

SC grants bail to Jakhrani

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Supreme Court has granted permanent bail to Adviser to the Sindh Chief Minister Aijaz Jakhrani. Aijaz Jakhrani had filed a bail plea in the Supreme Court in Rs311 million reference of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). A three-member bench headed by the chief justice conducted the hearing. The NAB did not oppose the pre-arrest bail plea of Aijaz Jakhrani.



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# PM: Over \$9b pledges show world's trust

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said over \$9 billion in pledges made by the countries and development partners showed their confidence in Pakistan's coalition government.

"As a Team Pakistan, this success is an achievement for the coalition government and the nation," the prime minister said in a statement as he co-hosted a day-long conference on the reconstruction and rehabilitation in the wake of the country's summer floods in Geneva on Monday. Shehbaz Sharif lauded the contribution of all concerned ministries and departments in making Geneva's Resilient Pakistan Conference a success. He acknowledged the role played by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb. He assured that as a trust, the financial assistance would be provided to the deserving through a third-party audit. Shehbaz Sharif mentioned the special financial support extended by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman besides the pledges of the conference. He also highlighted the support of the leadership of China, Turkiye, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, the European Union, the United States, Germany, Japan, France, and other countries to help Pakistan overcome the post-flood challenges. He lauded the support of the Islamic Development Bank, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, United States Agency for International Development, Department for International Development, and other aid agencies. The prime minister earlier in a tweet said the climate crisis had severely threatened nations' capacity to achieve Sustainable Development Goals as a return to business-as-usual was out of the

question. "World needs to employ vision and solidarity for transition to a sustainable future of hope. The darkness of disasters should be replaced by the light of opportunity," he said. He mentioned that in his address at Resilient Pakistan Conference, he outlined the recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction requirements of the country over medium to long terms. "I explained how flood ravages have caused learning, health, and infrastructure losses. I alerted the world to spectre of food insecurity," he said.

**Shehbaz thanks countries, UN for making Resilient Pakistan conference a 'resounding success':** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the countries and the aid agencies for making the conference on Pakistan's post-flood challenges a success. "A big thank you to Heads of states and governments, European Union, our development partners and United Nations for making Resilient Pakistan Conference a resounding success," he said in a tweet.

He mentioned the active role of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in highlighting the plight of Pakistan's flood-hit population. "The UN Secretary General has shown stellar leadership all along. People of Pakistan will forever remain grateful," he said.

Shehbaz Sharif said the world witnessed yesterday how the nations can come together in a show of solidarity to create a model of win-win partnership to lift suffering humanity out of tragedy. "I was deeply moved by the compassion on display at Geneva Conference. Together we will rebuild lives and hopes," he said. Pakistan on Monday secured over \$10 billion pledges from the international financial institutions, donor agencies and development partners for the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of flood affected areas, during an International Conference on Climate Resilience.

## COAS, UAE leader discuss defence ties, bilateral coop

ABU DHABI (Agencies): Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir called on UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Qasr Al Shati Palace and reviewed bilateral cooperation between the two countries, UAE's state news agency WAM reported on Tuesday. COAS Munir is holding key meetings during his week-long official visit to Saudi Arabia and UAE — the first since his appointment that culminates today. According to UAE's state news agency WAM, the UAE president congratulated Gen Munir on assuming the charge as Pakistan's army chief and expressed his wishes for the new role. "During the meeting, the two sides reviewed cooperation relations and joint work between the UAE and Pakistan in defence and military affairs, as well as ways to strengthen them to serve the common interests of the two friendly countries," the news agency reported. The meeting was attended by UAE's National Security Adviser Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and other core members of the UAE government. Earlier, the Inter-Services Public Relations said in a statement that the COAS will be meeting the senior leadership of Saudi Arabia and UAE countries to "discuss matters of mutual interest, military-to-military cooperation, and bilateral relations focusing on security-related subjects".



ABU DHABI: Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir meeting with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Qasr Al Shati Palace.

## Ruckus mars Punjab PA session for second day

LAHORE (Agencies): The Punjab Assembly session witnessed pandemonium for a second day in a row on Tuesday with opposition lawmakers raising slogans against Chief Minister Parvez Elahi. Prior to the start of the session, the doors of the assembly were closed and security guards remained on high alert after yesterday's session saw ruckus as the opposition challenged CM Elahi to prove he had the requisite numbers to secure a vote of confidence.

However, PML-N lawmakers — who accused Elahi and PA Speaker Sibtain Khan of instructing police to bar their entry — were able to force their way inside. During the session, which began after a three-

hour delay, opposition lawmakers once again chanted slogans against Elahi, calling him a "dakoo" (robber) as Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and PML-N leader Ata Tarar looked on from the visitor's gallery. PML-N's Mashhood, speaking on the floor of the assembly, again challenged Elahi to prove he had the requisite numbers for securing a vote of confidence. "Taking the vote of confidence is your constitutional responsibility," he said. "If you have the guts, do the voting right now and we will respond with whom the House is standing." Taking aim at the Punjab government, Mashhood added that the public wanted accountability for "flour thieves". The PA session

was later adjourned till 3pm today (Wednesday).

Meanwhile, PTI Vice President Fawad Chaudhry said the Punjab government enjoyed the support of 188 lawmakers and had proved who the majority belonged to by passing 21 bills during Monday's session. He added that the passing of the bills was also an "expression of trust" in CM Elahi.

The PTI leader said that the government had the requisite support for the chief minister's vote of confidence and would announce its plan of action after the LHC's verdict on Wednesday (tomorrow). "We want to move forward as soon as possible after dissolving the Punjab and KP assemblies."

## ECP issues arrest warrants for Imran, other PTI leaders

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday issued bailable arrest warrants for PTI chairman Imran Khan and party leaders Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar in cases related to the contempt of the electoral body.

The order was passed by a four-member ECP bench headed by member Nisar Durrani. The ECP had in August and September last year issued notices, in exercise of its powers of contempt, to Imran, Umar, Chaudhry, Mian Shabbir Ismail and Danial Khalid Khokhar for allegedly using intemperate language against Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja and the electoral watchdog.

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100 Million Dollars



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## Civil society calls for support in flood affected areas of Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Speakers at a post-flood 2022 consultation on Tuesday called for concrete steps to ensure proper rehabilitation of vulnerable communities in Sindh.

The consultation "Advocacy Meeting on Floods 2022 in Sindh: Mapping Vulnerabilities in Relief and Rehabilitation" was jointly organized by National Commission for Human Rights (Sindh) and The Knowledge Forum at local hotel here, said a statement. The NCHR Member from Sindh Anis Haroon, Chairperson Sindh Commission on Status of Women Nuzhat Shireen, Member, Sindh Assembly, Adreba Hassan, representatives of PDMA, Sindh Social Welfare department, civil society, and international organizations attended the consultation.

NCHR Member Sindh Anis Haroon said, "It is need of the hour that the hurdles being faced by the flood affected people after couple of months should be documented and a proper mechanism be devised for speedy rehabilitation."

She also called for transparency in the rehabilitation process. Nuzhat Sheerin, Chairperson SCSW, said that when she visited the camps, found women and children more vulnerable to natural disasters. Zeenia Shaukat, Director of The Knowledge Forum (TKF) said, "Her organization is working with the NCHR to conduct a research seeking to map the experiences of the vulnerable communities in Nawabshah and Sanghar during and after the floods." Sadiqa Salahuddin from Indus Resource Centre, Ross Mahta of Community World Service, Malka Khan from Aurat Foundation, Kazi Khizar of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Adnan from Sindh Human Rights Commission, researchers Ishak Soomro and Zamir Awan and others also spoke on the occasion.

## 205 officers of BS-18 nominated for MCMC

KARACHI (PPI): Establishment Division Islamabad has nominated 205 officers of BS-18 for the 36th mid-career management course (MCMC) required for the promotion of federal and provincial officers to grade 19, it emerged Tuesday.

The Establishment Division issued a notification and apprised the Rector of the National School of Public Policy Lahore in this regard.

The MCMC for promotion will be held in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and Islamabad at the same time from Feb 2 to April 4, 2023. As many as 25 officers each of the Pakistan Administrative Service and Police Service of Pakistan. The 15 officers each of Pakistan Customs Service, Office Management Group, Foreign Service of Pakistan, and Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service. Ten officers of the Inland Revenue Service, four from the Commerce and Trade Group, two from the Information Group, three from the Postal Group, two from the Economist Group, and 10 officers of the Election Commission of Pakistan have been nominated for the course.

### Lost & Found

I have lost my B.Sc degree somewhere if anyone finds please contact: Muhammad Sharjeel Riaz S/o Muhammad Naseem Riaz Address G-3 Saddique Road Attock City.

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# CM lays foundation stone of development projects in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi laid the foundation stone of Gulshan-e-Ravi T Junction Underpass, Samanabad Morr Underpass and Samanabad Cricket Stadium projects, here on Tuesday.

Addressing the ceremony, the CM said that projects worth 20 billion rupees were being started in Lahore which would be completed in one year. A sports complex and a community center would be built in Samanabad. The government intended to control disarray in the provincial metropolis, he said and added that the master plan of Lahore was planned while keeping in mind all the aspects.

He said the work on the master plan of Lahore started two years ago and open tendering was done while master planning was done by foreign companies. He explained that agricultural and residential lands had been demarcated under the master plan which would help curb the rampant growth of Lahore.

The CM said that Rs.7.53 billion would be spent on the Samanabad Morr underpass, cricket stadium and Gulshan-e-Ravi T Junction projects. The construction of the Samanabad Morr and Gulshan Ravi T Junction underpass would facilitate the flow of traffic. People of Samanabad, Gulshan Ravi, Tauheed Park, Multan Road, Chauburji, Chowk Yateem Khana and adjacent areas would have ease of transportation, he noted.

He said that progress was being made to make Lahore an axis of construction and development and a world-class developed city. Under the master plan of Lahore, future construction activities in Lahore would be determined. He said that the Samanabad cricket stadium was being constructed with Rs 660 million for the youth, especially the cricketers. The construction of the cricket stadium would give the young players a chance to express their talent, he said.

He said that work had been started to solve the traffic problems by restoring Gulshan-e-Ravi T Junction and Bund Road. Rs.4.84 billion would be spent to complete the restoration of Gulshan-e-Ravi T Junction and Bund Road within eight months, he added. Meanwhile, roads and sewerage repair and expansion work were in progress from Chauburji to Scheme Morr, LOS to Multan Road, Poonch Road, Ghazali Road, Qartaba Chowk, Babu Sabu Chowk, Bund Road and other roads. The completion of the projects would also reduce smog, environmental and noise pollution, he concluded.

Senior Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal said that he was grateful to Chief Minister Parvez Elahi for showing generosity regarding the development of Lahore.

DG LDA also addressed the event. Ticket holders, Secretary C&W, Secretary Information, Commissioner Lahore and others were also present.

## RPO declares law & order as satisfactory

F.P. Report

MINGORA: The Regional Police Officer Malakand Sajjad Khan has declared the overall security and law and order situation of the region satisfactory and directed the DPOs to be ready for all kinds of situations as a police force so that the existing peace of the region remains sustainable for the future as well.

He ordered the concerned DPOs to provide full-proof police security to the teams in the upcoming polio campaign and census in the entire districts of the region. The RPO in principle agreed to provide 10 more investigative officers to district Bajaur and issued instructions the DPOs to conduct a massive campaign for arresting of proclaimed offenders across the region and said that by following all possible scientific means the police should collect all the required data within fifteen days for action and then initiate the drive in this regard. In order to further improve the operational efficiency of the police force, he also directed to return the excess/over staff deployed with the police officers while ordered to charge-sheet the officials involved with drug dealers.

The RPO further directed to post the SHOs in police stations holding of best reputation and asked that the police personnel should adopt ethical behavior with the public and civilians while provide all possible support to the public he added.

He issued these orders on Tuesday while presiding over the annual performance review meeting of the police force at Regional Police Office Malakand Saidu Sharif, Swat. District Police Officers of Swat, Shangla, Buner, Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Lower Chitral, Upper Chitral and Bajaur and other concerned police officers attended. On

this occasion a detailed briefing regarding the security situation at the district level, police actions against crimes, anti-narcotics efforts, administrative and financial matters of the police, efficiency and other matters was presented to the RPO wherein, he described the police performance across the region as satisfactory and directed the officers to make further improvements in all aspects of police responsibilities. On this occasion, he said that the public has high expectations from the police in Malakand division and it should be an effort of all the officers and personals of the police force to ensure that to not affect the public's trust on the force. The RPO also directed all the DPOs to give top priority to the improvement of law and order and security in their districts so that the existing peaceful environment maintained in the future as well. He directed to keep the persons included in Schedule IV under surveillance and said that at any cost will not allow anyone to deteriorate peace of the region. The RPO also ordered to establish anti-car lifting cells in all the districts and sought details regarding the recovery of stolen vehicles from the districts.

During the meeting, the RPO directed the police heads to take action for tracing the untraced cases in the districts and said that the investigating officers should use their professional skills in this regard. He gave also a tough task that the police officers should work hard to investigate the anti-narcotics cases properly so that the accused involved in this heinous business can be punished and they go behind the bars. The RPO also directed the DPOs to set up joint checkpoints at required places in view of better security in their border areas and to provide all the military equipments, required by the personals deputed there.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is Published Through This Notice That I Muhammad Usman Khan S/o Sardar Khan R/o Jungle Khel Tehsil & District Kohat isThe owner of Plot no 50 Sector E-3 Size 10 Marla Phase II KDA Kohat Has Appointed has Real Father Mr Sardar Khan S/o Fateh Muhammad Khan R/o Jungle Khel Tehsil & District Kohat Through (Special) Deed no 583. Bahi no. 04 Page no 231 Dated 21/10/2019 which is Registered in The Office Kohat of Tehsildar/Sub Registrar The Attorney Holder now wants to Transfer The Above Said Plot If Any Bank/Institution/Firm/Person Has Any objection About The Transfer He Should Contact The Housing officer UADA Within 15 Days in Writing with Proofs otherwise Plot will be Transfer and no objection will Be Accepted (Director Urban Area KDA Kohat)

### Government of Pakistan

Pakistan Public Works Department  
No.CCD/DIK/AB/Tender/549 | Date: - 09/01/2023

### ADDENDUM (TIME EXTENSION)

The tender notice bearing No.CCD/DIK/AB/Tender/469 dated 5/12/2022 published on 09/12/2022 in different Newspapers vide PID (P) No.309/22 & uploaded on PPRA website vide

TS497666E Dated 08/12/2022 for the work mentioned in the above referred Tender Notice with application date up to 10/01/2023 & sale of document on 17-01-2023 is hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons with application date now up to 18-01-2023 and tender issuance now on 23-01-2023 and opening on 25-01-2023. Please visit Newspapers & PPRA website too.

Other terms & conditions of original advertisement will remain the same as advertised dated 09/12/2022

### Executive Engineer

Central Civil Division, Pak PWD, D.I.Khan

PID(P) 309-A/22

## تصحیح برائے نوٹس نیلام

نومالہ رقم شمار INF(P)Mr52/22 کو شمار 21.12.2022 کو شمار ہونے والے شمار میں مندرجہ ذیل تصحیح جاری کی گئی ہے۔ ہر عام دعویٰ کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ فی کس جو تحصیل و ضلع صوبائی میں درج ذیل کے مختلف اقسام جہاں سے جیسا کہ فی فیڈر بنیائی کیلئے کٹے ہیں۔ بنیائی صورت بروز بدھ 25/01/2023 بوقت 10:00 دن مقام بنیائی کسٹم کے مطابق مطلع صوبائی مقرر کی گئی ہے۔ بنیائی میں حصہ لینے والے خواہشمند حضرات مطلع: 60,000 روپے (قابل دہائی) کی کال ڈیپازٹ بنام وزیر تعلیم قلم کار کپیڈر ڈسٹریکٹ کارڈ کی کاپی دفتر میں جمع کرانے کی آخری تاریخ 24/01/2023 04:00 بجے تک ہے۔ جس کے بغیر کوئی امیدوار بولی میں حصہ نہیں لے سکتا۔ کامیاب بولی دہندہ کل بولی کا 1/4 حصہ رقم موقع پر ادا کرے گا۔ جس میں کال ڈیپازٹ (خرید و فروخت) کی رقم شامل نہیں ہوگی۔ تقابلاً 3/4 حصہ بولی کی منظوری کے بعد 7 دن کے اندر اندر جمع کر دینی ہوگی۔ تمام کسٹم مجوزہ قانون کے تحت کامیاب بولی دہندہ ادا کرے گا۔ فیڈر چارج کو یہ اختیار حاصل ہوگا کہ کسی بھی کسٹم یا ایک یا دو یا تین منظوری سے پہلے سمسٹر درستی ہے۔ تاہم بولی دہندہ سمسٹر کرنے کی وجوہات بذریعہ درخواست دفتر میں طلب کیا جاسکتی ہے۔

نوٹ: اس سے پہلے مندرجہ بالا کاپی درج ذیل کی بنیائی کے تمام شمار کسٹم کر دیے گئے ہیں۔

المشتر: ڈاکٹر عبداللطیف، ڈسٹرکٹ ہیڈ آفیسر صوبائی

## 2nd CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Reference: Advertisement Published in Daily Aaj Peshawar on 03 December 2022, vide INF(P)/6787/22 & 30th Dec, 2022 INF(P)/7229/22. The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization invited the technical & financial Proposals for hiring of the Consultancy services for the project Solarization of Mosque / Masjid / Madrasa / Janazgah & Eid-Gah at UC's Bolkot, Shingal, Bartoni, Harnail, Shatal, Judba, Manjakot, Palosa, Kand Akazai, Mera Mada Khel, Shadag of District TORGHAR ADP 220679.

1. The Deadline for the Submission of Proposal provided in advertised in Daily Aaj Peshawar dated 10th Jan, 2023, is hereby postponed and new date of deadline for submission of proposal is extended to 24th Jan, 2023 until 1100 hours. Proposals will be opened on the same day at 1130 hours in the presence of prospective applicants or authorized representatives.

2. All other Terms and Conditions will remain the same.

3. This advertisement is also available on PEDO & KPRA websites.

PROJECT DIRECTOR SOLAR INF(P) 116/23

House No. 21-B-2, Abdara Road, University Town Peshawar. Phone: 091-7254668



KARACHI: The First Lady Samina Arif Alvi inspecting different sections of DEWA Institute of Special and Inclusive Education Karachi to review facilities for differently-abled children.

## Saad Rafique stresses consensus, dialogue for political stability

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique on Tuesday stressed the need for developing consensus and initiating dialogue for political stability in the country.

Talking to the media after appearing before an accountability court here, he said that political stability was a responsibility of all stakeholders.

"The federal government alone could not bring about political stability if the provincial governments did not cooperate," he added.

He questioned whether the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab governments extended cooperation to the federal government during the recent floods, adding that they did not bother for even coordination though they were supported by the centre. He said that differences exist between the governments, but they should become one on the public and national issues.

Saad Rafique said that for steering the country out of crises, all political parties, judiciary and establishment would have to come together on one point. He said that resolution of the economic crisis was the biggest challenge and it was only possible through a charter

of economy. All political parties must reach consensus on a charter of economy, which should also be backed by the state institutions, he suggested. He said that no one could be excluded from politics through imprisonments or disqualifications. A politician becomes redundant because of his lack of public service, he added.

The federal minister said that Imran Khan had pushed the country to the brink of default and it was a great success of the coalition government to save it from further disaster. He said that the coalition government had assumed the power to save the country, and not for the sake of merely gaining power. He said it was for the first time that national parties and regional parties were united under the banner of PDM [Pakistan Democratic Movement] for the rule of law and democracy.

He thanked the Supreme Court for transferring all cases of Pakistan Railways to its principal seat.

As per directions of the apex court, a comprehensive and transparent business plan would soon be submitted in the court, he added.

He said that four decisions came

during different periods, which restrained the Railways from the use of its land. He said that other than the core business of railways, Indian, Bangladesh and European railways also make money from non-core business. He said that Pakistan Railways had land and properties which could help it meet its expenses. "If we would not utilise the Railways land in a transparent and commercial manner, then its expenses could not be met," he added. He said that the Railways could meet its expenses through proper utilisation of its properties and land, laying of optic fiber on the basis of revenue sharing, branding and utilisation of rolling stock, and efforts were being made on all these fronts.

"If support of institutions becomes available to Railways, our speed of work and progress can be doubled," he added.

Earlier, Khawaja Saad Rafique and his brother Khawaja Salman Rafique appeared before an accountability court in connection with the Paragon City case.

Accountability Court Judge Qamar-uz-Zaman conducted the case proceedings and adjourned the hearing till January 23.

## 106 roads KMC-managed motorable: Administrator Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman on Tuesday said that the construction and repair of roads in Karachi are going on and 106 roads managed by KMC are made motorable.

He said this while visiting Surjani Chowrang, North Nazimabad, Nazimabad, Jail Chowrang, China Ground Kashmir Road and Sohrah Goth Officers from the relevant departments were also accompanying

him. He said the construction and repair of roads are among the priorities as the roads must be in good condition for uninterrupted traffic flow in the city. He said the street lights have also been fixed to keep these roads lit during the night hours, adding street crime also decreases due to

motorable roads and proper street lights. The Administrator said there was heavy traffic pressure on the roads of Karachi and reduction of

traffic pressure was possible only if the roads were in good condition.

He said there was a need to change the U-turn at some places and if the service road was also fixed along with some roads, better results would be obtained.

He said the construction work of the red line BRTS from Numaish Chowrang to Safoora was going on due to which the citizens were facing difficulties.

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (NORTH)

### IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT PESHAWAR

PHONE# 091-9212123, Email: chefnorthirr@gmail.com

## NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

(SINGLE STAGE SINGLE ENVELOPE PROCEDURE)

Irrigation Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa intends to invite Electronic Bid on Single Stage Single Envelop Procedure for the following works, from eligible Firms / Contractor having enlistment & renewal for the year 2022-23 and valid PEC license in the relevant category.

S. No.	Name of Schemes / Work	E/Cost Rs. In (M)	2% E/M + S/Duty (Rs)	Required Category Code of Specialization
A)	2233(220657) Flood Management of Swat river and its tributaries in Tehsil Behrain District Swat.			
1	Construction of F.P/Ws along Swat River and its tributaries at Village Urtor, Kalam, Maltetan & Adjoining area District Swat.	49.532	1030640/-	C-5, PK-7 & Above CE-04
2	Construction of Flood Protection Works along Swat River and its tributaries at Village Peshmal, Mankyal, Balakot & Adjoining areas District Swat.	42.713	894260/-	C-5, PK-7 & Above CE-04
3	Construction of Flood Protection Works along Swat River and its tributaries at Village Saatal, Shahgram, Terat & Adjoining areas District Swat.	46.263	965260/-	C-5, PK-7 & Above CE-04
4	Construction of Flood Protection Works along Swat River and its tributaries at Village Chail, Bashigram, Jarro, Mladam & Adjoining areas District Swat.	48.332	1006640/-	C-5, PK-7 & Above CE-04
B)	2206 (210455) Construction of Flood Protection Works, Irrigation Channels and Ponds and Installation of Solar Irrigation Tube Wells in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa .			
5	Construction / Improvement of Flood Protection Works along Swat River and its Tributaries at Village Farhatabad, Asala & Adjoining Areas District Swat.	27.01	580200/-	C-5, PK-7 & Above CE-04
6	Restoration / Re-Construction of Civil Channels & Flood Protection Works along Swat River & its Tributaries in Tehsil Behrain & Khwazakheela District Swat.	27.22	584400/-	C-5, PK-7 & Above CE-04

Last date & time for submission of bids is 02-02-2023, 1200 hours and will be opened on the same date at 12.30 hours.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Bid Soliciting Documents containing Instructions to Bidders, Terms & Conditions, advertisement for Notice Inviting Bids and required forms to be filled by the bidders can be downloaded from the official website of Irrigation Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ([www.irrigation.gkp.pk](http://www.irrigation.gkp.pk))
- The bidders should submit their E-bid as per KPRA Notification No.SRO (14)-Vol/1-24/2021-22, dated 10-05-2022.
- All Bidders are required to have valid Registration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority established under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act 2018 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act, XXI of 2013)
- The Competent Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any or all bids at any time prior to acceptance of a bid as per Para 47(i) of KPRA Rules 2014 by assigning cogent reason.
- The interested Firms / Contractors may obtain clarification regarding bid solicitation documents during office hours on any working day from the office of Executive Engineer, Swat Irrigation Division-II.
- Venue of Bids opening is office of the Chief Engineer (North) Irrigation Department Warsak Road Peshawar however, the Contractors must prepare their CDR's i.e. 2% Earnest Money and Additional E/Money (if any) in the name of Executive Engineer, Swat Irrigation Division-II Matta and should ensure its submission with their bids. In case of failure their bids would be rejected and punitive action should be initiated against the defaulter as per KPRA Act / Rules.

### Chief Engineer (North)

Irrigation Department Peshawar

INF(P) 143/23





PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali presiding over a meeting with delegation of Al-Khidmat Foundation.

## KPPSRA stopped private schools from looting parents by law: PHC told

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has ordered principals of major private schools to appear before court on 19th January in case regarding receiving various fees from parents while Chief Justice remarked that private schools established monopoly and receiving extra charges with monthly which is not right, on Tuesday.

During hearing Chief Justice Qaiser Rashid observed that private schools are grabbing extra charges from parent in the name SMS and sometime on security. He added that on one hand inflation has created hurdles for parents while on the other hand private schools are looting them with different tactics.

Chief Justice Peshawar High Court remarked that laboratory, generator and computers are necessary for every schools which should be established at the

time inauguration but unfortunately the private schools are grabbing money from thousands of students for four or five computers in the name of laboratory fee.

Private School Association lawyer Fida Gul Advocate while Barrister Asad-ul-Mulk on behalf Private School Regulatory Authority (PSRA) appeared before court.

Private School Association filed writ petition and argued that the rules and regulations were made with consultation private schools which is illegal because rules had stopped the schools from any charges except monthly fee.

Barrister Asad-ul-Mulk informed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa PSRA has stopped private schools from looting parents in the name of SMS, security, computer and laboratory charges by law and compelled to receive only monthly fee.

In the meantime, Chief Justice observed that on one hand inflation has impacted parents badly while on other hand private schools are looting them in the name various charges. He remarked that provision of computers, generation and laboratory is responsibility of private schools at the time of its establishment neither to be use for looting parents in the name of facilities.

During hearing Abbas Sangin Advocate informed that private schools are claiming several fees on monthly basis from parents which is not right while receiving such fees look like harassing parents.

Chief Justice observed that he personally witness that private schools are receiving charges for four computers from thousands of students on monthly basis while ordered private schools' principals to appear before PHC on 19th January.

## KP Governor commends AKF services

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has commended the services of Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) and said that his affiliation with the organization is spread over decades.

He was talking to a delegation of Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF), which called on him under the leadership of its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter president, Khalid Waqas, the other day, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Other members of the delegation were Mohammad Shakir Siddiqui, Professor Dr Abdul Malik, Hafiz Hameedullah, Fida Mohammad, Dr Adil Mohammad, Mohammad Adnan Raz and Manager Media Noorul Wahid Jadon.

The delegation congratulated Haji Ghulam Ali on assuming the office of the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and also briefed him regarding the ongoing welfare projects of the Foundation particularly those initiated for the rehabilitation of the flood affected people and reconstruction activities.

The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that on the occasions of the earthquake, floods and other natural disasters across the country, he had worked along with the Foundation on the platform of the trading community.

He said that during meetings with traders' organizations and other associations across the country are acknowledging the services of the Foundation.

## City Traffic Police starts operation

PESHAWAR (APP): District administration along with City Traffic Police carried out a joint operation against tinted-glasses vehicles on University Road on Tuesday.

On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Shafiqullah Khan, the Additional Assistant Commissioner, Syeda Zainab Naqvi along with DSP Traffic, Hazratullah and Station House Officer, Tehkal, Mohammad Naeem Khan carried out operation against tinted-glasses' vehicles on University Road.

During the operation, the owners of 32 vehicles were fined for use of tinted glasses in their vehicles and black stickers from the glasses of their vehicles were also removed.

Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Shafiqullah Khan has directed crackdown against the use of tinted glasses in vehicles and showing of no leniency to anyone in this regard.

# Governor persuades businessmen to follow energy saving formula

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has succeeded in persuading the traders and business community of the province to follow the federal government's plan of energy saving and assured them that issues related to gas and power would be addressed on a priority basis.

The Governor told the traders and businessmen that all we have to do is add our share in pulling the country out of the current situation. Whenever, he said the country faced difficult times, the business community and traders led from the frontline to ease the situation.

The Governor was presiding over a meeting with traders and businessmen from the province in the Governors' House here the other day. The meeting beside others was attended

by the senior business community leaders including President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Ishaq, Malik Meher Ali, Sharafat Ali Mubarak and Haji Fazal Ilahi, former and present representatives from Peshawar Chamber, Tanzeem Tajraan, Markazi Tanzeem Tajraan, FPCCI and Gems Association.

Governor thanked the traders and businessmen for extending complete cooperation in fulfilling the government's plan of power saving. He said he believed the traders and businessmen will close their businesses according to the schedule issued by the federal government to save energy.

Haji Ghulam Ali hoped that with the same zeal and passion of the traders' community we would be able to bring the country out of the current situation. The Gov-

ernor told the meeting that a representative committee would be formed to discuss the recommendations and suggestions presented by the businessmen with the federal government.

He said he was well aware of the current flour crises in the province and assured that he would contact the chief ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to rectify the situation in the larger interest of the masses. He assured that he would play his role in lifting an unnecessary ban on transportation of flour from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa very soon.

The senior Chamber leaders and traders expressed confidence in the leadership of the Governor and assured their complete cooperation in observing the government's energy saving plan. However, presenting their suggestions, they demanded

relaxation in the schedule of business closure from the month of March.

The businessmen also presented recommendations for overcoming the current flour crises, price hike situation, low gas pressure and man-created inflation. The businessmen and traders assured the Governor that they will follow the schedule of business closure at 08:00 p.m.

They said how seriously the Governor listened to the problems and issues of the traders' community, they will also extend complete cooperation to the government in achieving the energy saving goal. The businessmen said Governor Haji Ghulam Ali was a true representative of the federal government and the entire business community was standing along with him to streamline the affairs of the province.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali meeting with a delegation of Namkmandi's traders.

## Traders problems to be resolved

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali has appreciated patience of traders to wait construction of skyline parking plaza in Namak Mandi and assured cooperation to address their concerns relating to allotment in the building.

He was chairing a meeting here Tuesday that among others was attended by Director General Capital Metropolitan, Arshad Ali, Director Property Management, Mian Anees, traders' leader, Mehar Elahi and large number of traders.

Addressing the meeting, Mayor Peshawar acknowledged rights of traders in parking plaza and said that rightful demands would be considered.

He also discussed with them their concerns relating to allotment in parking plaza and directed them to furnish needed documents within ten days for initiating further action. He also urged traders to liaise with property section of Peshawar Metropolitan.

## KP body sought record of higher staff

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Sub Committee on Social Welfare, chaired by Baseerat Bibi sought complete record of officials working on higher posts in social welfare department.

The meeting among others was attended by members of the subcommittee besides Secretary and Director General of social welfare department.

Participants of the meeting also discussed modus operandi of appointments and posts lying vacant in social welfare department.

On the occasion, Chairperson of subcommittee directed to furnish data of female staff working in social welfare centers of the province and officials working on higher posts.

## KP govt asked to submit reply in Dean removal case

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The court has ordered Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to submit reply within seven days in removal case of Dean University of Peshawar.

Division bench of Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Atiq Shah heard a petition filed by Prof. Dr. Yaseen Iqbal, Dean faculty of numerical and physical sciences, University of Peshawar who was de notified as dean by Governor KP after recommendation

of Chief Minister. Advocate Saifullah Muhib Kakakhel represented the petitioner.

The counsel argued that the post of petitioner is tenure based and is appointed for three years by Higher Education Department. He argued that the power to remove Dean is the senate of the University while the governor removed him with a stroke of a pen.

The counsel further argued the removal of dean is interference of political bodies in the autonomy of the University, wherein the

political personalities want to accommodate their blue eyed to sustain their power.

Kaka Khel further stated the order is illegal, without lawful authority and stinks of nefarious designs on part of the chancellor/governor.

The division bench after hearing counsel for the petitioner have ordered Secretary Higher Education Department and Chief Secretary to submit response and fixed the case for 17.01.2022 for adjudication upon the matter dealing it as most urgent.

## Zabita Khan Mohmand posted as Director Information

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior Officer, Zabita Khan (BPS-19) has been posted as Director Information and Public Relations Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A formal notification of his posting has been issued here on Tuesday. Zabita Khan has previously worked as Deputy Director Information and also served as Registrar Printing and Stationery Department, KP, Station Director FM Radio Pakhtunkhwa and other important posts.

## Chicken price soars to Rs385 per kg

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration on Tuesday fixed the rate of chicken broiler that soared to Rs385 per kilogram and directed the vendors to ensure the display of the price list of edibles in prominent places of the markets to facilitate consumers.

The rates of per kilogram vegetables are: potato (white) Rs40, onion Rs220, tomato Rs60, green chili Rs100, peas Rs100, garlic Rs320, ginger Rs360, eggplant Rs70, pumpkin Rs80, cauliflower Rs50, while cabbage was available on

Rs30 per Kg in district Peshawar.

Similarly, the rates of fruits are orange (fruiter) Rs110 per Kg, melon Rs120, grapes (Iranian) Rs280, grapes (swabehra) Rs90, apple (Kabuli) Rs220, apple (golden) Rs160, apple (Iranian) Rs330 per kilogram while per dozen Banana would available at Rs130.

District administration has also urged people to lodge their complaints in the control room on number 0919211338 regarding overcharging and non-display of approved price lists.

# Secretary Health KP inaugurates mobile lab at KMU

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Secretary of Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Aamir Sultan Tareen on Tuesday said that he will talk to the federal government to make the Liver Transplant Institute being built in Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar functional as soon as possible.

The outstanding services rendered by KMU in the field of clinical and basic medical sciences as well as public health during the last few years are commendable.

He expressed these views as chief guest at the inauguration of KMU Mobile Laboratory, visit to Liver Transplant Institute, signing of Memorandum of Understanding between KMU and Faisalabad Medical University for adopting of MBBS modular curriculum and completion of four-year degrees under the higher education commission scholarships scheme to

Afghan students.

Afghan Consul General at Peshawar Hafiz Mohibullah, Vice Chancellor Faisalabad Medical University Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry, VC KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, Principal Punjab Medical College Faisalabad Muhammad Faisal Bilal Lodhi, Registrar KMU Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Gandapur, Pro vice chancellor Prof. Dr. Lal Muhammad Khattak, Dean PGMI Sahibzada Mahmud Noor, and Director KMU-IHPE Dr. Baraikhna Jameel, Heads of different institutions, faculty and a large number of students were also present at the occasion.

Aamir Sultan Tareen said that KMU has proved with its outstanding performance that it is not just a degree-granting institution, but a center for knowledge and research as well as tackling the serious health challenges faced by society as a policy-making body.



He said that the KMU mobile lab will open new avenues to deal with any possible pandemics and outbreaks in remote areas and help the health department in this regard. He thanked USAID for donating the mobile lab to KMU and hoped that this lab would help the people in the remote and backward

areas of the province in the timely diagnosis and treatment of various diseases.

He said that it is a matter of honor not only for KMU but for the entire province that the MBBS modular curriculum designed by KMU is being provided to Faisalabad Medical University after Bolan Medical University and it is

another outstanding achievement under the leadership of its dynamic and young vice-chancellor.

Secretary of Health said that close links between medical educational institutions across the country will not only help in understanding each other's problems but will also create opportunities to jointly deal

with the challenges faced in the health sector.

Afghan Consul General Hafiz Mohibullah while addressing the event said that the joy he is feeling on the participation of Pakistani and Afghan students in this joint event is indescribable. He said that educational institutions have a fundamental role in the formation of societies.

The relationship between teacher and student is like the sacred relationship of spiritual father and son. We have to inform our new generation about the role and achievements of our forefathers for success in this world and hereafter. Our role model is not the Western civilization, but the good deeds of the Prophet and the lives of the companions are a beacon for us.

He said that the support given by the people of Pakistan to the Afghan refugees against Russian and American aggression is a practical example of brotherhood for the whole world.

We have a common religion and belief, he added.

Hafiz Mohibullah thanked KMU and the Government of Pakistan for providing educational facilities and scholarships to Afghan students in various fields and reiterated all possible support from the IEA in establishing the proposed campus of KMU in Kabul.

Faisalabad Medical University vice chancellor Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry, vice chancellor KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, Principal Punjab Medical College Faisalabad Prof. Dr. Muhammad Faisal Bilal Lodhi, Dean PGMI Prof. Dr. Sahibzada Mahmud Noor and Dr. Baraikhna Jameel also addressed the function while the chief guest later distributed certificates of completion of BS Paramedical Sciences degrees to the Afghan students in addition to the CHPE certificates amongst the course participants.

## 53 shopkeepers arrested in City

PESHAWAR (APP): The District administration Peshawar has arrested 53 shopkeepers from various localities for profiteering, lack of official price-list, selling of under-weight roti and poor hygienic conditions on Tuesday.

On the directives of the Deputy Commissioner, Peshawar, Shafiqullah Khan, the officers of district administration carried out raids on shopkeepers in the bazaars of interior city, Kohat Road, Ring Road, Charsadda Road, Dalazak Road, G.T. Road, Pajagee Road, Bara Road, Pishtakhara Road, Arbab Road, Hayatabad Township and other localities and collectively arrested 53 shopkeepers for profiteering and poor cleanliness conditions.

The arrested shopkeepers include fruit & vegetable vendors, bakers, milkmen, butchers, grocers and others.





## In brief

### Rain in Quetta forecasted

QUETTA (PPI): Pakistan Meteorological Department, Regional Center, Quetta, forecast on Tuesday that a normal to moderate rain is expected in Killa Abdullah, Ziarat, Killa Saifullah, Pishin, Quetta, Chagai, Noshki and their surrounding areas while cloudy to light rain is expected in Kharan, Kech, Surab, Mastung and Zhob areas during the next 24 hours. Light to moderate snow may occur in mountainous areas of Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Killa Saifullah, Ziarat and light snow in Quetta district. However, cloudy weather would remain in rest parts of the province during the next 24 hours. Weather forecast for next 48 hours; mainly very cold weather is expected in most parts of the province. Gustly winds are expected to prevail in central, western and southwestern parts and night time temperatures would be decreased below freezing point in most parts of the province except plain areas of Sibi, Naseerabad, Lasbela, Kech and coastal belt during the next 48 hours. Weather prevailed during the last 24 hours; weather remained cloudy in most parts of the province during the last 24 hours. Maximum temperature recorded on Tuesday, Barkhan 20.5, Dalbandin 22.5, Gwadar 28, Jiwni 26, Kalat 14, Khuzdar 16.5, Lasbela 28, Nokkundi 23.5, Panjgur 20.5, Pasni 28, Quetta 17, Samungli 14.5, Sibi 24, Turbat 26.5, Ormara 26, Zhob 18.5, Uthal 28.5 and Usta Muhammad 21.

### Price review body meeting held

F.P. Report

DIR LOWER: Additional Deputy Commissioner, Abdul Wali Khan on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the price review committee and directed concerned quarters to monitor prices of commodities in all the markets on a daily basis. The meeting was briefed about controlling food prices, improvement in cleanliness condition, and removal of encroachments, retrieving government lands and holding of regular Khuli Katchehris in different areas of the district. Speaking on the occasion, ADC said that government approved price list should be displayed in prominent places for the convenience of the general public. He urged trader's community to cooperate with the staff of district administration so that maximum facilities would be provided to area people. The meeting besides all the concerned officers was attended by Food Controller Shahabud Din, Assistant Director Consumer Protection Ibrahim Mohmand, and President Anjum Tajraan Timergarah Haji Anwarud din.

When the district child specialist Dr Rasim Shah was asked for his expert opinion on the program, he said that it was a useful scheme that benefited children with food deficiency as well as helpful for the women with pregnancy. Lack of child health consciousness and poverty had created health hazards to the offspring of rural areas therefore such kinds of schemes were valuable for them, he remarked.

Director of the scheme Fazal Majid in his message said that the BISP-Nashonuma Program focusing the First 1000 Golden Days of Life (Conception or 1st day of pregnancy till 2 years of Baby Life) had the capability to shape the future of the Nation. Beneficiaries under the program criteria receive food & cash and essential Health and Nutrition services, he added. He maintained that the program was successfully in progress in various districts of the KP and would hopefully achieve its target of prevention of high rate stunting and wasting, improve weight gain in pregnant women and prevention of low birth weight children.

Highlighting important features of the program Mushtaq Public Information & Communication Officer KP, said that (1) To prevent stunting in children under two years of age, (2) To Improved weight gain of Pregnant women during pregnancy and (3) To Prevent low birth weight

and Tehsildar Kalam attended. In the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Swat Junaid Khan briefed the participants about the acquisition of land for the construction of Gabral Kalam Hydropower Project and some of the problems faced in this regard. Presiding over the meeting, Commissioner Malakand said that to meet the energy-related demands in the country there is an urgent need for hydropower projects.

Commissioner Malakand directed to form a committee under the chairmanship of Additional Commissioner Malakand Division, which will inspect the project site and submit its suggestions for solving the obstacles and problems for the smooth completion of the project. "In light of the recommendations of the committee, this matter will be taken up with the provincial government and related institutions and efforts will be made to start the said project as soon as possible", said the Commissioner Malakand Division.

MARDAN: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Mardan, Muhammad Ali Khan Tuesday visited Central Jail Mardan and inspected security measures.

He was accompanied by District Police Officer (DPO), jail management and concerned officials. He reviewed security measures of the jail and steps being taken by administration to monitor surrounding perimeter of Mardan Jail. RPO met with inmates and inspected kitchen, barracks and waiting room. He also directed jail officials to further improve security measures and by vigilant to avert any untoward incident.

Rehman, Audit Officer Kamil Zada, Inspector Abdul Khaliq and DPO Wasim Ahmed sealed Tribal Textile Mills in Dera Ismail Khan over tax compliance issues. The KPRa had served the textile mill's management several notices to withhold tax from service providers and pay it on time but they were not paying any attention to the notices following which the team of KPRa sealed the mills under the Section-62 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sales

Tax on Services Act 2022. The team also served warning notices to five hotels and restaurants in Dera Ismail Khan over tax compliance related issues. "Our job is to make sure that every taxpayer is regularly and timely pay his/her due tax to KPRa. We urge taxpayers to pay their due tax on time to avoid such legal actions," said Aftab Ahmed in his statement adding that no one will be allowed to evade tax and strict action will be taken against tax evaders.

# Muqam hails PM's success in Geneva conference

## F.P. Report

SWABI: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Division, Engineer Amir Muqam said that he congratulates the entire nation on the success of Geneva Donors Conference.

He said that the whole world has recognized the performance of the incumbent government and especially that of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The adviser said that more than 10 and a half billion dollars in aid is of great significance in such difficult times and the aid comes as a proof of the trust of the

international community and international organizations over the incumbent government of Pakistan.

Engineer Amir Muqam said that the truth behind flour and wheat theft must be unveiled, how it was stored to put the nation in trouble. He added that the KP government put the entire nation, especially the people of KP, through hard times to save its own politics. He further said that Imran is now talking about protest against inflation after shedding crocodile tears since he himself is responsible for the economic hardships.

Adviser to the Prime Minister said that PTI has provincial governments in

both Punjab and KP, still however the people of KP are being robbed at check posts in Punjab. He said that the provincial government is storing wheat in the godowns of KP and transferring it to Afghanistan, but its true face has now been exposed to the entire nation.

Engineer Amir Muqam expressed these views while talking to the media at the Hujra of Shiraz Akram Bacha and Ijaz Akram Bacha in Swabi today. The advisor inquired about the well-being of Ejaz Akram Bacha's ailing father and said that he stood strong with his hosts as he did in the past, In Sha Allah.

# BISP Nourishment program achieves target in Khyber

## F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Benazir Income support program (BISP) Nourishment program initiated in all three subdivisions of Khyber for caring of pregnant underweight women and children with problem of mal-nutrition has successfully achieved its target.

According to the information shared by the official of the program, a number of 13176 beneficiary children aged 6-23 months had been set a target across the district and they facilitated 13064 deserving children with 99% of the goal.

In the same way in PLW, a target of 17568 women to be enrolled in the scheme had been located while they extended the assistance to 18908 females in Khyber under the program with 108 % increase. Hazrat Umar, presently 21 months old of Ashraf Khel village of Landi Kotal, had been brought by his mother to the local Nashonuma center due to health problems because of mal-nutrition.

According to the center-in-charge at the time of his registration his mid- upper arm circumference (MUAC) was 14 centimeter (cm) weighing 9.6 kilogram (kg). At the time of his graduation the MUAC was 15.4 cm while his weight was 12.3 kg. Wife of Sahib-ur-Rehman and mother of the child thanked the Nashonuma team for extending assistance in the form of nutrition supplement and cash to meet needs of the baby. She also appreciated their role for educating her and her family on healthy practices to prevent disease and hygienic and benefits of adequate diet.

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SWABI: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Division, Engineer Amir Muqam talking to media persons.

## Traders, political activists to hold protest

### F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: Traders and political activists announced protests as well as sit-ins against high inflation till fulfillment of their demands on Thursday.

This was announced during a joint meeting held while chaired by Haji Moiz Ullah in which Javed Iqbal Mohmand, Al Haj Sardar Raz Khan, Safi Ullah Safi, Wali Muhammad, Tauseef Ahmad, Dr. Rahmat Gul, Sher Qayyum, Haji Saif-ur-Rehman, Allama Muhammad Sadiq, Sher Bahadar Mama, Musa Khan, Haji Aftab, Jawad Jee, Salman Khan, Hasnain, Mian Khalid Shah, Waseg Ullah, Zahir Ullah, Adnan Khan, Javed Khan, Abdul Haq, Ishaq Khan, Syed Qayyum Sada, Haji Zuhrah Gul, Sahibzada Gul Hanan, Abdul Azeem, Abdu Rehman, Hanif Ullah, Essa Khan, Mushtaq Ahmad, Dilawar Khan, Amir Bashir, Sajjad Ahmad, Bashir Ahmad, Abid Ahmad and Farman along with others officer bearer holders were present.

The participants claimed that both federal and provincial governments failed to provide edible items to public. They claimed that PTI led provincial government has put at stake the livelihood of public for their political ends.

## Census on NADRA record sought

### F.P. Report

KALAYA: Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Syed Ghazan Jamal argued government to conduct soft census or from National Database and Registration Authority despite on digital forum because large number of tribesmen are still living livelihood as Internally Displace People across length and width of Pakistan.

This he said while addressing press conference and added that MPAs from erstwhile has approached Peshawar High Court for release of 3% share in National Finance Commission (NFC) award. He added that development projects are suspended due to stoppage of funds from NFC award.

MPA claimed that neither Punjab, Sindh nor Balochistan fulfilling their commitments made before merger of erstwhile Fata. He claimed that Federal Government has also attached developmental funds of merge district which has further worsen the circumstances.

## RPO inspects security of Mardan Prison

### F.P. Report

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# Cheques among flood victims distributed in Dir

## F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Al-Khidmat Foundation under its 'Tameer e Watan' programme on Tuesday distributed cheques worth of Rs 2.1 million among the 74 owners of the flood affected houses belonging to the Balambat tehsil.

A function in this regard was held at the Balambat Ahya ul Uloom which was attended by the AKF provincial and district leadership. The function was addressed by the AKF central deputy secretary Fazal Mahmood, district president Hafeezullah Khaksar, former MNA Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, II district chief Izazul Mulk Afkari and others.

They appreciated the services of the AKF in the country and said the Foundation had launched its rehabilitation phase after the successful completion of its post-flood rescue and relief operation. They said that Rs 5 billion would be spent on reconstruction of damaged houses across the country. The speakers said the government had not donated even a single penny so far to the AKF despite the fact that the Foundation had been busy providing relief and launching rehabilitation.

Meanwhile addressing the Aghosh Al-Khidmat Gulabad center's board of governors meeting, the AKF central deputy general secretary Fazal Mahmood said the Foundation had so far spent Rs 5 billion on its post-flood relief and rescue operation across the country. The biannual Board of Governors and management committee meeting was held at Gulabad here the other day. The Pakistan Tehreek Insaf MPA Humayun Khan, PTI women wing

divisional leader and social activist Farzana Javed, social activist Haji Ameer Naushad, the center's chairman Shahab Hussain, Hafiz Yaqubur Rehman and others were also in attendance.

The Aghosh Al-Khidmat center's in-charge Saeedullah while briefing the participants pointed out that the center had provided not only shelter but every facility to 88 orphan children from the Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Chitral, Swat and Malakand. He said the Aghosh spent Rs 180,000 on each child annually. He said the orphan children were being provided with food, school fee, medical care and sporting facilities at the center.

Fazal Mahmood said the Foundation had planned a Ramadan and a donor conference in the month of March and he was hopeful that the philanthropists would extend their full support. Speaking on the occasion the PTI lawmaker said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would support the AKF in its welfare activities. He promised to get approval for the solarization of the center from the government and construction of a protection wall around it.

Digital census: The district coordinator of population census Bakht Alam on Tuesday told local journalists at Timergara that the second phase of the seventh digital census would start from Jan, 12. He said that a total of nine centers had been set up in the district and the process of staff training had begun. He said the process of training would be completed till Jan, 21. He said that the census was an important national duty and all the citizens should cooperate with the census staff.

# People asked to support humanitarian organizations

## F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Al-Khidmat Foundation provincial vice president Fazal Mahmood has said the Foundation has so far spent Rs 5 billion on its post-flood relief and rescue operation across the country. He was briefing the participants of the biannual Board of Governors and management committee meeting held at Gulabad.

The Pakistan Tehreek Insaf MPA Humayun Khan, PTI women wing divisional leader and social activist Farzana Javed, social activist Haji Ameer Naushad, the center's chairman Shahab Hussain, Hafiz Yaqubur Rehman and others were also in attendance. The Aghosh Al-Khidmat center's in-charge Saeedullah while briefing

the participants pointed out that the center had provided not only shelter but every facility to 88 orphan children from the Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Chitral, Swat and Malakand. He said the Aghosh spent Rs 180,000 on each child annually. He said the orphan children were being provided with food, school fee, medical care and sporting facilities at the center.

Fazal Mahmood said the Foundation had planned a Ramadan and a donor conference in the month of March and he was hopeful that the philanthropists would extend their full support. He asked the well off people and philanthropists to extend their financial support to the AKF so that it could smoothly run its projects. He said the wealthy persons should

assess the humanitarian organizations who were taking care of the orphans and widows in society.

Speaking on the occasion the PTI lawmaker said that it was the responsibility of the state and the government to take care of the orphans, widows and poor people but the government alone could not do so. The lawmaker said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would support the AKF in its welfare activities. He promised to get approval for the solarization of the center from the government and construction of a protection wall around it. The BoG members expressed satisfaction at the Aghosh center performance and also lauded the services of the ALF for the welfare of the poor segments of society.

# MWU Pabbi elects new cabinet

## F.P. Report

PABB: Municipal Workers Union (MWU) Pabbi elected president and general secretary namely Akhtar Ali and Murad Ali unopposed for fourth term consecutively, on Tuesday.

The new cabinet was elected during meeting chaired by Yasir Ijaz in which large number of MWU participated at Tehsil Municipal Administration Hall Pabbi. On 5th January Akhtar Ali and Murad Ali penal submitted forms for MWU election while no other penal come



for contesting elections and they were elected unopposed.

The newly elected cabinet committed for welfare of municipal workers and will uphold their voice at every

forum. The cabinet comprised of Umar Zeb, Imtiaz-u-Din, Kachkol Khan, Shakeel Ahmad, Altaf Khan, Rowiz Khan and Noor Hussain.

# KPRA seals textile mill

## F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRa) on Tuesday sealed a textile mill in Dera Ismail Khan and issued warning notices to five hotels and restaurants to ensure tax compliance.

On the directives of Additional Collector South Aftab Ahmed, a team of KPRa comprising Deputy Collector Saud Khan, Assistant Collector Akhtar Rasool, Audit Officer Wasif

Rehman, Audit Officer Kamil Zada, Inspector Abdul Khaliq and DPO Wasim Ahmed sealed Tribal Textile Mills in Dera Ismail Khan over tax compliance issues.

The KPRa had served the textile mill's management several notices to withhold tax from service providers and pay it on time but they were not paying any attention to the notices following which the team of KPRa sealed the mills under the Section-62 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sales

Tax on Services Act 2022. The team also served warning notices to five hotels and restaurants in Dera Ismail Khan over tax compliance related issues. "Our job is to make sure that every taxpayer is regularly and timely pay his/her due tax to KPRa. We urge taxpayers to pay their due tax on time to avoid such legal actions," said Aftab Ahmed in his statement adding that no one will be allowed to evade tax and strict action will be taken against tax evaders.





## China retailites against S Korea's COVID curbs, says outbreaks past peaks

BEIJING (Reuters): Beijing retaliated on Tuesday against South Korea's COVID-19 curbs on travellers from China, while state media further downplayed the severity of the outbreak in the last major economy to reopen its borders after three years of isolation.

China ditched mandatory quarantines for arrivals and allowed travel to resume across its border with Hong Kong, removing the last major restrictions under the "zero-COVID" regime which it abruptly began dismantling in early December after historic protests against the curbs. But the virus is spreading unchecked among its 1.4 billion people and worries over the scale and impact of its outbreak have prompted South Korea, the United States and other countries to require negative COVID tests from travellers from China.

Although China imposes similar testing requirements for all arrivals, foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters on Tuesday the entry curbs for Chinese travellers were "discriminatory." "We will take reciprocal measures," Wang said, without elaborating. The Chinese embassy in South Korea has suspended issuing short-term visas for South Korean visitors, it said on Tuesday, the first retaliatory move against nations imposing COVID-19 curbs on travellers from China.

The embassy will adjust the policy subject to the lifting of South Korea's "discriminatory entry restrictions" against China, it said on its official WeChat account. Kyodo news agency, quoting multiple travel industry sources, said China has told travel agencies that it has stopped issuing new visas in Japan.

An AFP journalist tweeted that the Chinese embassy in Japan released a

statement confirming the curbs on Tuesday but removed it from its website within minutes. A spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in Japan told Reuters that they had nothing to announce on this. Asked about the Twitter reference, she said there was no new information now. With the virus let loose, China has stopped publishing daily infection tallies. It has been reporting five or fewer deaths a day since the policy U-turn, figures that have been disputed by the World Health Organization and are inconsistent with funeral reporting surging demand.

Some governments have raised concerns about Beijing's data transparency as international experts predict at least 1 million deaths in China this year. Washington has also raised concerns about future potential mutations of the virus. China dismisses criticism over its data as politically-motivated attempts to smear its "success" in handling the pandemic and said any future mutations are likely to be more infectious but less harmful.

"Since the outbreak, China has had an open and transparent attitude," the foreign ministry's Wang said. But as infections surge across China's vast rural hinterland, many, including elderly victims, are simply not bothering to get tested. State media downplayed the severity of the outbreak.

An article in Health Times, a publication managed by People's Daily, the ruling Communist Party's official newspaper, quoted several officials as saying infections have been declining in the capital Beijing and several Chinese provinces. Officials in the southern technology powerhouse Shenzhen announced on Tuesday that the city had also passed its peak. Kan Quan, director of the Office of the Henan Provincial Epidemic

Prevention and Control, said nearly 90% of people in the central province of 100 million people had been infected as of Jan. 6.

In the eastern province of Jiangsu, the peak was reached on Dec. 22, while in neighbouring Zhejiang province "the first wave of infections has passed smoothly," officials said. Financial markets looked through the latest border curbs as mere inconvenience, with the yuan hitting a nearly five-month high. Although daily flights in and out of China are still at a tenth of pre-COVID levels, businesses across Asia, from South Korean and Japanese shop owners to Thai tour bus operators and K-pop groups celebrated the prospect of more Chinese tourists.

Chinese shoppers spent \$250 billion a year overseas before COVID. The border rules were not the only COVID conflict brewing in China. State media lashed out at Pfizer Inc over the price for its COVID treatment Paxlovid. "It is not a secret that US capital forces have already accumulated quite a fortune from the world via selling vaccines and drugs, and the US government has been coordinating all along," nationalist tabloid Global Times said in an editorial.

Pfizer's Chief Executive Albert Bourla said the company was in discussions with Chinese authorities about a price for Paxlovid, but not over licensing a generic version in China. China's abrupt change of course in COVID policies has caught many hospitals ill-equipped, while smaller cities were left scrambling to secure basic anti-fever drugs. Yu Weishi, chairman of Youcare Pharmaceutical Group, told Reuters his firm boosted output of its anti-fever drugs five-fold to one million boxes a day in the past month.

## Venezuela orders arrest of exiled MPs

CARACAS (AP): Venezuela's socialist government has ordered the arrest of three exiled former lawmakers at the forefront of renewed efforts to unseat President Nicolas Maduro. Dinorah Figuera leads an all-female team selected last week by fellow opposition politicians to lead the National Assembly that was voted into office in 2015. The opposition-controlled body is widely considered Venezuela's last democratically elected institution, and although its five-year mandate ended in late 2020, it continues to function as a symbolic shadow to Maduro's rubber-stamping National Assembly.

Maduro's Attorney General Tarek William Saab announced that prosecutors had ordered the arrest of Figuera and her two deputies on charges of treason, money laundering and impersonating public officials. However, the arrest order is unlikely to be carried out. All three women, like many of Maduro's opponents, have fled Venezuela in recent years, fearing retaliation. Figuera, a surgeon by training, lives in Spain.

In January 2019, the National Assembly voted to stop recognizing Maduro as president after several top opponents were barred from running against him. It then appointed Juan Guaidó to be the nation's "interim president," in accordance with the order of succession outlined in Venezuela's constitution. More than 60 countries quickly recognized him as Venezuela's legitimate leader.

The opposition then boycotted the 2020 legislative elections, leaving the successor National Assembly firmly under Maduro's control. Figuera had been an unknown backbench lawmaker elected alongside Guaidó. She surged to the front of the opposition's efforts to unseat Maduro as part of an internal putsch against the beleaguered Guaidó, whose failure to shake Maduro's grip on power has frustrated many Venezuelans.

## Iran sentences ex-president's daughter

DUBAI (Reuters): The activist daughter of former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has been sentenced to five years in prison, her lawyer said on Tuesday. The lawyer did not give detail of the charges against Faezeh Hashemi. But Tehran's public prosecutor indicted Hashemi last year on charges of "propaganda against the system", according to the semi-official ISNA news agency.

State media in September reported she had been arrested for "inciting riots" in Tehran during protests triggered by the death of a young Kurdish woman in police custody. The demonstrations have posed one of the biggest challenges to Iran's clerical rulers since the 1979 revolution. "Following the arrest of Ms. Faezeh Hashemi, she was sentenced to five years in prison but the sentence is not final," defence lawyer Neda Shams wrote on her Twitter account.

In 2012, Faezeh Hashemi was sentenced to jail and banned from political activities for "anti state propaganda" dating back to the 2009 disputed presidential election. Her father died in 2017. Former president Rafsanjani's pragmatic policies of economic liberalisation and better relations with the West attracted fierce supporters and equally fierce critics during his life.

## Peru protests: Many dead in new clashes



LIMA (BBC): At least 17 people have died in clashes between supporters of the former president and security forces in south-eastern Peru, officials say. Dozens more were injured in the city of Juliaca in some of the worst violence since ex-President Pedro Castillo was arrested last month for trying to dissolve Congress. His supporters have been protesting and blockading roads for weeks.

They say new President Dina Boluarte must go, and want snap elections. Prime Minister Alberto Otárola denounced the clashes in Juliaca, describing them as an organised attack on police. He said that thousands of people had tried to overrun the city's airport and a local police station. Meanwhile, one protester told the AFP news agency: "The police are shooting at us." "We ask Dina to resign. Accept the fact that people do not want you," the protester added. Juliaca is located in the Puno region, which has been a hotbed of anti-government demonstrations.

The South American nation has been through years of political turmoil, with the latest crisis coming to a head when Mr Castillo announced he was dissolving Congress and introducing a state of emergency in December. But Congress proceeded to vote overwhelmingly to impeach him. Mr Castillo, who is currently in detention, is being investigated on charges of rebellion and conspiracy. He denies all the accusations, insisting that he is still the country's legitimate president.

Peru barred Bolivia's socialist former president, Evo Morales, from entering its territory, Peru's government announced in a statement, a decision Morales later derided as an attack meant to distract from rights violations. The move to ban Morales, along with eight other unidentified Bolivians, follows weeks of deadly protests in Peru targeting President Dina Boluarte following last month's swift removal of former President Pedro Castillo, with some demonstrations held

near the border with Bolivia. Castillo's attempt to unlawfully dissolve Congress ahead of a looming impeachment vote unleashed a fresh political crisis in the South American nation, one of the world's top copper producers. He had been in office for less than two tumultuous years.

The statement from Peru's interior ministry said Bolivian citizens have entered the country in recent months to carry out political activities, violating immigration laws while undermining national security. Morales, one of Latin America's most prominent leftists, has publicly backed Castillo, criticizing his ouster and subsequent arrest as illegal. The indigenous Bolivian leader served as president for some 14 years through 2019 until he resigned under intense pressure following a disputed election and mass protests.

Morales took to Twitter to respond to the decision to deny him entry to Peru. "Now they attack us to distract and dodge responsibility for grave violations of the human rights of our Peruvian brothers," he wrote, adding that political conflicts cannot be resolved with "expulsions, prohibitions or repression." Shortly after the ban was announced, Peru Prime Minister Alberto Otárola blamed Morales for stoking unrest.

"We are closely watching not only the attitude of Mr. Morales, but also of those who work with him in southern Peru," he told reporters. "They have been very active in promoting a situation of crisis." Last week, Peru's defense minister also accused foreigners of stirring up divisive protests. After Castillo was removed from office and detained on charges of fomenting rebellion, thousands of protesters took to the streets demanding Boluarte's resignation, the release of Castillo, the closure of Congress, and a new constitution. While Castillo remains jailed in pretrial detention, more than 20 people have been killed in the protests, which resumed last week after a pause for the holidays.

## Japan to cull record 10m chickens to stop bird flu

TOKYO (Reuters): Japan plans to cull more than 10 million chickens because of the spread of bird flu, a record for the peak infection season that runs from October to May, an agriculture ministry official said on Tuesday. With the latest avian flu case detected at a poultry farm in Miyazaki in southwestern Japan on Tuesday, the total number of chickens to be culled in the 2022 season reached 10.08 million, exceeding the 9.87 million in the November 2020 to March 2021 season.

The number of outbreaks has reached 57, outpacing the 2020 season's record 52 and the number of prefectures affected rose to 23 from 2020's 18, which was the highest ever, said the

ministry official, who oversees animal health. "Avian flu is spreading around the world, including Europe and the United States, and the amount of virus that comes to Japan with migratory birds has been high this season," the official said.

A public holiday in Japan, Agriculture Minister Tetsuro Nomura issued a statement regarding the high number of culled birds that called on livestock farmers to be on "the utmost alert" and implement epidemic measures to prevent the outbreak and the spread of the disease. "Outbreaks in wild birds have been confirmed more frequently than usual, and experts have warned that the concentration of the virus in the environment is

very high nationwide," he said.

In December, Japan's government issued a warning, instructing poultry farmers in the affected areas to carry out disinfection with slaked lime which was distributed by the government. A record number of chickens, turkeys and other birds have died in outbreaks in the United States and Europe, and the virus is spreading in South America, Africa, and Asia. The virus can be transmitted to humans in contact with poultry, but experts say the health risk to humans is low. Japan's first outbreak for this season was detected in late October and the season is expected to continue through around May, the ministry official said.

## China's new FM heads to Africa for first trip

BEIJING (AP): China's new Foreign Minister Qin Gang is starting his term with a weeklong trip to five African countries, the Foreign Ministry announced. Qin, who until recently was ambassador to the United States, will visit Ethiopia, Gabon, Angola, Benin and Egypt from Jan. 9-16, spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a daily media briefing. In Egypt, Qin will also meet the secretary-general of the Arab League.

The new foreign minister is following in the

footsteps of his predecessors, who have for more than three decades started each year with a trip to Africa. "It shows that China attaches great importance to the traditional friendship with Africa and the development of China-Africa relations," Wang said.

The US is battling China for influence in Africa, with President Joe Biden making an appeal to African leaders at a summit in Washington in December. China has become a major trading partner with the

continent and investor in infrastructure and mining projects.

Qin, 56, was appointed foreign minister on Dec. 30. He succeeded Wang Yi, 69, who has replaced Yang Jiechi as the government's top foreign policy official. Wang's new position has not been announced, but a recent article by him on the Foreign Ministry website described him as director of the ruling Communist Party's foreign affairs office, the post that Yang held.

## Texas to execute ex-cop for hiring 2 people to kill wife

HOUSTON (AP): A former suburban Houston police officer was set to be executed Tuesday for hiring two people to kill his estranged wife nearly 30 years ago. Robert Fratta, 65, is scheduled to receive a lethal injection for the November 1994 fatal shooting of his wife, Farah, amid a contentious divorce and custody fight for their three children.

Prosecutors say Fratta organized the murder-for-hire plot in which a middleman, Joseph Prystash, hired the shooter, Howard Guidry. Farah Fratta, 33, was shot twice in the head by Guidry in her home's garage in the Houston suburb of Atascocita. Robert Fratta, who was a public safety officer for Missouri City, has long claimed he is innocent. Prosecutors said Fratta had repeatedly expressed his desire to see his wife dead and asked several acquaintances if they knew anyone who would kill her, telling one friend, "I'll just kill her, and I'll do my time and when I get out, I'll have my kids," according to court records.

Prystash and Guidry were also sent to death row for the slaying.

Fratta's attorneys have asked the US Supreme Court to halt the execution scheduled for Tuesday evening at the state penitentiary in Huntsville, arguing that prosecutors withheld evidence that a trial witness had been hypnotized by investigators. They say that led her to change her initial recollection that she saw two men at the murder scene as well as a getaway driver. "This would have undermined the State's case, which depended on just two men committing the act and depended on linking Fratta to both," Fratta's lawyers wrote in their appeal to the Supreme Court.

Prosecutors have argued the hypnosis produced no new information and no new identification. The Supreme Court and lower courts have previously rejected appeals from Fratta's lawyers that sought to review claims arguing insufficient evidence and faulty jury instructions were used to convict him.

His attorneys also unsuccessfully argued that one juror in his case was not impartial and that ballistic evidence didn't tie him to the murder weapon. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles last week unanimously declined to commute Fratta's death sentence to a lesser penalty or to grant a 60-day reprieve.

Fratta also is one of three Texas death row inmates who has sued to stop the state's prison system from using what they allege are expired and unsafe execution drugs. Last week, Texas' top criminal appeals court barred a civil court judge from issuing any orders in the lawsuit. A hearing was set for Tuesday. Fratta was first sentenced to death in 1996, but his case was overturned by a federal judge who ruled that confessions from his co-conspirators shouldn't have been admitted into evidence. In the same ruling, the judge wrote that "trial evidence showed Fratta to be egotistical, misogynistic, and vile, with a callous desire to kill his wife."

He was retried and resentedenced to death in 2009. Andy Kahan, director of victim services and advocacy for Crime Stoppers of Houston and who has helped Farah Fratta's family during the case, said he plans to witness the execution, keeping a promise he made to Farah Fratta's father, Lex Baquer, who died in 2018. Baquer and his wife raised Robert and Farah Fratta's three children.

"I don't expect anything to come out of Bob that would show any type of admission or any type of remorse because everything has always revolved around him," Kahan said. The execution will be a way for the children "to continue to move on with their lives and at the very least they won't have to think about him anymore. I think that will play an important part in their healing," he said. Fratta would be the first inmate put to death this year in Texas and the second in the US Eight other executions are scheduled in Texas for later this year.

## Taiwan calls on Germany to help maintain 'regional order'

TAIPEI (Reuters): Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen called on Germany on Tuesday to help maintain "regional order" during a meeting with senior German lawmakers who are visiting the island on a trip that Beijing has condemned. Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, has been heartened by support from Western democratic allies in the face of stepped-up Chinese military threats, including war games staged by China near the island in August.

Meeting the lawmakers at the presidential office, Tsai said that in the face of "authoritarian expansion-

ism", democracies must stand together. "Starting next year, Taiwan's mandatory military service will be extended to one year. This will bolster our defence capabilities and demonstrate our determination to defend our homeland and safeguard democracy," she said, referring to an announcement last month.

"We look forward to Taiwan, Germany and other democratic partners jointly maintaining the regional order and prosperity." While Germany, like most countries, has no formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan, Berlin is working on a new strategy taking a more sober

look at its relations with China and aiming to reduce its dependence on Asia's economic superpower. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, the head of Germany's parliamentary defence committee and a member of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's junior coalition partner Free Democrats (FDP), told Tsai that Germany and Taiwan are friends.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a wake up call for the whole world, Strack-Zimmermann said. "That's the reason why we come to your country, to your wonderful island, to say (to) the world that we stand close together as democratic

states," she added. China has expressed anger at the trip, with its foreign ministry alluding to Germany's World War Two past.

"We want to point out that the root cause of the Taiwan issue stems precisely from the law of the jungle, hegemony, colonialism and militarism that were once rampant in the world. China was deeply impacted by that. Germany has a deep and tragic historical lesson in that," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said. Taiwan rejects China's sovereignty claims, saying only the island's 23 million people can decide their future.

## Harvard rescinds fellowship offer to leading rights activist

BOSTON (AP): Harvard University rescinded a fellowship that it had offered to a leading human rights activist over what he said was his group's criticism of Israel. Kenneth Roth, who was the executive director of Human Rights Watch, or HRW, until last year, was recruited by the Harvard Kennedy School's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy to become a fellow and he accepted. But a few weeks later, in July, Roth said the center called and told him that the dean of the school, Douglas Elmendorf, had not approved it.

Roth said he wasn't given a reason but believes it was due to his and his group's criticism of Israel. It is

unclear why it took six months for the decision to become public, though The Nation reported on the issue last week. A son of a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, Roth acknowledges that his work has made him enemies around the world. In a brief conversation with Elmendorf before his fellowship was denied, Roth said he told the dean that he had been sanctioned by the Russian and Chinese governments and "was pretty sure the Israeli government detests me. That turned out to be the kiss of death."

Over the years, the group has issued a number of reports saying that Israel appears to have committed war crimes against the

Palestinians. And in 2019, Israel expelled the group's local director, accusing him of boycott activity. Roth, who at the time was HRW's executive director, said Israel was joining a "fairly ugly group of governments" that have barred the group's researchers. Two years later, HRW said Israeli policies toward the Palestinians amounted to apartheid. Israel vehemently denies the label and comparisons to apartheid-era South Africa. "This is a shocking violation of academic freedom," Roth told The Associated Press. "I don't understand how an institution that purports to address foreign policy, that even has a human rights pol-

icy center, how can it possibly avoid criticism of Israel."

In a statement, the Harvard Kennedy School didn't say why Roth wasn't chosen for a fellowship, only that Elmendorf "decided not to make this fellowship appointment, as he sometimes decides not to make other proposed academic appointments, based on an evaluation of the candidate's potential contributions to the Kennedy School." The director of the Carr Center, Mathias Risse, called the decision a "profoundly sad moment" for him personally.

"My subsequent conversation with Ken Roth to explain this decision to the extent I could was one of the low-

est moments in my professional life," he said in a statement that was sent to the Carr Center community and shared with the AP. Kathryn Sikkink, the Ryan Family Professor of Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School, said she "couldn't understand" the decision so she went to Elmendorf for an explanation. He told her that "they would not approve the fellowship because they considered HRW and Roth to have an anti-Israel bias."

"I have seen no credible evidence whatsoever that HRW or Ken Roth are biased against Israel. I consider this misinformation, and for people who know better, actual disinformation," she added. The move has also

angered civil rights and press freedom organizations, many which defended Roth and his work. "Few people have done more to advance human rights than Kenneth Roth. If Harvard's decision was based on HRW's advocacy under Ken's leadership, this is profoundly troubling — from both a human rights and an academic freedom standpoint," Anthony Romero, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement. "Scholars and fellows have to be judged on their merits, not whether they please powerful political interests. We urge Harvard to reverse its decision."



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# Pakistan Climate Resilient Conference

THE International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, co-hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations in Geneva, called for securing global support and forging long-term partnerships to help the country cope with the challenges of the 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. While presenting Pakistan's case, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told the forum that Pakistan would be able to generate about \$8 billion dollars domestically and looks towards the international community to contribute an equal amount to support the colossal work of flood recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the flood-hit regions in the country.

The United Nations and global community have played an adorable role in assisting the government and people of Pakistan during these hard times. Earlier, the United Nations launched a flesh appeal worth \$ 816 million to help assist the flood victims of Pakistan, and later the global body established a Loss and Damage Fund during the COP27 Summit in Sharm-Al-Shaikh to address the financial losses of developing nations including Pakistan that occur due to the global warming in the world.

Presently, sufficient funds had been promised by the global community and a catastrophe had been converted into an opportunity but there is a dire need for timely and judicial use of available resources while transparency and third-party oversight are also essential to prevent pilferage and strengthen the global confidence in the country.

## Hazards and faithful journalism

THE Ministry of Higher Education of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has announced that initial initiatives have been taken to revise the journalism curriculum at the universities in the country. According to the Afghan Acting Minister of Higher Education, the westerners use media as a powerful tool to their advantage through waging intellectual and propaganda war against Muslims, while the Islamic Emirate 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 further declared that lying is forbidden in all religions, however, some media outlets are corrupting people's minds through lies and propaganda.

Afghan Taliban has fought a two-decade-long war against the United States and its allies to get freed their country from foreign occupation and reinforce their rule, reinstate Islamic laws and Afghan traditions in the country.

Currently, Afghan rulers have taken up a new agenda to address the malfunctioning of journalists and media platforms, allegedly involved in polluting public minds, particularly subverting youngsters against the rulers. The Afghan authorities have introduced a set of regulations to restrict media and journalists to report matters that are contrary to Islam, insulting national figures, and criticizing the ruling regime.

Such perspective is not uncommon in politics and governance, where people sitting on opposition benches advocate civil liberties and appreciate the role of media and journalism in spreading awareness and promoting basic rights of the public, while the people ruling the country perceive it insubordination, unhealthy reporting. Historically, reporting on national issues and states' culpability had always been difficult and counterproductive because of the sensitivity of matters and the delicate ego of the rulers. However, when it comes to a cleric regime, demands more prudence because one has to pass through a narrow bridge of patriotism and faith and can hardly escape the charges of treason and blasphemy that ultimately lead to the gibbet.

RADICALS supporting ex-president Jair Bolsonaro seized several government buildings in the capital, including the residence of the head of state, the Planalto Palace. They do not recognize the election victory of Luis Inácio Lula da Silva. And his supporters accuse the protesters of attempting a coup d'état in order to establish a fascist dictatorship.

In the footsteps of Trump

The rebels demanded to review the results of the presidential elections, in their opinion, rigged. About four thousand people attacked the Supreme Court, parliament and the presiden-

According to one of the most common versions, Bolsonaro was behind the riots, who at that time was in the United States and even condemned the seizure of government buildings. Peaceful demonstrations are an integral part of democracy, he said, but what happened on January 8 violated the established order. At the same time, the ex-head of state said that the leftists did the same in 2013 and 2017.

The Supreme Court of Brazil ordered the military to eliminate the tents of the rebels within 24 hours. Chief Justice Alexandre de Moraes called them "terrorist camps" that are financed with the non-intervention of the authorities. For fail-

**“If the army or elected deputies had taken their side, something else could have changed. However, instead, Amilton Mouran, who was vice president under Bolsonaro, made it clear that he was pleased with the results of the vote. Judge Sergio Mora, who sent da Silva at one time behind bars, and then became the Minister of Justice in the government of Bolsonaro, also spoke out against the protests,” explains Heifetz. Experts emphasize that there are no serious grounds to doubt the results of the October elections. Bolsonaro lost, right-wing deputies took the majority of seats in parliament. Another thing is that the ex-president may be dissatisfied with the way his former associates reacted to him after the vote. His radicalism scares them away - they hope to continue the struggle in a legitimate way. And da Silva is ready to provide them with such an opportunity on the basis of a compromise policy.**

tial residence. More than 4-00 have already been detained. At least 46 were injured.

When the riots arose, da Silva was on a working visit to Sao Paulo, the most populous and developed state of Brazil. There he assessed the consequences of the floods. But, having learned about the protests, he immediately returned to the capital and visited the attacked buildings. He assured that the pogroms would not happen again. "We will find out who financed those who went to Brasilia today, and they will all pay according to the law," the president promised.

ure to comply with the order, the Minister of Defense and the command of the armed forces will be held accountable.

International reaction

The world powers sided with da Silva. In particular, Joe Biden called the protests outrageous, and the head of the EU foreign service, Josep Borrell, noted that "violent extremists" seized the buildings. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz accused Bolsonaro's supporters of attacking democracy.

Argentine President Alberto Fernandez urged South American countries to prevent "the return of the specter of a right-wing

coup". Colombian President Gustavo Petro spoke even more frankly: he said that the Brazilian fascists had attempted a coup d'état. The head of Chile, Gabriel Boric, called the attack "cowardly and heinous" and was ready to send special forces to help the Brazilian security forces. Even the authorities of Ecuador, headed by Guillermo Lasso, an ally of the ex-president of Brazil, admitted that da Silva was elected legally.

Press Secretary of the President of Russia Dmitry Peskov stressed: Moscow strongly condemns the actions of the instigators of the unrest and supports da

Mikhail Katkov

socialist da Silva, who already ruled the country from 2003 to 2011, won. Bolsonaro did not admit defeat for a long time, citing an allegedly rigged vote. In November, he tried to challenge the election results, but the Supreme Electoral Court rejected the application and fined the ex-president's party \$4.2 million for "bad intentions." Bolsonaro took no public action to hold on to power and left for Florida. However, thousands of his supporters throughout Brazil set up camps near military bases. They claimed that the election results were rigged and called on the military to

dropped, and his successor, Dilma Rousseff, was removed from power because of the scandal.

Last chance

According to experts, the riots in Brasilia are futile: most likely, this is just a gesture of desperation by Bolsonaro and his supporters. At the same time, Alexander Kharlamenko, a leading researcher at the Institute of Latin America of the Russian Academy of Sciences, does not rule out that it was no coincidence that the ex-president flew to Florida two days before da Silva's inauguration.

"Perhaps," Bolsonaro expected that he would be supported by the Republicans, who strengthened their positions in the

ration, and not after. However, according to him, the opposition could be frightened by the many police and military on the streets of the capital. However, Kheyfets points out that the protesters did not know what to do after the capture of several government buildings.

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# Europe decides to commit suicide

Elena Karaeva

TODAY they are sending tanks, albeit obsolete in every respect - both morally and technically - to the NVO zone in order to "support Ukraine", and less than a year ago, their press and their authorities ignored Moscow's warning: "You want to fight with Russia? Do you want France to fight Russia? But that's the way it will be!"

It took exactly 11 months for the West to articulate clearly: "Yes, we want to fight Russia." The fact that every time the escalation of the current geopolitical crisis is accompanied by reservations that, they say, NATO "does not participate in the conflict, but only supports Ukraine", no longer misleads anyone. Any decision to send any kind of assistance to one of the parties to the conflict means one thing: the European continent, with its entire population of many millions, which is now controlled by those who want to destroy Russia, is getting one step closer to the way-point designated by the Russian president.

Then, at the beginning of February last year, a natural (and multi-day) hysteria happened to neo-liberal globalists in all strata and in all countries that consider themselves to be part of the "civilized world". Moscow - the country, our people - was accused of everything that could be blamed, but after 11 months we saw that the Kremlin gave not only an accurate forecast, it also explained why this would happen. And all his

assumptions came true.

The West then, of course, overestimated its capabilities and its ability to resist (albeit in a proxy war) our country. And he underestimated ours - both opportunities and abilities.

Just as any difficult life or political situation tests a person and society for strength, so the current crisis, in which the West grabs the remnants of a unipolar world that is evaporating almost before our eyes, tests both the ideology and the politicians who adhere to this ideology for compliance with the situation.

Crumbles daily and hourly what seemed absolutely unshakable. The myth about the economic power of "the entire civilized world" was the first to disappear. It turned out that this collective king is naked. Naked as far as he has failed to cope with the tsunami of inflation and the accompanying tidal wave of rising prices. In the same way, legends about freed-om of speech, about the "s-acred" inviolability of private property, about the st-rikt confidentiality of negotiations between heads of state and, of course, the legend was destroyed that "in the civilized world, lying is the main vice." They lied to us with inspiration, and with inspiration so much that, as it turned out, they did not understand that they were committing a monstrous offense even according to their own ideas.

Everything that hid the truth crumbled to dust.

And this truth lies in the

fact that in order to preserve unipolarity, "the entire civilized world" needs to destroy any other models of social and state structure that are capable of competing with the declared and created design of unipolarity.

There are us, beautiful, already glowing with some "universal" values, and there are our enemies who offer an alternative. And just as any active dissent was erased into powder (sit and talk as much as you like among yourself, but you will never have any media platform and no audience, except for the one that you see in front of you), so a different model of social development also needs to be crushed initially. Well, to destroy - in the end. And if it is necessary to use violence, then it will be used too.

A little over four years ago, the 100% apolitical Yellow Vests movement, whose members only wanted to improve their very modest lives and lower prices, was a regular night and day nightmare of those in power. Now and today, those who are ready to demand from those who rule France an account of what is happening and ask the question about the real reasons for the rapid impoverishment, could not bring tens of thousands of people out into the street.

Why? Because there are not many people who want to put their sides and backs under police batons, few people want to swallow tear gas, no one wants to fall

under the repressions that in Europe fall with the inevitability of the movement of an asphalt rink on actively dissenting.

And even if it is not possible to stand up for as long as necessary to protect their own standard of living, it is not difficult to imagine how, albeit purely hypothetically, European inhabitants will fight for someone else's well-being. And other people's "democracy and freedom."

Globalism, put forward by the neoliberal elites, which completely permeated both the social and economic agenda of the "entire civilized world", within a short time became totalitarianism, in comparison with which even the theory of class struggle underlying the ideology of socialism looks like a model of free-thinking.

In the USSR, which was commonly called the "evil empire", in the second half of the last century there was the possibility of free expression. With observation, of course, of certain rules, but this possibility was. And it could be used. As no one has ever denied the right to doubt, also expressed publicly.

Today in the West it is absolutely impossible to imagine such a thing, since all the mechanisms and all the structures that are responsible for the operation of these mechanisms have been transferred to the mode of total war with Russia. And this phrase, used, by the way, by Joseph Goebbels almost eighty

years ago, in February 1943, has become decisive in today's foreign policy of the collective West.

The decision to wage a total war, which our geopolitical opponents have declared de facto to us, does not leave them the slightest choice, and the moves are dictated by the time pressure that has already begun.

Against the West, as always, when it attacked Russia, whether it was the empire in the 19th century or the USSR in the 20th century, circumstances are working that for some reason the local strategists do not take into account.

The first of these is the circumstance of place.

No von Clausewitz, who wrote that "Russia is not a country that can really be conquered, that is, occupied; at least this cannot be done by the forces of modern European states," referring to the space and resource sovereignty of our country, is not a decree for them.

The second is time.

It is rapidly ending in the West, primarily because neither economically, nor financially, nor in terms of resources today this "entire civilized world" can not stand against us for a long time. Emptying arsenals, dwindling stocks of both fuel and other energy carriers, as well as the collapse of the economy, from a hypothesis have become a reality approaching every day.

This was talked about even where, until recently, in writing, orally, privately and publicly assured of the

opposite.

Former Bush administration secretary of state Condoleezza Rice and Robert Gates, head of the Pentagon in the same Bush administration, told the Washington Post neo-liberal mouthpiece that "time is not on Ukraine's side."

Translated from politically correct newspeak, what has been said means: "we can lose in the confrontation we have started with Russia."

Both Rice and Gates are experts on Russia. Both studied the history of our country (Gates' doctoral dissertation, by the way, was devoted to relations between Russia and China ), and its geography. Behind the heap of calls to increase military supplies to Kiev, one cannot help but read fears of a possible military and diplomatic loss of the Westerners in the confrontation with our country.

Well, if we continue the historical analogies connected with the war, the total war, which was declared to our state either by the French or by the Germans, it should be noted that every time, assembling coalitions of European states, they significantly surpass us at first both in power, and in equipment, and in terms of financial capabilities, the instigators received not just a response, but a response that ended twice with the signing of capitulation by the attackers. If you need to give an answer to the next fight ordered by them, then, as always, it will be concise and will consist of two words. We can repeat!

# The danger of military conflict across the Taiwan Strait

WHEN Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida meets with President Biden in Washington this week, he will no doubt emphasize his efforts to bolster Japanese defense capabilities and tighten the U.S.-Japan alliance.

Kishida, who will be meeting with Biden on Friday after a whirlwind trip through Europe and Canada, will report on how he expects Japan to improve the mobility and resilience of its defense forces, and how its military will acquire counterstrike capabilities to complement U.S. military power.

In addition, the prime minister will confirm his decision to increase spending to about 43 trillion yen (about \$326 billion) under the new defense build-up program during fiscal years 2023-2027 —which is more than a 56 percent jump over the previous five-year period for 2019-2023.

President Biden will of

course welcome these transformative changes in Japan's defense policy.

But Kishida should also use the upcoming bilateral summit to hold a frank and substantive discussion about the role of diplomacy in dealing with critical security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Although Japan's National Security Strategy released in December mentions China as "the greatest strategic challenge in ensuring the peace and security of Japan and the peace and stability of the international community," what is missing in this document is a concrete diplomatic strategy to address one of the greatest security challenges in the region: the danger of military conflict across the Taiwan Strait.

Japan's new National Security Strategy only vaguely states that "Japan will continue to make various efforts based on its position that cross-strait issues are expected to be resolved peacefully."

Given the geographic proximity of Japan to Taiwan, Japan's acquisition of new stand-off counterstrike missile capabilities, as well as the enhanced mobility and resilience of its defense forces, will complicate Chinese military planning and encourage Beijing to be more hesitant about using military force to reunify Taiwan with China.

Although military deterrence is essential, it is by no means sufficient to reduce the risk of war over Taiwan. Unless accompanied by an effective diplomatic strategy, the enhancement of military deterrence could exacerbate cross-strait tensions by provoking further threatening responses from China and convincing the Chinese leadership that the only way to resolve the Taiwan issue is through military force.

In order to prevent a war over Taiwan, therefore, one must distinguish between Chinese motives and intentions.

Mike Mochizuki

China's motives in preventing the permanent separation of Taiwan from China and reunifying Taiwan with China are immutable. They are the core interests of both China's leadership and people. But there is room for flexibility regarding China's intentions when it comes to the timing of Taiwan's reunification with China and the use of military force.

The goal of U.S. and Japanese policy should be to encourage China's patience regarding Taiwan and its pursuit of peaceful means for resolving the Taiwan issue. To do so, Kishida should ask Biden to work together on the following three points. First, Tokyo and Washington should give Beijing credible reassurances about their Taiwan policies as well as buttressing their deterrence capabilities. The U.S. National Security Strategy released in October began

to move in this direction when it stated that the United States does not support Taiwan independence. But Japan's National Security Strategy was much less explicit by only noting that "Japan's basic position regarding Taiwan remains unchanged."

To reassure Beijing that Tokyo and Washington remain committed to their One China policies, Kishida and Biden should issue a joint statement that neither Japan nor the United States supports Taiwan's independence in addition to reasserting that they welcome a peaceful resolution to cross-strait differences and oppose unilateral changes to the status quo by either side of the Taiwan Strait. And Japanese and American leaders should remind their counterparts in Taiwan that the best way for Taipei to protect its diplomatic space and expand its participation in international bodies is to

mitigate tensions between itself and China.

Second, both Japan and the United States should devote more energy to stabilizing and improving their respective bilateral relationships with China. Both countries should seize opportunities for cooperation with China to deal with the critical global challenges of climate change and public health, as well as to address North Korea's alarming missile tests and nuclear programs. Kishida should also express to Biden his reservations about simplistically dividing the world into two opposing camps of democracies versus autocracies.

In the long run, such a Manichean approach to foreign policy will undermine the international expansion of universal values of freedom, democracy, and fundamental human rights.

Third, while continuing to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific maritime region, Japan and the United States should revive

their vision of an open and inclusive Asia-Pacific region. Kishida should emphasize to Biden that the countries of Asia want to avoid having to choose between the United States and China and that they prefer a more moderate U.S.-China strategic competition.

In the spirit of open and prosperous regionalism, Kishida should convey his hope that China as well as Taiwan will meet the high standards of accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. By building on the legacy of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum whereby Beijing accepted Taiwan's membership in APEC as an economic region under the name China-Taipei, such a development would contribute to improving cross-strait relations.

Given Tokyo's habit of deferring to Washington on important security issues because of Japan's depend-

ence on the U.S. defense commitment, Kishida might feel uncomfortable about raising the above points with Biden — especially in light of the strong anti-China sentiment now prevalent in Washington. But he must muster the courage to engage in such straight talk with Biden because the stakes are so especially high for Japan.

A war over Taiwan would engulf Japan with devastating consequences. Moreover, Kishida has earned the right to voice his concerns about U.S. policy toward China because of the tough decisions he has made to strengthen Japan's defense capabilities and U.S.-Japan alliance coordination.

President Biden might even welcome this candid advice from a trusted and indispensable ally because it could increase his leverage to resist those in the United States pushing for even more hostile and indeed more reckless policies toward China.



# The ‘same old arguments’

Defining characteristic of the twentieth century was the shift of economics from the peripheries of academic life to the center of political discourse. This development was personified by the most famous twentieth-century economist, John Maynard Keynes. Events like the Great Depression contributed to Keynes's rise to fame, but so too did the force of economic ideas as governments sought to cope with problems like mass unemployment and rampant inflation, often against a background of political radicalization.

Part of Keynes's appeal was his promise that governments could manage capitalist economies through a combination of macroeconomic policies and timely interventions. Underneath Keynes's program, however, was another set of concerns. Keynes always regarded himself as a liberal and in the business of defending liberal civilization from socialists, nationalists, and fascists. A similar conviction drove the man whose ideas came to symbolize opposition to Keynes and the Keynesian revolution in economics.

Several biographies have been written of Friedrich August von Hayek (1899-1991). Until now, none have come close to matching Robert Skidelsky's three-volume biography of Keynes. The publication of Hayek: A Life, 1899-1950 (2022) co-authored by two distinguished historians of economic thought, Bruce Caldwell and Hansjoerg Klausinger, rectifies that situation. As Skidelsky himself writes, "This is the definitive Hayek for our times."

While Caldwell and Klausinger admire Hayek, their biography—the first of a projected two-volume work—is no hagiography. The Hayek who emerges from this text is somewhat of a charming loner who maintained distance between himself and all but a small number of individuals. According to his daughter Christine, Hayek was rather clueless as a father and husband. He also made mistakes in his professional and personal life, often because he misread situations and people. Yet we also encounter a man whose deep curiosity about the world was matched by considerable courage and intellectual integrity.

The fullness of Caldwell and Klausinger's picture of Hayek's life and ideas owes much to their comprehensive study of primary sources. It is hard to overstate how impressive this is. The sources include extensive interviews with Hayek himself and his son and daughter, as well as many hitherto unexamined archival sources, personal, family, and professional correspondence, journals, diaries, note-cards, reading lists, and unpublished papers. This material has been carefully cross-referenced to get as close to the truth about the man as possible. This process, Caldwell and Klausinger state, may "seem like pedantry, but such care is particularly important when one's subject is someone like Friedrich Hayek who was, is, and will remain a controversial figure."

### Viennese Traumas

Controversy invariably goes together with complexity. In Hayek's case, it owes something to Hayek's social origins in upper-middle-class fin-de-siècle Vienna, then the capital of the multi-ethnic Habsburg Empire. His father, August von Hayek, and mother, Felicitas von Juraschek, came from the lower nobility and shared academic backgrounds. Agnostic in religious matters, Hayek's parents had grown up in the wake of the "liberal empire": a period in the

1860s and 1870s during which the Habsburg realms underwent reforms led by German-speaking liberal politicians.

Liberalization had well and truly come to an end by the 1890s. By then, the empire seethed with economic, political, social, ethnic, and religious tensions. Its dominant German minority felt increasingly under siege from Hungarians, Czechs, and Poles. In Vienna, it was the growing prominence of Jews in political, economic, and academic life that bothered many ethnic Germans.

The rise of racial expressions of anti-Semitism touched many Viennese German families. This included, it turns out, Hayek's father, mother, and at least one of his three siblings. His father, a doctor and amateur botanist, joined a German medical organization that was "committed to 'a defending of non-Jewish doctors against the Jews'." One of his brothers, Heinz, joined the SA (the Nazi party's paramilitary organization) in 1933 and became a Nazi party member in 1938. A "tacit anti-Semitism," Hayek retrospectively observed, was present in the family household. Hayek himself, Caldwell and Klausinger demonstrate, consistently rejected these associations. After a flirtation with socialism upon returning from the war in 1918, Hayek maintained his classical liberal views and embraced neither anti-Semitic nor ethnonationalist positions. That led to growing tensions with his mother and his brother throughout the 1930s in light of their support for hard-right nationalists and then the Nazi regime after the Anschluss in March 1938.

By this time, Hayek was living in Britain and one of the stars at the London School of Economics, to which he has been recruited by Keynes's then-leading economic critic, Lionel Robbins. But Austria remained a constant reference point for Hayek. It was where he had found many of the core ideas that would guide him, the places where he felt at peace, and the woman who would be the love of his life.

### The Puzzler

This, however, is to get ahead of ourselves. Divided into six parts, Caldwell and Klausinger's biography takes readers through Hayek's family history, childhood, and schooling (he was a bright but lazy student), his war service, his studies at the University of Vienna in the 1920s and subsequent formation as an economist, his eventual move to England, his intellectual battles with Keynes throughout the 1930s, and the experience of World War II. It ends with his postwar move to America following a messy divorce—a sad affair in which Hayek does not appear in a favorable light.

As Caldwell and Klausinger traverse the decades, they take us through the period's political and economic upheavals and Hayek's reactions to what was happening in the West. Intellectually speaking, they suggest that Hayek was a "puzzler," "someone who would keep coming back and rethinking a set of claims, adding new insights along the way."

The key driver for this, they argue, was that Hayek kept confronting the "same old arguments" about politics and economics. No matter how deep and wide the evidence illustrating, say, the follies of extensive government economic intervention, Hayek discovered that the reality was—and is—that there will always be people who want to believe that, say, industrial policy will somehow work if the conditions are

### Samuel Gregg

right or if they are put in charge. The fate of market liberals, it seems, is to illustrate such schemes' fallacies, and to endure the opprobrium which goes along with that.

### Keynes as Nemesis

Hayek found himself in this role more or less from the moment he was invited to lecture at the LSE. "I feel like a Cassandra," he told Robbins in 1931. While much of his work was focused on price and capital theory, Hayek had been bought to England to combat Keynes's growing influence among economists.

In curious ways, Caldwell and Klausinger point out, Keynes and Hayek were quite similar. Both were from roughly the same social class, academically gifted, products of their respective intellectual milieux (Cambridge and Vienna), religious agnostics, and inclined to look back to late nineteenth-century Britain as a liberal golden age. They even shared intellectual interests outside economics, such as the history of ideas. Such things, plus a degree of tolerance less evident in contemporary academic life, explain the good relations between the two men, despite their often different ways of thinking.

Therein lies one of the most important themes that emerge from Caldwell and Klausinger's study of Hayek's life. Beyond the technicalities of their sparring which took off with Hayek's forceful critique of Keynes' Treatise on Money (1930), the deeper disputes between the two men gravitated around two matters.

One was about economics itself. Keynes and Hayek may have been arguing about topics as specialized as the natural rate of interest, but what was really at stake was Keynes' emerging ambition to rethink economics so that the theoretical "action," so to speak, moved away from a focus on prices and the constant readjustment of factors of production and distribution in response to the working of free prices, and towards a method of thinking in aggregates: a general theory whereby attention was primarily directed towards a constant anticipation of a deficiency in overall demand that government economic policy must be ready to rectify to preserve full employment. The second dispute concerned twentieth-century liberalism. For all their admiration of nineteenth-century liberal England, neither Hayek nor Keynes saw any possibility of going back to that time. Liberalism, both believed, needed to be rethought in light of twentieth-century challenges.

The two topics were, as Caldwell and Klausinger demonstrate, interrelated, and gradually converged on government's role in the economy. Complicating this discussion was Keynes's tendency to flip-flop on many policy issues. This made Keynes a moving target for Hayek. Another problem was that Hayek remained committed to the importance of developing sound economic theory, not least as a way of countering cranks as well as those who stood to do much harm in the name of expediency. By contrast, Keynes focused more on immediate policy challenges. Both outlooks have a role in economic thought, but it is clear from Caldwell and Klausinger's account that, in certain respects, Hayek and Keynes ended up talking past each other.

### Serfdom Arises

The great mystery of the Keynes-Hayek clash is why Hayek never wrote a review of Keynes' General Theory. This is all the more puzzling given that, by

1936, Hayek and Robbins were losing their war with Keynes. The ongoing flight of economists and economic students to Keynes and his revolution in economics increasingly left market liberals marooned.

Hayek's explanations in later life for this lacuna were somewhat lame. They ranged from weariness of endless disputation to his fear that Keynes would simply change his mind again. Caldwell and Klausinger speculate that Hayek hesitated because A.C. Pigou—the heir of the great Cambridge economist Alfred Marshall and foremost representative of the classic economics attacked by Keynes's General Theory—penned such a devastating and "uncharacteristically unrestrained" review of the book in Economica that Hayek "didn't want to give the impression of piling on." Not everyone will find that convincing. But whatever the truth, Hayek's choice not to review the book, Caldwell and Klausinger state, "was, to say the least, a miscalculation."

At the time, Hayek was immersed in writing a highly technical tome, The Pure Theory of Capital (1941), in which he sought to develop a more thorough explanation of the capital structure of an economy. Hayek may have been reluctant to be distracted from it by getting into another boxing match with Keynes. But Caldwell and Klausinger show that Hayek himself was simultaneously moving away from technical economics. Like other prominent classical liberals of the 1930s—Wilhelm Röpke, Walter Eucken, Jacques Rueff, etc.—Hayek was drawn to exploring the deeper roots of liberal civilization's twentieth-century crack-up. Such a postmortem, Hayek believed, was a prerequisite for reviving a liberalism fitted up for the twentieth century.

Herein lies the roots of Hayek's most famous book, The Road to Serfdom (1944). The text emerged from Hayek's much broader inquiry into the rise of collectivist ideas and the attraction of government planning. It was supposed to take the form of a two-volume work entitled "The Abuse and Decline of Reason." This project was never completed.

Nevertheless, it yielded considerable fruit. This ranged from Hayek's devastating critique of scientism to his largely negative assessment of John Stuart Mill. It also included Hayek's seminal American Economic Review article "The Use of Knowledge in Society" (1945).

But The Road to Serfdom was the most famous product of this project, and Caldwell and Klausinger take us into the finer details of its composition, publication, and after-effects. While conceived and presented as a popular political book, The Road to Serfdom was also a work of political economy insofar as it brought together economics with history and philosophy to explain how economic planning can deliver a nation into servitude. To that extent, the book underscored Hayek's dissent from the direction of postwar economic inquiry which was already being spurred down the path of mathematics and models by Keynesians and others with a serious case of science-envy.

### Journey to America

The Road to Serfdom's popularity in America far exceeded its reception in Britain. "Practically," Hayek later wrote, "all my contacts that led to later visits and finally made my move to Chicago possible were made" during a 1945 trip to America to promote The Road to Serfdom. But the book turned out to be

advantageous for Hayek in two other ways. First, it helped created the impetus for Hayek to secure American funding for the first meeting of what came to be called the Mont Pèlerin Society: an international group of classical liberal thinkers that would establish one basis for a long-term pushback against Keynesianism and economic planning.

America, however, turned out to have another significance for Hayek. Here we come to what Caldwell and Klausinger denote as the greatest crisis of Hayek's life. The full story has never been told before.

In the early 1920s, Caldwell and Klausinger relate, Hayek had fallen in love with a distant cousin, Helene ("Lenerl") Bitterlich. By virtue of several factors involving insufficiently stated intentions, natural diffidence on Hayek's part, and mutual misunderstandings, she ended up marrying someone else. Hayek then married Helena ("Hella") von Fritsch and had two children. Yet he never got over his great love. In the early 1930s, he and Lenerl decided that, one day, they would be together. Hella was understandably nonplussed by this and refused to accede to Hayek's request for a divorce. Then the war intervened. Fritz was in London. Lenerl remained in Vienna.

After the war, Hayek actively pursued a divorce from his wife. Hella, however, had no intention of playing along. The details of subsequent events make for painful reading. When Hayek left the family home on December 28, 1949, Hella turned to their daughter and "said, simply, 'He's not coming back'." The end result was a deeply acrimonious parting. Hayek's resignation from the LSE, complicated financial negotiations, and legal proceedings in fast-divorce Arkansas. Lionel Robbins was so appalled at Hayek's treatment of his wife that he terminated their friendship. Eventually, Hayek secured an appointment at the University of Chicago (though, revealingly, at the Committee on Social Thought rather than the economics department) and moved to America with Lenerl.

Hayek thus ended the first half of his life married to the woman he loved, but alienated from old friends, living in a country in which he would never feel at ease, financially stretched, increasingly forgotten as an economist, and at odds with the direction economics was taking as a discipline. The kind of economics that Hayek pursued, which relied on prose arguments, was considered passé by most economists for whom mathematical modeling became an article of faith that Keynes himself would never have embraced. In the long-term, it would produce a situation whereby it was more important for career purposes for economists to produce elegant econometric and formulae-heavy models that turned out to be utterly wrong in their forecasts than written arguments concerning the logic of economic relationships that, while less mathematically-laden, had far better predictive power.

The slate for Hayek, Caldwell and Klausinger conclude, had thus been wiped clean, albeit painfully. It did not bode well for a prominent future for Hayek. The story of how that turned out not to be the case will be told in the next volume. If it is as well-written and thoroughly researched as the first, we stand to learn even more about one of the twentieth century's most significant economic minds and classical liberal thinkers.



# TikTok is ‘Fentanyl’

America has received a new accolade: a strategic competitor - China. Three Chinese e-commerce apps have emerged as leaders in the US market. That is, if an American wants to buy something, he is very likely to turn to Temu or Shein, who were not very well known until recently, or even to the personification of the image of the enemy - to TikTok. The online store of the latter collected in America (at the end of the year) 100 million subscribers. In other words, about a third of the country's population.

Now let's take a look at what some of America's most vicious politicians have been saying about TikTok (as a whole, not just its spin-offs) lately. For example, in the House of Representatives of the US Congress, a new committee is being created - on China. The real, that is, hard-stoned, Republican Michael Gallagher is in charge there. For him, TikTok is "cyberfentanyl" with which the Chinese government is destroying Americans.

Fentanyl is a different story: it is a synthetic drug that kills up to 100,000 people a year in the United States. And the Americans are supposed to think that the main source of the poison is not just China (that is, not drug dealers from there), but only the Beijing authorities. True, the discussions of experts show that the story of the exclusively Chinese origin of fentanyl is a strong exaggeration, but who from the general public will understand.

And what is the poisonousness of TikTok - fun for teenagers of not the highest intellectual intensity? Well, a social network, and it is precisely in this network that the content of politics is greatly reduced. Nevertheless, the persecution of this network has been going on since 2020, when, under Donald Trump, the US administration tried to force a Chinese corporation to sell its assets in the United States. And the end of December brought the following news: the Joe Biden administration is already considering the forced sale of the American business of the social network TikTok, owned by the Chinese parent company ByteDance, according to The Wall Street Journal.

The same newspaper explains: "To prevent Beijing from using the app

### Dmitry Kosyrev

for espionage and political influence."

Is this the crux of the matter?

It's actually funny how serious politicians are not ashamed of their fear and their tantrums about the exchange of short videos (with and without cats), which teenagers and other characters of a not very threatening look are fond of. It's like the tendency of serious state uncles and aunts to be horrified by Pinocchio or Cheburashka and demand that they be banned as a threat to national security.

The decoding of the ongoing nonsense is being done mostly from the Chinese side - and very convincingly. Although there are also dubious ideas, for example, that the Americans would very much like to appropriate the technologies created by the Chinese genius. It's just that this thing is easy to use: he swiped his thumb - and that's all, instead of poking his index finger for a long time. But to make this holy simplicity was difficult, America could not do this.

And yet the main thing is not envy and theft of ideas. And the point is not that TikTokers and someone in China are doing something terrible with America, but that they theoretically can do it. Because they are a social network, and any social network is a weapon. Yes, including spyware.

Perhaps the most compelling piece here is from Hong Kong's South China Morning Post, which compares the situation with Twitter and TikTok. What happens: the new owner of the first network, Elon Musk, did not just fire his former managers, who actively planted liberal ideology among users and banned everyone else. He also released secret files about how this censorship activity was run by government departments - primarily the FBI, but not only: there was a whole brood of military, intelligence and other agencies. Up to the CIA, which, the newspaper recalls, supposedly does not have the right to spy on US soil.

And this whole fun team had access to the personal data of network users, in addition, they filtered opinions. Moreover, it is clear that the matter was not limited to one network, they were all and remain under the hood. Except for the one where Musk came in and ruined everything.

But this is exactly what the South China Morning

Post article says TikTok is accused of: censorship and espionage. And since this network has become as powerful as all the others, then "there is no doubt that the same government agencies will not tolerate its presence in the United States without the same level of their control and access": "And also there is no doubt that they cannot take risks simply by virtue of the fact that the Chinese own the network." Let's add: even these hypothetical Chinese may not want to risk violating US laws in the way that agencies do that have established total censorship over hundreds of millions of users. And they will be afraid to submit to such control.

That is - we conclude - for the current owners of the States, social networks can only be American (or belong to a narrow circle of allies). All others should be, if not destroyed, then pushed back from the territory of the Western bloc of countries, if, of course, this is technically possible. And another conclusion from a series of too obvious ones: social networks are a tool for knowing whose control over societies, and preferably around the world.

And now - the conclusions are a little less obvious. Note that networks and very specific technologies turned out to be at the center of the scandal. Twitter, where there can be no long texts, and TikTok, where texts are no longer needed, only videos, and as short as possible. All this is reminiscent of Pinocchio mentioned above, whose thoughts at first were short.

After all, magazine-level sites, including American ones, where philosophers mournfully call to one another and mourn the world being destroyed, are not subjected to such total censorship. With books, and even more so, everything is fine, print anything. That is, smart people who are able to create, read and perceive long texts are not an object for attack. In the end, there is a technology to "cancel" people, while it lasts. But the mass of teenagers who have been taught to perceive only something short and simple. Let's add to this the process of simplifying the education system that began almost in the 1980s. It is clear that dogs and any outside Chinese (and everyone else) are not allowed to enter this park: it is only for the white masters of the world - more precisely, for those who seriously tried to take over the world.

# The ‘serious national security ramifications’

Writing for the Washington Post on Monday, Jennifer Rubin charged that the potential Freedom Caucus proposal to freeze federal spending at 2022 levels, which, if implemented across the board, could wipe out \$75 to \$100 billion in increased Pentagon spending included in the recent budget bill, could have "serious national security ramifications."

She then quoted American Enterprise Institute budget hawk Mackenzie Eaglen, who said such a proposal "makes only authoritarians, despots and dictators smile," adding, "it completely ignores the troops

and is entirely divorced from strategic thought or the many and varied threats the country faces."

Across-the-board cuts are never the best way to reduce government spending. They mean cutting effective and wasteful programs in the same proportions instead of making smart choices about what works and what doesn't. But the idea of cutting up to \$100 billion or more from the Pentagon, one way or another, should be up for discussion.

And the idea that dictators worldwide are basing their decisions on whether the Pentagon budget is an enormous \$750 billion or an obscenely enormous \$850-plus billion is ludicrous.

What counts is having a clear strategy and a willingness to carry it out, not how many dollars one can spend (or, too often, waste).

The \$858 billion for the Pentagon and related work on nuclear warheads at the Department of Energy that President Biden signed off on last month is one of the highest levels ever — far higher than at the height of the Korean or Vietnam Wars or the peak years of the Cold War. And contrary to popular belief, most of those funds do not go to the troops. More than half of Pentagon outlays go to private weapons firms that have a mixed record of delivering effective defense systems at reasonable

prices, to put it mildly.

The top five contractors alone will split between \$150 and \$200 billion if the current budget holds, even as they pay their CEOs \$20 million or more per year and engage in billions in stock buybacks to boost their share prices. These expenditures are perfectly designed to enrich arms companies and their shareholders, but they have nothing to do with defending the country.

But back to the \$100 billion question. The Congressional Budget Office released a study in late 2021 that outlined three options for saving over \$1 trillion in Pentagon spend-

### William Hartung

ing over the next ten years without damaging our defense capabilities. All three options involved cutting the size of the armed forces, avoiding large boots-on-the-ground wars like Iraq and Afghanistan, and relying on allies to do more in their own defense.

The CBO recommendations are just the tip of the iceberg of what could be cut under a more restrained, realistic approach to defense. The current National Defense Strategy (NDS), released late last year, is an object lesson on how not to make choices among competing priorities. Major commitments included in the NDS

include being able to win a war against Russia or China; defeating Iran or North Korea in a regional conflict; and continuing to sustain a global war on terrorism that includes military operations in at least 85 countries, according to an analysis by the Costs of War Project at Brown University.

A strategy that forswears sending large numbers of troops into regional wars, takes a more realistic view of the military threats posed by Russia and China, relies

more on allies, and rolls back the Pentagon's dangerous and unnecessary nuclear weapons buildup could save sums well beyond the \$100 billion per year set out in the CBO's illustrative options.

And these strategic shifts don't even account for what could be saved by streamlining the Pentagon by taking measures to reduce price gouging and cost overruns by weapons firms, or reducing the Pentagon's cadre of over half a million private contractors, many

of whom perform redundant tasks at prices higher than it would cost to do the same work with civilian government employees.

By all means we should debate how the federal budget should be crafted at this chaotic political moment.

But we should not assume that there is no room to trim the Pentagon budget. Doing it correctly would not only make us safer, it would free up funds to address other urgent national priorities.

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# SCCI opposes proposed water charges with exorbitant rates

## E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) opposed the likely enforcement of the proposed water charges at exorbitant rates and urged the provincial government and relevant authorities to review and rationalize the proposed water charges.

SCCI president Muhammad Ishaq told a meeting of traders and industrialists held here at chamber's house on Tuesday that the department of local government, election and rural development through an advertisement/public notice issued a schedule for the general public regarding conduct of a hearing for Municipal Services for Hiring Levy of Tariff.

He informed the meeting that an inventory of water

charges with irrational ratios for various categories/sectors and businesses has been issued through ads/public notice.

Shahid Hussain, senior vice president and Ejaz Khan Afridi, vice president of the chamber, representatives of traders and industrialists were also present during the meeting.

Ishaq elaborated that according to inventory, an extreme unrealistic water charges have been proposed for five marla house, which is completely unfair and unjust whereas wedding halls, along with restaurants, public lavatory, petrol pumps, CNG stations, educational institutions were also included in the list of high tariff/water charges.

Furthermore, he explained water charges were proposed on monthly basis, according to which for

shop/office and flat Rs700 per, for a hotel Rs800 per room, for wedding halls from Rs10,000/- to Rs40,000/- for hostel per room Rs440/- for restaurant from Rs5000 to Rs15,000 while if a plaza wherein 100 shops or office exist to be charged Rs70,000 per month.

Apart from that, water connection charges will also be collected, which is unacceptable, says Ishaq.

He asked the government and department concerned to review the high water charges and rationalized them.

The SCCI chief remarked that business, trade and industries have slowed down owing to current unfavorable circumstances.

On the other hand, he added, the national economy has unbalanced and is

near to bankruptcy.

He asked the government to provide facilities and relief to the business community, as a result of that business and trade activities would be boosted up that can support the stabilization and improve the national economy.

Ishaq noted irrational and heavy taxes/tariffs were being imposed by various departments on business premises, trade centres, hotels/restaurants, wedding halls and industries, which mostly fall into the category of double taxation.

He urged Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and high officials of the department concerned to review the proposed high water charges and rationalized them, which could be acceptable to the business community and general public.

## Clearance of trade goods:

# PAJCCI expresses concern over excessive documentation

PESHAWAR (APP): Director, Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi has expressed concern over excessive documentation and demand of irrelevant documents at Karachi sea port causing delay in clearance of containers imported under the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement.

In a press release issued here on Tuesday, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi - who is also President Frontier Custom Agents Association - said the practice of excessive

documentation was not only causing delay in clearance of goods, but also diversion of trade to sea ports of other countries, including Cha Bahar and Bandar Abbass in Iran.

The Afghan traders, Zia added, had conveyed their concern and resentment to PAJCCI regarding demand of unnecessary documents during clearance of goods at the Karachi port.

Leading Afghan traders, including Khan Jan Alkozey who is also Co-Chairman of PAJCCI, Youna Mohmand, President

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and government representatives recently held a press conference in Kabul to raise this issue, he added.

The Afghan businessmen, Zia continued, said they are not facing such kind of hindrances while importing goods from other countries. He demanded of the quarters concerned to take notice of the issue, which was negatively affecting revenue generation due to shifting of business to ports of other countries.

Zia said thousands of

people were associated with Pak-Afghan Transit trade from landing of imported goods in Karachi to its transportation from sea port to Afghanistan and if the business was shifted to other countries, it would render hundred of thousands of people job less.

"It is need of the hour that the relevant departments should chalk out policies with focus on providing ease of doing business to promote commerce and trade, and create livelihood for people", he stressed.

# PSX becomes signatory of women's empowerment principles

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a positive move forward signifying Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) efforts to promote increased women participation, gender equality and adopting gender-responsive policies, PSX has become a signatory of Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs).

According to PSX press release received here, WEPs, the founding partners of which are UN Women and UN Global Compact, are a set of principles aimed at advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community.

WEPs provide guidelines for corporates to

deliver on gender equality standards of the 2030 agenda and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The WEPs constitute of seven basic principles to leverage the corporate world towards the goal of achieving a society prioritising gender equality, sustainability and growth. These seven principles are leadership, equality, health and safety, education & training, transparency, community, and markets.

Speaking at the occasion of PSX becoming a signatory of WEPs, MD & CEO PSX, Farrukh H. Khan, said by becoming a signatory of Women Empowerment Principles, we have sent a strong message that PSX was committed to and supports gender equality

and women empowerment.

PSX has therefore reinforced its commitment to becoming a model corporate for attracting greater talent, regardless of gender or any other considerations, he said adding gender equality was a prerequisite for progressive societies and businesses, encapsulating the standards of sustainability and growth.

"Pakistan Stock Exchange, learning from the Women Empowerment Principles, will be focused on further strengthening our policies of gender equality, sustainability and growth. As a frontline regulator and listed entity, we believe that adopting these principles will help augment the business of the exchange while caring for

the community, thereby becoming a positive force for change," he said.

He said, while adhering to international best practices in terms of all functions, PSX would now be able to become a role model for listed companies in this particular domain as well.

Sharmeela Rasool, UN Women Pakistan, appreciated PSX for becoming a signatory of WEPs and said UN Women believes organization like PSX plays a leading role in shaping attitudes, challenging discrimination, harmful practices and developing a workplace where everyone is valued.

This signing will create a real impact on gender equality through commitment and action, she added.



SARGODHA: Vendors weighing fish at their shop as demand of fish increased due to cold weather.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, MSC Tianping, Lana, SC Falcon, Al-Gattara and Serenity Gas carrying Containers, Palm oil, LNG and LPG, berthed at Qasim International Containers Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, Engro Elengy Terminal and SSGC LPG Terminal respectively. Meanwhile three more ships, EM Astoria, CL Dayang He and Silver Joan carrying Containers, Soyabean and Palm oil also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during the last 24 hours.

A total of 10 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them 05 ships, Margarita, MSC Tianping, Lana, Global Lady and Al Marrouna left the Port on Tuesday morning, are expected to sail on today in the afternoon.

A Cargo volume of 178,215 tonnes, comprising 147,890 tonnes imports cargo and 30,325 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,296 Containers (1,807 TEUs Imports and 1,489 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 19 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them, an oil tanker 'Ocean Pioneer' & another 05 more ship, Maersk Denver, MSC Helena III, MSC Maria Elena, Southern Wolf and Ladon carrying Palm oil, Containers, Chemicals and Gas oil are expected to take berths at MW-1, QICT, EVTL and FOTCO on Tuesday.

## HCSTSI emphasizes introducing reforms

HYDERABAD (APP): President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry Muhammad Farooq Shekani has emphasized the need of introducing comprehensive reforms in order to meet the economic crisis being faced by the country.

The current flour crisis all over the country demands the rethinking of the economic policies of the government which could provide a sigh of relief to the people particularly the business community of the country, he said in a statement here on Tuesday.

He said Pakistan is the fifth largest country of wheat producers having average production of 26 thousand metric tons but at present the countrymen were facing an acute shortage of flour because of the wrong policy. There was a need that the government should take serious notice of the issue and ensure the availability of flour at a reasonable price.

He also underlined the need of resolving issues in all sectors of life particularly trade and industry with the provision of required facilities in order to bring back economic stability.

Comprehensive policies are required to boost up the food, agriculture, livestock and dairy sectors by introducing modern technologies in order to avert the risk of food security, he said and added that the government should also incorporate the recommendations of the business community in preparation for economic reforms in order to overcome the present food and energy crisis.

# PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 296 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to a bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 296.75 points, a positive change of 0.73 percent, closing at 40,801.51 against 40,504.76 points the previous day.

A total of 214,346,791 shares were traded during the day as compared to 163,939,925 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs6.565 billion against Rs6.890 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 337 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 231 of them recorded gains and 82 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Nerygco PK with 18,019,410 shares at Rs4.03 per share Unity Foods Ltd with 17,214,821 shares at Rs15.03 per share, and Pak Refinery with 14,030,580 shares at Rs14.11 per share.

Premium Textile witnessed a maximum increase of Rs40.92 per share price, closing at Rs650.50, whereas the runner-up was Colgate Palm with a Rs29.98 rise in its per share price to Rs1889.99.

Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs439.01 per share closing at Rs8909.99, followed by Reliance Cotton with Rs25.00 decline to close at Rs675.00.

**Rupee extends losses against dollar**

The exchange rate of the Pakistani rupee depreciated by 48 paisas against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Tuesday and closed at Rs227.88 against the previous day's closing of Rs227.40.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs234.65 and Rs237.00 respectively.

The price of the euro increased by Rs1.73 and closed at Rs244.65 against the previous day's closing of Rs242.92, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen remained unchanged to close at Rs1.72, whereas an increase of 71 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British pound,

which was traded at Rs277.03 as compared to its last closing of Rs276.32.

The exchange rates of the Emirates dirham and Saudi riyal increased by 13 paisa and 17 paisa to close at Rs62.04 and Rs60.69 respectively.

**Gold prices decrease by Rs3,300 to Rs181,800 per tola**

The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs3,300 on Tuesday and was sold at Rs181,800 against its sale at Rs185,100 the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs2829 and was sold at Rs155,864 against Rs158,693, whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went down to Rs142,875 against its sale at Rs145,469, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola increased by Rs30 and was sold at Rs2100 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs25.71 to 1800.41.

The price of gold in the international market increased by US\$ 5 and was sold at US\$ 1,876 against its sale at US\$ 1,871, the association reported.

# PPA call for further increase in prices of poultry items

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) on Monday called for a further increase in the prices of chicken and there was an increase observed in the prices of poultry items in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

According to the APP market survey, in the last week in the twin cities, a 40 percent increase was observed in the price of chicken, while the last two months 30 percent increase in the price of poultry eggs.

According to the survey, the price of live chicken in the twin cities was between Rs 380 and 420 per kg in the last week of this month of January.

Similarly, chicken meat is sold at Rs 640 to 680 per kg in the market of both cities.

During this time, it was also found that poultry eggs used to be sold at Rs. 280 to Rs. 300 per dozen in the market of both cities.

Meanwhile, while talking to APP, Asim Chaudhry, the buyer of chicken in the market, said that the price of poultry chicken is increasing continuously and it is now beyond the reach of the poor and middle-class people.

He said that the government should take steps to control the price of chicken.

Speaking to APP, former chairman PPA Khalil Sattar said that chicken feed ingredients are being imported which is increasing the cost of doing business.

Due to this demand and supply issue, the prices of poultry have been continuously increasing, he said.

On this occasion, poultry

feed industrialist and Senior Vice President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hamza Sarosh said that soybean is included in the basic ingredients of poultry feed.

He said that at present the import of soybeans has stopped and several ships of soybeans are stopped at Karachi port and one ship has been released yet.

Hamza said that soybeans for poultry feed are imported from America, Brazil and Argentina.

Meanwhile, talking to APP, ex-chairman Poultry Association Rana Sajjad said that the poultry industry is facing many difficulties at the moment.

He said that the reason for the increase in poultry prices at this time is the demand and supply issue.

# Stocks drop as traders track China, US rates

LONDON (AFP/APP): Major stock markets mostly dropped Tuesday as warnings that US interest rates would continue to rise and remain elevated for some time offset growing optimism over China's economic reopening after Covid lockdowns.

After a torrid 2022, equities have enjoyed a strong start to the new year thanks largely to Beijing's decision to throw off the shackles of its strict zero-Covid policy, which battered the economy.

Markets were experiencing "a mild bout of profit taking after recent gains", said Richard Hunter, head of markets at Interactive Investor.

While there are concerns about the short-term impact of soaring Covid infections across China, investors are

growing increasingly confident in Beijing's pledges of government support, including for the troubled property sector.

Signs that officials are taking a lighter approach to tech firms after a long-running crackdown have also provided support.

But sentiment is still closely linked to the outlook for US monetary policy as the Federal Reserve battles to bring inflation down from four-decade highs.

A recent run of data suggesting the world's largest economy is slowing has provided hope the bank will be able to decelerate the pace of rate hikes and avert a recession -- a so-called "soft landing".

Still, policymakers appear determined to keep lifting borrowing costs until they achieve their goal

of two percent inflation, from the current 7.1 percent.

In the latest salvo, San Francisco Fed boss Mary Daly said rates would likely go above five percent before the policy board decides to stop lifting, while Atlanta Fed president Raphael Bostic tipped a similar level though added that they would not be changed for "a long time".

The comments dealt a blow to investors hoping for a change of tack later in the year.

"Hawkish comments from a couple of Federal Reserve officials overnight took some of the sheen from Asian trade," Hunter said.

European stock markets were lower around the half-way mark and ahead of Wall Street reopening.





In brief

Kabaddi Championship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The second edition of the National Junior Kabaddi Championship will roll into action at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Friday. “A total of ten outfits from different affiliated units of Pakistan Kabaddi Federation (PKF) will chip in the four-day event”, Rana Mohammad Sarwar, Secretary PKF told APP on Tuesday. Rana, who is also Secretary Asian and World Kabaddi federations, said that only the athletes under the age of 20 would be members of the competing teams. “The championship will act as a spring-board for preparation for future events. It will also help us select the best lot for Junior World Cup, to be staged in the first week of March in Iran,” he added. Teams from four provinces, Islamabad, WAPDA, Pakistan Army, Police, PAF, and HEC are scheduled to vie in the championship. “After the conclusion of the championship, the PKF will hold a training camp in Islamabad to prepare the players for the World Cup,” Rana added. In the first edition of the Junior World Cup that also took place in Iran, Pakistan claimed the bronze medal as it ended third behind Iran and traditional rivals India.

Le Graet under fire

PARIS (INP): French Football Federation president Noel Le Graet came under fire as he was forced to apologise for what he dubbed “clumsy remarks” about Zinedine Zidane’s potential interest in coaching the France national team. Le Graet had quipped dismissively in an interview to French radio station RMC on Sunday that he “wouldn’t even have taken his call” when asked whether Les Bleus legend Zidane had rung him to express an interest in taking over as coach from Didier Deschamps. That drew criticism from France and Paris Saint-Germain star Kylian Mbappe, who said Le Graet had shown “a lack of respect”. Real Madrid, where Zidane enjoyed decorated spells as a player and coach, also hit out at Le Graet, while French Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera demanded an apology. “I would like to apologise for these remarks, which absolutely do not reflect my views, nor my consideration for the player he was and the coach he has become,” said the 81-year-old head of the FFF.

FIFA, CAF visits Kenya

N A I R O B I (Xinhua/APP): A delegation from FIFA and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) started a tour to Kenya on Monday, as the country tries to recover following a lengthy international ban last year. The nine-month FIFA suspension ended on November 28, 2022, following the intervention of Kenya’s new sports Cabinet Secretary Ababu Namwamba, who asked CAF to consider reinstating the country’s senior national team to the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualification. Kenya was grouped in Pool C alongside Burundi, Namibia and Cameroon, but was banished by FIFA in February 2022. This followed the disbandment of the Nick Mwendwa-led Football Kenya Federation (FKF) National Executive Committee by Namwamba’s predecessor at the ministry, Amina Mohamed, with Kenya missing the opening two rounds of qualification that resume in March.

## PCB statement on hiring Mickey Arthur as head coach

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday night confirmed it has been in talks with former national team head coach Mickey Arthur with a view to appointing him as the head coach to guide the side through to the ACC Asia Cup, ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2023, ICC Men’s T20 World Cup

2024 and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. However, owing to his long-term contract with Derbyshire, “we have also discussed a proposal to act as a consultant to the PCB on a time-sharing basis with Derbyshire.” Unfortunately, however, this option is proving dif-

ficult to materialise for various reasons on both sides, said a spokesman of the PCB here.

“Under the circumstances, the PCB will continue its search for the right person to fit the slot of the national team head coach and some top names are already under consideration”, he said.

## Shell becomes official fuelling partner of Multan Sultans for PSL

KARACHI (PPI): Shell Pakistan on Tuesday announced the continuation of its sponsorship of Multan Sultans team in the HBL Pakistan Super League Season 8, scheduled to begin in February 2023. Shell is extending its power-packed partnership for the 3rd year with the same team in the PSL tournament, which engages millions of cricket enthusiasts every year. Multan Sultans was the champion of PSL Season 6 held in 2021 and was the runner-up team in Season 7 held in 2022.

PSL has emerged as the most successful brand of cricket in Pakistan, while Multan Sultans is a very popular franchise team in

the tournament. Through this sponsorship, Shell is offering many great opportunities for its customers, to win valuable prizes and avail exciting offers on the purchase of Shell V-Power, a premium, high-octane fuel that enables car and bike engines with unbeatable performance and protection. Shell customers may also get an opportunity to meet their favourite players while enjoying exclusive access to this cricket extravaganza.

The Country Chair of Shell Pakistan, Waqar Siddiqui stated, “We are delighted to be a part of Pakistan’s biggest cricketing extravaganza, in collaboration with Multan Sultans. Shell Pakistan has

great confidence in the country’s youth and enthusiastically supports healthy sporting events. This tournament provides millions of people with exhilarating entertainment and opportunities to develop world-class athletes”.

Multan Sultans expressed their excitement over the continuation of their relationship with Shell Pakistan. Syed Haider Azhar, the COO of Multan Sultans stated, “We are really happy to continue our partnership for a third year with Shell, one of Pakistan’s biggest and most iconic brands whose approach to excellence mirrors our own at Multan Sultans. They are committed to fueling the passion of the fans”.

## Golden Star, Shahkamal Club triumphant in K-20 Cup 2023 T20 Tournament

LAHORE (APP): Golden Star Cricket Club and Shahkamal Club emerged as triumphant in the K-20 Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament here on Tuesday.

The event, which is a regular annual club tournament, is being played in the memory of Col Fateh Sher Khan. It is being sponsored by a former cricketer Nabeel Ahmad to revive grassroots cricket and to identify new talent.

Raees Butt’s scintillating knock helped Golden Star Cricket Club to a 23-run victory over Pak Lions in the 10th match of the tournament. Raees played 43 balls to hammer unbeaten 53 runs that included three fours and three sixes while

Ali Raza slammed 36 runs and Usama Tahir 19 to help Golden Star Club post a decent total of 156 for 6 wickets in 20 overs. For Pak Lions, Haris Khan bagged 2 wickets for 25.

Brilliant bowling by Raees Butt and Abrar Ahmed restricted Pak Lions to 133 for 10 wickets in 18 overs. Both the bowlers clinched three wickets each for the winning side. While Ahmad Safi Abdullah grabbed two wickets and M Naveed got one wicket. For Pak Lions, Hassan Nawaz scored 53 runs and Afzal Tahiri struck 39. For his all-round performance, Raees Butt emerged as player of the match.

Shahkamal Club trounced Shinning Cricket

Club by 93 in the 9th match of the tournament. Shinning Club, batting first, scored 155 runs for five wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Ibrar Hussain smashed 49 runs, Azizullah 45 and Sheraz Ali unbeaten 16 runs.

Outstanding bowling by Ibrar Hussain (3-6) and Faheem Faisal (3-17) helped Shahkamal Club bundle out Shinning Club at a meager total of 62 runs in 15 overs. Only Syed Kazim Raza (20) and Abdul Salam (15) could cross the double figures.

On Wednesday (January 11, 2023), the only match of the day will be played between Golden Star Cricket Club and Pak Lions at 11:00 am.

## Masters 2023: Barry Hawkins whitewashes UK champion Mark Allen to reach quarter-finals

LONDON (BBC): Barry Hawkins whitewashed UK champion Mark Allen 6-0 to reach the last eight of the Masters at Alexandra Palace. The Englishman combined astute tactical play with some superb potting as he dominated throughout, making breaks of 76 and 114 on his way to victory. Allen, one of the form players this season, exits the tournament at the first-round stage for the fifth consecutive year.

Hawkins will now face either Judd Trump or Ryan Day next on Friday.

The 43-year-old who lost to Neil Robertson in last year’s final had come into the contest as a slight underdog, with Allen, who defended his Northern Ireland Open title earlier in the season, bidding to secure back-to-back Triple Crown titles.

“It was probably one of the best safety performanc-

es I have ever played against as a professional,” said Allen. “I couldn’t even play a good return most of the time. There was a spell in that match when I hardly saw a ball. Barry was flawless. It was a phenomenal performance.”

Northern Irishman becomes the fourth consecutive UK champion to be knocked out of the Masters at the first hurdle, with Hawkins once again reserving his best for the big occasion. “I didn’t give him a sniff and when I had to put him in trouble I did. The result flatters me a little bit,” Hawkins told BBC Sport. “I think my safety won me the match. If I was ultra critical I probably could have scored a bit better but I kept Mark under pressure. There were very few unforced errors and I think that made the difference in the end.

“I seem to thrive off the

crowd and pressure. A lot of times I have played my best stuff under the utmost pressure.” Hawkins overturned a 55-point deficit to win the first frame and got the better in a lengthy safety exchange before constructing a superb half century to win the second from an improbable position, with the balls bunched awkwardly on the table.

A fortunate in-off, followed by an immediate tactical error and foul from Allen, saw Hawkins establish a 3-0 lead with a wonderful century and when Allen missed a brown to the top right corner it enabled Hawkins to pinch a nervy fourth frame.

With Allen’s long potting success rate below 40%, two solid scoring contributions saw Hawkins take the fifth frame and then come from behind in the sixth to round off his win with a 34.



## Kohli’s 45th ODI hundred powers India to victory



GUWAHATI (CRICINFO): A scintillating 143-run opening stand between Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma put India into overdrive. Then Virat Kohli smoked a 45th ODI century to take the total into high altitude.

Sri Lanka replied gamely, Pathum Nissanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, and Dasun Shanaka producing half-decent innings. But India had set a monster target of 374. And when Sri Lanka slipped to 23 for 2 then 64 for 3 against some excellent India seam bowling, the chase took on a permanently-doomed quality. Still, Sri Lanka didn’t fold cheaply - they pushed to 306 for 8 - Shanaka completing a second ODI hundred in the final over.

Between them, India’s seamers took seven wickets, Umrans Malik claiming the most, with 3 for 57. It was the hosts’ top three that defined the contours of this game, however. Gill smote 70 off 60, Rohit 83 off 67, and Kohli’s 113 off 87 was imperious for the most part. There were contributions from the likes of Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul as well, who did not allow the run-rate to flag in the middle overs.

There were times at which India seemed like they could push for 400, but Sri Lanka’s bowlers didn’t fall apart completely - Kasun Rajitha (who took three wickets), and Chamika Karunaratne bowling decently at the death. Everyone’s figures were still a mess of course -

Rajitha going for 88 from his 10, his opening partner Dilshan Madushanka going at over seven an over. It was not a particularly kind pitch for spinners. On top of which the outfield was rapid.

Of all India’s outstanding innings, Gill’s was the purest, reliant as it was on his glorious timing, particularly through the off side. And it was the knock that first signalled a monster total was in the making. He creamed not-particularly-wide, not-particularly-short deliveries square through the offside in the early overs.

By the end of the fifth, Gill had raced to 25 off 17, but then Rohit took over. In one particularly disheartening sequence for Sri Lanka, he wallowed Rajitha for two sixes and a four - all using his famed pull shot, one of those sixes coming after he had charged the bowler. His was an increasingly dismissive innings.

They raced to their fiftes, the spreading of the field and the arrival of serious spin barely tempering the pair’s scoring rate. The partnership was not without a little luck - both batters could have been out in their 40s, had the standing umpire given them out lbw (the reviews were denied because of umpire’s call).

Kohli had some luck too, dropped once on 52, and another time on 81, Rajitha the bowler on both occasions. Otherwise, he blazed his way through the middle overs. He charged Shanaka to pound him through mid-

on to fetch his first boundary, was brutal on errors of length from the spinners, and was strong down the ground against the quicks.

He got to his half-century with a six over wide mid-on off Dhananjaya de Silva, having come down the track. By this stage, with roughly 35 overs bowled, he and Rahul were deep into a partnership that reaped 90 off 70 balls. Kohli scored especially heavily in the arc between mid-on and midwicket, but had shots everywhere, of course. When he got to his hundred off his 80th ball, India were already pushing 350.

Thanks partly to Kohli not quite exploding in the death as he would have wished, however, India made only 70 runs in their last nine overs. At 303 for 3 after 41 overs, a total of 400 was conceivable.

Despite Nissanka’s fetching off-side boundaries in the Powerplay, Sri Lanka’s start was dismal. They never had the measure of this ultra-steep chase. Mohammed Siraj removed Avishka Fernando for 5, before bowling Kusal Mendis off the inside edge in his next over. India had been 75 for 0 at the end of the first powerplay. Sri Lanka were 38 for 2, their required rate already more than eight an over. When Charith Asalanka failed to review a wrong caught behind decision against Malik in the 14th over, Sri Lanka’s chances of winning seemed infinitesimal.

## IPC Minister, Argentinian ambassador discuss scope of cooperation in sports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Argentinian Ambassador to Pakistan Leopoldo Francisco Sahores on Tuesday called on Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari and discussed the scope of cooperation between the two countries in the field of sports, especially football, polo, squash and mountaineering.

The minister congratulated the ambassador on Argentina’s recent victory in the Football World Cup, said a press release.

Minister Mazari said Pakistan was home to a large number of youth population, and it would be a great investment in developing their skills in the field of sports. Pakistan



could learn from Argentinian experience and expertise in football coaching and training, he added.

He also discussed about the possibility of football coaching and training for Pakistan female football players. The ambassador

told the minister that he had a detailed discussion in that regard with Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja and lots of other matters relating to bilateral cooperation,

focusing specifically the youth. He said the Argentinian government wanted a long-term engagement with Pakistan, especially in the field of sports. The envoy also talked about the potential visit of Argentinian female football players to Pakistan early this year, to train and coach female football players in Pakistan. He said Pakistani female football players from Quetta had a great talent for the sport. It was mutually proposed that both the countries could work together on exchange of sports specialists for the development of bilateral relations and also fight together against the menace of doping.

## Can Naseem Shah carry the weight of Pakistan fast bowling expectations?

KARACHI (Cricinfo): Naseem Shah is not a normal teenager. When the alarm goes off, most hit the snooze button. Perhaps a big night out, maybe too much work, maybe just needing a bit more rest. Hit the snooze button, turn over. Teenagers needs a break.

Naseem might be living out a lot of people’s dreams, but this teenager hasn’t had that luxury for quite some time now. Any fast-bowling slack that has needed picking up for Pakistan has simply been laden onto his slender - and historically vulnerable - back and shoulders. When Shaheen Afridi missed out on Tests due to injury, Naseem became the de facto attack leader. When Pakistan felt a bit light in their white-ball resources, he was thrust into both of those formats, too.

In this age of continuous cricket, the very concept of an off-season feels anachronistic, but perhaps you could trace the start of this interminable Pakistan season to July 2022, when they toured Sri Lanka for a two-match series. Ever since, Naseem hasn’t had a rest. The only reasons he missed games were due to Covid-19, pneumonia and a shoulder injury respectively. When he returned from hospital after that bout of pneumonia, he flew to New Zealand to play three games as warm-up for the T20 World Cup. After he recovered from his shoulder injury during the home Test season, he was back for the final game, sending down more overs than

any Pakistan fast bowler.

And, of course, he was also named for the ODI series, starting in Karachi with a five-wicket haul and the Player of the Match Award. Since July 2022, only two fast bowlers - Tim Southee and Mitchell Starc - have sent down more deliveries in international cricket than Naseem’s 1301. But 34- and 32-year-old bodies are much better equipped to handle that sort of workload than 19-year-old ones, especially those that produce such extreme pace. No one else in the top 10 of that list is under 26 (No. 11 is Pakistan’s 21-year old seamer Mohammad Wasim, because of course he is). And Naseem is doing more than just handling his workload.

You can worry about the sustainability, but Naseem is nevertheless dazzling in the here and now. It’s easy to forget, when he was named in the squad for the Sri Lanka Tests, how raw his return to international cricket still was. He had played two Tests against Australia in March, which came after a 14-month period, much of which he spent on the treatment table nursing an increasingly worrisome list of fast bowling-related injuries. It’s easy to forget, when he turned up in Rotterdam in August, that he hadn’t ever bowled an international white-ball delivery, and that when he tormented KL Rahul and Virat Kohli in a famous opening spell in the Asia Cup, he had never played a T20I before.

Anyone who has had the pleasure

of watching Naseem through this period - and it has been a pleasure - won’t have been surprised by the clinic he put on against New Zealand on Monday. But it bears repeating that that faith was based on little more than the unshakeable belief that Naseem can do the business anywhere, against anyone, in any format: he hadn’t actually played a Full Member side in an ODI before.

But you didn’t need much more data to know Naseem could take wickets up front with the new ball, or produce that irresistible combination of reverse swing, slower deliveries and just sheer pace to run riot at the death. Because consider what he has been doing this season.

In Sri Lanka, on surfaces so conducive to spin the hosts took a paltry two wickets with their fast bowling. Naseem alone produced seven. Among seamers in the Asia Cup, only Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Haris Rauf took more wickets than him, and that wasn’t even his most iconic contribution to the tournament. At the World Cup, he conceded just 102 in 18 overs during the group stage, the fourth-best economy rate for a fast bowler (minimum five overs). In the semi-final his figures of 4-0-30-0 didn’t quite do him justice as Pakistan’s quicks stifled New Zealand. Those identical figures in the final felt like an outright miscarriage of justice for an extraordinary fast-bowling display against the most gifted white-ball team in a generation.





## In brief

### IRSA releases 23,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 23,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 37,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1495.41 feet and was 97.41 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 16,700 cusecs while outflow as 5,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1119.90 feet, which was 69.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,700 cusecs and 4,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 11,300, 13,600, 4,600 and 4,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 9,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 5,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### IGP directs for foolproof security

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan has directed for comprehensive security measures at Red Zone and asked the personnel to ensure foolproof security of important buildings, including offices and embassies. During a visit to the Red Zone, the IGP examined all the checkpoints and issued necessary directions with regard to security measures. Capital Police Officer Security Division, Hassan Raza and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations, Malik Jamil Zafar briefed the IGP over the checking procedure and other security measures. Dr Akbar directed the deployed staff to stay alert during duty hours, "as the Red Zone is a sensitive area." He asked the personnel to ensure foolproof security in the area. All the officers and jawans on duty were directed to wear bulletproof jackets and helmets for their safety.

### Ibn-e-Insha's remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Noted literary person, Prof Fateh Muhammad Malik Tuesday emphasized adding more from the work of Ibn-e-Insha in the national curriculum to for making education more interesting for the young. Talking to APP, in connection with the 45th death anniversary of multi-dimension Urdu literary figure Ibn-e-Insha on January 11 (Wednesday), Professor Fateh said that Ibn-e-Insha was a universal writer who with his unique style and command over expression will continue to impact the literature lovers in the times to come. Prof Fateh said that Ibn-e-Insha and Jameel-ud-din-Aali both were very close friends, contributed significantly to Urdu literature in Pakistan and promoted "Pakistaniyat" through their works. Terming the contributions of Ibn-e-Insha as an asset for Urdu literature, he said that he was an excellent Urdu poet, a great humorist and a trendsetter in column and travelogue writing. He was a versatile poet, columnist, travelogue, writer and humorist who in every genre proved his uniqueness. Alongside poetry, his travelogues on China named "Chaltay Ho Tu Cheen Ko Chalaye" is my all-time favorite, said Prof Malik adding that the poetic works of Ibn-e-Insha including "Insha gutho ab kooch kro" and "Farz kro hum ehl-e-wafa hon" are his most popular hits which impressed the hearts and souls of the listeners and poetry lovers.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people standing in queue to purchase flour bags on subsidized rates front of Flour Mill in the Federal Capital.

## UCs number increased to cater growing population in Islamabad: Tariq Fazal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Leader Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday said the government had increased the number of union councils to cater growing population in the federal capital.

"The matter regarding the Local Government polls is sub judice and whatever the decision comes from the court, it will be implemented in true letter and spirit," the PML-N leader said while addressing a news conference here at the National Press Club.

He said the federal government would extend full support to the Election Commission of Pakistan in conducting the Local Government election in the federal capital.

Tariq said a comprehensive plan was underway to resolve the issues of the people residing in the rural areas of the Islamabad Capital Territory at their doorsteps. Additionally, the mayor, deputy mayor and UCs' chairmen were being empowered under the plan to transform the federal capital.

He condemned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for launching smear campaigns against the state institutions on social media to make the case regarding the LG polls controversial. The PTI hurled allegations against all those who spoke nothing but the truth about its leadership.

The PML-N leader said PTI Chairman Imran Khan squarely damaged society

by harming moral and social values which would take years to undo.

To a query, he said the PTI, itself, had used delaying tactics during its previous tenure to delay the holding of the LG election in the federal capital. Besides, the local governments were suspended in Punjab immediately after the election in 2018.

The PTI did not let the local governments, which were later restored by the apex court, function during the tenure of Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar, he said, adding though the local governments existed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but were devoid of the powers which were being exercised by the provincial government.

## CTP sensitizing people to avoid safety hazards during smog

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi under its ongoing smog awareness campaign is visiting different areas and trying to sensitize people to avoid any health or safety hazards during smog season.

According to a spokesman, the CTP on the directives of Inspector General of Police, Punjab had launched a campaign with an aim to raise awareness about best practices to keep oneself safe and healthy during smog season. Therefore, the citizens should bring the vehicles on the roads while keeping them in good condition, he said adding, in that regard, the teams were visiting different city roads and bus terminals to distribute pamphlets and face masks among motorcyclists, motorists, and pedestrians.

Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimoor Khan urged the citizens to avoid waste burning to control smog formation to avoid breathing problems, eye, nose, and throat infections.

## ANF recovers over 62 kg drugs, arrests three

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized over 62 kg of drugs and arrested three peddlers in as many operations across the country.

According to the ANF spokesperson, 33.6 kg hashish and 24 kg opium were recovered from the CNG cylinder and tire of a Mazda intercepted on Islamabad Expressway. Two accused, residents of Peshawar and Nowshera, were also arrested.

In the second operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, the ANF recovered three kg of ice drug from the luggage of a Jeddah-bound passenger, resident of Swabi, going on flight QR-601.

In the third operation, the ANF recovered over two kg of ice drugs from an unattended bag recovered from a bus stop on Islamabad-Kahuta road.

Cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997, and further investigations are being carried out.

## Samina Alvi for collective efforts to empower differently abled persons

KARACHI (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi Tuesday stressed the need of promoting the inclusiveness of differently-abled persons in all spheres of society and collective efforts were required to empower them socially and financially. The inclusiveness of persons with disabilities (PWDs) was vital for the country's sustainable development of the country, she said, adding as over 12 percent of the population of Pakistan was facing disability in different forms or manifestations their participation must be ensured in all social, economic and political activities.

Begum Samina Alvi was addressing a certificate distribution ceremony for successful students of NAVTTC and SSC Inclusive Group organised by the Deaf Education and Welfare Association (DEWA) Trust here at DEWA Institute of Special and Inclusive Education.

She also called for an inclusive education system that "supports the learning of differently-abled children along with other children in general schools so that they can learn coping with difficulties of life". The teachers should be trained and the curriculum be improved to cater to inclusive education for children with disabilities, she added. Samina Alvi said the first and foremost challenge that needed to be addressed was the public mindset and common behaviour of society toward PWDs which obstructed their growth and prospects of career building. She urged people to not dis-

respect or ridicule such persons but encourage and support their participation in educational, social, and economic activities.

She said reservation of 3 percent seats in general educational institutions for ensuring admission of differently-abled children following directives of the higher courts would promote inclusiveness in the education sector. Though a special quota in government jobs was reserved for the PWDs but measures were required for its implementation in toto, she added.

"We need to focus on equipping the special children with market-oriented technical and vocational skills, and professional training so that they instead of relying on others could be able to earn their livelihood and become a productive part of society and play a due role in development and prosperity of the country," she maintained. She observed that there was a dearth of facilities and plenty of problems for persons with disabilities that hindered their career development even their social life. There was a need of providing ramps in buildings, public places, and transport facilities to promote the mobility of the PWDs, she added. Begum Alvi, while referring to the recently enacted act about the use of sign language on electronic media, said the law made it mandatory for all the electronic media channels to engage sign interpreters for visual programmes and Pakistan Television had already started implementing it.

## State responsible for youth' education, health: Rana Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain Tuesday said that the state was responsible for the education and health of the youth.

He was addressing the launching event of deworming campaign as chief guest here. Rana Tanveer said that it was our collective duty to provide right platform to young generation so they could become contributing citizen for the country.

The minister was briefed that Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training initiated "School Based Deworming Program in Islamabad Capital Territory" project in 2019. It was initially, a three years project from FY 2019-20 to FY 2021-22 at the cost of Rs 21.00 million however; it was extended for further one year i.e. till end of June, 2023.

The target was to deworm about 481,823 enrolled children of 5 -14 years in schools. The project was conceived after the detailed survey regarding Soil Transmitted Helminthes (STH) conducted in schools in 2016 by Interactive Research and Development (IRD), Pakistan, Indus Health Network (IHN) and Evidence Action, together with the Institute of Development & Economic Alternatives (IDEAS, M/o National Health Services Regulations and & Coordination and World Health Organization (WHO), in

collaboration with Federal and Provincial governments. The minister was told that the survey reported that 40 districts across Pakistan were at-risk for STH infections with 17 million school-age-children in need of treatment. The STH prevalence in Islamabad also found more than 20%. While in some areas of ICT the prevalence found more than 50%.

According to WHO, children should be dewormed once in a year where the STH prevalence is between 20% to 50% and at least 75% of the total target of children must be treated for three consecutive years to bring down the prevalence in children. In this regard, three rounds have been conducted in Islamabad and 640,000 students have been dewormed.

The rounds were conducted through the teachers of public and private schools who were trained for administration of medicine. Moreover, to cover the whole ICT, Lady Health Workers were engaged to deworm the students in un registered private schools and out of school children. They were also trained before the campaign. This is the 4 and last round of the project and the target is 500, 000 children of 5 to 14 years. This round is also being conducted through the teachers of Federal Directorate of Education and lady health workers. The campaign will start from 9th till 13th January, 2023.

## IESCO notifies power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday issued a power suspension programme for Wednesday 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, G-6/3, F-6/2, Wahidabad, Burma, Karpas, Scheme II, Medina Market, G-10/3, H-8/2, I-10/2, Mira Jafar, Dargah, Bhara Kaho, Sunny Bank, Cecil, Beirut, Nimble, Upper Topa, Patriata, Anguri Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Ghousia Colony, Sixth Road, E Block, National Market, Affendi Colony, Sadiqabad, A Block, Shukrial, Al Noor Colony, Service Road, Dhok Hakmdad, City, Major Masood, Iqbal Road, Ali Market, Sardar Bagh, People Colony, Peshawar Road, Multabad, Ameer Hamza Colony, Azharabad, Zircon Heights, Seham, Range Road, Mohanpura Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Mall Road, Dhok Farman Ali, Makkah Chowk, Media Town. II, Morgah, Jhanda, Major Riaz, Shahpur, 502 Workshop, Padial, UC Lakhna, Japan Road, Lahtra.1, SEP Abrar, Nara Matur, Hamid Jhangi, LTC, Mandra.II, PAECHS, Karnab Kaswal, Nishan Haider, Mahota, Shahigan, Adiala Jail, Shahpur, Khasala Feeders, Attock Circle, Jalala, Sher Shah Suri, Ghazi Kohli, Dharek, Sangiani, Sarai Kharboza, Shahia, Munirabad, AWC Housing, Rashid Minhas, Ahmed Nagar, Colonel Sher Khan, Brahma, Maskinabad, Shamsabad, Dhok Fateh, Gondal, Teen Mela, Musa, Kharpa, Chaji Mar, Kasran, Jhang, b Inder, Mahfooz Shaheed, Gul Muhammad, Khanda Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Tharpal, Ara Bazar.

## HEC invites research proposals from faculty members under RAPID Tech Transfer Grant

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has invited research proposals from faculty members, under the RAPID Technology Transfer Grant (RTTG) programme.

The official sources told APP that HEC, in that regard, had invited faculty members of public and private sector universities/degree awarding institutions (DAIs) to submit research proposals focused on the transfer of university developed technologies and products to the industry and commercial sector.

The RTTG is a key element of the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project supported by the World Bank and implemented by the HEC.

It is a fast-track funding mechanism dealing with themes, topics, and issues of severe urgency for quick-response research on Flood Response, Climate Change and Environment.

The grant is anticipated to support proposals in applied research, product innovation, and commercialization of developed technological research and solutions. The RTTG will provide funds to selected institutions based on a competitive, peer-reviewed evaluation of proposals.

The amount of funding for RTTG awards may range between PKR 10 - 20 million with a maximum project duration of six months.

Sharing the details of applicant eligibility, the sources stated that Lead Principal Investigators (PIs) must be a regular faculty member of higher education institutions (public and private), or

hold a contract equivalent to the length of the project duration. The priority sectors for RTTG support are Flood Response, Climate Change and Environment, including but not limited to climate mitigation, adaptation, policy dialogue interventions and disaster management (focusing on climate modelling and disaster surveillance, environment monitoring, and geological monitoring), Metro-scale pollution reduction technologies, protection of available trees through artificial intelligence system controls, and use of membrane systems for gaseous and water industrial waste treatment. The other sectors, including design and development of hybrid membranes and classical system per the requirement of site and location, identification and development of hospital waste treatment processes, removal of arsenic/other toxic metal elements from industrial effluents and water underground aquifers, climate-smart agriculture, adapting agriculture production to climate change by developing climate resilient crop varieties with regard to heat, drought, and flooding (especially of wheat and cotton) and any other area related to Flood Response, Climate Change and Environment.

The project proposals on the prescribed application template must be submitted via HEC online portal. The deadline for project proposal submission is Tuesday, February 7, 2023 (11:59 PM).

The Interested candidates are asked to visit <http://www.hec.gov.pk/site/RTTG> for further information and application.



ISLAMABAD: Faisal Karim Kundi, Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety addressing a Press conference at PID.



### Hanafi meets Potezl

KABUL (Agencies): Acting Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khalid Hanafi met with UNAMA envoy Markus Potzel. Markus Potzel reminded that there should be a working environment for women in the organizations, so that the lives of those people who are at risk can be saved. Hanafi said despite the fact that the past system was recognized by all the countries of the world, but there is no commitment to the cultures aspects of the countries.

## The Frontier Post

# AFGHANISTAN

Jamadi-us-Sani 18, 1444 — Wednesday, January 11, 2023

### Robbers' group arrested

NANGARHAR (Agencies): The Intelligence Forces of Nangarhar arrested seven people on charge of robbery in the Behsood district of Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. The Intelligence forces officials of Nangarhar said that number of weapons and two cars also discovered from the detainees. According to the source, the detainees are under intelligence forces custody and will be introduced to the justice bodies after first investigation.

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

## China, Afghanistan bilateral trade outlook, economic uplift

KABUL (Khaama Press): Following the withdrawal of the American forces in August 2021, China was able to emerge as a key player in the matters of Afghanistan, particularly, in the fields of bilateral trade and economic development.

As an immediate neighbor, Afghanistan has been maintaining a close relationship with China for security reasons and economic development. China has had immense interest in Afghanistan to initiate its mega project, the so-called Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for years. Now, with no major players on the ground, China has the greatest stake to invest in Afghanistan and achieve its regional and national interests.

Amid the dire economic situation with almost zero foreign investment, Afghanistan's de facto authorities are looking for every single possible opportunity to attract investors' attention to Afghan markets. China seems to be a very promising trading partner for Afghanistan if concerns about regional security are adequately addressed.

Having a secure trading environment could help Afghanistan attract foreign investment, export minerals, and develop transport services. China could benefit from the opened-up transport routes and mineral resources Afghanistan offers. Both sides are thus keen to reap opportunities from a secure trade environment.

Last week, the authorities of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan signed the contract of extracting the Amu oil field with China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), marking the beginning of a new chapter in the economic engagement of the countries since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021. The project will create employment opportunities for hundreds of local Afghans who are desperately looking for work to help their families survive during these difficult times.

China has taken a pragmatic approach to building relations with Afghanistan, willing to cooperate with the authority that is best situated to protect China's domestic and regional interests. China's approach, contrary to that of US and NATO member states through military engagements, will bear positive outcomes. Strengthening economic relations is what the de facto authorities and the people of Afghanistan are looking for to shape their future, rather than political interference in the internal affairs of the country.

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The statement read that the US government has spent \$ 787.4 million on programs supporting Afghan women and girls and at least \$ 1 billion on 66 different programs to develop the rule of law and protect, inform and advance women's rights in Afghanistan.

## Undoing 20 years of progress in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has released a statement indicating the US government's expenditure on several programs and activities in Afghanistan during the past 20 years.

Between 2002 and June 30, 2022, the US government spent approximately \$14.08 billion on reconstruction and related initiatives in five key areas in Afghanistan: advancing the rights of Afghan women and girls, fostering a free press, educating Afghans, enhancing healthcare, and assisting Afghan non-governmental organizations.

The statement read that the US government has spent \$ 787.4 million on programs supporting Afghan women and girls and at least \$ 1 billion on 66 different programs to develop the rule of law and protect, inform and advance women's rights in Afghanistan.

With the return of the de facto authorities, Afghan women and girls again face significant risks, including limited access to education and health, loss of empowerment, ban on females working with national and international organizations.

Similar reverse has also been experienced in significant areas, including quality education, access to free Media, health care system, civil society, and NGOs.

In addition, recently, new policies introduced by the caretaker government further banned female Afghan girls from going to universities and working with national and international organizations.

The UN Security Council's members expressed their deep concern over the ban on female Afghan employees of NGOs and universities. They called upon the IEA government to swiftly reverse their policies and practices.

## Lecturers protest Henry's remarks

HELMAND (TOLONews): The leadership and lecturers of Helmand University in a gathering protested Prince Harry's remarks on killing 25 people in Afghanistan.

The protestors called Prince Harry's actions in contradict with Islamic and human values.

"The cruelties which have been committed by Prince Harry, his friends or by anyone else in Helmand or anywhere in Afghanistan is unacceptable, are cruel. These acts will be remembered by history," said Sayed Ahmad Sayedi was quoted by the Associated Press.

The media director for the Taliban governor of Helmand, Mawlawi Mohammad Qasim, said Harry's claims in his memoirs "exposed the real face of the Western world."

"It is a clear indication of their cruel and horrific actions," he said, the residents of Helmand meanwhile called for Prince Harry to be brought to justice.

"We ask the international community to put this person (Prince Harry) on trial, and we should get compensation for our losses," said Mullah Abdullah, who lost four family members in what he described as a UK airstrike in 2011 that hit his family home in the Nahr-e-Saraj area of Helmand, as he was quoted by the AP.

In his memoir, "Spare," Harry says he killed more than two dozen "Taliban militants" while serving as an Apache helicopter pilot gunner in Afghanistan in 2012-2013.

He writes that he feels neither satisfaction nor shame about his actions, and in the heat of battle regarded enemy combatants as pieces being removed from a chessboard. "Baddies eliminated before they could kill Goodies," the prince writes.

## Hundreds attend exam for job at Herat Hospital



HERAT (TOLONews): More than 1,300 applicants, most of them women, attended an exam on Monday to find their way for working at Herat Regional Hospital.

Officials said that 44 of the applicants will be selected to work in the hospital.

Women who participated in the exam asked the government to provide employment opportunities for women in the country.

"At least 1,320 applicants were shortlisted and 55 percent of them are women and 45 percent of

them are men," said Mohammad Asif Kabir, the deputy head of the public health directorate in Herat.

Among the participants, 44 of them will be selected from the Nursing and midwifery department of the hospital.

"I hope the process will be transparent and will provide jobs for everyone so we can work," said Laili Poya, a participant.

"I hope that everyone who deserves will pass the exam," said Samira Ehrari, a participant.

The lack of nurses and

doctors are a serious issue in the hospital.

"The hospital services are provided by our professors. The also hospital serves as a platform for medical interns to get their licenses as a physician. Moreover, we have many patients," said Jalil Ahmad Rasuli, head of the Herat Regional Hospital.

This comes as a big number of doctors have left the country over the past 16 months while Afghanistan was already faced with a lack of health workers, especially in remote areas.

## IEA authorities arrest robbers in Kunduz

KUNDUZ (Khaama Press): Local security officials in northern Kunduz province reported on the arrestment of a group of robbers along with cash and weapons.

In a press conference, the provincial police commander of Kunduz province said that the security authorities of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan detained a group of nine armed robbers with a huge amount of money in the province.

The group had allegedly robbed 7.1 million AFNs and \$50,000 of some money exchangers, while arrested by security officials.

Two weapons were also discovered from the detainees according to sources.

According to the police chief of Kunduz province, the recovered money will be returned to the money exchangers accordingly.

Amid the dire economic situation, the people of Afghanistan are on the verge of witnessing another catastrophic humanitarian crisis combined with hunger, poverty, unemployment, security, and instability. With every passing day, the humanitarian situation deteriorates. Group robbery and unanimous killing of

ordinary people have become quite common in Kabul as well as other provinces of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the recent restrictions imposed by Afghanistan's de facto authorities barring women from school and university education as well as working with non-governmental organizations changed the situation for the worst. A considerable number of aid organizations have ceased their operations in response to the ban on female employees, certainly affecting the living conditions of the common people.

## Over 1,000 needy families received aid



KUNAR (Agencies): The International Organization Migration (IOM) distributed cash and winter clothes aid to 1,048 needy families in

Kunar. The provincial natural management disaster department head Qari Sabitullah told Bakhtar News Agency that 1048

needy families received humanitarian aid and every family received 7,500 Afghani in cash provided by the said organization IOM.

## Some shops run by women closed in Balkh



BALKH (TOLONews): A number of women who run shops at a market in Balkh said the vice and virtue department has ordered them to close their shops by next Thursday.

The women said shops were their only source of income and they were supporting their families through their small businesses.

Pasthun Afghan is one of the first women, who invested in a shop at the "City Walk" market in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh province. "Last Thursday, a member of the vice and virtue department came and asked us that we have one week to take away our shops and sit at home," she said.

"We are forced to collect our commodities; otherwise, they will be wasted. This will also affect our economy," said Yasamin, a shopkeeper. Local officials said that women-only markets are still open.

The shopkeepers called on local officials to reverse

their decision.

"I have built this shop after many difficulties and it cost expensive. We built handmade products and the women, who come for shopping here, felt safe and comfortable," said Massoud, a shopkeeper.

"When we come to the market, we try to do shopping from female shopkeepers instead of men and we feel comfortable," said Sanam Sarwari, a resident of Mazar-e-Sharif.

An official of the provincial department, Sayed Zahir, told TOLONews that the shops were closed due to co-working with men and lack of observing hijab by women. "We are trying to make a bidding between two to three markets so that they can facilitate a good opportunity for our sisters," he said.

This comes after women were banned from working in non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan, a decision that triggered global reactions.



# Unprecedented hike in flour prices PHC orders both Secretaries food to appear today

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has ordered federal and provincial secretaries along with Director Food to appear before court today (on Wednesday) in case regarding unprecedented hike in flour prices, on Tuesday.

The writ was filed by Haseeb Ullah Umar while Danyal Chamkani Advocate argued the case before honorable Peshawar High Court while Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with others made respondents in the instant petition.

The counsel Danyal Khan Chamkani Advocate informed that in previous few days flour prices are increased unprecedentedly which has compelled public for roaming in search of basic food item. He added that both federal and provincial government

turned blank eye towards price-hike on daily basis in flour.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa demand for wheat as 4.5 million metric ton while the province cultivating 1.2 million metric ton while supply from Punjab was stopped from October 2022 which has created crisis in the market, the petition stated. The flour bag of weight 20 kilograms available on Rs3300 which has compelled poor people for starvation.

The petition sated that wheat is supplying to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on two routes including Attock and Darya Khan bridge while the province dependence on Punjab flour stand at 80% of total demands. Federal Minister for National Food Security already declared that there is no shortage of flour in the country, the petition

added.

The counsel added that controlling inflation and purchase of wheat is responsibility of provinces after 18th constitutional amendment. He further requested honorable court to direct stern actions against hoarders and impose ban on export till availability of flour on reasonable price at local market.

However, Chief Justice Qaiser Rashid remarked that no one is interest in provision of relief to masses and added that government is running behind dollars but nothing is providing to public. Chief Justice inquired that is Minister for Food is available in the province? And ordered both provincial and federal secretaries as well as Director Food to appear before court today (on Wednesday).

## Sindh govt increases wheat quota of flour mills

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Wheat quota of flour mills in Sindh has been increased and flour will be available at Rs 95 per kg across the province on general shops / open market, besides atta at subsidies rates Rs. 65 will also continued at 1100 sale points of Sindh government across the province. Rs. 1 million compensation to the legal heirs of person died in the tragic incident in Mirpur Khas, during the purchase of flour also announced. These announcement was made by Provincial Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Food Minister Mukesh Kumar Chawla along with All Pakistan Flour Mills Association representatives in a press conference in Sindh Assembly on Tuesday.

Provincial Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that there is a flour crisis in the whole of Pakistan, the prices of flour have gone up, but Sindh is the only province in the country where the government is providing flour at Rs. 65 per kg across the province on designated points. He said that 460 trucks have been allocated daily for supply of subsidies flour for Karachi, while 600000 bags of 10 kg are being supplied daily across the province at discounted rates. On which the government is giving subsidy of billions of rupees. He said that only public government can take such decisions for the people.

The provincial minister said that the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party has strictly instructed the Food Minister Sindh Mukesh Kumar Chawla to bring the prices of flour under control in the open market. In this regard, the quota of flour mills has been increased, Inshallah the price of flour in the open market will come down to Rs.95 per kg from Rs. 150 in a couple of days. He said that the Sindh government has

abundant storage of wheat. He added that the Chief Minister Sindh has issued orders to commissioners and deputy commissioners to take strict action against hoarders. He said that the wheat of hoarders will be seized and taken into the custody of the government.

The provincial minister said that there is no restriction on the inter-provincial transportation of wheat under the law and any commodity or fruits and vegetables could be transport across the country. But under certain situation, the government decides to ban the inter-provincial transportation of wheat. The provincial minister said that the Sindh government fixed the price of wheat at Rs 4000 per maund for the upcoming season, which was criticized, but now other provinces are also raising the decision. He said that imported wheat cost at Rs 9000 and its quality is also not satisfactory as it is mixed with local wheat for consuming.

So why don't we give Rs. 4000 to our own farmer. He said that the Sindh government had taken this decision to support the farmers and encourage them to grow wheat crop. The provincial minister said that flour is the most expensive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and it is being sold at Rs 160 per kg where PTI is the in power. On this occasion, Food Minister Mukesh Kumar Chawla said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, former President Asif Ali Zardari and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah took notice of the rising prices of flour in the open market and directed him to take measures to control prices. The provincial food minister said that he held meetings with the representatives of All Pakistan Flour Mills Association and in the final round asked the association for suggestions to reduce the prices of flour in the open mar-

ket.

On which the Flour Mills Association suggested to increase the quota of wheat to the flour mills. He said that with the cooperation of Flour Mills Association, the price of flour in the open market in Sindh will be brought down to Rs. 95 per kg in couple of days. He said that the Punjab government has also increased the quota of wheat to flour mills, where the price of flour has come down from Rs 120 per kg from Rs. 160. He said that after increasing the quota in Sindh, flour rates will decrease to Rs 95 from Rs. 150 in the open market.

He said that the Sindh government has abundant stocks of wheat. While Flour Mills Association also has its own private stock. He said that the ship carrying wheat has reached Karachi last night. Another ship is arriving at Gwadar port. Mukesh Kumar Chawla said that the policy has been made in collaboration with Flour Mills Association to provide maximum relief to the people. He said that two days ago, a tragic incident took place during the stampede in Mirpurkhas, in which one person died. He announced that the legal heirs of the deceased will be given Rs 1 million as aid by the Sindh government.

On this occasion Chaudhry Muhammad Yusuf, senior representative of Flour Mills Association said that atta rates had remained cheaper in Sindh compare to other parts of country. He said that after meetings with food minister, Flour mills have started getting additional quota of wheat. They will ensure atta at Rs. 95 per kg of flour in the open market in a couple of days. He said that despite the fact that Sindh had been devastated by recent floods, but still atta prices remained low in the province in comparison to other parts of country.

## Geneva moot success of Pakistan: Marriyum

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that the Geneva conference was a big success for Pakistan and flood victims. In a statement, she expressed gratitude to the Secretary-General United Nations and the international community.

Marriyum pledged that funds would reach the affected people in a transparent manner which would bring change in their lives. "We thank the global and national media for highlighting the causes of humanity and climate change", she said, adding this conference had become a symbol of the collective feeling of humanity. The minister said providing resources will help the flood victims start a new and better life. She said that the conference made the world realise the serious effects of climate change.

The conference turned thinking into action to confront the collective challenge of climate change, she remarked, adding that it will prove to be an important global forum for the improvement of the environment and the planet. "We also express our sincere gratitude to the domestic and foreign participants who presented the case of Pakistan and all provinces at the global forum and supported it", she said. She said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took concrete steps with the collaboration of all provinces and institutions on flood and these are the fruits of those efforts. She opined that the Geneva conference was a global recognition of the joint efforts of the coalition government.

## FM thanks world for support

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said the international community and the global financial institutions had pledged more than \$9 billion for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood affected areas of Pakistan and expressed the hope that the process would now be expedited.

In a video message shared on his Twitter handle from Geneva, the foreign minister termed the co-hosting of the 'Resilient Pakistan' conference in Geneva as a huge success for Pakistan as they had received pledges more than their expectations. Expressing gratitude to the international community, the foreign minister said that with this financial support, they would be able to commence work on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas, repairing of damaged infrastructure, agricultural, and poverty alleviation.

Foreign Minister Bilawal said that they were thankful to all the countries and institutions for making pledges of more than \$9 billion and particularly mentioned the United Nations Secretary-General, China, the USA, the European Union, French President Macron, the Middle East countries, all friends and others. "The entire world stands shoulders to shoulders with Pakistan," he said. Separately, the foreign minister posted on his video message "Good news, Resilient Pakistan conference has exceeded expectations.

## LPG prices increased by Rs5 per kg

ISLAMABAD (INP): The prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) on Tuesday increased by Rs5 per kg without a notification from the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). In a statement, Chairman LPG Distribution Association (LD-AP) Irfan Khokhar said that the price now jumped to Rs260 per kg from Rs255 after an increase of Rs5.

Meanwhile, the prices of domestic and commercial cylinders increased by R60 and Rs230, respectively. Irfan Khokhar said that the gas was available at Rs270 in Muree, while its price exceeded Rs300 per kg in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Skardu.



GENEVA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing Pakistani delegation and officers of Pakistani Mission.

# PIA obtained Rs114b since 2018, federation tells SC

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The federal government has told the Supreme Court that it has provided Rs114 billion to Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) since 2018. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Justice Ijazul Ahsan heard the PIA plea seeking permission for the recruitment of 250 skillful workers. The PIA has sought US\$40 million per year from the government.

The PIA report, submitted last week, said: "Because of the Supreme Court's ban on new recruitments since 2018, the Pakistan International Airline is facing an extreme shortage of professional and skilled employees in the areas of flight operations; services; information and technology; and finance." "Total separation in PIA since 2018 is 5,793 out of which 1,199 employees pertain to flight operations (pilots), flight services (cabin crew), finance and IT department and no fresh hiring has been made whereas our immediate requirement is 250 employees for the year 2023," it further said.

During the proceeding, Additional Attorney General Rashdeen Nawaz Kasuri submitted the federation

response on the PIA report, which said that since 2018 government support to PIA is Rs114 billion. It questioned 5,793 employees separated during 2018-2022 (retirement, resignation, voluntary separate scheme, early retirements and dismissal on discipline/fake degrees). It said the national flag carrier need to show the departments, from where the employees were separate, the effect on the organograms of each department. The vacancies created and reflected in the organograms needed to be filed, it further said.

The PIACL is requested to place on record the pre & post retrenchment organograms to demonstrate vacancies, relationship between different people and jobs at levels within the organisation. If vacancies exist, then to place on record the proposals stating the reasoning for required manpower by the concerned departments.

The AAG further said that the company also need to demonstrate that the efforts were made within the organisational structure to transfer any person from another department to the required position. Emails to the employees, be placed on record. Does

the PIACL have a surplus pool of manpower? Were efforts made to take the required persons from the surplus pool or from within the company. Documents to be provided. The organogram of IT professionals, finance professionals and the management position need specific frequency explanation based on monthly frequency supported with the relevant provisions of flights, air navigation order & international minimum standards.

The reply said that the efforts should be made to save foreign currency as the company has sought US\$40 million per year from the government. It questioned that in how many countries PIA has offices, what rent is being paid (in dollars)? How many persons from here are posted abroad? (impact in dollars) Total impact country wise need to be filed in the court, in dollars. Does PIA need expensive offices abroad when most tickets are purchased on line? What sales (country wise) have been booked through PIA offices in a year, abroad. Salman Akram Raja, appearing on behalf of the PIA, sought time to file reply on the federation statement.

## KP affected by terrorism and insurgency: CM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has been affected the most due to terrorism and insurgency. Being on the front line in the war against terrorism, erstwhile FATA was badly affected where most of the institutions and infrastructure got completely destroyed' he said and added that his government has started from zero in the newly merged areas, completed merger process on priority basis and extended all provincial departments to NMDs in minimum possible time. The Chief Minister maintained that peace was restored after rendering countless sacrifices; everything was on the right track but after the regime change conspiracy against Imran Khan's government at the center, the situation started to deteriorate and terrorism incidents resurfaced in the country. Since the regime change at centre, 376 terrorist attacks have been reported so far which have

claimed dozens of innocent lives and damaged public and private properties, he added. Addressing a seminar titled "Terrorism2.0", held at Islamabad on Tuesday, the Chief Minister questioned the imported federal government that that is the reemergence of insurgency, withholding the legitimate rights of the province and keeping the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa away from the meeting of National Security Committee part of regime change conspiracy? He termed the development and prosperity of the newly merged districts as indispensable for sustainable peace & tranquility adding that unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and NMDs will have a trickle-down effect all over the country. The Chief Minister said that when he formed the government, merger of ex FATA was a daunting task but the incumbent provincial government completed it successfully. 29,000 Levies and Khasadars were absorbed into the police and were imparted with trainings enabling them to cope with

emerging challenges. He added that the provincial government initiated special legislations, established police stations and extended the judicial system to NMDs. In view of the prevailing norms and traditions of tribal people and the utility of Jirga system in the merged districts, Alternate Disputes Resolution (ADR) system was introduced for swift resolution of disputes. The provincial government made substantial investment in all sectors with special focus on education and health sector to bring the merged districts at par with the settled districts. Owing to our concerted efforts, the governance structure in newly merged districts has improved significantly.

To ensure efficient and effective administration in merged districts, new tehsils and subdivisions have been made besides splitting South Waziristan into two separate districts. Similarly, many developmental projects have been initiated in the merged districts to ensure effective governance and address the decades of deprivations of the tribal people.

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