's list of demagogic “heroes” is revealing, for these are all figures who sought to congeal power in the centralized government.

Drawing on Justice Stevens' decision in *Term Limits v. Thornton*, Zug connects centralization to office-holding, arguing that all federal officeholders serve the union and not any particular part of it. (For the record, I have in another context been very critical of the majority decision in *Term Limits*, siding with Thomas's more historically informed dissent.) Even where he grudgingly acknowledges the role of the states, Zug immediately reminds the reader that “there are many more nationalizing components in the Constitution” that incentivize members of Congress and other officeholders “to think and debate from a national as opposed to a purely local perspective.” A good thing too, he continues, since “small communities breed

familiarity, which in turn breeds either unreflective solidarity based on shared prejudice or resentment based on envy and other sources of fraternal enmity.”

Either? Zug's argument is that national office-holding incentivizes language that serves the whole, while “leaders in small, homogeneous communities are incentivized to exploit the unarticulated feelings and sentiments of their fellow citizens” and “to dispense with the need for impartial, transparent articulations of justice and the common good.”

Extending Madison's famous argument in *Federalist* 10, Zug believes that capturing a greater variety of viewpoints necessarily brings with it “rhetorical transparency and impartiality,” the latter word being understood most literally.

One might ask a couple of questions: First, does Zug offer a fair representation of our constitutional system? Second, does he provide a good normative description for dealing with the problem of demagoguery? I'm more, though not fully, inclined to answer the former in the affirmative than I am the latter. Most students, upon reading *Federalist* 10 for the first time, recognize the strain placed on Madison's argument by the reality of mass communication and transportation. As to the second point, Zug defends the idea of a national “community of free and equal human beings,” but I'd resurrect Tocqueville's concern that such persons in a centralized administrative state are more rather than less susceptible to the dangers inherent in demagoguery. And those dangers themselves are intensified by the absence of meaningful alternatives, or a kind of pluralism that doesn't predicate itself merely on competing arguments but on the rich panoply of the competing communal manners, habits, and customs that are a desirable feature of American localism. In other words, the institutional fix to demagoguery was best advanced by the federalist principle, not Zug's bureaucratic principle, which confined the effects of bad speech to specific places that people always had an opportunity to leave. But Zug's approach leaves us no out, too confident in the belief that national power can be tamed by good argumentation. This strikes me as no better than the framers' criticism regarding counting on the virtue of political leaders.

But I would not, for that, discount the book. It contains a provocative argument that is thoughtfully constructed and rich in detail.

The chapter on Shays' Rebellion is itself worth the price. The argument that Trump's main problem was not his incendiary rhetoric or late-night tweets but rather his inability to persuade people via argumentation is a useful corrective to the tendency to dismiss Trump's policies because of hatred of the man. In other words, Zug invites us to bypass the ad hominem mode of argumentation that has become a standard feature of our politics. If the book can accomplish that, it will have done enough.

# French are preparing for a blackout

**Daniil Nizamutdinov**

**T**HE French are actively buying up flashlights, gas burners, generators - they are afraid of emergency or planned power outages. About how the country with Europe's largest nuclear power industry is returning to the past - in the material of RIA Novosti.

**Worst Times**  
After the oil crisis of 1973, France, which does not have many natural resources, relied on nuclear energy. They launched the world's largest program for the construction of nuclear power plants, and by the early 1990s the republic became one of the leaders in the field of peaceful atom. More than 70% of French energy for 25 years was generated by nuclear power plants. In addition, a powerful fleet of reactors has allowed the country to become one of the largest exporters of electricity.

However, in recent years, the French have been carried away by the green agenda - even the local analogue of the Ministry of Energy is called

the “Min-istry of Energy Transition”. The French actually forgot about investments in “peaceful atom”. The industry is going through the worst times. France now has 56 nuclear reactors, 43 of which were commissioned before 1990. Many have exceeded the planned service life, which is simply extended. Equipment is aging, failing, and modernization requires huge investments.

Never before has the French state-owned energy company EDF produced so little power as in 2022. Half of the entire reactor fleet was stopped for repairs. In the spring, traces of corrosion were found on the welds of twelve power units connected to the primary circuit of the pipes of the emergency cooling system. Moreover, problems arose at nuclear power plants improved by the French - with old reactors similar to American ones, there are no such difficulties. To avoid a shortage of electricity, EDF has pledged to restart all the stopp-ed devices before winter, but a dozen and a half reactors are

still not working, and the deadlines for returning to operation are constantly being shifted. As a result, according to analysts' forecasts, the share of nuclear energy in the energy balance, instead of the usual 70%, may drop to 58% this year. And the country, which previously exported electricity in large volumes, will be forced to buy it from its neighbors.

**“City of light” without light**

Realizing the threat of losing energy independence, French President Emmanuel Macron in February 2022 announced the “revival of nuclear energy.” In particular, there are plans to build 14 next-generation reactors: six can be put into operation by 2035, the rest by the end of the 2040s. In other words, this will take many years, and the problems must be solved now.

The French National Electricity Network Operator (RTE) warned in the fall that a delay in restarting reactors

could have dire consequences for electricity supplies in the winter. The situation is complicated by the fact that electric heating is widespread in France - for a long time this was encouraged, because excess electricity had to be sold somewhere.

Now, due to the likely rolling blackouts, the French have been asked to reduce energy consumption. The authorities have even developed the Ecowatt mobile application, with which they plan to warn citizens about possible “load drops” - as the local *Newspaper* called planned power outages that may be required to avoid a blackout. It is assumed that the power supply will be interrupted if necessary for two hours during peak periods (morning and evening). Outages can affect homes, schools, shops, public transport, traffic lights, and telecommunications. Exceptions are critical infrastructure facilities: hospitals, police stations, prisons, gov-

ernment buildings and hazardous industries.

To fine-tune the RTE system, a nationwide exercise was held in December, and the authorities are disseminating recommendations through the media for citizens on how to behave in the event of a temporary power outage. And they call for a joint policy of “energy sobriety”: do not heat the premises above 19 degrees, dim the lighting of buildings, and if possible, do not turn on the light. According to Macron, if everyone is conscious and reduces energy consumption by ten percent, problems can be avoided.

Relatively warm weather and reduced consumption will see a quiet Christmas holiday for energy workers, according to the latest RTE forecast. The risk of blackouts in January is at an average level. Being prepared is not a sin. Despite assurances from the authorities, many are preparing for a possible blackout. So, since the beginning of December, sellers of candles have recorded a sharp increase in demand.

The French are bought in advance so that they do not have to sit in complete darkness. So far, there is no shortage, but it may appear in the event of real outages.

Also, many are actively dismantling tourist equipment in stores: flashlights, camping stoves and gas burners. Not because they gathered in nature, but in order not to sit hungry if the light is turned off.

In addition, sales of power generators - not only portable, but also industrial - have more than doubled: they are in demand from medium and large companies that fear that “load shedding” can cause serious damage to equipment. The fact that French citizens in the 21st century are afraid of being left without electricity is traditionally blamed by some politicians and the media on Russia. However, it is obvious that the local authorities have started the situation in the nuclear industry too much. And, having lost time, they will be forced to make up for it for a long time.



# Ukraine receives bad news from US

The name of the new speaker of the House of Representatives (and the third person in the US state hierarchy) Kevin McCarthy prompts jokes about "new McCarthyism". Under the old McCarthyism, named after the alcoholic senator, it is customary to understand epileptic anti-communism and witch-hunting. It may very well be that the aggravation of such a plan is now really waiting for US-Chinese relations, which McCarthy himself made clear in a speech after being elected to a high post.

But we are interested in his career rise in the context of Russian-American relations, where the "new McCarthyism" began much earlier - even earlier than the NWO. And good Russian Americanists often express the opinion that in our case the opposite is true: allegedly, the election of McCarthy may have a beneficial effect on us in the sense that now Washington will help the Armed Forces of Ukraine less. There are reasons to think so. It seems to be serious.

The House of Representatives has the final say on the budget, and McCarthy has pledged to cut \$130 billion in spending, including \$75 billion in defense spending. The Republicans will not raise their hand to curtail the Pentagon's megalomaniac projects in the field of equipping its own troops, but offerings to the god of war Mars (that is, assistance to the Armed Forces of Ukraine) is the main candidate for reduction.

This is confirmed by the circumstances of McCarthy's election and the compromises that seem to be behind this election. He was able to become a speaker only on the 15th attempt, since from time to time his candidacy did not gain the minimum required number of votes. This has not happened in the United States for more than a century and a half.

The reason is the inner-party rebellion of two dozen deputies, who are often called "radical conservatives" and "trumpists" in the Russian media. Essentially speaking, it is

correct, but it gives a distorted picture.

The key people of the riot are Andy Biggs of Arizona, Matt Goetz of Florida, and Lauren Bobert of Colorado. Biggs heads the Freedom Caucus parliamentary alliance - and from an American point of view, this is a very conservative alliance. But conservatism is not a universal ideology - it relies on traditions and the past, and they are different in every country. That is, these congressmen are conservative in the sense

Dmitry Bavyrin

not with the former president, but with the likely future - Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, it is possible that Trump's direct competitor. The eccentric billionaire played the role of an extra in this story: he did not start this fight, he was not able to complete it.

But McCarthy did - through, as mentioned above, unspecified compromises. It is assumed that the speaker agreed to simplify the procedure for his recall

ing on Ukraine. Goetz, who, together with his colleagues in the Freedom Caucus, voted against the lend-lease bill for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, is especially frequent. Such a person in the position of a relevant committee of the House of Representatives will certainly seem to Zelensky as unsuitable as possible, even if he does not hold a grudge for a smartphone (which is unlikely; with his ego, he should).

But bad news for Kiev is not necessarily good

their support from the Democrats, and secondly, to dig up dirt on Biden, his son and dignitaries.

In other words, an auditor will be assigned to Lend-Lease, but it is by no means certain that after the audit, the effectiveness of Lend-Lease will decrease. It usually works the other way around, which is what auditors are for, especially when dealing with such a murky territory as Ukraine.

As for the reduction of appropriations for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, strictly speaking, we still have to live to see this. A package of more than \$50 billion for the Armed Forces of Ukraine for fiscal year 2023 has already been approved earlier, and a lot can change in the NWO zone before 2024. More precisely, it must change - by the forces of the same Russian army.

Russia still has only two allies (also its navy), but there is no reason to rely on Speaker McCarthy. He also understands the magnitude of the American bet on the conflict in Ukraine, he also sees the benefits of the economic war between Europe and Russia, and he also does not want to be a capitulator.

But that doesn't necessarily mean that McCarthy's election means nothing to us at all. This is still an extraordinary event for the congress - when the speaker is chosen only from the 15th attempt. "This" w-w-w-w "is not without reason," as Winnie the Pooh said on another occasion: in the case of the United States, it indicates the depth of the social split, the crisis of the political system, the era of difficult changes, even if McCarthy does not want changes and in principle not capable of them.

William Peddington, who in 1860 was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives with a record 44th attempt, was also neither fish nor fowl: he was not particularly remarkable, did not fundamentally change anything, died of an overdose of morphine and has since been forgotten by everyone. But he became the last peacetime speaker. The civil war began already under his successor.

# ‘China’s opening threatens the global economy’

ON January 8, a period began in the world, which can be called a new "epoch of the movement of peoples." In any case, one people - so far the largest in the world.

Since Sunday, the Chinese authorities have officially abandoned the "zero covid" policy and lifted most of the quarantine restrictions that have lasted for the past three years. This step, which has become unexpected for many, was taken exactly on the day of the beginning of the 40-day period, known as "Chunyun" - the mass migration of Chinese, seeking to celebrate the approaching Eastern New Year in the circle of relatives.

These days have always been associated with a huge increase in tourist travel (estimated at around 2.9 billion in 2016). But now, after many Chinese have been deprived of the opportunity to see their relatives for three years, a colossal leap is expected. Suffice it to say that within 30 minutes of Beijing's December announcement of lifting travel restrictions, inquiries on China's popular flight booking service increased tenfold. In just a few days, 340,000 tickets were purchased from Hong Kong alone to mainland China. As of December 30, the number of domestic flights to China increased by 190 percent compared to last month. Agree, the numbers are impressive.

Accordingly, the indicators for international travel are also growing. For example, the number of Chinese applications for foreign visas after December 7 increased 12 times. One can imagine the joy experienced by representatives of the tourism industry in various countries where the Chinese accounted for the lion's share of customers. So, it is expected that in Thailand only due to the return of tourists from China, the national GDP will increase by almost three percent.

And in general, global business, in theory, should breathe a sigh of relief. After all, the Western media have been explaining almost all the main problems of the world economy for so long by the "unjustified draconian measures" that Beijing has taken as part of the "zero covid" policy. A month and a half ago, when protests against quarantine restrictions began in China, the media was filled with criticism (sometimes quite justified) of excessive restrictions associated with the desire to completely defeat the covid. The Western public was stuffed with reports and comments about the terrible consequences for the whole world, and especially for China itself, Beijing's tough quarantine policy.

It would seem that now the same media should with the same enthusiasm welcome China's rejection of the "zero tolerance for covid" policy, present it as their victory and as the victory of civil society, which achieved this with their protests, because these are not the most numerous actions that took place for the public. In late November - early December, they tried to present it simply as almost a "covid revolution" that shook the foundations of the state.

But consistency and adherence to the standards of journalism is not a strong point of modern Western media for a long time. And they are certainly not afraid that their audience will rush to compare today's publications with yesterday's: relying on the "memory of aquarium fish", developed over the years in a continuous information flow, almost always works.

The same news agencies, TV channels, newspapers that just a month ago with sincere anger cursed China's total quarantine, instantly reorganized and now denounce Beijing's policy of abandoning quarantine with the same fervor. And just as they dispersed the fakes about the

Vladimir Kornilov

"mass protests" of the Chinese against covid restrictions, now, without a twinge of conscience, they are spreading completely unverified rumors about what a terrible catastrophe the lifting of quarantine threatens the Chinese and the whole world.

If you now look through the main Western newspapers, in almost every issue of the last days you can find chilling stories about how the number of diseases and deaths is rising sharply in China. Only the lazy do not write about the "collapse of Chinese healthcare" as a result of the influx of patients. "Counts" are published everywhere, how many Chinese have already died since the outbreak began (that is, after Beijing abandoned the "zero covid" policy) and how many should die. Someone predicted a million deaths this year, someone - more than two million. The scatter of numbers shows that they are taken simply from the ceiling.

The level of hysteria around the growth of diseases in China is evidenced by the number of outright fakes that circulate in the Western media, and even more so in social networks. For example, well-known photographs of the funeral of victims of the coronavirus epidemic at a public cemetery in New York were passed off as fresh reports from China.

And British newspapers regularly distribute photos and videos that pass for the cremation of the bodies of those who died from covid right in the courtyards of large Chinese cities, which should be proof that the crematoria there are full. Ukrainian propagandists are actively dispersing these pictures on social networks. Anyone who is more or less familiar with Chinese traditions can explain that each of these illustrations depicts the ancient Shaozhi ritual - the ceremony of burning paper money and paper models of the deceased's belongings. Such shots can be taken at any time in any major city in China, regardless of epidemics and coronaviruses.

However, suppose that the Western media themselves believed in what they wrote about simply unprecedented mortality that swept the Celestial Empire immediately after the abandonment of the "meaningless" (according to the publications of the same media a month ago) quarantine policy. It is necessary to show some (at least visible) sympathy. But the undisguised gloating and even the joy of those who themselves disperse fakes about the burning of the bodies of the dead on the streets are striking. European and American publications on a regular basis pour cartoons on this topic.

And what do they write? For example, the British newspaper The Sunday Times this Sunday published the story of its free-lancer Cameron Wilson, who lived in Shanghai for three years in quarantine. The author complains about the appalling conditions in which his family had to spend this "imprisonment". But this is what he writes in the end: "Unfortunately, the virus has mutated into something much less deadly, but much more contagious." And then it smoothly moves on to new "horror stories" - stories about overcrowded hospitals and crematoria.

This "unfortunately" when describing the lower lethality of the coronavirus, you see, says a lot. It is hard to imagine that the pages of any British publication expressed regret over the decline in mortality among their compatriots. But when it comes to the Chinese, the editors see no problem in this.

One can, of course, argue for a long time whether Western commentators have any reason for the panic that is spreading around the "dramatic increase in diseases" in China. For example, the state news agency Xinhua

categorically dismisses the accusations and refutes a lot of false information on this topic. It emphasizes that the New Year was celebrated in China with mass festivals, fireworks and festivities, shops and institutions are working normally, and the seasonal increase in patients in hospitals has not led to a catastrophic shortage of hospital beds.

Of course, there are questions about such a drastic change in Beijing's zero-covid policy. In China itself, this is explained by a significant reduction in the risk of the disease, which the vaccinated population now suffers mostly asymptotically. However, such a rapid rejection of strict quarantine and the transition to almost permissiveness is not met with understanding by everyone. But there are many more questions for the Western media, which even more abruptly, literally before our eyes, changed their moaning about Beijing's "draconian measures" to even louder howls about abandoning them.

It is especially striking to read this in the newspapers of those wealthy Western countries where the health care crisis has reached unprecedented proportions. For example, in the same The Times, just a day before expressing regret about the less lethality of the Chinese virus, a cry from the heart of Nick Hume, head of the district health department of East Suffolk and North Essex, was published. "This is worse than covid. I have not seen such pressure in 42 years of my career," admitted a manager who is in charge of dozens of medical facilities.

He said that the hospitals in his area are overcrowded, people are placed in the corridors, in one of the Ipswich hospitals a gymnastics hall has been turned into a hospital ward. The reason for this is not so much covid as an outbreak of influenza and a complete collapse of the healthcare system. Under these conditions, the British press only had to worry about the patients of Chinese clinics. However, the general anti-Chinese policy obliges.

At first glance, it looks surprising that the same Western media (especially business publications), which have always been worried about the decline in Chinese business activity during the Eastern New Year and even more so quarantine, are now even more anxiously awaiting the recovery of the Chinese economy from lockdown. The Economist, whose official policy has always advocated open borders and liberal approaches, now publishes an editorial stating bluntly: "China's opening threatens the global economy."

It reveals the true reasons for the West's fears of the growth of Chinese industry and trade: an increase in demand in the PRC will sharply raise the prices of those resources, the shortage of which is felt in rich countries after the imposition of anti-Russian sanctions. In particular, Goldman Sachs estimates are given, according to which, with the restoration of the Chinese economy, the price of oil in Britain will increase by a quarter. No less pessimistic are the forecasts regarding the rise in the cost of gas for Europe.

That is, in the three years that China was in quarantine, the political situation for the collective West has changed to a large extent, and, consequently, the general paradigm has changed. This is no longer globalization, which was an icon for publications like The Economist before covid. Market closures and protectionism are now in vogue. Therefore, the long-awaited opening of China for the tourist industry is so frightening for yesterday's champions of globalism. So we are waiting for the injection of "covid" hysteria in the Western media around the situation in China and beyond.

*The House of Representatives has the final say on the budget, and McCarthy has pledged to cut \$130 billion in spending, including \$75 billion in defense spending. The Republicans will not raise their hand to curtail the Pentagon's megalomaniac projects in the field of equipping its own troops, but offerings to the god of war Mars (that is, assistance to the Armed Forces of Ukraine) is the main candidate for reduction.*

that they refer to the libertarian spirit of the founding fathers, and their views on the economy are more liberal than those of Yegor Gaidar.

In McCarthy, they see the "zrada". They believe that he, a moderate Republican-centrist, will make agreements with the Demo-crats, surrender his Father-land to the liberal hydra, strip America to the skin and let it go around the world.

All of these suspicious congressmen did indeed support Donald Trump, but Trump himself supported McCarthy's election and unsuccessfully tried to dissuade Goetz and Bobert from voting for other candidates. The tactic of the rebels was to vote for any of their ranks, just to prevent the "elite candidate" from gaining the required number of votes.

Trump failed to dissuade them, as they said personally. And, strictly speaking, they need to be connected

and promised Goetz, who resisted to the last, the post of chairman of the defense committee.

If this is true, then the appointment will make noise. Liberals have already invested in the demonization of Goetz and Bobert (and Biggs has long been considered something of a predatory fossil). For example, most recently they were hounded for not listening to the speech of Ukrainian President Zelensky when he spoke in Congress, but staring at their smartphones.

But Zelensky is also just circumstances, just like Trump. Fighting with Goetz and Bobert, the liberals are fighting primarily with DeSantis, since they could not find any serious compromising evidence on the governor of Florida personally (Goetz represents this state, and Bobert is from there), but they tried.

All five of them (Trump and DeSantis too) have repeatedly criticized spend-

ings for Moscow. The development of our conflict with America now depends not on battles in Congress, but only and exclusively on the success of Russian weapons in the NVO zone.

Confrontation with Russia and support for Ukraine is bipartisan politics in the US. Republican-Democratic. The system that has developed there cannot be resisted by two dozen deputies, even if one of them heads a sensitive defense committee. The same system broke the whole president before our eyes (the same Trump who wanted to "get along with Moscow"). With a congressman from Florida, he will also sort it out somehow, if such a need suddenly arises.

It is, in fact, unlikely to occur. The interest of the Republicans is not to cut off the air of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, but, firstly, to show the inefficiency and wastefulness of

# ‘Sword vs. sword’

SINCE the Cold War, North and South Korea have frequently stood on opposing sides in geostrategic conflicts.

South Korean ground forces and North Korean pilots engaged in combat missions in the Vietnam War. South Korea contributed to U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, while North Korea supported regional actors adversarial to the West, such as Assad's government in Syria and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

In the current Russia-Ukraine War, the two Koreas are again involved on opposing sides. While some proxy wars have characteristics of a "sword vs. sword" in stabbing the adversary indirectly, two Koreas' "proxy war" in Ukraine bears more characteristics of a "shield vs. shield" in bolstering geostrategic defense and deterrence against each other on the Korean Peninsula.

Before the start of Russia's "special military operation," North Korea had defended Russia's justification for taking protective measures against the West's purported "hegemonic policies." North Korea was one of five countries to vote against the UN General Assembly's resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine and one of three countries to recognize pro-Russia separatist republics in Donetsk and Luhansk (which Russia formally annexed in the fall of 2022).

Multiple sources have also alleged North Korea's increased involvement in supporting Russia's military operations as the war prolonged. Pyongyang has been reported to have exported artillery shells and rockets to replenish Russia's military arsenal. In December of 2022, the U.S. and UK governments also accused North Korea of supplying missiles and rockets to the Russian mercenary group Wagner fight-

ing in Ukraine.

North Korean factories have also reportedly been producing winter uniforms and footwear to support Russia's winter operations, with Russia disregarding UN sanctions on importing North Korean-made textile goods.

North Korea has also confirmed reports that it will send a workforce to assist in rebuilding Russia-occupied Ukrainian territories. The Russian media has reported that North Korea has opened six new trade offices in Russian cities to facilitate the deployment of North Korean laborers. The North Korean workers are also reported to have been sent to manufacturing facilities in the Russian Far East, as Russia has struggled with workforce shortages in certain industrial sectors since implementing partial military mobilization in the fall.

Meanwhile, South Korea, along with the United States and most Western countries, voted for the UN General Assembly resolutions condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine. South Korea halted financial transactions with major Russian banks and banned the export of strategic materials, including semiconductors, to Russia.

Seoul, however, has refrained from directly providing military arms to Ukraine. Despite President Volodymyr Zelensky's request for air defense and anti-tank missiles, South Korea has maintained the policy of providing only non-lethal aid, such as bulletproof vests and medical supplies.

Nonetheless, South Korea has become increasingly involved in supporting Ukraine's military operations indirectly. In July, South Korean arms manufacturers signed a \$15 billion contract with Poland to export tanks, howitzers, and fighter planes (the first shipment of South Korean K2 tanks arrived in Poland

Jong Eun Lee

in December). In November, Poland signed another contract to import multiple rocket launchers, with the first batch scheduled to arrive early next year. In November, the Wall Street Journal also reported that the Washington post would purchase 155mm howitzer artillery shells from South Korean manufacturers to send to Ukraine.

Whether South Korean weaponry will eventually be deployed in the war theater is not yet certain. Even if they are not directly used in the war, South Korea's arms exports contribute to Ukraine's military capacity, allowing Europe and the United States to continue the transfer of arms to Ukraine's military while mitigating the shortages in their arms reserve.

Even South Korea's non-lethal aid could play a significant role in the war's progress. In November, Ukraine announced it would receive high-voltage generators and mini-excavators from South Korea, critical to Ukraine's efforts to repair damaged infrastructure from Russia's missile and drone attacks in the winter.

North Korea's strategic leverage in the Korean Peninsula has been bolstered by its support for Russia. With Russia's reciprocal support and U.S. distraction in Ukraine, North Korea's confidence to withstand international pressures in consolidating its nuclear state status has grown. This year, North Korea tested an ICBM missile, fired artillery shells near South Korean waters, flew drones into South Korean airspace, and codified its right to launch preemptive nuclear strikes, yet avoided further UN sanctions, as Russia used its veto power to oppose UN Security Council resolutions condemning North Korea's actions.

The mutual plight of experiencing international

sanctions has also improved bilateral economic relations, with cross-border railway trade resuming for the first time in nearly three years.

For South Korea, North Korea's nuclear advancement has increased the urgency for enhancing its deterrence capacity: strengthening national defense and the international community's security commitment. South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol has pledged to elevate South Korea as a "global pivotal state" in international affairs and become the world's fourth-largest arms exporter by 2027. South Korea's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine War has advanced these goals.

First, Europe's renewed security concerns have provided opportunities for the expansion of South Korea's defense industry. Along with Poland, Estonia and Norway have purchased South Korean-made howitzers and tank ammunition; South Korea's defense exports are projected to have reached the highest annual level last year. Should South Korean-made arms eventually be used in the war theater, the South Korean military will have opportunities to test its weaponry against that of Russia, whose military technology North Korea primarily uses.

Second, to prevent the international community's passivity in responding to North Korea's nuclear provocations, South Korea's objective has been to elevate its contributions to security conflicts in other regions to attain reassurance for reciprocal security commitment. Along with South Korea's economic capacity and cultural "soft power," South Korea's military contributions could bolster motivations for the United States, NATO, and the international community to assist the former's deterrence against North Korea.

The Russia-Ukraine War

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# Minister chairs meeting to review PIM's performance

## F.P. Report

KARACHI: Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi, State Minister on Industries and Production visited and chaired meeting to review the performance of PIM at Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM) at Karachi Monday.

The Executive Director of the Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM), Muhammad Syed ul Haque received the State Minister on Industries and Production briefed the performance of Pakistan Institute of Management since its establishment. The Executive Director PIM

informed State Minister the achievements, issues and challenges being countered by the Institute.

Qureshi ensured his complete support to upbring the state owned training institute of Pakistan that had been training the manpower of government organisations, armed forces, multinational organisations and private organisations. While emphasizing the role of training development, the Minister said that training development should be essential part in every public or private sector.

He further said that the training had never been so

compulsory during pre-covid period but it has become very necessary to equip the staff with necessary skills and skills development through trainings. He applauded the achievements of Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM) and expressed his satisfaction over their performance.

The executive Director, Muhammad Syed ul Haque requested the government through State Minister to provide space for PIM, Islamabad office, he ensured his complete support in this regard.

Later on, Mr. Qureshi visited different sections of the Institute.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Cebihan, Cosco Vietnam, Hua Wei 8, Al-Marrouna and Margarita scheduled to load/ offload cement, containers, palm oil, LNG and Mogas, berthed on Monday at Multi-Purpose Terminal, Qasim International Containers Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Pakistan Gasport Terminal and FOTCO Oil Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile, six more ships, MSC Tianping, Chemroad Dita, Ulls Water, Serenity Gas, Neutron Sound and Al-Gattara carrying containers, palm oil, LPG, gas oil and LNG also arrived at the outer anchorage of the port during the last 24 hours.

A total of 07 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a container ship 'Cosco Vietnam' left the Port on Monday morning, while an oil tanker 'Hua Wei 8' is expected to sail later today.

A cargo volume of 166,523 tonnes, comprising 129,371 tonnes of imports cargo and 37,152 tonnes of export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,647 containers (600 TEUs Imports and 2,522 TEUs export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

There are 20 ships at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them, 04 ships, Serenity Gas, Al-Gattara, SC Falcon and MSC Tianping and another ship 'Lana' carrying LPG, LNG palm oil and containers are expected to take berths at SSGC, EETL, LCT and QICT later in the day.

## China issues 2nd set of 2023 oil import quotas

SINGAPORE (Reuters): China issued a second batch of 2023 crude oil import quotas, according to two sources with knowledge of the matter and documents reviewed by Reuters on Monday, raising the total for this year by 20 percent compared to the same time last year.

According to the document from the Ministry of Commerce, 44 companies, mostly independent refiners, were given 111.82 million tonnes in import quotas in this round.

Combined with the 20 million tonnes in 2023 quotas granted to 21 refineries in October, that takes the total for this year to 131.82 million tonnes, up from the 109.03 million tonnes issued in the first batch for 2022. The second batch of quotas for 2022 was released in June last year.

China, the world's biggest oil importer, allocated some 2023 quotas earlier than usual to shore up the sluggish economy by encouraging refiners to boost operations.

Zhejiang Petrochemical Corp., which operates China's biggest privately-owned refinery site, was granted the largest quota of this batch at 20 million tonnes, on par with last year's issuance, according to the documents.



KARACHI: Minister of State for Industries and Production Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi chairing a meeting at Pakistan Institute of Management.

# PSX loses 502 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 502.76 points, a negative change of 1.23 percent, closing at 40,504.76 against 41,007.52 points the previous day.

A total of 163,939,925 shares were traded during the day as compared to 181,976,391 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs6.890 billion against Rs6.795 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 328 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 62 of them recorded gains and 247 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 19 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Pak Refinery with 17,570,452 shares at Rs13.75 per share Pak Petroleum with 13,970,997 shares at Rs78.99 per share, and Cnergyico Pk with 12,372,357 shares at Rs3.91 per share.

Nestle Pakistan witnessed a maximum increase of Rs199.90 per share price, closing at Rs5600.00, whereas the runner-up was

Pak Engineering with a Rs23.20 rise in its per share price to Rs332.66.

Bata (Pak) witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs96.79 per share closing at Rs1851.21, followed by Premium Tex with Rs49.42 decline to close at Rs609.58.

**Rupee weakens against dollar:** The exchange rate of the Pakistani rupee depreciated by 27 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Monday and closed at Rs227.40 against the previous day's closing of Rs227.13.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs234.40 and Rs236.75 respectively.

The price of the euro increased by Rs3.77 and closed at Rs242.92 against the previous day's closing of Rs239.15, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen gained three paise to close at Rs1.72, whereas an increase of Rs5.96 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British pound, which

was traded at Rs276.32 as compared to its last closing of Rs270.36.

The exchange rates of the Emirates dirham and Saudi riyal increased by 08 paise and 09 paise to close at Rs61.91 and Rs60.52 respectively.

**Gold prices dip by Rs200 to Rs185,100 per tola:** The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs200 on Monday and was sold at Rs185,100 against its sale at Rs185,300 the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs172 and was sold at Rs158,693 against Rs158,865, whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went down to Rs145,469 against its sale at Rs145,626, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs2,070 and Rs1774.70 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by US\$ 4 and was sold at US\$ 1,871 against its sale at US\$ 1,867, the association reported.

## Asian markets extend new year rally on Fed hopes

HONG KONG (APP): Asian markets resumed their strong start to the year Monday, tracking a surge on Wall Street fuelled by hopes that US data will allow the Federal Reserve to slow its pace of interest rate hikes. All three main indexes in New York soared more than two percent Friday after a closely watched report showed a forecast-busting rise in new jobs but a slowdown in wages growth.

That came as separate figures showed a shock contraction in the crucial services sector -- the first since spring 2020 at the height of the pandemic.

The readings, while suggesting the world's top economy was showing signs of weakness, were seized on by traders hopeful that the Fed will begin to temper its monetary tightening campaign.

Investors are now betting officials will lift borrowing costs about 25 basis points at their next meeting at the end of the month.

# Buy Genuine HP Laptops with M&P from comfort of your home



## F.P. Report

KARACHI: M&P is an authorized distributor and Service Provider of HP Inc in Pakistan. Thanks to our HP Partner, "Indus Office Automation" on focus towards using digital innovation to drive accessibility and convenience in the consumers purchase journey and help consumers buying Genuine HP with M&P laptops sitting in the comfort of their home.

Today at Future Fest 2023, undoubtedly the biggest Technology event in Pakistan, we are excited to launch the App of HP Shop Pakistan available at

Google Play Store to download free and online portal [www.hpsshop.pk](http://www.hpsshop.pk).

Through this app, Consumers can compare prices and features of different models to help in their purchase decisions, it offers multiple payment modes such as Mobile Wallets, Cards, Bank transfers, RTGS payments and Buy Now-Pay Later options etc. plus it offers Free Nationwide Shipping.

Furthermore, it assures you that HP Laptop is unopened, factory sealed and you are the first one to unbox it. You can conveniently claim the warranty locally from any M&P HP

Service Centers located nationwide where certified engineers replace the faulty parts with genuine parts without any charges.

Mr. Nawaz Dhania, Country Business Manager HP INC Singapore spoke on this occasion and highlighted the commitment of HP in enabling their Distributors to provide latest and greatest HP Products, with best-in-class sales and post-sales support for all consumers across Pakistan.

Mr. Syed Nasir Hussain, Business Unit Head HP at M&P stated that being authorized distributor of HP in Pakistan, it is our responsibility to promote channel products and ensure that our customers who purchases legitimate products get the maximum benefit both in terms of product quality and services. I am very excited on launching this App of HP Shop Pakistan, it will help customers to distinguish reliable channel Laptops and experience genuine HP Laptop with official & local warranty in Pakistan.

# Sialkot made products in great demand at market

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik said on Monday that products manufactured in the city were in great demand in global market, currently 52 global brands were working with Sialkot.

In a press statement, he said that Sialkot industrialists were introducing their own brands whose demand was increasing globally.

Malik said that through export, Sialkot based small and medium industries earned foreign exchange amounting over US\$ 4 billion last year and strengthening the national exchequer.

He said that Sialkot

exporters had set unique examples of self-help by completing several mega projects on self-help basis including Sialkot international Airport Limited (SIAL), Sialkot Dry port and own private airline namely AirSial on self-help basis.

Malik said that with the special interest of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce, the establishment of Applied Engineering and Technology University in Sialkot was also in the final stage.

The SCCI President said that Sialkot exporters were the "Roaming Ambassadors" of Pakistan, who were not only travelling for fetching the highly 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 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, kitchenware, hollow ware, knives, cutlery items and military uniform badges etc.

# Bestway Foundation School, Tatral Awards its top positions

## F.P. Report

KARACHI: A prestigious ceremony was held at Bestway Foundation School, Tatral to celebrate excellent performance of the School's students in the SSC Part I Annual Examination 2022 held under Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Rawalpindi and to recognise the invaluable contribution of the teachers in achieving such remarkable result.

The ceremony was attended by the guest of honour, Irfan Sheikh, (Trustee of Bestway Foundation and the Managing Director of Bestway Cement Limited), Dr Zeeshan Hanif (Deputy Commissioner, Chakwal), Ashir Iqbal Khan (Assistant Deputy Commissioner (G)), Iftikhar Ahmed Ali (Chief Officer District Council), Raja Haider Abbas (Asst. Commissioner (Choa Saiden Shah)) along with local notables and parents of the students.

Speaking on the occasion, the guest of honour, Mr. Irfan Sheikh, said "Education is essential for building a strong and vibrant society. Children are

our future, not only for their families but also our country. Our aim must be to produce such productive and responsible citizens who are intellectually, socially and morally well equipped to take up today's challenges. Teachers' role is not limited to just educating children but to be exemplary role models for them also. Children's character-building is a collective responsibility of parents, teachers and the society at large".

Mr. Sheikh congratulated the entire teaching staff and students of the School for their excellent performance in SSC-I Examination 2022 and urged them to aim even higher in future. He handed out cash rewards to three best performing teachers along with Certificates of Achievement to the three best performing students each from Computer and Biology Groups.

Concluding his speech, he expressed his satisfaction with the way the school had flourished over the years. He informed the attendees that construction of a separate new building for the boys' wing adjacent to the existing school build-



ing had already commenced, which was expected to be functional by the beginning of the new school session in 2023. The new block is expected to cost more than PKR 65 million.

Bestway Foundation, established in 1987 in the UK and later in 1997 in Pakistan; is the philanthropic arm of Bestway Group, UK. Bestway appreciates its responsibility towards the local communities, thus plays a vital role in their

socio-economic development such as improving access to health services and education, taking part in the urban development and environmental conservation programs and helping generate employment. To date Bestway has contributed more than US\$46 million to fund various charitable activities of national and international societies and support projects of communal uplift in the countries in which it operates.

# Constitution ensured women's rights in Pakistan

## Ziaur Rahman Tajik Advocate

Women's rights are rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls worldwide, women are entitled to enjoy the same human rights and fundamental freedom as other individuals. women are entitled to live free from violence and discrimination. But across the globe women and girls face discrimination based on sex and gender. violation of women's and girls' rights is a global problem and it knows no territorial, religious or cultural limitation. Gender inequality underpins many problems and disproportionately affects women and girls which subsequently affects their children, family system and their well-being. Women should be enabled to live without fear of gender-based violence including rape, sexual harassment and violence and should not be compelled to force abortion, forced marriage and forced pregnancy.

In gender-based violence, violent acts are committed against women and happen to them in disproportionate numbers. Throughout history, sexual violence and infringement of their rights have been used as a weapon of war against them. The perpetrator is found in every society and all social classes and the majority of them are male. The causes of women's rights violations need to be eliminated, to prevent further violence and enable them to live a free life.

Under the doctrine of feminism, women are entitled to equal social, political, economic and educational rights and are entitled to the full enjoyment of their rights on an equal footing with men. Pakistan is the 6th most populated country in the world and the population of women in Pakistan is 49% with a high rate of fertility of about 4 children per woman. Education is the basic right of every woman because education is the progressive development of own ignorance and it brings a proper change in behaviour. But unfortunately, most females are neither allowed nor they can get an education due to lack of transport, wrong religious perception, early marriage, lack of infrastructure, absence of safe environment and security concerns, lack of facilities of schools particularly colleges and shortage of teachers.

Violence Against Women and girls including rape, honour killing, acid attack, domestic violence, harassment at the workplace etc is a violation of women's rights and the Istanbul convention also recognises and considers it a major obstacle towards the achievement of equality between men and women.

In Pakistan, the honour killing rate of females is about 1000 per year besides gender discrimination, Harassment, sexual abuse, lack of education, and dowry harassment and every year a considerable number of females do not enter into contract

marriage due to non-arrangements of dowry articles for them by their parents due to financial constraints.

The Constitution of Pakistan also guarantees several rights to women. Articles 25(3) and 26(2) allow the state to make special provisions for the protection of women and children.

Similarly, articles 26 and 27 also provide for equal access to public places and employment in the public and private sectors. Article 25 and 35 also provides that there shall be no discrimination based on sex alone and the state shall ensure the participation of women in all spheres of National life. Article 32 further provides to make special provisions for the representation of women in local govt and article 34 directs the state shall take appropriate measures to enable women to participate in all spheres of life and social activities.

Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights applies all rights and freedom equally to men and women and prohibits discrimination based on sex. similarly, the European Convention on Human Rights also forbids violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence.

In Pakistan casting the vote is a constitutional right but in some areas, women have been effectively prohibited from casting vote due to their rigid customs and tradition and because of this reason in some areas election results are declared null and

void by the election commission of Pakistan in some cases. Under the Pakistan penal code, several severe punishments have been provided for different offences against women.

Under section 509 insulting the modesty of women or sexually harassing them is punishable with three years of punishment and 5 lacs fine. Section 376 offence of rape is punishable by 25 years of punishment with further embargo under section 402(D) of the criminal procedure code on the govt that the provincial govt shall not remit, suspend or commute any sentence passed under section 376 of Pakistan penal code to an accused person.

Meanwhile under section 354-A of use of criminal force on women and stripping her of her clothes and exposing her to public view is punishable with death or life imprisonment. Section 311 also provides punishment for honour killing and also made it a non-compoundable offence under section 345 of the criminal procedure code.

Moreover, Section 484-A provides punishment for the accused who deprived women of their inheritance rights. Section 310-A provide punishment for giving females in marriage or Badla-e-Salaah, Wanni or Sawara. Under sections 498 -B and 498-c forced marriage and marriage with the Quran are made punishable.

Under section 52 of the criminal procedure code a woman accused of

an offence shall be searched by a woman with strict regard to decency. Under the provisions of Anti women, practices Acts several oppressive and discriminatory customs practiced are declared cognizable offences with deterrent punishment.

Under the Acid Control and Acid crime prevention Act 2010, the offence of throwing acid on the body and face of women is punishable. The offender throws acid in the face of a female to keep them permanently maim rather than kill. Through the acid attack, the skin tissue burns and melts and the skin on the face are severely damaged.

Several women's rights are protected under the Protection Against Harassment of Women in the Workplace Act 2010. And under the KP Enforcement of women property Act 2019 property rights of women are protected and their property grievances are decided within 60 days and the decision is implemented in 7 days.

Under Muslim family laws ordinance, Family court Act and Family court Rule several rights of women are provided and protected by the family courts through expeditious justice. Under the Family court Act the family cases shall be decided within 6 months by the family courts and in very limited cases right of appeal is provided before the Dist Judges against the decision of family courts to safeguard the female from

the rigour of complication and technicalities of law and because of this reason the provision of Qanoon-e-shahadat and civil procedure code are excluded from the proceeding before the family court.

Under the General law, a suit is filed before the court where the cause of action arises or where the defendant resides but in a family case under rule 6 the suit is in a place where the wife ordinarily resides irrespective of arising of the cause of action and resident of husband.

In constitutional, service, civil, criminal and family laws several rights and protection are provided to women in Pakistan but they have not enjoyed the fruits of their rights and are consistently violated. Women faced several serious consequences like dismissal from service, shunted out of their homes, divorced, defamed, and being deprived of custody of children forcefully when they agitated and claimed their rights from those who are in power.

All such rights of the women are violated due to the lack of a strong check and balance system, negligence of govt authorities in implementing the law, none performance of duties by the law enforcement agencies, and delayed and expensive dispensation of justice by the courts. otherwise, women can play an effective and important role in the social and economic stability of families and countries.

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In brief

'Life outside the game also exists'

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan batter Shan Masood said it took him 33 years to realise that life outside the game also exists. Addressing the media, Mr Masood said that he was going to tie the knot as per his will and that he knows his future wife very well. When asked about their first meeting, Mr. Masood said it was with her [Shan's future wife]. The 33-year-old cricketer's digital invitation had already surfaced online, with the words "Shan weds Nische" clearly written on it. Shan will get hitched with Nische on January 21, and their wedding will be held on January 27.

Pretorius retires from cricket

JOHANNESBURG (AP): South Africa all-rounder Dwaine Pretorius retired from international cricket on Monday. The 33-year-old Pretorius played three tests, 27 one-day internationals and 30 Twenty20 games for the Proteas and became a limited-overs specialist toward the end of his career. Pretorius said he would continue playing in domestic T20 leagues around the world. "Being a free agent will help me achieve the goal of being the best short format player I can be," he said in a statement. "By doing this I will be able to have a better balance in my career and family life." Pretorius made his international debut in 2016 and has the record for the best bowling figures by a South African in T20 internationals with his 5-17 against Pakistan in 2021.

Ronnie reach last eight

LONDON (Agencies): World number one Ronnie O'Sullivan swept Luca Brecel aside to reach the quarter-finals of the Masters with a 6-1 win at Alexandra Palace. The 'Rocket' made sublime breaks of 53, 97, 134, 104 and ruthlessly capitalised on several errors by the Belgian on his way to victory. O'Sullivan will face Mark Williams or David Gilbert in the last eight on Thursday. John Higgins plays Jack Lisowski in Monday's other first-round match. "It is not easy to play under pressure and I sensed that Luca felt a little uncomfortable and I tried to make the most of that and punish every mistake he made," O'Sullivan told BBC Sport. "At 47 you have gained a lot of experience and you have to resort to a lot of that stuff. It is an amazing feeling with 2,000 people here expecting you to play well. "I'm enjoying every moment. I might say I don't care but actually there is a very good competitor there. I'll never lose that so the players can keep expecting me to come back for more. I'm not going anywhere yet." Reigning world champion O'Sullivan, who already has a record seven Masters titles, gave an enthusiastic London crowd firmly in his corner plenty to cheer as he opened up by nearly making a century in the first frame. And the 47-year-old then efficiently tidied up as Brecel gifted him the second and third frames. A glaring error going from brown to blue cost 27-year-old Brecel the second frame. Moments later, after a sensational shot with the rest nestled on the cushion to dispatch the green, a loose pot on the blue saw the white fly into the middle pocket and with it his hopes of taking the third frame.

# Naseem takes five as Pakistan beat New Zealand first ODI

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan gained a place in the ICC ODI Team Rankings and also joined New Zealand in second position in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League after comfortably winning the first One-Day International at the National Bank Cricket Arena on Monday.

Fast bowler Naseem Shah took a second successive five-fer and debutant Usama Mir bagged two wickets to restrict New Zealand to 255 for nine on a perfect batting track. In turn, opener Fakhar Zaman, captain Babar Azam and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan stroked sparking half-centuries as Pakistan romped to victory for the loss of four wickets with 11 balls to spare.

Monday's result meant Pakistan have leapfrogged India into fourth place on the ICC ODI Team Rankings with No.1 spot now within touching distance. However, to make it happen, Pakistan will have to win on

Wednesday and Friday. After Monday's performance, Pakistan are on 110 points, while the table is still headed by New Zealand (114 points). England are second on 113 points with Australia third on 114 points.

Separately, victory in the first ODI has also put Pakistan ahead of England, Australia and Bangladesh to share second place with New Zealand on 130 points in the Super League standing. If Pakistan win on Wednesday, then they will dislodge India (139 points) from the top spot and seal a place in this year's World Cup in India.

Naseem, playing only his fourth ODI, returned figures of 10-0-57-5 as New Zealand, put into bat, slipped from 213 for five in the 44th over to end up with 255 for nine. This was Naseem's second successive five-fer after he had taken five for 33 against the Netherlands in Rotterdam in August last year.

The speedster, who is



the youngest to take a Test hat-trick, also had figures of three for 51 and two for 27 in the other two matches in Rotterdam.

Debutant Usama Mir dis-

missed Kane Williamson (26) with a peach of a delivery on his eighth ball in ODI cricket and then added the scalp of Tom Latham (42) to finish with impressive fig-

ures of two for 42. Mohammad Nawaz and Mohammad Wasim Jnr took a wicket each conceding 38 and 43 runs, respectively.

For New Zealand,

Michael Bracewell was the top scorer with a 42-ball 43 with four fours and a six. Together with Glenn Phillips (37), Bracewell added 66 runs in 75 balls for the sixth wicket. The other notable partnership of New Zealand's innings was for the fourth wicket between Latham and Daryl Mitchell (36).

In the run-chase, Pakistan lost Imam-ul-Haq (11) at the score of 30 in 5.4 overs but Fakhar and Babar added 78 runs for the second wicket in 103 balls. Babar and Rizwan put on 60 runs for the third wicket in 82 balls and, Rizwan and comeback kid Haris Sohail stitched 64 runs for the fourth wicket in 51 balls to help Pakistan canter to victory in 48.1 overs.

Fakhar, world's 11th ranked batter, struck seven fours in a 74-ball 56, number-one ranked Babar clubbed five fours and a six in an 82-ball 62, while Rizwan remained unbeaten

on 77 from 86 balls with six fours and a six.

While it was Fakhar's 15th half-century in 62 matches, Babar notched up his 23rd half-century in 93rd appearance. For Rizwan, it was his seventh half-century in 50th match.

Haris celebrated his 34th birthday and return to ODI cricket since 2021 by slapping two sixes and two fours in his quickfire 23-ball 32.

Scores in brief

New Zealand 255-9, 50 overs (Michael Bracewell 43, Tom Latham 42, Glenn Phillips 37, Daryl Mitchell 36, Kane Williamson 26, Mitchell Santner 2-21; Naseem Shah 5-57, Usama Mir 2-42).

Pakistan 258-4, 48.1 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 77 not out, Babar Azam 66, Fakhar Zaman 56; Haris Sohail 32; Michael Bracewell 2-44).

Player of the match – Naseem Shah (Pakistan).

Next match – Wednesday, Karachi.

## Gareth Bale announces retirement from football



LOS ANGELES (AP): Gareth Bale is retiring from soccer at age 33 after setting a Wales record with 41 international goals.

Bale's last match was a 3-0 loss to England at the World Cup on Nov. 29, his 111th international appearance.

"My decision to retire from international football has been by far the hardest of my career," Bale said in a statement Monday. "My journey on the international stage is one that has changed not only my life but who I am. The fortune of being Welsh and being selected to play for and captain Wales, has given me something incomparable to anything else I've experienced. I am honored and humbled to have been able to play a part in the history of this incredible country, to have felt the

support and passion of the red wall, and together have been to unexpected and amazing places."

Bale also said he is retiring from club football. He scored 53 Premier League goals and 81 in La Liga, finishing last season by helping Los Angeles win the Major League Soccer title. Bale won five Champions League titles, three Spanish league titles, one Copa del Rey and one League Cup. "I move on with anticipation to the next step in my life," he said. "A time of change and transition, an opportunity for a new adventure."

Bale made his Wales debut on May 27, 2006, in a friendly against Trinidad and Tobago, and the speedy winger helped Wales reach the semi-finals of the 2016 European

Championship, where it lost to Portugal 2-0. Wales qualified for the 2020 Euros, losing to Denmark in the round of 16, then qualified for its second World Cup and first since 1958. Bale scored the equalizer in an opening 1-1 draw against the United States. Wales then gave up a pair of goals in second-half stoppage time in a 2-0 loss to Iran. Bale broke the previous Wales record of 28 goals set by Ian Rush. Bale's appearances also are a Wales record. He has won Wales' player of the year award six times.

"How do I describe what being a part of this country and team means to me? How do I articulate the impact it has had on my life? How do I put in to words the way I felt, every single time I put on that Welsh shirt?" Bale said. "My answer is that I couldn't possibly do any of those things justice, simply with words. But I know that every person involved in Welsh football, feels the magic, and is impacted in such a powerful and unique way, so I know you feel what I feel, without using any words at all."

He joined Los Angeles FC from Real Madrid last June and helped his new team win the MLS championship, scoring a 128th-minute equalizer in the final. LA went on to beat Philadelphia on penalty kicks. Bale played for Southampton (2006-07), Tottenham (2007-13, 2020-21) and Real Madrid (2013-22). He joined Real Madrid after scoring a career-high 21 Premier League goals for Spurs in 2012-13. He scored double-digits league goals in four of his first five seasons with Madrid.

## Bumrah ruled out of Sri Lanka ODI series

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has been pulled out of the three one-day internationals against Sri Lanka, the country's cricket board said Monday, after being added to the initial squad.

The two teams will begin the 50-overs series on Tuesday in Guwahati after the hosts, led by Hardik Pandya, clinched the three-match Twenty20 series 2-1.

Bumrah, 29, has been out of action since September and missed the Twenty20 World Cup, where India lost to England in the semi-finals.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said Bumrah "will need some more time to build bowling resilience" and the decision was taken "as a precautionary measure".

The selectors have not named any replacement for Bumrah, called the "Yorker King" for his ability to bowl the toe-crushing delivery. Regular captain Rohit Sharma and star batsman Virat Kohli return to the ODI team, which will be preparing for this year's 50-over World Cup at home.

**India's updated ODI squad:** Rohit Sharma (capt), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya (vice-capt), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umran Malik, Arshdeep Singh.

## Najam Sethi felicitates veteran cricketers on winning inaugural Over-60s Cricket World Cup

KARACHI (APP): The Chairman of PCB Management Committee Najam Sethi has felicitated the Pakistan Veterans Cricket Association (PVCA) on winning the inaugural Over-60s Cricket World Cup at Brisbane, here on Monday.

He said, "It gives me great pleasure to draft this congratulations message for the Pakistan Veterans Cricket Association, which has continued to raise Pakistan's flag by showcasing their passion for cricket at a world stage."

"Their latest success was in Brisbane where they defeated New Zealand by

seven wickets to win the inaugural Over-60s Cricket World Cup. I am sure this success provided some inspiration to the Pakistan men's side that reached the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 two months later in Melbourne." "The PVCA has been regularly holding healthy and competitive cricket activities to keep former professional cricketers involved and associated with the sport they once dominated."

For these activities, they generate their own funds, resources and training camps, which is quite admirable and reflects their commitment, passion and

love for the game that brings all of us together as a proud nation.

He said that the PVCA has a busy 2023 cricket schedule, with over-50s World Cup in Cape Town in March and over-40s World Cup in Karachi in September/October, besides a series of other international and domestic competitions.

"I hope the PVCA will achieve more accomplishments in the upcoming events. As a die-hard cricket fan, supporter and follower, I will keep a track of their activities in 2023 and continue to support them in their endeavours in any way I can," he added.



DHAKA: Azam Khan celebrates after reaching his maiden T20 century, Chattogram Challengers vs Khulna Tigers, BPL 2022-23.

## Mbappe slams French football president for 'disrespecting' Zinedine Zidane

PARIS (Agencies): France forward Kylian Mbappe has come out in support of Zinedine Zidane after the country's football federation (FFF) president, Noel Le Graet, said he would not pick up the phone if the former midfielder called him to discuss coaching the national team.

The FFF had announced coach Didier Deschamps's contract extension on Saturday after he led France to a second consecutive World Cup final, where they lost to Argentina on penalties in Qatar last month. Zidane had previously been a favourite to succeed Deschamps.

When asked whether Zidane, a World Cup winner with France in 1998 and a national icon, would now manage Brazil instead, Le Graet told RMC: "I don't give a damn; he can go wherever he wants. "I know very well that Zidane was always on the radar. He had a lot of supporters, some were waiting for Deschamps's departure ... But who can make serious reproaches to Deschamps? Nobody."

"He [Zidane] does what he wants, it's none of my business. I've never met him;

we've never considered parting with Didier. He can go where he wants, to a club ... If Zidane tried to contact me? Certainly not, I wouldn't even pick up the phone."

Le Graet apologised for the comment on Monday after a growing backlash.

"I would like to present my personal apologies for these remarks which absolutely do not reflect my thoughts, nor my consideration for the player he was and the coach he has become," Le Graet said in a statement reported by French newspaper L'Equipe. "I admit that I made awkward remarks which created a misunderstanding. Zidane knows the immense esteem I have for him, like all French people."

Zidane, 50, was the first coach to win the Champions League three times in a row when he was in charge of Real Madrid. He won Euro 2000 with France in a glittering career. He is without a job after he left his role with the Spanish club in 2021.

"Zidane is France, we don't disrespect the legend like that," Mbappe said on Twitter after Le Graet's interview was aired.

Le Graet's dismissal of Zidane as a potential succes-

sor to Deschamps comes two years after he had backed the former midfielder to take up the reins if he was available.

"These remarks show a lack of respect for one of the most admired figures by football fans around the world and our club is awaiting an immediate correction," Madrid said. "The statements by the president of the French Football Federation are inappropriate for someone holding such representation and are in themselves unsuitable."

France's minister for sports, Amelie Oudea-Castera, was one of many politicians who reacted to Le Graet's comments, saying the president of the FFF had crossed a line. "Yet more out-of-touch comments and on top of that a shameful lack of respect, which hurts us all, towards a legend of football and sport," she wrote on Twitter.

French politician Pierye-Alexandre Anglade also demanded an apology from Le Graet, saying on Twitter: "Zidane is a monument of French football and sport. A personality loved by all French people ... Our football deserves better than that."





## In brief

### 33 beggars rounded up

RAWALPINDI (INP): The special squad of police rounded up 33 professional beggars including women during separate actions in different areas of garrison city on Monday. On directions of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem, the incharges of beggar squads along with their teams conducted operations against professional beggars at traffic signals, business centres and public points in across Rawalpindi city. During separate actions, 33 professional beggars including women were rounded up. Cases were registered against the detainees at concerned police stations and they were being investigated. CPO Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem lauded the special beggar squad for its actions. He said that the special beggar squad was making all out efforts to the clear the city of the professional beggars. The CPO said that professional beggars not only disrupt flow of traffic but also result in road mishaps. He appealed the citizens to discourage the professional beggars which will not only improve the situation in society but will also bring betterment in flow of traffic.

### Power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM. Islamabad Circle, Orchard Scheme, CDA Pump, Melody, Malik Altaf, Pandorian, Farash Town, ADBP, Chhata Bakhtawar, Service Road East, Crotile Hotel, G-9 Center, I-9/4, Carriage Factory, G-13/2, D-12/4, Rahara, CM Pak Zong, Isolation Hospital, Company Bagh, Barian, TDCP, PAF, Bagh City, Angori, Shahpur, Shahdara, Mangat, Desto, T&T, Treat, Bhara Kaho, II, Golf City, Rahara, AQ Khan, NIH, Mahfuz Shaheed, Club, I, NCP, Mangyal, Khayaban Iqbal, Peer Suhawah, Q u a i d - e - A z a m University, Punjab House, Buri Imam, Mandala, Athal, Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, New Milpur, Shaheed Muhammad Din, Raja Sultan, Khanna Road, T a m a s a m a b a d, Committee Chowk, Rajahabad, Jami Masjid, G u l s h a n a b a d, Gwalmandi, Dhoj Najo, Abu Bakr, Kayani Road, Radio Pak, Golla, MFM, Zeeshan Colony, I-14/3, Ratta Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Kashmir Road, Tipu Road, Chaklala, Jail Park I, Model Town, Gulistan Colony, Askari Seven, Dhok Noor, Hayal, Shah Jeevan, Kent, Dhok Awan, Zaraj, IST, Hanif Shaheed, Khawaja, New Chawah, Fazal Ahmad, Panjar, Mandra II, New Kalam, Sukhu, Raman, Gagan, Park View, Pindi Borr, FF Hospital, Morgah Feeders, Attock Circle, Nawazsh Shaheed, Ghori, Har Wahdat Colony, Kala Khan, Valley, Kohistan Enclave, Mix Industrial, Kashif Gul Shaheed, Model Town, Shafi Chauhan, Bara Zee, Wesa, Kachhari, Haji Shah, Fuara Chowk, Hameed, Nika Kalan, Muthial, Bahtar, Amanpur, Dharnal, Galial, Khore, Fateh Jang, Laniwala Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Bhon, Milat Chowk, Mureed, Miani, Manara, Main Bazaar, Jund Awan, Dhadyal Express, Latifal, Dhoda, Pinnwal, Katas, Jalap River, Lala Town.



RAWALPINDI: People queuing up to purchase subsidized flour from a delivery truck at Mukha Singh Estate neighborhood.

## BISP releases first quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafalat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) has released the first quarterly installment of Rs.7000 of Benazir Kafalat for the year 2023 on Monday. According to the BISP, around 7.7 million families would receive over Rs. 55 billion in the first tranche. The beneficiaries women and transgenders of Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan have started receiving this money from Payment Centers or Biometric ATMs designated by Habib Bank; while in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, the amount is being disbursed through Payment Centers or Biometric ATMs of Bank Al-Falah. Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety/Chairperson BISP Ms. Shazia Marri has expressed her commitment that transparency will be ensured in the disbursement of funds at any cost. She stressed that the beneficiaries should receive their amount of seven thousand and not to

forget to get their payment receipt. She reiterated that no deduction can be made through this amount and there is no payment fee. If a person demands any kind of deduction or fee for payment, beneficiaries should immediately report to BISP's toll-free helpline 080026477 and contact the nearest BISP Tehsil Office. She warned that the message sent by BISP will come from 8171 only and no message from any other number or code should be trusted, as it is faked and fraudulent.

## Operation against encroachment in govt residences launched

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Estate Office, Ministry of Housing and Works has started action against encroachments and illegally constructed structures in government residences in the federal capital. "The final notices have already been issued to the residents of the government residences by the Estate office," an official in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP. The official said that the ministry has also decided to vacate government quarters from retired and relatives of late employees, who continue to occupy residences.

"The purpose of the operation is to clear the government residences of encroachments," he added. He said the ministry has also sought help from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the government residences fall under the administrative control of the Estate Office. The official said the ministry has decided to take action against the construction of extra rooms by the employees and their kith and kin that are living in government-allotted houses. He said that at present, over 17,000 government houses in Islamabad were

under the management of the Estate Office and additional rooms had illegally been constructed by the allottees in over 2,400 residences. According to the sources, over 25,000 government employees were currently on the general waiting list to get accommodation but they could not be provided with the same as retired employees, their relatives, and relatives of even late government employees who continue to live in government quarters. The sources said they have constructed either an extra room or an entire floor on a government house.

## Transparent census to help resolving merged district's issues: Senate Acting Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): A transparent census would surely help in devising long-term planning to ultimately resolve the problems of the merged districts of erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), said Senate Acting Chairman Mirza Muhammad Afridi on Monday.

Talking to a delegation of tribal elders led by senior parliamentarian GG Jamal and former senator Aurangzeb Khan Aurakzai at Parliament House, he said a transparent census of the merged districts was imperative for the future development process. Acting Chairman said that a new era of development would begin in the erstwhile FATA after the census, which would also help solve the problems identified by the delegation of elders and leaders. However, he stressed that steps must be taken to ensure sustainable development.

He also assured all possible cooperation to solve the problems of the newly-merged districts.

He informed the elders on the problems, social and economic difficulties, and other important issues arising after the merger of the erstwhile FATA.

Acting Chairman, while welcoming

the delegation, said he himself hailed from the tribal area and tribal traditions and culture were very close to his heart.

Afridi said that the upper house always raised its voice for the backward classes and tried to solve the problems they were having with the provinces.

He said the elders' visit was a source of encouragement for him and it was also a reflection that the tribal people have full confidence in their institutions.

Acting Chairman said the tribal people have fought for the survival of the erstwhile FATA and made sacrifices for Pakistan. "The entire nation pays homage to the sacrifices of the tribal people, who fought forcefully against terrorism and anti-national forces."

Senator Aurangzeb Khan said the people of merged districts have sacrificed for the sake of the country. He drew the attention of the Acting Chairman to the problems and said the census was a fundamental problem and the relevant authorities and institutions should clarify their strategy. Afridi acknowledged and lauded the leadership skills of Senator Aurangzeb Aurakzai and GG Jamal.

## Facilitation of flood victims top priority, says Dastgir

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan on Monday said that incumbent government would work with the coalition partners to strengthen democracy in the country.

Talking to a news channel, the minister said, "Facilitation of flood victims is the top priority of the Federal Government, and we are working with the coalition partners in this regard."

Clearing the air over the energy conservation plan, he said that consultations were done before taking the deci-

sion, adding that the trading community was informed on the matter.

Orders had been issued to reduce electricity consumption by 30% in all ministries and divisions, he added. Criticizing the previous government led by Imran Khan, the federal minister said that the PTI was responsible for the reduction in the production of wheat and sugar, which was a major reason for the price hike in consumable commodities. The worst floods destroyed standing crops and infrastructure, which further contributed to inflation, he added.

### ANF seizes over 62 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while conducting three counter-narcotics operations in different areas seized over 62 kg of drugs and arrested two smugglers, said the ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that ANF while foiling a bid to smuggle drugs from Peshawar to Punjab recovered 33.6 kg charras and 24 kg opium from a CNG cylinder and stepney tire of a Mazda intercepted near Islamabad 'Cockpul' on Expressway.

## Alvi directs NHA to explain non-payment of compensation to affectees

ISLAMABAD (NNI): President Dr Arif Alvi, upholding the orders of Wafaqi Mohtasib, has directed National Highway Authority (NHA) to explain as to why it had failed to compensate the affectees of land acquisition even after a delay of four years.

The president passed these orders in the case of Imam Baksh, Muhammad Saleh, Ali Ahmed, Ghulam Haider, Khuda Baksh and Zahoor Ahmed (the complainants), who alleged that NHA destroyed their homes and shops during the construction of N-85 and even after their repeated requests for compensation, the agency declined to meet its legal obligations, said a President House statement on Monday.

The president upheld the decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib wherein NHA was directed to conduct an inquiry against the officers/officials responsible for the inordinate delay. He directed the NHA to file a

compliance report within 30 days of the receipt of the findings.

In his decision, the president said that unfortunately, the Authority initiated the case for compensation after four years only when the affectees' launched a complaint against NHA, which, he said, was tantamount to maladministration on the part of NHA.

President Alvi observed that NHA was liable to implement the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib passed first on 8th May 2020. He rejected NHA's representation as incompetent and non-maintainable and directed NHA to appear and explain its position in the implementation proceedings before the learned Wafaqi Mohtasib.

The president ordered the organisation to appear and explain as to why the order of the Wafaqi Mohtasib had not been complied with in the next 30 days.

## Sultan Rahi remembered on his death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Famous film actor Sultan Rahi who remained the most popular Punjabi hero during 1970s and 1980s at Pakistan's silver screen was remembered on his 27th death anniversary on Monday. Born on January 24, 1938, his real name was Muhammad Sultan. His family migrated to Pakistan after the partition and settled in Gujranwala after 1947. His film career began in

1959 with his appearance as a guest actor in the film Baghi.

During a career spanning 40 years, he acted in some 703 Punjabi films and 100 Urdu films, winning around 160 awards.

Rahi earned two Nigar Awards for his work in Babul (1971) and Basheera (1972). Director Aslam Dar's film Bashira proved to be the first milestone for him. His most prominent films

include Maula Jutt, Warrayam, Sher Khan and Godfather. His pairing with actress Asia and Anjuman was favourite among the viewers and his last movie was with actress Saima. Sultan Rahi was murdered by some unidentified persons on January 9, 1996 during a highway robbery on the Grand Trunk Road near Gujranwala, while returning to Lahore from Islamabad.

## NDMA for preparedness measures amid rain, snowfall prediction

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) here on Monday issued a detailed advisory for the nationwide preparedness measures to cope with rain and snowfall prediction advising the provinces to ensure mass awareness and sensitization of the travellers and tourists to the high risk areas.

The NDMA advisory mentioned the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast, citing that a westerly wave was likely to enter North Balochistan on January 10 (night) and was likely to grip upper parts of the country from January 11-13 (Wednesday to Friday). Under the influence of this weather system, following events were forecast as moderate rain was expected in Islamabad from January 11-13 (Wednesday to Friday).

However, in Balochistan rain and snowfall (with isolated heavy falls) was expected in Barkhan, Chaman, Dalbandin, Harnai, Muslim Bagh, Nokkundi, Pishin, Qila Abdullah, Qila Saifullah, Quetta, Zhob and Ziarat on January 10 (night) and 11 (Tuesday & Wednesday).

Moreover, light rain was also expected along the Makran Coast on January 11 and 12 (Wednesday & Thursday). In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, rain (with moderate to isolated heavy snowfall) was expected in Abbottabad, Chitral, Dir, Galiyat Region, Kohistan, Malakand, Mansehra and Swat from January 11-13 (Wednesday to Friday).

Moreover, moderate rain was also expected in Peshawar, Nowshera, Swabi, Bajaur, Bannu, Charsadda, Karak, Kohat, Kurram and Waziristan during the same period whereas light rain may also occur in Dera Ismail Khan on January 11 & 12 (Wednesday & Thursday).

In Punjab, moderate rain was expected in Potohar Region, Bhakkar, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Jhang, Kasur, Khushab, Lahore, Layyah, Mianwali, Murree, Nankana Sahib, Narowal, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Sialkot,

Sheikhupura, Toba Tek Singh and Okara from January 11-13

(Wednesday to Friday). Moreover, light rain may occur in Dera Ghazi Khan, Khanewal, Muzaffargarh, Multan and Pakpattan on January 11 & 12 (Wednesday & Thursday). In, Gilgit Baltistan, rain (with moderate to isolated heavy snowfall) is expected in Astore, Diamir, Ghanche, Ghizer, Gilgit, Hunza, Shigar and Skardu from January 11-13 (Wednesday to Friday). In Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), rain (with moderate to isolated heavy snowfall) was expected in Bagh, Bhimber, Hattian, Haveli, Kotli, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Neelum Valley, Poonch and Sudhnoti from January 11-13 (Wednesday to Friday).

Keeping in view the weather situation, all provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs), Gilgit Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration, National Highway Authority (NHA), National Highway and Motorway Police (NH&MP), Frontier Works Organization (FWO), Rescue-1122, line departments, Ministries and federal agencies were required to undertake measures as per respective mandate.

The NDMA advised that it was to be ensured by all concerned in addition to measures deemed appropriate as per on ground situation to make ensure widespread circulation of advisories and alerts to raise awareness and sensitize travellers and tourists. The concerned departments were to prepare general and area or region specific awareness campaigns and ensure wide spread propagation of likely threats and hazards. Moreover, they should also engage local communities at traditionally dangerous and hazard prone sites to enable round the clock monitoring and establish feedback mechanism for early warnings and alerts for at-risk population.

It also added that the PDMAs and DDMA to arrange and preplace necessary inventory and other essentials at strategic locations or vulnerable choke points in coordination with

NH&MP, NHA, FWO, local Construct and Works Departments (C&W), Rescue-1122 and line departments.

It also advised that the local administrations to assess and plan deployment of additional resources and exercise control over vehicle movement leading to and in vicinity of vulnerable areas, choke points, tourist spots and attractions to prevent losses and damages and save precious lives. Moreover, medical resources; paramedics, equipment and medicine should be deployed as per the vulnerability and risks identified in different regions to meet respective regional requirements.

The provincial departments and the concerned should also ensure that tourists, visitors, travelers in at-risk and affected areas will be apprised and forewarned about forecast weather and road conditions in coordination with NH&MP, law enforcement agencies (LEAs), NHA and FWO, ensure availability of emergency services personnel during the forecast period. The travellers on Provincial and National Highways in at-risk/affected areas be forewarned of adverse conditions and may be detoured to safe waiting areas under guidance of respective PDMAs, Local Authorities, National Highway and Motorway Police, LEAs, etc., ensure immediate stocking of basic commodities especially in regions that get cut-off during winters snowfall, ensure round the clock monitoring of situation through emergencies operation centers (EOCs) with regular feedback to provincial and national EOCs (PEOCs and NEOC respectively). The tourists, visitors, and travelers to check PMD Weather Forecast for information on fog, snowfall, rain, high flows in nullahs and landslides etc., to assess road conditions from control rooms, helplines, websites, social media platforms of NH&MP, NHA, FWO, DDMA and PDMAs before undertaking journey.

The NDMA also instructed all departments concerned that in case of any eventuality, twice daily and routine updates to be shared with the Authority.



ISLAMABAD: Acting Chairman Senate, Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi exchanging views with a tribal delegation led by Ex-Senator Aurangzeb Khan at Parliament House.



**3 held over cutting forests**

NANGARHAR (Agencies): Officials at Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Nangarhar said that they have arrested 3 people in Sherzad district of the province on the charge of cutting forests. These people were arrested while cutting forests in the Mountain of Sherzad District, the authorities of Nangarhar said that the detainees will be introduced to to judicial bodies. Lately, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, announced ban on cutting forests in the whole country.

**Tourists visits Mangjak**

JAWZJAN (Agencies): Two foreign tourists of Spain, while visiting Mangjak district of Jawzjan, said, "The beauty of Afghanistan is in the authentic culture and traditional life of its people." They say that after visiting Afghanistan, they were surprised by its natural scenery and people. The officials of the Islamic Emirate expressed their happiness and said that the western countries have the image of terror, murder and war in their mind from the social situation of Afghanistan.

## Afghanistan and Kazakhstan to cooperate in telecommunication

KABUL (Agencies): The country's Acting Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister, in a meeting with Kazakhstan ambassador in Kabul, discussed the cooperation between the two countries in the sector of telecommunications and capacity building.

Mawlawi Najibullah Haqqani, Acting Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister, emphasized on expanding telecommunication services in Afghanistan, increasing the capacity of Afghan engineers and addressing internet problems in the country in a meeting with Kazakhstan ambassador Bakhthar Sar Sanbhi.

Kazakh ambassador said, he will inspire the reliable telecommunications companies of his country to cooperate with the telecommunications sector in Afghanistan and transfer their experiences to this country.

He termed Afghanistan a safe and suitable country for investment.

## Deputy PM Hanafi visit city park in Kabul



KABUL (Agencies): after cabinet decision the Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi visited park Shahar (City Park) where fuel tank has been built illegally.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi was accompanied by Attorney general Mawlawi Shamsuddin Shariati, and some other related officials to assess the issues of the park.

## Transfer of humanitarian aid packages suspended



KABUL (TOLOnews): A former member of the Afghan Central Bank's supreme council, Shah Mehrabi, said that since mid-December 2022, United Nations flights have stopped transferring cash aid to Afghanistan as part of humanitarian assistance.

In a statement, the Da Afghanistan Bank denied the suspension of humanitarian aid packages to Afghanistan.

Mehrabi said that the suspension of cash aid will affect the stability of the Afghan currency.

"The suspension of humanitarian aid coupled with a halt of bank transfer in freezing of \$7 billion of Afghanistan reserves will cause an increase in prices and pause in payment of education sector and health worker," Mehrabi said. "As a result of higher prices, many women, orphans, and other ordinary Afghans will not be able to afford bread, flour and cooking oil and pay for other basic needs."

"This will further exacerbate poverty and add to the suffering of ordinary Afghans," Mehrabi added.

Mehrabi referred to UN figures, saying that

more than 70 percent of the Afghan population needs humanitarian assistance and many are close to starvation.

"It is important to point out that it poses a question about the purpose of suspending humanitarian aid, and who will benefit and suffer from it. I urge the continuation of humanitarian aid," Mehrabi said.

Analysts said that the aid was suspended in reaction to the Islamic Emirate's decision to ban women from working in NGOs.

"(They) should either bring changes in their decision or a humanitarian catastrophe will happen," said Sayed Jawad Sijadi, an international relations analyst.

"If the aid is suspended, the people of Afghanistan will suffer the most from it," said Mehdi Afzali, an international relations analyst.

This comes as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in a report that more than \$3 billion is needed for Afghanistan's humanitarian response.

## Families of victims seek compensation

HELMAND (TOLOnews): A number of families of the victims of airstrikes by British forces in Helmand province are seeking for justice and compensation.

Haji Gul Agha, a member of a victim's family, said British forces airstrike killed 46 of his relatives and neighbors in a single day. "46 people were martyred in this area and we buried 36 of them here," Gul Agha said.

"Our first demand is that this person should be brought to justice and our losses should be taken from this person," said Shir Agha, a relative of the victims.

"We ask the world to bring to justice the person who did this injustice to us and pay our damages," said Abdullah, another relative of the victims.

Abdul Wajid, a resident of Gereskh district in Helmand, said British forces' airstrike killed 45 people there, including seven members of his family.

"The plane turned again and attacked the area. The area was full of children and women," Abdul Wajid, a relative of the victims.

People who were killed fifteen years ago by a British forces airstrike are buried in a mass grave in Gereskh district.

Local authorities in Helmand asked international courts to investigate violations British forces committed in the province.

"If there is any institution, we want them to fully probe the incident," said Mohammad Qasim Riaz, spokesman for Helmand governor. Earlier, some of the relatives of victims of conflicts in Helmand and Uruzgan provinces demanded justice.

## DAB to auction another \$17m

KABUL (Agencies): Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) will auction 17 million US dollars as part of the country's efforts to stabilize the exchange rate of the national currency on Wednesday.

DAB 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 the Central Bank.

The exchange rate of one US dollar was 90.60 afghanis on Monday, while it was 88 afghanis in local money-changing markets last week.

It is the second time, the Central Bank auctions US dollars in a week to keep the local currency stable against US dollars in the market. One day back, DAB auctioned 15 million US dollars in the market.

## Snow, rain block highways in provinces

KABUL (TOLOnews): The State Ministry for Disaster Management said rain and snowfall in 20 provinces have closed a number of highways to traffic, including in Bamiyan, Farah, and Sar-e-Pul provinces.

"The Kotal-e-Shato area in Bamiyan is temporarily closed to traffic. The route in Chaman district in Farah is closed to traffic as a result of snowfall," said Hamidullah Misbah, a spokesman for the Ministry of Public Works.

Meanwhile, some farmers said that rains are crucial to decreasing drought and enhancing water resources.

"This year there was no water, there was drought, and all wheat fields dried up," said Ajmal, a farmer.

Many people celebrated the second snowfall of the year. Kabul residents that snow will improve underground water resources and will reduce pollution in the city.

"I wish there is more snowfall so that the air will clear up," said Assad, a resident of Kabul.

"We face water shortage. We hope the issue will be resolved," said Rohullah, a resident of Kabul. "We came here with friends to have some fun," said Tawab, a Kabul resident.

More than at any other time, the cold season brings more hardships to vulnerable families who spend the winter with fewer facilities in their access.

## IEA dedicate 2 billion Afs

KABUL (Agencies): Lately, the cabinet of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, tasked a delegation under the chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Mawlawi Attaullah Omari, to assess the Amu Darya situation. After an assessment the delegation shared details on the situation devastated areas of the Amu Darya in Balkh.

According to Minister Omari, tens of acres of agricultural land are falling under the banks of the river every day, and on the other hand, people's houses, mosques and the devastated area of the river destroys public places. The Islamic Emirate is determined to prevent the erosion of the Amu Darya and is working utterly on the matter, Minister Omari added.

According to Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan allocated 2 billion Afghani for the preservation and protection of the devastated part of Amu Darya, in order to prevent the destruction of more lands.

In the same time, he asked charitable organizations to assist to prevent the destruction of people's agricultural lands on this regard. The Amu Darya (River) is one of the important rivers of the country, which has submerged thousands of acres of land for years, and now the IEA has pledged to restore its fortifications.

## Concerns over women's education: UN envoy meets Minister for Higher Education

KABUL (TOLOnews): Acting Minister of Higher Education Neda Mohammad Nadim in a meeting with the UN deputy special envoy for Afghanistan, Markus Potzel, said that the Islamic Emirate has not decided on an absolute ban on women's education, but has postponed the issue due to external factors.

Nadim added that the Islamic Emirate does not accept anyone's demands through pressure.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Higher Education that UNAMA's deputy promised that he will help in the development of Afghanistan's higher education and has also shared a plan for the continuation of women's education with the higher education minister.

"The Minister said that we are committed to the rights of all Afghan people in light of Sharia and we want a good interaction with the entire world in the field of education. We ask the international community to never make a request from us that is in conflict with Sharia," said Ziaullah Hashemi, the ministry's spokesman.

According to the Ministry of Higher Education, the acting education minister has assured the UNAMA deputy that the ministry is committed to upholding the country's citizens' right to an education.



Meanwhile, a well-known scholar from Turkey, in a meeting with the higher education minister, said that the ban on girls' education is unacceptable.

"I'm telling you this as your friend in science because this issue hides all of your goodness. No level of sensitivity can justify a generation's ignorance. You may say that this is our internal issue and that nobody should speak out about it, but now it has become the problem of all Muslims," said Mohammed Gormaz, President of the Institute of Islamic Thought (Turkey).

Some female students who are deprived of going to school said that they are worried about their future

and urged the Islamic Emirate to reopen their schools.

"They should reopen schools for girls. So that we can reach all our dreams and goals in life and serve our country," said Marwa Bela, a student.

"At first, girls were banned from schools; later, they were banned from universities and other educational institutions. Without educated women, society would definitely not advance or become self-sufficient," said Muqadas Noori, another student.

The Ministry of Higher Education banned women from going to universities and other higher education institutions about three weeks ago, provoking reactions at national and international levels.

## Azizi stress on quality of domestic products

KABUL (Agencies): Acting Industry and Commerce Minister, Nooruddin Azizi, in a meeting with the representatives of the chambers of commerce, stressed on the expansion of the quality of domestic products.

A coordination meeting held, on support of domestic products, Shir Baz kam-zada, the Director of the Afghanistan Chamber of Industries and Mines, said: Strengthening domestic industries will boost country's economic. He assured about the good quality of domestic products and demanded to sign contracts with government agencies.

In the past years, up to 600 million dollars went abroad to buy iron, but now not a single "cent" goes abroad, which is a great achievement of the officials of the Islamic Emirate, said Esnat Wardak, one of the steel factory owners.

A trader Shafiq Eskandari said Now, Afghan products and productions have a good reputation in the markets of Central Asia, adding that one kilo of cucumbers produced in Afghanistan is sold in the markets of Kazakhstan for up to four dollars..

Meanwhile, Minister Azizi, stressed on the improvement of the quality of domestic products, said that all goods are inspected by this ministry.

## Rescued mineworkers in stable condition: Doctors



B A D K H S H A N (TOLOnews): The three mineworkers who were rescued from under the rubble in an extraction site in Yawan district in the north-eastern province of Badakhshan are in stable condition, doctors said.

The mineworkers were trapped under the rubble in a gold mine in the Yawan district last week on Thursday. One of them was rescued after nearly 40 hours while two more were rescued after 60.

"They don't have any serious health issues. Their condition is normal. They were a little bit hungry and thirsty," said Homayoun Frotan, head of Badakhshan provincial hospital.

"Two of the brothers who were stuck there. By speeding up the rescue effort, we were able to pull them out safely around 9:30 in the night," said Moezuddin Ahmadi, head of information and culture directorate of Badakhshan.

The mineworkers said they were forced to do unprofessional labor at the site due to the lack of jobs in the country.

"What hurt us the most was difficulty breathing as

well as hunger and thirst," said Khatibullah, a rescued worker.

"We got caught there about 11 p.m. on Thursday, and I was rescued at 12 a.m. on Saturday. Due to a lack of jobs, we went there, but we were unsuccessful. We were trapped in a tunnel when it collapsed," said Sefatullah, another rescued mineworker.

This comes as some mineral resources in the country are extracted in a traditional and unprofessional way. Individual access to these sites has also been associated with risks.

"If the quality of the goods is in accordance with the standards; will be appreciated, otherwise producers of low-quality products will lose government support and consumers". He added.

Minister Azizi said in order to promote the culture of using domestic products, all the media, Imams of mosques, professors of schools and universities are informed to convey the message of using domestic products to the citizens of the country for the sake of self-sufficiency of the country.

## Afghan minister speaks on altering journalism curriculum

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Higher Education of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan announced that initial initiatives have been taken to revise the journalism curriculum at the universities in the country.

Mawlawi Neda Mohammad Nadeem, the Acting Minister of Higher Education, in a ceremony said in his opening remarks, that westerners use media as a powerful tool to their own advantage through waging intellectual and propaganda war against Muslims.

The interim administration is planning to significantly revise the journalism curriculum to prepare the young journalists to sever the country with honesty and good faith, not to propagate wrong things against a group, regime, or Islamic values, Minister Nadeem said. "Lying is forbidden in all religions, however, some media have made it their profession and are corrupting people's minds through propaganda" Minister Nadeem added. He further stressed on the importance of honesty, reliability, and compliance with national and Islamic values in journalism.

Journalism is an important profession in the contemporary environment, it has the potential to change people's mindset either negatively or positively," Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Lutfullah Khairkhan said.

This comes as the Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have imposed wide-ranging restrictions on media and free press since their return to power in August 2021. The set of regulations introduced by the Taliban administration restricts media and journalists to report on matters that



are contrary to Islam, insulting national figures, or criticizing the ruling regime. It also adds that media outlets should maintain balance by not providing reports on matters that could negatively influence the attitude of the general

public. The complete censorship of media has paralyzed the local and international media outlets to reflect the reality of the status quo in the country.

So far, the Taliban authorities have arbitrarily detained, tortured and

harassed several journalists and media personnel including foreign nationals across the country. Meanwhile, the IEA officials have made it very clear that they don't want to face public scrutiny under no circumstances.





LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan arriving to attend Punjab Assembly session.

## Tourism to be made an industry: KP CM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has directed to expedite the construction work on approach roads to tourist destinations and the renovation/preservation of various archaeological sites in the province adding that establishment of tourism as an industry will not only ensure revenue generation but will also provide livelihood opportunities to local people. The Chief Minister maintained that he is personally monitoring the development projects of tourism sector and directed the construction of walking tracks on need basis to ensure access to tourist destinations.

Chairing a progress review meeting on rehabilitation of archeological sites and construction of tourism sector roads, the Chief Minister clarified that huge resources have been invested during the previous four years to attract national and international tourists and accelerate tourism activities in the province. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, Secretary Finance Ikramullah, Secretary Planning & Development Shah Mahmood, Secretary Tourism Tahir Orakzai, Managing Director Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority, DG KPCTA and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

The participants of the meeting were informed that the rehabilitation and remodeling of 22 km long Mankyal Road and 24 km long Thandiani Road is in progress under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development Project (KITE) which will be completed by October 2024 at a cost of Rs 3.4 and Rs 2.5 billion respectively. Moreover, under the Provincial Annual Development Program, in Hazara Division, 38% of the physical work is complete on 18 km long Mandi Mali Road, 54% on 10 km Shogran Road, 30% on 9 km Ghanool Paprang Road, 41% on 15 km Manoor valley Road and 31% physical progress has been made on 12 km long Nawazabad to Mundi road. These projects will be completed this year at a cost of 4.6 billion rupees.

Similarly, in Malakand Division, under the ADP, 41% physical progress has been made on 14 km long Kafir Banda Road, 61% on 4.5 km Burj Banda Road, 40% on 7 km Dag Sar Charoona Road, 50 % on 9 Km Chail Beshigram Road, 29% on 4 km Bela Beshigram Road, 36% on 4 km Areen Daral Road, 35% on 6 km Madian Bishigram Road, 19 % on 3 km Guder Lake Road, 23 % on 3 km

Anakar Road, and 49 % physical progress has been made on 8 km long Marghuzar to Elum Road. These projects will be completed this year at a cost of Rs 4.8 billion.

The meeting was also told that steps are being taken to promote religious and cultural tourism in the province. Under the KITE project, renovation and rehabilitation of two Masajid, two stupas and three museums in progress. 38% physical work on Bhamala Stupa has been completed. 95% physical work has been completed on Chakdra Museum Dir, 93% on Hund Museum Swabi, 63% on Shapola Stupa Landi Kotal and 60% physical progress has been made on Kalam and Odigram Masajid. These projects will be completed at an estimated cost of 262 million rupees.

The participants were told that substantial progress has been made on the pre-feasibility of the Kumrat Madakalasht cable car project. Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister said that Tourism Police has been established for the protection of tourists and tourist sites. Three integrated tourism zones are being established for the promotion of eco-friendly and organized tourism which is first of its kind initiative in the history of province.

## Pakistan, Saudi Crown Prince vow to boost ties

RIYADH (INP): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Monday agreed to bolster military-to-military and defence cooperation between the two countries. The agreement reached during a meeting between Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The Saudi Crown Prince received the Pakistani Army Chief in his royal tent in AlUla and congratulated him on become the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan Army. The meeting discussed ways to develop bilateral relations in addition to issues of mutual interest and both the leaders agreed to further cement the relationship. Senior Saudi and Pakistani officials also attended the meeting.

Earlier, General Asim Munir had held talks with Saudi defence minister on his first official trip to the Gulf kingdom. General Munir had discussed military cooperation with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz in the capital Riyadh on Thursday last, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

General Asim Munir, who took charge in November, has followed in the footsteps of his predecessors in visiting Saudi Arabia – a close defence and economically – on his maiden overseas trip. He will also visit the United Arab Emirates during the nearly one-week trip. General Asim Munir also visited Majid Al-Haram in Makkah where the doors of the Holy Kaaba were exclusively opened for him. In pictures and video clips posted on social media on Sunday, the army chief could be seen walking out of the Holy Kaaba at the Grand Mosque in Makkah.

## Pakistan at frontline of extreme climate precipice: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday said Pakistan needed to create the much-needed lifeline that will help Pakistanis manage predictability for basic survival amid unprecedented climate crisis which was the only way to confront the polycrisis hitting the nation.

Addressing the first plenary at the global Climate Resilient Pakistan Conference held in Geneva, the Minister was flanked by Finance and Revenue Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Economic Affairs Division Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner and Vice President South Asia Region, World Bank, Martin Raiser. Senator Rehman said, “the world ‘polycrisis’ which is a new word for the 21st century as the challenges faced by the century are entirely new.”

She added that Pakistan was at the frontline of the extreme climate precipice. “We do appreciate all partners, the UNDP, entire UN system, all development partners, international non-governmental organisations (INGOS) and Pakistani NGOs as all had their sleeves rolled up and gumboots on the ground.

# Climate Resilient Pakistan conference calls for support amid post-flood challenges

GENEVA (APP): The International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, co-hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations in Geneva, Monday called for securing global support and forging long-term partnerships to help the country cope with the challenges of devastating floods of 2022. The conference brought together governments, leaders from the public and private sectors and civil society to support the people and the government of Pakistan to deal with the enormous challenge of post-flood reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, flanked by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari relayed the call for supporting the needs of 33 million people displaced by the country’s worst flood disaster. Shehbaz Sharif in his address mentioned Pakistan’s Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF), which laid out a multisectoral strategy for rehabilitation and reconstruction in a climate-resilient and inclusive manner

As per estimates, the devastating floods in 2022 left one-third of the country submerged, about 15,000 dead or injured and 8 million displaced. Over 2 million homes, 13,000 kilometres of highways, 439 bridges and more than 4 million acres of agricultural land were destroyed or damaged. An estimated nine million more people could be forced into poverty as a direct consequence of these floods. The prime minister said with the support of the United Nations, the World Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Union, Pakistan had prepared a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), which estimates flood damages to exceed US\$14.9 billion, economic losses over US\$15.2 billion and reconstruction needs over US\$16.3 billion.

He expressed profound gratitude to Secretary-General Guterres for co-chairing the conference and for his continued support for the people of Pakistan suffering in the aftermath of the floods. He recalled visiting along

with Guterres the flood-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan in September and said that the people of Pakistan would never forget this gesture of the UN Secretary-General. He stressed that the question was not only about how to survive, but how to maintain dignity and honour by moving forward with a sense of purpose and achievement.

Shehbaz Sharif said floods disrupted the education of 2.6 million including one million girls. “We are racing against time,” he said, stressing that relief work needed to continue as some areas of Sindh needed drainage of water. He mentioned that the broad contours set up in the 4RF plan reflected priority for recovery and reconstruction, with a minimum requirement of \$16.3 billion.

He said resilience was required to recover from colossal damages and ensure a sustainable future for the livelihood. “Pakistan needs a new coalition of the willing to save lives,” he said, urging solidarity and long-term support to the people of Pakistan to renew their hope. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said floods affected millions of people in Pakistan with immense losses to agricultural land and infrastructure. He recalled meeting the men, women and children at the makeshift camps in the flood-hit areas of Pakistan and said it was heartbreaking to witness their sufferings in the wake of climate-induced disaster.

“The UN is at the frontline of addressing the catastrophe in Pakistan and stressed improvement in infrastructure,” he said. “The UN will be there to help in critical and colossal losses.” He said the climate crisis needed massive support and mentioned that the people in South Asia were 15 times more likely to die with the impact of such natural disasters. FM Bilawal said Pakistan looked forward to international support and assistance as a major climate disaster affected one in seven of the country’s population.

He highlighted that a large area of Pakistan was inundated with water and emphasized that the international community needed to come together and join the comprehensive plan pre-

sented by Pakistan on post-flood reconstruction. French President Emmanuel Macron in a video-link address offered full support from the government and people of France to Pakistan in their hour of difficulty. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkiye stood by the people of Pakistan in overcoming its flood damages. He mentioned that the country sent 15 planes and two ships carrying humanitarian aid supplies for the flood-struck people of Pakistan.

He stressed intense efforts and more collaboration to address the climate crisis, adding that Turkiye continued to be in contact with the Pakistani authorities. In his video statement, Prime Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Støre said the catastrophe had caused a matchless damage to Pakistan. He said as the needs of the flood-hit people remained enormous, the international community should take collective actions to address the challenge of the climate change and support its victims. He said Norway would continue to joining the international community for the cause.

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen calling the conference a timely initiative said 2022 was a difficult year for the world owing to the pandemic as well as the worst flood hitting Pakistan, putting pressure on the vulnerable people. She said the scale of the flood-caused devastation was enormous as millions of people remained underwater for months and the children faced a shortage of food. She said the conference was meant to adopt an ambitious plan to help Pakistan put on the path to recovery.

Federal Councillor for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland Ignazio Cassis said the international community should support Pakistan in that hour of need. He said climate change was a global risk which necessitated global actions. He thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for holding the moot and recalled the Swiss support to Pakistan soon after the floods including sending a team for relief and reconstruction.

## KP Ministers Amend Act: PML-N approaches PHC

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) from PK-34 has challenged The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ministers (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Act 2022 at Peshawar High Court (PHC).

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) MPA Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Zaman challenged on the ground that the amendments introduced The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ministers (Salaries, Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Act 2022 are mala fides, ultra vires of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and violative of fundamental rights of people of Pakistan/ Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as guaranteed by the Constitution.

The writ petition stated that the aforesaid have been introduced with the explicit objectives of some prominent political figures especially top leadership Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf,

Advisors, Special Assistants to Chief Minister, their favorite bureaucrats and government servants, who illegally carried out and undertaken unauthorized journeys or excursion on aircrafts and helicopters of government, at Government’s expenses.

The petition added that the insertion of section 7B of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ministers (Salaries, allowances and privileges) Act 1975 and its substitution by new section, whereby the provision of amending Act have been made applicable retrospectively from 1st November 2008 till commencement of the Second Amendment Act 2022 is unlawful and mala fide to put a stop to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) into illegal use of helicopters and to protect financial corruption and ill-gotten gains of top leadership of a political party.

The writ further argued that the impugned enactments being aimed at safeguarding personal and

political interest, fall within the ambit of colourable legislation. Because use of aircrafts and helicopters by unauthorized individuals, without approval of the competent authority is an offence, which being legalized through this mala fide legislation.

The petitioner prayer to declare both the amendments introduced by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ministers (salaries, allowances and privileges) Act 2022 as illegal, without lawful authority, without jurisdiction, mala fides and ultra vires of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 and also violate fundamental rights. The writ was filed by Muhammad Tariq Afridi Advocate on behalf of PML-N parliamentary leaders while Secretaries, Law, parliamentary affairs & human rights department, Law department, administration department, provincial assembly and Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly were respondents in the petition.

## PHC grants transit bail to Barrister Saif Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Qaiser Rashid granted transit bail to Advisor for Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif and ordered to appear on concerned forum, on Monday.

During hearing the counsel for petitioner Fakhar Alam Jaghra and Yasir Khalid Advocates appeared before court. They argued that Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif serving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Special Advisor for Information, Special Magistrate Capital Development Authority has issued arrest warrant and ordered the petitioner to appear on 11 January, the counsel informed.

The counsel argued that arrest warrant of Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif was issued under Preservation Landscape Ordinance 1966 while the case was registered for using tractor and blade on CDA’s land which is illegal. The petitioner is law abiding citizen and victimizing on political ground because the opposition in Federal is governing the federation following ousting of PTI led coalition government, the counsels informed.

The petitioner is willing to contest the case and to appear before court law but hesitating concerned police station of Islamabad police may arrest Barrister Saif and requested for transit till appearance before court, the counsel argued. Chief Justice Peshawar High Court Justice Qaiser Rashid granted transit bail to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Advisor on Information Barrister Muhammad Saif and ordered to appear before competent forum.

## Karachi LG polls to be held on 15th

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rejecting the plea of MQM, the ECP on Monday ruled that the local government (LG) elections in Karachi and Hyderabad would be held as per schedule on January 15. The verdict was announced by a three-member bench of the commission headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja.

The ECP bench rejected the plea filed by MQM leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui seeking delay in the local government polls in Karachi and Hyderabad and accepted the petition of Jamaat-e-Islami contesting the proposed postponement.