

FM calls on Chinese VP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Tuesday met Chinese Vice Premier, Liu He at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. Both sides discussed the multifaceted economic cooperation between Pakistan and China and agreed to maintain close coordination to further enhance the mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries, a brief statement issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.



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Pakistan and India must resolve their bilateral issues: PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A spokesperson of the Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has consistently maintained that Pakistan and India must resolve their bilateral issues, especially the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir, through dialogue and peaceful means.

The statement came in reference to PM Shehbaz Sharif's interview with Al Arabiya channel, where he spoke in length about India's violation of the Article 370 of its Constitution that granted autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. The spokesperson mentioned that PM Shehbaz Sharif has repeatedly stated on record that talks can only take place after India reversed its illegal action of August 5, 2019.

"Without India's revocation of this step, negotiations are not possible," the statement read. "The settlement of the Kashmir dispute must be in accordance with the UN resolutions & the aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir." The spokesman said that the prime minister made this position very clear in his interview with Al Arabiya news channel during his recent visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The prime minister during the interview also highlighted the flagrant human rights violations in J&K, saying that India had usurped a semblance of autonomy given to the Kashmiris according to Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. The autonomy was revoked on August 5, 2019. He pointed out that minorities in India were being persecuted, adding "This must stop so that message can

go around the globe that India is ready to have talks."

Shehbaz said India and Pakistan were neighbours and they had to live with each other. "It is up to us to live peacefully and make progress or quarrel with each other, and waste time and resources. We have three wars with India and it only brought more misery, poverty, and unemployment to the people," he said. "We have learnt our lesson and we want to live in peace provided we are able to resolve our genuine problems."

Emphasizing the importance of peace, he said, "We want to alleviate poverty, achieve prosperity, and provide education and health facilities and employment to our people and not waste our resources on bombs and ammunition, that is the message I want to give to Prime Minister Modi," he added.

PM holds consultations with Zardari, Shujaat, Fazl

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif telephoned top leadership of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to hold consultations on the name of caretaker chief minister of Punjab.

In a tweet, she said that the PM called former president Asif Ali Zardari, Muslim League (Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman. The prime minister also held consultations with the ally parties leaders on the political situation of the country, she said.

PML-N names Ahad, Naqvi as Punjab caretaker CM

LAHORE (Agencies): Punjab opposition leader Hamza Shehbaz on Tuesday nominated Mohsin Naqvi and Ahad Cheema for the caretaker chief minister's position.

The PTI and the PML-Q had on Sunday finalised three consensus candidates as their nominees for the appointment of a caretaker chief minister in the province. The nominees included Cabinet Secretary Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, former health minister Naseer Khan and former chief secretary Nasir Saeed Khosa.

In a letter sent to Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman, Hamza disapproved of the nominees proposed by outgoing Chief Minister Parvez Elahi. Hamza said that since he was abroad, he was appointing prime minister's spokesperson Malik Ahmed Khan to coordinate the CM issue. The development came hours after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif consulted with the government's coalition partners to discuss the PML-N's nominees for Punjab caretaker chief minister.

In a tweet, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the premier had spoken to PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl emir Maulana Fazlur Rehman as well as Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat on the phone. Aurangzeb said PM Shehbaz also discussed the country's overall political situation with the politicians.

Many projects in pipeline: NA told

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri has said that several projects are in the pipeline for recovery and rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas.

Speaking to the points of GDA leader Ghous Bux Khan Mahar in the National Assembly on Tuesday, she said the government has effectively highlighted the plight of flood victims and secured support of the international community. She said we will have to build a climate resilient infrastructure to avert future disasters.

The Minister said Benazir Income Support Program played a pivotal role in disbursement of seventy billion rupees amongst the flood-affected people. The National Assembly transacted private members' business. Six bills were laid before the house on Tuesday. These included: Pakistan Citizenship Amendment Bill 2023, The Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences and Technology Amendment Bill 2023, The National Skills University Amendment Bill, The Institute of Space Technology Amendment Bill, The COMSATS University Amendment Bill and the Equal Scales of Salary and Allowances Bill.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan signing the summary of dissolution of provincial assembly.

CM sends summary to dissolve KP Assembly

Ishaq Khan

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Mahmood Khan has signed summary, advising Governor Haji Ghulam Ali to dissolve the provincial assembly, on Tuesday.

In the summary sent to KP Governor, CM wrote "I, Mahmood Khan, Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in pursuance of provisions in Article 112(1) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, do hereby forward my advice for dissolution of provincial assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 17th January, 2023, at 2100 hours (9pm)."

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali has 48 hours to decide

upon the dissolution of the KP assembly. KP assembly will be dissolved automatically on Thursday after the passage of the 48 hours if he also follows the footsteps of the Punjab Governor, who did not sign the summary to dissolve the Punjab Assembly. Mahmood Khan will continue his responsibilities as KP CM till the appointment of the caretaker chief minister.

CM Mahmood Khan and Akram Khan Durrani, opposition leader in KP assembly, will send three names each for the caretaker CM slot to the Governor. If a consensus is reached, the caretaker CM will be chosen from the given names. Otherwise, the matter will be sent to the parliamentary committee constituted by the speaker with both treasury and opposition MPAs as its members.

If the government and opposition yet failed to reach a consensus on a single name for the caretaker CM, the matter will be sent to the Election Commission of Pakistan, which will appoint the caretaker CM. The development came just days after Punjab CM Chaudhry Parvez Elahi dissolved Punjab Assembly.

In November last year, Ex-prime minister Imran Khan had announced the dissolution of the assemblies, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab to exert pressure on the federal coalition government to announce date for general elections.

Funeral prayer of Latif Afridi offered

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Nimaz e Janaza (funeral prayer) of senior lawyer and former president Supreme Court Bar Association, Abdul Latif Afridi was offered here at Bagh e Naran in Hayatabad on Tuesday.

High rank political and social personalities, judges, lawyers and high-ups of civil and police officers including a large number of people attended the Nimaz e Janaza of Latif Afridi.

A joint Fateha was offered for the departed soul of the senior lawyer. On the occasion the participants of the funeral prayer paid tributes to the professional services of the deceased. Abdul Latif Afridi was shot dead in the Bar Room of the PHC the other day. The police have arrested the killer red handed who later confessed to killing Afridi over a family feud.

CJP expresses grief over Afridi's killing: Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial has termed the killing of veteran lawyer, politician and former president of SCBA Abdul Latif Afridi a big loss. The chief

justice expressed these remarks during hearing of a case in the Supreme Court. CJP Bandial said that slain Afridi was a towering personality. He inquired of lawyer Ifitikhar Gilani whether Afridi belonged to Kohat. The lawyer replied that he hailed from the Frontier Region.

Chief justice of Pakistan went on to say that he was sad when he heard that Mr Afridi was killed in the bar room. "It's a very tragic incident," the CJP added.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Bar Council has given a countrywide strike call for today to condemn the gruesome murder of the veteran lawyer and former president of Supreme Court Bar Association. The protest call was given by PBC Vice Chairman Hafizur Rehman and other officials.

The Punjab Bar Council and Lahore High Court Bar have also decided to not appear in courts today in order to register their protest against the killing. The bars demanded of the authorities to give exemplary punishment to the murderer. Mr Afridi remained at the forefront of the struggle for the rights of the community and played a key role in the lawyers' movement in 2007. He had also remained the vice chairman and a member of the Pakistan Bar Council.

He was killed during firing inside the Peshawar High Court (PHC) bar room on Monday by a colleague who shot him six times while dressed in full judicial robes, according to police and a witness. Mr Afridi was lounging with co-workers in a break room at Peshawar High Court when he was killed in an apparent grudge attack.

"The killer, a junior lawyer who was wearing his gown, opened fire at close range and then handed himself over to the police," Ijaz Khan, a senior police official in Peshawar, said. The gunman who claimed that he had a feud with Afridi fired six shots at 79-year-old lawyer's chest from less than a foot away. The Namaz-i-Janaza of Latif Afridi was offered at Hayatabad in Peshawar on Tuesday. A large number of people including important personalities attended the funeral prayers.

PTI wants opposition leader in NA

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) wanted on Tuesday its opposition leader in the National Assembly. Speaking to media in Punjab's provincial capital, PTI senior leader Fawad Chaudhry also demanded to have the parliamentary leader in the National Assembly and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman from his party.

Talking about the matter of the election of caretaker Punjab CM, Mr Chaudhry said his party will request Nasir Saeed Khosa to rethink about serving as caretaker Punjab Chief Minister. "No one could object to the names we finalised for

the coveted caretaker Punjab CM slot. It would be better if everybody agree on one of the three names we finalized" Even, PML-N's Malik Ahmed Khan was satisfied with the PTI's nominees.

Mr Chaudhry stated unequivocally that the PTI will simply return to the NA, gaining three slots in the process, but that the decision to do so yet to be made. Talking about toppling the federal government, Mr Chaudhry said, "If the government would not show seriousness in terms of talking about the electoral framework, then we will topple the PDM-led government." He also claimed that most of the PML-N lawmakers were in contact with the PTI leader-

ship. Lambasting Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Mr Chaudhry said, "Rana Sanaullah talked about conquering Punjab. It seems as if Sanaullah will have to sacrifice his party's presidency in the Punjab province."

Recalling his claim that PTI chief Imran Khan will be the next premier of the country, Mr Chaudhry said efforts to weaken him under way, which was quite deplorable. Speaking on the local government elections in Karachi and Hyderabad, Mr Chaudhry said the results would have poured in within 30 minutes through the EVMs, which is why the PML-N, PPP opposed the usage of EVMs.

ECP restores membership of 25 MPs in NA, Senate

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday restored membership of Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf dissident Noor Alam Khan among 25 parliamentarians in the National Assembly and the Senate as they submitted their annual financial statements.

The electoral authority on Monday suspended the membership of 271 parliamentarians for their failure in submitting details of their financial records. According to the notification issued by the ECP, the membership of Leader of the Opposition in NA Raja Riaz Ahmed, Raza Rabbani, Syed Basit Ahmad Sultan, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Musarrat Asif Khawaja, Shahida Rahman and others have also been restored.

In addition to this, the membership of Ahmad Khan, Anwarul Haq Kakar and two others have been restored in the Senate. Membership of 21 lawmakers in the NA and four in the Senate have been restored today. It is pertinent to mention here that those suspended include 136 members from the parliament's Lower House and 21 from the Upper House.

On Monday, the electoral authority also suspended the membership of provincial assembly members including 48, 12 and 54 from Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa respectively. Every member of an assembly and senate is liable to submit relevant details of their assets and liabilities to the election commission before December 31 every year. The members must also disclose the financial statements of their spouse and dependent children on Form-B every year on June 30.

"In pursuance of sub-section (3) of Section 137 ibid and in the exercise of all other powers enabling it on that behalf, the Election Commission is pleased to notify hereunder, for information of the general public, the names of members of the Senate who have failed to file their statement of assets and liabilities including assets and liabilities," the ECP notification had read. Prominent senators who have had their membership suspended include PTI's Sania Nishtar, Azam Swati, Aon Abbas, and Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur; PML-N Senator Kamran Michael; and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senators Taj Haider and Syed Waqar Mehdi, among others.

Suspended members of the Lower House include Chairman Public Accounts Committee Noor Alam Khan, PTI's Asad Umar, Murad Saeed Omar Ayub Khan, Asad Qaiser, Shehryar Afridi, Ali Amin Gandapur, Noor Ul Haq Qadri, Zartaj Gul, Andleeb Abbas, Maleeka Bokhari, Alamgir Khan, Ali Zaidi and Abdul Shakoor Shad. Fehmida Mirza of the Grand Democratic Alliance has also faced suspension of her membership.

Resignation of 34 PTI MNAs accepted

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Election Commission of Pakistan on Tuesday (ECP) de-notified 34 PTI MNAs after their resignations were accepted by National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf.

The PTI had resigned en masse from the lower house of parliament following the ouster of PTI chief Imran Khan in April last year. Subsequently, the NA speaker had accepted only 11 of the resignations, stating that the remaining lawmakers would be summoned individually for verification. The notification issued by the electoral watchdog on Tuesday, stated that the lawmakers were de-notified "with immediate effect".

The de-notified lawmakers include Murad Saeed, Omar Ayub Khan, Asad Qaiser, Pervaiz Khattak, Imran Khattak, Shehryar Afridi, Ali Amin Khan, Noorul Haq Qadri, Raja Khurram Shahzad Nawaz, Ali Nawaz Awan, Asad Umar, Sadaqat Ali Khan, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Sheikh Rashid Shafique, Mansoor Hayat Khan, Fawad Ahmed, Sanaullah Khan Mastikhel, Hammad Azhar, Shafqat Mahmood, Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Zartaj Gul, Faheem Khan, Saifur Rehman, Muhammad Alamgir Khan, Syed Ali Haider, Aftab

Hussain Saddique, Ataullah, Aftab Jehangir, Muhammad Aslam Khan, Muhammad Najeeb Haroon and Qasim Khan Suri.

Two PTI lawmakers elected on reserve seats — Aliya Hamza Malik and Kanwal Shauzab — were also de-notified. In addition to the 34 PTI lawmakers, the ECP also de-notified Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. Reacting to the development, PTI's Fawad Chaudhry "thanked" the NA speaker for accepting the resignations.

"But until you accept 70 more resignations, the posts of the NA opposition leader and the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee belong to the PTI," he said. PTI central information secretary Farrukh Habib alleged the NA speaker had accepted the resignations with "ill intent" because he found out that the PTI intended to remove Raja Riaz as the NA opposition leader.

PTI leader Hammad Azhar alleged that the Election Commission had "received orders from Avenfield". "Another clumsy attempt to run away from general elections," he said. PTI's Zulfi Bukhari said that the NA speaker had claimed he couldn't accept the resignations collectively and each lawmaker had to verify their resignations individually.

"Imran Khan thinks of re-entering the National Assembly to seek a vote of no-confidence against Shehbaz Sharif. Within minutes there's a mass acceptance," he said. The PTI had announced mass resignations from the National Assembly in April last year, a day after party chief Imran Khan's ouster as the prime minister through a no-confidence vote and shortly before Shehbaz Sharif was elected as his successor.

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on July 28, 2022 accepted the resignations of only 11 PTI lawmakers who had resigned after the vote of no confidence against the former PM. The PTI had first challenged the move in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on August 1, contesting that it was "unsustainable". The IHC, however, had dismissed the petition on Sept 6, 2022. The party then approached the Supreme Court, praying it to set aside the IHC order, terming it "vague, cursory, and against the law". A decision on the PTI's plea in the apex court is still pending. Ashraf told a PTI delegation on Dec 29, 2022 that the party's lawmakers would be summoned individually for verification of their resignations as the latter insisted on them being accepted in one go.



PESHAWAR: People offering funeral prayer of senior lawyer Abdul Latif Afridi at Bagh-e-Naran.

Sana says PML-N starts preparations for polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday said that Pakistan Muslim League-N is going to finalize its preparation for elections particularly in Punjab province.

Talking to a private television channel, he said that general elections could be conducted as per the given program. He said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), is responsible to make arrangements for the next elections. Commenting on Nawaz Sharif, he said that the former prime minister could visit Pakistan before April. About Maryam Safdar, he

said that the PML-N leader will arrive in Pakistan next week.

In reply to a question about pre-arrest bail for Nawaz Sharif, he said that Ex-Premier would not go to jail after reaching Pakistan. He, however, said that a request for granting bail to Nawaz Sharif could be made through the lawyer. The minister said that PML-N leader would plead his case in court. To another question about the election drive, he said Nawaz Sharif could lead the election campaign with party leaders.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah also stated that the decision of accepting

the resignations of members of parliament from Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was made to prevent the PTI from causing further political chaos in the country.

Talking to a private media channel the Interior Minister said PTI has always played politics of chaos and instability in the country. "Tehreek-e-Insaf can no longer be allowed to weaken the country," he determined. Stating the reason for accepting only 35 members' resignations, he said that the resignations of those members who had publicly confirmed their resignations were accepted by the Speaker.



KU inducts 8 new buses into its transport fleet

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi University on Tuesday inducted eight new buses into its transport fleet in a ceremonial way at the KU Transport Department. The KU Vice Chairman Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi while inaugurating the ceremony of induction of buses mentioned that despite the unfavorable financial conditions of the University, he is trying his best to provide better facilities to the students enrolled in various departments and centers.

"I hope that with the addition of these new buses, the existing travel facilities will be further enhanced." He appreciated the efforts of the in-charge of the transport department Dr Qadeer Muhammad Ali and his staff and said that they are working hard to improve the transport department and its services.

Meanwhile, Dr Qadeer Muhammad Ali briefed the KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi about the routes of the buses and facilities provided by the transport department.

PAC seeks detailed report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday directed the Narcotics Control Division to submit a complete overall report on irregularities found under its departments in the next meeting scheduled on January 25 particularly the registration of bogus drug cases against politicians and others individuals.

The meeting was chaired by MNA Noor Alam Khan, who queried the authority concerned on the procedures and rules followed by the Narcotics Control departments during the registration of such cases.

The authorities told the committee that there was a need of sometime to compile a comprehensive report for a briefing over the matter. The chairman of the committee directed the authorities concerned to appear after full preparation in the next meeting to be held in the coming week and no excuses would be entertained.

He mentioned that nobody was above the law but fake cases of heroin should not be registered against anyone for political victimization.

Noor Alam Khan strictly urged that this practice should be abolished from Narcotics Control Division on a permanent basis to ensure transparency in its investigation processes.

He further said the previous government had registered a heroin case against Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah through Narcotics Control Division during its regime.

"It is embarrassing to see in the video that officials of Narcotics Control have asked for money from people at Islamabad International Airport which defamed the country," he added. The PAC chair asked the authorities concerned that whether they had taken stern action against the perpetrators or not. The matter of fake cases against politicians had been raised by MNAs Sheikh Rohale Asghar and Chaudhry Muhammad Barjees Tahir during the PAC meeting.

CM lays foundation stone of Data Darbar parking plaza project

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of over Rs.4 billion worth Data Darbar parking plaza, underpass and infrastructure improvement project, which would be completed in six to eight months to facilitate visitors and people of adjoining areas.

The parking plaza would have two basements and six storeys with a parking facility for more than 500 vehicles. The parking plaza would be connected to the shrine's basement through an underpass.

DG LDA gave a briefing about the project.

While addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony, the CM said that folding umbrellas would be installed on the premises of Data Darbar and Baba Fariduddin Ganj Shakar's (RA) shrine in Pakpattan. The food authority would also ensure the quality of community meals in the shrines, he added.

He said that elevators would be installed in the parking plaza for elderly and disabled devotees. The government wanted to improve the infrastructure as road closures caused difficulties during Urs, he maintained.

Visitors would park their vehicles at

the parking plaza to access the shrine on foot through the underground route, he stated and added that the government would facilitate devotees coming from abroad. In a few months, more than nine mega projects worth 23 billion rupees had been launched for Lahore, he added.

Mian Aslam Iqbal, Saeed-ul-Hasan Shah, secretary housing, secretary auqaf, secretary C&W, secretary information, administrator Data Darbar and others were present.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Tuesday paid a visit to the shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh Ali Hajveri (RA) and offered prayers for the country.

He also unveiled a project to expand the corridor around the shrine to accommodate more visitors.

The project, which will be completed in partnership with Madina Foundation, will feature marble tiles and wooden work in the corridor.

Mian Aslam Iqbal, Pir Syed Saeedul Hasan Shah, Mian Rashid, Haji Shahid Hameed, Aslam Tareen, Secretary Auqaf, Secretary Communication and Works, Administrator Data Darbar and other officials were present.

PDMA, UET sign MoU for improvement in disaster management

LAHORE (APP): A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab and University of Engineering & Technology (UET) here at UET to collaborate for improvement in the field of disaster management besides steps to promote research for improving disaster management.

DG PDMA Faisal Fareed and Director UET Dr. Waqar Mehmood were present on the occasion while a large number of students including the university administration attended the MoU signing ceremony.

VC UET Syed Mansoor Sarwar also presented an honorary shield to DG PDMA Faisal Fareed.

Meanwhile, a meeting under the

chairmanship of DG Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Faisal Fareed was held in the PDMA committee room to review steps for elimination of smog and the establishment of smog app.

Director Coordination PDMA and others attended the meeting.

The DG PDMA stated that the preparation of Smog App is in the final stages and it will be launched soon.

The citizens will be able to download the app from Google and all relevant institutions will also have access to the app, he remarked.

He said that citizens will be able to lodge complaints on the app against those causing smog and all the concerned bodies will be able to see the complaints directly with the help of the app.

'Climate change must be part of school curricula'

ISLAMABAD (APP): the Senate's Standing Committee on Climate Change Senator Seemee Ezdi stressed the need for accountability of the Global North, since the underdeveloped world currently faced the consequences of its environmental excesses that formulated 92 percent of total world Green House emissions. She asserted that it was crucial that those countries make the commitments made on various global forums. Pakistan, she said, had faced the worst consequences of global warming and was in need of global justice. WWF Director of Policy and Governance Dr Imran Khalid stressed the need for the implementation of policies so that Pakistan could play a role in reducing the immense environmental threat it faced. He said Pakistan called for global justice and the developed world kept its commitments yet, it was essential that "we should be self-reliant and make decisions to control the damage at our own end".

WWF Director General Dr Hammad Naqi Khan viewed that Pakistan must make a crucial shift towards alternate energy resources in order to protect the environment on an urgent basis. He stressed the need for Pakistan to negotiate the lat-

est technology in that context from China which was the world leader in renewable energy resources. He said it was crucial that "we take the reins of survival in our hands, and ensure that we will make and adhere to policies on hospital waste management, forest degradation, and renewable energy". He said stringent measures must be taken to ensure daylight conservation in order to restore the ailing environment to health.

He said China and the United States contributed 50 percent of the total Green House emissions of the world. Pakistan in comparison contributed just one percent, yet it was important that the same was rectified with sound policies to "ensure our survival", he added.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Baligh-ur-Rehman addresses to Bialog book Launching ceremony of Sajjad Pervaiz.

Governor for promoting book reading culture

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that book reading is necessary for the person who want to achieve some position in society.

He was addressing at the book launching ceremony organised by the Islamia University Bahawalpur (IUB) for a book "22 Log" written by Controllor News Radio Pakistan Lahore Sajjad Parvez at Governor House, here on Tuesday.

The governor said that there is a need to promote the culture of book reading in the society, asserting that due to social media, the trend of reading books among the youth has decreased. He said that book reading should be encouraged to promote the culture of tolerance in the society. He said that the book "22 Log" is not only a book but the essence of the academic, intellectual, artistic and research life of 22 people. He maintained that this book includes detailed interviews of those

personalities who have a prominent position in the field of art, education, research, journalism, literature and history.

The governor also appreciated the efforts of Vice Chancellor of Islamia University Bahawalpur in this regard, saying that as the chancellor, he mobilized the vice chancellors of the universities of Punjab to form consortiums in seven important areas.

He added that ,today, he held a review meeting regarding the consortium established on Financial Discipline and Governance in the universities, in which

important decisions have been made to improve the management of universities and other matters.

Islamia University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Athar Mehboob, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar, Senior Journalist Majeedur Rehman Shami, Columnists Amjad Ali Kalyar, Amina Mufti, Writer Farzana Aqib and other prominent personalities were present on the occasion.

Governor chairs BoD meeting of Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur: Governor

Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired a meeting of the Board of Governors of Sadiq Public School (Bahawalpur) at the Governor House, here on Tuesday. In the meeting, the Board of Governors unanimously approved the name of the new principal of the school, David Dowdles, and approved the terms and conditions of his appointment, said a hand-out issued here. On this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur will be made an exemplary educational institution.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION LAKKI MARWAT

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NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

The office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Lakki Marwat invites E-Bidding through Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure from PEC Registered Firms in Category C-4 or above with Specialization codes EE03, EE04, EE11 (Solar), EE11 (General Electric Works), CE09, CE10, ME05, ME06 and ME07 having renewed for the year 2022-23 along with C&W enlistment in relevant category and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Electrical Inspectorate License (Valid). The firms are required to offer their bids for the below mentioned works / schemes

ADP No: 220691					
S.#	Description	Estimated Cost in M	Bid Security i/c stamp duty in M	Period for Completion	Last Date for Submission of Sealed Bids
1	Solarization of Existing Pressure Pumps in Tehsil Serai Naurang	118.862	2.396	As per Work Order	03-02-2023 At 12:30 Noon
2	Solar Pressure Pumps / Electric Pressure Pumps in Tehsil Serai Naurang	149.417	3.007	-do-	-do-

General Terms & Conditions:

- Bidding documents including instructions to bidders can be downloaded up to one day prior from PHE website (www.phed.gov.pk).
- Financial bids must be accompanied by a bid security equal to 2% of the estimated cost of each scheme in shape of call deposit along with stamp duty.
- Incomplete/unconditional bid or bids with unattested, cutting, over writing, disfiguring will not be accepted.
- Last date for submission of tender is 3rd February 2023 up to 12:30 PM.
- Technical bids will be opened at 2:00PM on 3rd February, 2023 in the office of undersigned in the presence of bidders or their representative opted to attend.
- Firms shall provide all relevant attested documents of their registration.
- All bidders are required to be registered with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) established under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Act 2013
- Valid Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in category C-4 or above.
- Firm must have PEC Registration in Category C-4 or above with Specialization codes EE03, EE04, EE11 (Solar), EE11 (General Electric Works), ME05, ME07, CE09 and CE10 having renewed for the year 2022-23.
- The Firm must have registration with Electric Inspectorate of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Valid and renewed for the year 2022-23). Only firms having Electrical Inspectorate license will be allowed to participate in the tender.
- Registration with Income Tax Department (Active) and returns for last 03 years.
- Registration of STRN and returns for last 03 years.
- Firm must be registered with Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).
- Registration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (Active Tax Payer).
- The bidder should have successfully executed at least 05 similar nature projects (each project worth 100 Million PKR or above) in the last Five years along with completion certificates from the concerned Government/Semi-Government Department. Private sector projects or non-governmental works will not be considered.
- The bidder should have an average annual turnover in the last three years equal to or more than the Total Bid Price. (Audit Reports & Income Tax Returns for last 03 years shall be provided along with the technical bid).
- The Contractors quoting their rates up to a limit of 10% below the Engineer Estimate shall submit bid security @2% only of the Engineer Estimate in shape of original call deposits for the schemes in the name of Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Lakki Marwat. The contractor quoting more than 10% below up to 20% below on Engineer Estimate shall submit along with their bids 8% additional Security of Engineer's estimated cost in addition to 2% bid security. If the bid is not accompanied with the required amount of additional security, then the bid will be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted along with such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favor of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered for evaluation accordingly.
- Similarly, a contractor quoting bid more than 20% below shall submit with his bid an additional security on Engineer's estimated cost equal to the differential amount of submitted bid and Engineer's Estimate along with detailed rate analysis. In case of more than 20% below bids, if the bid is not accompanied by the rate analysis and/or required amount of additional security, then the said bid shall be considered as non-responsive. All the securities submitted along with such non-responsive bid shall be forfeited in favor of Government and the 2nd lowest bidder and so on will be considered for evaluation accordingly.
- The call deposits i.e. bid security for the work / contract must be prepared after publishing of NIT and before the closing time of the electronic bid apply.
- The eligible bidder must have fulfilled all the conditions mentioned in the NIT and fulfill the technical evaluation criteria as mentioned in the bid solicitation documents in order for his financial bids to be opened. If an applicant does not fulfill any condition of NIT and/or bidding documents, they will be declared as disqualified and their financial bids returned unopened.
- Electronic bids will remain valid for 120 days from the closing date of bids.
- The PEC, KPRA and Electrical Inspectorate License must be valid for the current fiscal year and attached with the bids.
- Any addition made in the terms and conditions in the NIT published will be implemented as per KPRA Rules.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to cancel any or all bids by providing cogent reasons.

Executive Engineer
Public Health Engineering Division Lakki Marwat

INF(P) 220/23

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IFTEKHAR AHMED CIVIL JUDGE VII KOHAT, Suit no.157/FC Date of hearing:19-01-2023, Titled:- Khola Bibi Vs Sami Ullah(etc), Notice against:-(2)DiI Jan Bibi Widow (5)Saif Ullah (6)Asif R/o Mohallah Kariganr Togh Bala District Kohat presently R/o (now in Abroad Saudi Arabia) (Defendants) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a family suit of Dower (etc) of against, you defendants in which date of hearing 19-01-2023 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you defendants is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 19-01-2023. Otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law. Order Issued on 13-12-2022 (Court of C.J VII, Kohat)



COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS PAKISTAN

TENDER NOTICE

FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING AT CPSP REGIONAL CENTER PESHAWAR

Bids in sealed envelopes are invited under Single Stage-One Envelope bidding procedure from reputable Contractor for the CPSP Regional Center Peshawar. The firm holding valid NTN and C5 or above Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council, Professional Tax Certificate and minimum 10 years' experience of the above construction work with documented proof may apply.

Interested Contractors may collect the Tender documents at a cost of **Rs. 15,000/-** (non-refundable) from the **Engineering Department CPSP Karachi Tel: No. 021-99266422** through Pay Order/Bank Draft in favor of Paradigm Engineering Consultants.

Bids on prescribed tender form along with earnest money 2% of bid value (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) through Pay Order/Bank Draft in favor of Secretary, College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan will be dropped in the office of Secretary CPSP Head Office Karachi up to **02-2-2023 (at 10:00 am)**. Tenders will be opened on the same day at **10:30 am** in the presence of bidders. The CPSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders as per relevant laws.

Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (P E D O)

CORRIGENDUM-I

Reference advertisement Number: INF (P) 11/23 published in daily "Mashriq" on 05th January, 2023 Wherein PEDO invited Pre-Qualification of Contractors in accordance with the KPRA Rules 2014 amended, for 1440 units under the project "SOLARIZATION OF MASAJID AND WORSHIP PLACES OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA" ADP No. 427/210435 (2022-23).

> Para number 06 shall be read as:

The interested firms/JVs must apply to this tender by getting registered on etender.pedo.pk in case of non-compliance bid of the respective bidder will be considered non responsive. The pre-proposal conference will be held on January 10th, 2023 at 11:00 Hrs at Committee Room of PEDO, located at Plot No. 38/B-2, PEDO House Phase-5, and Hayatabad Peshawar. The Technical proposal should reach on or before 27th Jan, 2023 at 15:00 HRS. The original shall be opened in the presence of applicants or their authorized representatives who choose to attend, on the same day at 15:30 HRS in the main Committee Room of PEDO, located at Plot No. 38/B-2, PEDO House Phase-5, and Hayatabad Peshawar. Other Terms & Conditions of the Advertisement remained unchanged.

PROJECT DIRECTOR (SOLAR), PIU PEDO INF(P) 263/23
Project Office: House # 21B-2 Abdara Road University Town Peshawar.
Phone/Fax: 091-3022347, E-mail: pdsolar.pedo@gmail.com



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan chairing 86th meeting of Provincial Cabinet.

Afridi's killer remanded in police custody for 2 days

PESHAWAR (APP): The accused involved in the killing of senior lawyer and former president of Supreme Court Bar Association, Abdul Latif Afridi was handed over in police custody on a two-day physical remand. The police produced the

accused, Adnan Sami Afridi, to the court of Judicial Magistrate, Badar Munir in tight security here on Tuesday and requested the court to grant two days physical remand of the accused for interrogation. The police informed that

during the initial interrogation, the accused Adnan Sami Afridi has confessed to killing Abdul Latif Afridi over personal enmity.

The senior lawyer, Abdul Latif Afridi was shot dead inside the Peshawar High Court Bar Room the other day.

KP Governor grants degrees, gold medals

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has said that there is no lack of talent in our children despite being poor and indigent.

According to the Constitution of Pakistan, education and health is the fundamental right of every citizen, and the deliverance of these rights is the responsibility of the government. Considering the poverty of the province and to provide equal opportunities for higher education to poor children, steps will be taken to reduce university fees by up to 30%. It is my mission and goal to provide equal opportunities for education to the poor and needy students; he was addressing the 6th convocation of Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar as a chief guest.

While on this occasion University vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, Secretary Higher Education Department Muhammad Daud Khan, Health Sec-

etary Amir Sultan Tareen, Surgeon General of Pakistan Army Lt. General Dr. Nigar Johar, the vice chancellor University of Peshawar Prof. Dr. Muhammad Idrees, Registrar of KMU Prof. Dr. Muhammad Salim Gandapur, former vice-chancellors of KMU Prof. Dr. Muhammad Daud Khan, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Hafeezullah, deans of various faculties, faculty, heads of various institutions, admin officers, students, and their parents were also present in large numbers.

Haji Ghulam Ali said that on this important occasion, I would like to congratulate the new graduates of PhD scholars, MPhil, Masters, MBBS, BDS, and allied health sciences, gold medalists, and especially their proud parents. He said that I am very happy that KMU is providing quality professional education in all fields from bachelor's to PhD.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that Pakistan is gaining a name world-

wide due to teachers, vice-chancellors, and educational institutions in the fields of education and health. He said that today, those pursuing degrees in various fields are lucky. You, people, have gone a long way, to serve the country and the people in your respective professions. We have to focus on the prevention of diseases rather than treatment. With this strategy, we can reduce the burden of diseases on society. He said that our students have the passion and ability to rule the world. Our children are ahead of the children of developed countries, they need to be given opportunities, he added.

He said that as the governor, he considers it his national responsibility to solve the problems of all the universities, it is our social responsibility to respect the teachers and there will be no compromise on this matter. The governor advised the students and said that you can earn a big name in your professions only if you

make good manners and politeness your motto. You have to conquer the whole nation and the world with your good morals, you are the ambassador of this great university, and I hope you will continue your hard work by broadening your mind. He said that after getting the degree, now it is your responsibility to help reduce your parents' financial burden by finding a decent job for yourself. The governor assured that he would soon talk to the concerned authorities of the armed forces including the provincial and federal governments about setting up KMU institutes in the merged tribal districts.

Speaking at the convocation earlier, vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq said that the establishment of sub-campuses of KMU in Islamabad apart from Lower Dir, Swat, Swabi, Mardan, Mansehra, Kohat, Lukki Marwat, Kurram and other districts of the province, the number of seats in Physiotherapy and Allied Health Sciences has

reached up to three thousand. Similarly, the number of colleges affiliated with KMU from 10 to 220 is also a notable achievement. It is good news that KMU has introduced new bachelor's courses in important subjects like public health, pharmacy, and clinical psychology, which are very important and need of the hour. Four mega schemes have been included in the annual development program, including a new medical college in Swat, a bone marrow transplant center, a stroke center, and the completion of the Kohat Medical College.

Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq said that the exemplary service rendered by KMU to society through the KMU Public Health Reference Lab and Mass Vaccination Center to combat the Corona pandemic is unforgettable. KMU Public Health Reference Lab has done around 2 million Covid PCR tests so far which is a matter of honor for us. He said that steps are being taken to establish a Liver

Transplant Center in KMU, which will provide treatment facilities not only to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also to the people of our brotherly neighboring country Afghanistan.

In the convocation, apart from PhD and MPhil in Basic Medical Sciences, 228 degrees were awarded in MHPE, MPH, MSc Epidemiology, MHR, MSPT, MSN, DPT, BSN,

BS Post RN, BS Paramedics, MBBS, and BDS, and 58 gold medals were also distributed to the toppers of these fields, while Soha Batool, a student of KMU Institute of Medical Sciences, Kohat in MBBS with 11 Gold Medals and KMU Institute of Dental Sciences Kohat student Yusra Abrar was honored as Best Graduate with 9 Gold Medals in BDS.

While during the convo-

cation Lt. Gen. Dr. Nigar Jauhar, Surgeon General of Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Ganda, Registrar KMU, Prof. Dr. Lal Muhammad Khattak, Dean, Clinical Sciences and Pro vice-chancellor, and Dr. Umar Farooq, dean, Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad for their outstanding professional services were also honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards.



BISP release quarterly payment in KP region

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The second quarterly installment of year 2022-23 has been released for registered families, enrolled in KP region. Director General KP Noor Rehman said, the families who have been registered with Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)

and didn't get their payment so far, could contact with registered retailers of Bank Al-Falah and BISP Tehsil offices for getting their payment.

The cash could be withdrawn from bank designated payment centers or biometric ATMs.

Deserving women were asked to receive their full

payment of Rs.7,000/- and never forget to get the receipt.

In case of any deduction or demand of additional amount from ant agent/bank retailers could report to their concerned BISP tehsil offices or Benazir Income Support Program toll free helpline, 080026477 in case of complaint.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr. Shahzad Bangash presiding over Task Force meeting.

People to celebrate 'salvation day': Babak

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial General Secretary and Parliamentary leader of Awami National Party in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Sardar Hussain Babak on Tuesday said that the people of the province would celebrate the 'Day of Salvation' after dissolution of KP Assembly.

Talking to APP Sardar Hussain Babak said that the KP government is using delaying tactics in dissolving the provincial assembly as the people are waiting to celebrate salvation day after ten years.

He said that the government instead of giving time again and again should take practical steps as the opposition would not submit a

no-confidence motion against the Chief Minister Mahmood Khan to save the assembly.

He said that the PTI government failed to deliver as the flood victims were not rehabilitated so far and the flood affectees were still wondering for the assistance, adding that the government left the province indebted of billions of dollars. He expressed hope that all the governments would work together for the welfare and rehabilitation of flood affectees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that KP province was already backward and ironically the government was depriving them of natural resources and negating

to give them rights, adding if the people stage protest the government lodges FIR against them and on the other hand depriving them of their basic rights..

Sardar Babak said that the PTI government has destroyed the provincial economy and due to their incompetency the militancy has re-emerged and spoiled the peace and order in the entire province.

He said that PTI leadership was self-centred and selfish and they had nothing to do with the welfare of people. He expressed the hope that after dissolution of KP assembly the caretaker government would be better than the incumbent government.

Upgradation of teachers' pay scale approved

PESHAWAR (INP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet on Tuesday approved up-gradation of teachers in various scales.

Education Minister Shahram Khan Tarakai, while congratulating the teachers said that 51 thousand Primary School Teachers have been upgraded from BPS-12 to 14 as promised by the provincial government. He said that the long-standing demand of teachers regarding their upgradation has been fulfilled today.

He said that the cabinet has decided to upgrade SPST teachers from BPS 14 to 15 and PSST teachers from BPS 15 to scale 16.

He said that upgradation of 21 thousand Subject Specialist Teachers SST from BPS-16 to 17 is also approved. He said that the cabinet approved four-tier formula under which 13800 teachers working in 17 grade to 20 will be promoted.

E-Khuli Kachehry to be held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: On the directions of FBR and Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, Regional Tax Office, Peshawar Mr Aqeel Ahmad Siddiqui, e-Khuli Kachehry will be held online on 20th Jan, 2023 from 2pm-4pm.

According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Commissioner will be accompanied by Commissioner Corporate Zone, Shaukat Hayat, Commissioner Peshawar Zone, Muhammad Ayaz, AC (HQ) Bahadur Sher Afridi and Assistant Commissioner Faheem Rashed to answer any queries and redressal of public complaints.

Opening of LCs demanded

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: KP Textile Mills Association (KPTMA) chairman Afnan Aziz said that hurdles in Letter of Credits (LCs) leading to shortage of raw material at spinning mills in the province, on Tuesday.

This he said in his statement issued to media personnel and added that KPTMA has written letter to Governor SBP in this regard. He appreciated SBP 27th December circular.

KPTMA chairman requested SBP to facilitate spinning mills by allowing opening of LCs while the factories should be compelled to stop operations.

Murder of Latif Lala: Legal fraternity observes strike

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The legal fraternity observed nationwide strike against murder of senior lawyer and former president Supreme Court Bar Association Latif Afridi while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council announced three-days mourning against the killing, on Tuesday.

Along with lawyer's associations, the civil society also condemned the brutal killing of senior lawyer inside Peshawar High Court Bar Room and demanded stern actions against responsible for

security lapses.

Vice President KPBC Muhammad Ali Jadoon, PHC Bar Association president Rahman Ullah along with Farooq Afridi, Syed Mubashir Shah, Nauman Kakakhel, Zahid Mohmand, Syed Abdul Fayyaz, Ali Gohar Durrani, Aminur-Rehman, Babar Khan Yousafzai, Sangeen Khan, Anwar-ul-Haq, Shams-ul-Hadi, Sardar Waqar Jawad, Nasir Naem Umarkheli and Amjad Hassan Tanoli condemned the murder of senior lawyer while demanded action against competent authorities responsible for

ble for court's security.

KPBC demanded implementation Lawyer Protection Act and facilitations in obtaining arm's licenses for legal fraternity on priority basis. The court's proceedings didn't take place due to strike while the losses of senior lawyer had made environment was mournful.

During funeral prayer of Latif Afridi large number of people from every walk of life had participated while paid tribute to late lawyers and praised his commitment for human rights and supremacy of constitution.

Speakers call for proactive role of transgenders

PESHAWAR (APP): Speakers at provincial consultation workshop here Tuesday underlined the need for an all-inclusive response of the transgender community during relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts to help minimize suffering of flood victims during the post-flood era.

These views were expressed by different speakers during a multi-stakeholders provincial consultation on 'developing action plan for transgender inclusive flood response' organized jointly by the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), Peace and Justice Network (PJN) and USAID here at a local hotel.

Besides others, the event was addressed by members provincial assembly, Ayesha Bannu and Aasia Khattak, Commissioner NCHR Tariq Javed, Director General Human Rights Department KP Dr

Saeed Khan, Provincial Ombudsman Rakhshinda Bano, Sadiq Khan of Provincial Disasters Management Authority KP, technical expert PJM Nayab Ali, Social Welfare Officer Mehnaz and provincial president transgender community Farzana.

The speakers said trans persons was important segment of the society and their proactive role in mobilization of public in flood affected areas for speedy implementation of the relief and rehabilitation programs carried immense importance.

Provincial President transgender community, Farzana assured full support and assistance of trans persons to the government and others relevant line organizations during flood mitigation programs.

Farzana said the devastations caused by the last year flood were huge and all segment of the society

need to work together by accelerating relief efforts and extended full support to the government for a inclusive flood response mechanism as hundreds of thousands of flood victims were still looking for our help and assistance in Pakistan.

Director General, Human Rights Department KP, Dr Saeed Khan said deputy commissioners of all 35 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were assigned special powers of human rights officers with the authority to dispose of all human rights related applications within 30 days in their respective domains.

He said efforts were being made to include representatives of vulnerable segments of the society including persons with disabilities, minorities, trans and under privileged in district human rights committees to address their issues on the spot.

POWA announces mourn, strike

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Prosecutor Officers Welfare Association (POWA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa condemned murder of senior lawyer Latif Afridi inside Peshawar High Court Bar Room, on Tuesday.

POWA president Sangeen Shah, general Javid Ali Mohmand, Fazal Noorani and press secretary Zulfikar Ali condemned the brutal killing of senior inside the premises of court.

In this regard a press statement was issued stated that POWA stands with lawyer community and bereaved family while prosecutors are deeply observing the investigation in the offense.

POWA president Sangeen Shah announced one day mourning and strike from court proceedings in solidarity with lawyers while directions were issued to district prosecutors in this regard.

DPO administers polio drops

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: District Police Officer Lower Chitral Nasir Mahmood visited different areas and administered polio drops to the children in order to make ongoing polio campaign more successful in Lower Chitral and highlight its importance among the people.

District Health Officer Fayaz Ali Rumi was also present along with DPO Lower Chitral on this occasion.

He visited various places and reviewed the security arrangements and expressed his satisfaction over it.

The DPO appreciated the enthusiasm of the security personnel and polio workers and said that they have a key role in making the polio campaign successful in Lower Chitral. The police department along with the relevant institutions will make this campaign exemplary and together we will save our future generation from being disabled for lifetime by protecting them from dangerous diseases like polio.

The spirit and courage with which you are performing your duties in extremely harsh weather condition and severe cold more admirable.

Very soon the country of Pakistan will be freed from dangerous diseases like polio forever, we all should play our role to achieve this goal.

PESCO issues schedule

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO) here on Tuesday announced power shutdown schedule for Mardan, Daggard, DIKhan, Hariapur, Kurram and Miramshah, due to maintenance work on power distribution lines.

In a press statement, power supply will remain suspended from 132KV Mardan-II Grid Station on January 18 from 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM, resultantly consumers of 11KV Shah Dhandh, Bala Ghari, Dolat Zai, Dang Baba, Zaindo, Toru, Shankar, Tawas, and Gaju Khan feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will

remain suspended from 132KV Dhoobian-Hussai Controlling Breaker on January 18 from 10:00 AM to 01:00PM, resultantly consumers of 132KV Hussai and Daggard grid connected 11KV feeders will face inconvenience.

Power Supply will remain suspended from 132KV D.I.Khan Grid Station on January 18 from 08:30 AM to 04:30PM, resultantly consumers of 132KV D.I.Khan and 66KV Bandh Kurai grid connected 11KV feeders will face inconvenience. Power supply will remain suspended from 132KV Khaalorian Bala-Hariapur Transmission Line on January 18 from 09:00

AM to 05:00 PM, resultantly consumers of 66KV Hariapur and Havelian grid connected 11 KV feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from 66KV Kurram Ghari Grid Station on January 18 from 09:30 AM to 01:30 PM, resultantly consumers of 11KV Airport and Nourar feeders will face inconvenience.

Power supply will remain suspended from 220KV Bannu Grid Station January 18 from 08:00 AM to 04:00 PM, resultantly consumers of 132KV Mir Ali, Miramshah, Razmak and 66 KV Kurram Ghari grid connected 11 KV feeders will face inconvenience.



In brief

Six injured in mishap F.P. Report

DIR LOWER: At least six people were seriously injured when a station-wagon fell into River Panjkora near Tarai area in Dir Lower on Tuesday. Rescue 1122 informed that its staff including the diving team reached the site of the incident in time and recovered the injured and the vehicle from the river. The six badly injured people were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Timergara. The injured included Muhammad Ali (47), Rehman Umar (40), Tahir Umar (22), Mutabar Umar (40), Nasir Umar (35) and Nizam Umar (20). Hospital staff said all the injured belonged to Arang area of Bajaur district and best possible treatment was being provided to them.

Muggers loot passengers

QUETTA (PPI): Robbers looted passengers of a wagon near Dungra area in Haji Sher area of district Kachi in Balochistan province on Tuesday, depriving passengers of cash, goods and mobiles. Robbers managed to escape after committing the crime. Enraged passengers blocked Quetta road, demanding the authorities to apprehend perpetrators of the crime. According to detail, unidentified robbers looted passengers of a wagon of their belongings at gun point near Haji Sher area of district Kachi. Robbers managed to escape after committing the crime. Administration started hunt for apprehending perpetrators of the crime after cordoning of the area. On the other hand, enraged passengers blocked Quetta road, demanding the authorities to apprehend perpetrators of the crime.

Four butchers arrested

QUETTA (PPI): Four butchers were arrested and ten shops were sealed by district administration, Quetta during a crackdown conducted on Tuesday against profiteers. According to detail, staff of district administration, Quetta under the supervision of Atta-ul-Munhem, Assistant Commissioner, Quetta city arrested four butchers and sealed ten shops in a crackdown conducted by the district administration Quetta under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner, Quetta city, Atta-ul-Munhim at Kasi Road, Patel Road and Joint Road areas of Quetta against shopkeepers defying price control list of daily commodities issued by the district administration, Quetta. Talking to media, including PPI, Atta-ul-Munhem, Assistant Commissioner, Quetta city said district administration was utilising all available resources to implement price list of daily commodities, adding that operations against profiteers and encroachments was being conducted on daily basis. Separately, Kaleemullah Khan, member, Chief Minister's Inspection Team (C.M.I.T.), Balochistan paid a visit to "Susta Atta Sale Points" set up by provincial food department in different areas of Quetta to provide floor to the citizens at subsidised rate. According to detail, member of C.M.I.T., Balochistan, Kaleemullah visited "Susta Atta Sale Points" set up in different areas of Quetta. On the occasion, Assistant Commissioner, Quetta city, Atta-ul-Munhim and Deputy Director (Admin.), Food Department, Jabir Baloch were also present. Moreover, Kaleemullah Khan, member CMIT also visited PR centre, Sariab Road and different flour mills.

PDM sacrificed politics for nation's sake: Hamdullah

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Pakistan Democratic Movement central spokesman and former JUI-F senator Hafiz Hamdullah has said the coalition partners had sacrificed their parties' politics for the sake of the country. He was addressing an 'Azme Inqilab conference' organized by the Jamiat Talba Islam (JTI), a students' wing of the JUI-F at Chakdara here the other day. The students from both the contemporary and religious institutions attended the conference. The Timergara tehsil chairman Mufti Irfanudin, JTI district president Hafiz Israrullah Mazhari, tehsil convener Wahid Zaman, Maulana Imran Haqqani and others also spoke on the occasion.

"We wanted to dissolve assemblies soon after ousting Imran Khan," Hafiz Hamdullah said, adding the former premier had ruined everything in the country, so the PDM decided to first steer the country out of those crises. The PDM leader said the PTI chief Imran Khan had destroyed the country during his three and a half years' term. He said the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Election

Commission of Pakistan had declared him [Imran Khan] a certified dishonest and thief. He said that now had no right to rule over the country. The JUI former senator said that Imran Khan was responsible for the current inflation and economic instability as he had broken a deal made with the IMF just days before his ousting.

Condemning the PTI leadership, he said the new generation was being misled through attractive slogans and music concerts. He said the Islamic civilization was being targeted and the actual target was the religion. He asked the students to equip themselves with the golden teachings of Islam as it was the religion of morality, honesty, love, peace and prosperity. He said that it was the PDM that raised a voice for the parliament's supremacy and rule of law in the country. He said the PDM was rebuilding and rehabilitating the old Pakistan damaged by Imran Khan and the JUI-F would play its role on the forefront. The JUI leader also lauded the efforts of the JTI workers and asked them to convey the party message to every nook and corner of the country.

Robbers' gang busted:

The Lower Dir police claimed to have arrested a five-member robber gang and recovered 12 stolen motorcycles, a buffalo and Rs 60,000 cash from their possession. Briefing local journalists at Chakdara here the other day the district police officer Ikramullah Khan said that an expert police team comprised of SP investigation Mushtaq Khan, DSP Adenzai Pervez Khan, SHO Chakdara Muhibullah and investigation officer Akbar Shah through modern technology traced the gang involved in stealing motorcycles and cattle heeds from different areas of Adenzai.

The DPO said that five member of the gang including Siab Khan of Shamlat Chakdara, Zahirullah and Ziadullah of Chinar Koto Batkhela, Shehzad of Ghawar Kalay Dargai and Zameer of Ramora Chakdara were arrested from different locations. He said that a total of 12 motorcycles, one buffalo along with a calf and Rs 60,000 were recovered from their possession. The DPO said the accused had confessed their crime to police. The hand-cuffed and head-covered accused were also presented to the media.

Access to Information sought in true spirit

F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: The federal and provincial government has been asked to implement Access to Information laws with true spirit and remove obstacles in this regard to promote budget transparency and accountability in the country.

The seminar was arranged by the citizens' network for budget accountability (CNBA) with support of the community development organisation and centre for peace and development initiatives (CPDI) in Lakki Marwat city on Tuesday. The speakers included CDO representative Inayatullah Khan, advocate Zafrullah Khan and a local body member Eng Latifullah Khan.

Highlighting the state of budget transparency in Pakistan, the speakers said that the CPDI in a recent report had pointed out shortcomings in the budgeting process both at federal and provincial level. "The budget proposals should be widely discussed with civic groups, government agencies and other stakeholders

before being passed from the legislature", they maintained.

They underlined the need for giving a legal protection to the citizens' participation in the budgeting process, saying that people's participation at different stages will help to ensure transparency in the budget making process. They said that the role of MPs should be enhanced in budget formulation and its implementation.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government ranked first with 93 points in the comprehensiveness of budget document and citizens' participation", said Inayatullah Khan referring to the CPDI report, adding that the performance of other governments was also appreciable in this regard as the budget documents meet international standard of functional and economical classification.

He also called for addressing the issues relating to citizens' participation in budgeting, legislature oversight and duration of debate on budget in the parliament and equitable budgeting. Latifullah, who is a

neighbourhood council's chairman from Lakki city, appreciated the role of CPDI in creating awareness among people about the budget making process.

"Many local government representatives are unaware about their functions and responsibilities with regard to budget making and there is the need to arrange training sessions for them", he said, regretting that the provincial government has clipped the wings of local bodies' members making them subordinate to a low ranking secretaries of village and neighbourhood councils.

Speakers shed light on the dismal performance of the government with regard to implementation of RTI laws in public bodies and lamented that the revised budget estimates were not shared with concerned stakeholders on time rather those were presented in the parliament during the budget approval process. They urged that a transparent and open budget policy should be formulated based on providing maximum information to the general public about the budgeting process.

JI protests against rigging in LG polls

F.P. Report

BUNER: The district chapter of Jamaat Islami activists here at press club staged protest demonstration against alleged rigging in Karachi local bodies polling, on Tuesday.

JI blamed Pakistan People's party (PPP) and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) hands in glove and demanded Hafiz Naem as Mire Karachi otherwise threatened of country wide protest. The protestors were led by district chapter Amir Mohammad Haleem Bacha and general secretary Aalam Khan.

The protestors were also taken out protest procession from press club to Daggar Chowk and they blocked the road for traffic. The protestors were carried party flags and banners inscribed with slogans against the PPP and ECP. The protestors were also charged against the two for alleged involvement in the elections rigging and stealing Jamaat mandate and barring Hafiz Naem from becoming mayor of Karachi.

JI Buner Emir Mohammad Haleem Bacha, general secretary Aalam Khan, ex member district council Gul Mohammad Khan, JTA Muhibullah, IJT Sawi, IY Israr Ahmed Advocate, SMC Imadudeen, Mandanr Emir Basher Ahmed and many others. The speakers

held PPP government the ECP responsible for stealing and snatching JI mandate in Karachi polls and sent a message it would be tolerated and asked the ECP and Sindh government to announce true mandate otherwise be ready to face the music.

JI workers take to street in Dir: Hundreds of Jamaat-i-Islami workers on the call of their central chief Sirajul Haq on Tuesday came on the roads against what they called changes in the results of Karachi local bodies' polls. Led by the JI district chief Izazul Mulk Afkari the workers marched on the road from Balambat and gathered at the Gorgorai Chowk where the protestors blocked the road for some time.

Carrying banners and placards the protestors chanted slogans against the Sindh government and its returning officers. Speaking on the occasion Izazul Mulk, district general secretary engineer Yaqub ur Rehman, former MPA Saeed Gul, president Anjuman Tajiran Timergara Haji Anwarud Din, tehsil chief Sher Bahadar, advocate Imranudin Din and others alleged the Sindh government had deliberately delayed the LG polls results in Karachi for over 30 hours.

They said the JI Karachi chief Hafiz Naem ur Rehman had signed and consolidated results of win-

ning more than 94 union councils but his victory was being replaced by increasing the number of PPP seats. The speakers said the people of Karachi had rejected the PPP politics, so it should admit its defeat. The speakers said the JI had emerged as the largest party in the polls but the results had been plundered. They also thanked the people of Karachi for trusting in the JI and said the expected mayor Hafiz Naem ur Rehman would not disappoint them. They said that a delay of 30 hours in compiling the results raised questions.

Two injured in separate road mishaps F.P. Report

SWABI: Two including a child received injuries in separate road accidents that happened here on Tuesday. According to Rescue 1122, the first accident took place near Charbagh area when a loader rickshaw collided with a motorcycle. As a result, a bike rider identified as Ataulah 17 got injured.

In another accident, a five-year child Yousaf was hit by a tractor trolley near Shevha Kolalo area. Both the injured were provided first aid and shifted to nearby hospital by the rescue staff.



TIMERGARA: JUI-F leader Hafiz Hamdullah addressing the 'Azme Inqilab conference' organized by Jamiat Talba Islam.

Balochistan CM hails Levies Force performance

F.P. Report

QUETTA (PPI): Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo, has said that the performance of Balochistan Levies Force (BLF) remained satisfactory during natural calamities and maintaining law and order situation.

In a tweet on his Twitter account on Tuesday on the eve of "Passing out parade of Balochistan Levies Force", he said that besides equipping it with sophisticated weapons, BLF was being modernised, adding that special training regarding "Quick Response", "Anti-Terrorism", "CPEC Wing", IT Wing and "Behavioural Training" would be imparted upon the jawans of Balochistan Levies Force.

He said the imparted trainings would help BLF strengthen and more effective force. Felicitating the newly passed out jawans of BLF, Bizenjo hoped that newly passed out jawans would bring sky high fame to the province and the country through their performance.

District bar elects new cabinet

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: Malik Waqaz Raza Awan and Muzamal Aziz Gujjar elected as President and General Secretary of District Bar Hafizabad respectively. According to details, Asim Nazir Bhatti elected vice president, Rana Shafaqat Hussain joint secretary, Sarfraz Ahmad Khari Finance Secretary while Rubina Kousar elected library secretary of the bar in annual elections.

5-day anti-polio campaign kicks-off: 5-day anti-polio campaign has been launched in the district, today. Deputy Commissioner Touqeer Ilyas Cheema has inaugurated the campaign to administer drops of polio vaccine to children at DHQ hospital Hafizabad. CEO Health Dr. Nayyer Imran Haider, MS Dr. Asad Ikram, AMS Dr. Jahanzaib, DDHO Dr. Zaheer Ahmad were also present on the occasion.

While talking to journalists, DC said that every individual should play his national and key role for administering anti-polio vaccine to hundred percent children upto five-years-old to save children from crippling disease of polio. He urged the parents to cooperate anti-polio teams of health department for vaccination of their beloved children so that they could remain safe from everlasting disability.

DC also called upon ulema, teachers, traders, civil society and media to play their pivotal role for making the anti-polio campaign successful and persuading parents to get administer drops of polio vaccine to their children so that our country could get rid of this fatal disease;

CEO Health Dr. Nayyer Imran Haider informed the mediamen that District Health Authority has constituted 998 anti-polio teams for giving polio drops to more than 232000 children below five-year-old in the district whereas these teams are visiting door to door for administering drops of polio vaccine while polio teams are also giving polio drops to children at Railway Station, bus and wagon stands, schools and shopping centres.

Police arrest six accused of robbery, murder

F.P. Report

PARACHINAR: District Kurrum police here on Tuesday claimed to have arrested six suspects allegedly involved in robbery and murder cases.

Addressing a press conference, DSP Headquarters Azmat Bangash informed that police received reports about robbery in Committee Colony, Upper Kurrum and killing of a man identified as Gulzar Hussain in Stadium Colony on January 13.

Acting on the reports, the police teams conducted investigations in scientific ways and identified the six suspects allegedly involved

in both the cases. Police also recovered one Kalashnikov and looted gold ornaments including a necklace, three pairs of earrings, three bangles, and eight rings from the possessions of the arrested accused. He said one of the arrested accused was involved in killing of Gulzar Hussain in Stadium Colony over a dispute, adding the police recovered the weapon used in the crime.

Anti polio campaign continues: The anti-polio campaign continued in various areas of Kurrum tribal district for second day amid strict security arrangements. According to details,

District Police Officer Kurram, Abdus Samad Khan has directed strict security measures for ongoing anti polio campaign.

The concerned authorities have been directed to provide foolproof security to anti polio staff and provide necessary assistance and help to them. He also directed enhancing security on egress and ingress points of district Kurram besides increasing monitoring of Basic Health Units. DPO said that polio vaccination teams should refrain from visiting any area without adequate security and added that police is alert for protection and security of vaccinations staff.

5-day anti-polio campaign launched in Chitral

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: Anti-polio campaign has been started in lower Chitral. The campaign will be continue for three days while there will be two days of catch-up in which polio drops will be administered to those children who are left behind during the three-days campaign.

Health department officials, LHW, walk on snowy roads door to door to administer polio drops to children under the age of five, while they also giving them vitamin A capsules to prevent the children from diseases District According to District Health Officer Dr. Fayaz Rumi and EPI Co-ordinator Dr. Farman Nizar, their target in this campaign will be to administer polio drops to 45,676 children while 4,720 children will not be administered polio drops this time because they live in such places where All roads are closed due to heavy snowfall.

In Lower Chitral, 25 fixed centres has been arranged where health staff will also administer polio

drops to the children. Likewise, 308 mobile teams are participating in this campaign, which will go door-to-door to administer polio drops to children. Polio drops will also be administered at 14 transit points, where people coming from down districts at bus, taxi stand, etc. That means children under five years of age will be administered polio drops at these transit points along with passengers coming from outside.

Children staying in hotels, bases, markets within Chitral city will be vaccinated against polio. 8 roaming teams have been formed for these purposes to administer drops. This campaign will be continue till January 20.

Dr. Ziaullah Khan, District Coordinator of LHW Program along with his team visited the snow-covered areas of Shughur, Seewakht etc. and after reviewing the polio campaign he expressed his satisfaction. He also urged the parents to give two drops of polio to their children under five years of age and protect them from lifelong disability.

ability.

Talking to our correspondent on this occasion, the women of the area and the lady health workers working in the polio campaign also said that despite the severe cold, they leave their houses and go door to door to give drops to the children, so parents should also cooperate with these staff. They should cooperate with the polio team and give polio drops to their children.

They said that by not getting these drops, their children may be crippled for the rest of their lives, which will create a big problem for girls, so in every polio campaign, they must give two polio drops to their children so as to avoid their beloved children will be not disabled and Avoid being a burden on others.

The DHO gave a message on this occasion that in case the polio team does not reach an area, then they must report it to his office so that another team can be arranged for that area and Chitral, which is a polio-free district. This standard can be maintained.

Wheat quota increases to 212 metric ton

F.P. Report

BANNU: The provincial government has increased the daily wheat quota from 160 metric ton to 212 metric ton in Bannu district to ensure provision of subsidized flour to everyone.

An official of the district administration said on Tuesday that Deputy Commissioner Aun Haidar Gondal had requested the higher authorities of the provincial government to increase the wheat quota so as to overcome the shortage of flour in the southern

district. "After enhancement in daily quota the local flour mills will get additional wheat for grinding", he maintained, adding that the flour mills will now produce 7420 bags instead of 5600 bags and the commodity will be available in abundance for the citizens.

The official said that the administration had also set up a complaint cell to receive citizens' complaints about shortage or unavailability of cheap flour at the outlets of notified dealers. He said that the flour mills

were being inspected on a daily basis to check grinding of government wheat and quality of flour produced there.

"Along with displaying the list of notified dealers at prominent places in every tehsil the administration has also directed the dealers to collect subsidized flour from their respective flour mills up to 10:30 AM and ensure provision of the commodity to the citizens in their respective village and neighbourhood councils the same day", he added.

Lawyers offer Latif Lala funeral in absentia in Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The lawyers on Tuesday boycotted courts' proceedings and staged a protest rally against the killing of the former chairman supreme court bar association Abdul Latif Afridi. The protesting lawyers along with the civil society members and local journalists also offered the funeral prayer of Mr Afridi in absentia at the Timergara Gorgorai Chowk.

Speaking on the occasion the district bar former presi-

dent Syed Bahadar, Shah Faisal, general secretary Asadullah, Sardar Javed Tajik, Hameedur Rehman and others strongly condemned the killing of Latif Lala and demanded the formation of a judicial commission to probe into the security lapse.

The speakers paid rich tributes to the deceased lawyers' leader and said his vacuum would not be filled soon. They termed his loss a great tragedy for the legal fraternity and said the deceased worked as an asso-

ciation and mentor for the young lawyers. They said that the deceased would be remembered in the political history of the country as a legend.

M. Phil scholar: Mr Ayaz Ahmad, an M.Phil scholar in the department of education, university of Malakand on Tuesday successfully defended his thesis under the supervision of Dr Munir Khan and Dr Itbar Khan. The external supervisor of the scholar was Dr Allah Noor from the Gomal University D.I Khan.



West mulls sending German Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine

BERLIN (Reuters): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is under pressure to approve an increase in international military support for Kyiv by allowing the export of Leopard 2 battle tanks to Ukraine. Germany has resisted such a move so far, saying Western tanks should only be supplied to Ukraine if there is agreement among Kyiv's main allies, particularly the United States.

Western officials want to strike a balance between ensuring Ukraine can defend itself and not supplying arms that could encourage Kyiv to make attacks on Russia or draw NATO into conflict with Moscow. Here are some facts about the Leopard 2 and the debate over whether to deploy it in Ukraine. The re-export of Leopards requires German government approval, so other countries with such tanks could not send them to Ukraine without it.

Some German officials have signalled a softening of their view ahead of a meeting of Ukraine's allies in Ramstein in Germany where governments will announce their latest pledges of military support for Kyiv. Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck, whose Economy Ministry is responsible for approving defence exports, said Berlin should not stand in the way of countries that want to send Leopards to Ukraine. That would give the green light to countries such as Poland, which has said it wants to take such a step as part of a coalition. Scholz has yet to say whether he shares Habeck's view or would allow Germany to send some of its own Leopards to Ukraine.

Western officials are anxious to avoid being dragged more directly into the war. While Moscow has condemned escalations in arms supplies for Ukraine, this has not led to any military consequences for the West. That has made governments more open to the idea of sending tanks. Until now, Ukraine has relied primarily on Soviet-era T-72 tank variants.

Some Western officials have flagged another concern - that Russia, or even China, might get its hands on advanced Western weaponry deployed in Ukraine, enabling Moscow or Beijing to steal Western military technology. The tank is regarded as one of the West's best. German defence company Krauss-Maffei

Wegmann has built more than 3,500 Leopard 2 tanks since beginning production in 1978.

The tank weighs more than 60 tons, has a 120mm smoothbore gun and can hit targets at a distance of up to five km. Some 20 nations operate the Leopard 2. This means several nations could each chip in some of their tanks to support Ukraine. This would also make it easier for Ukraine to manage maintenance and crew training. Nations operating the Leopard include Canada, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

The Leopard 2 is one of the most widely used Western tanks. But in general, three decades after the end of the Cold War, tanks and other heavy weapons are in scarce supply in most of the West. Many countries drastically reduced their armies after the fall of communism. Germany has about 350 Leopard 2 tanks today, compared to some 4,000 battle main tanks at the height of the Cold War. German military expert Carl Schulze says. At the same time, it is all but impossible to buy a large amount of Leopard 2 tanks quickly.

Germany's defence industry is banned by law from producing them for stock-keeping. Countries ordering new tanks need to be prepared to wait two to three years for delivery. Even if production were ramped up, experts say it could take at least two years for the first new tanks to leave the factory. The United States operates thousands of M1 Abrams tanks built by General Dynamics but they are seen as unsuitable for Ukraine as they are driven by gas turbine engines.

"The kerosene consumption of the Abrams is so high that Ukraine does not stand a chance of operating it in the current war-time supply situation," Schulze says. He added that, while the Abrams could also be driven with diesel, this would not bring down consumption to an acceptable level. The Leopard 2 runs on a more economical engine that burns diesel, which is also easier to obtain than kerosene. Britain is considering supplying some of its Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine, according to media reports. France operates Leclerc tanks. It has not said whether it would be willing to give some to Ukraine.

Hong Kong judge defends judiciary

HONG KONG (Reuters): Hong Kong's top judge defended the independence of the judiciary in the Chinese-ruled territory amid international and local criticism of deteriorating legal freedoms since a national security law was introduced in 2020. Chief Justice Andrew Cheung said judges in the Asian financial hub could only rule according to the laws before them, had avoided political and personal views clouding their judgments and should ignore criticism that they hadn't.

"Whether as designated judges under the Hong Kong National Security Law or not, they have all faithfully applied the law to the best of their ability, in accordance with the evidence presented before them," Cheung said. His remarks came at ceremony to formally open the legal year - a period set to see on-going international scrutiny as significant national security cases move up through the courts he oversees.

Hong Kong and Chinese government officials have repeatedly said the national security law, which Beijing imposed in June 2020, was needed to restore stability after months of sometimes-

violent anti-government, pro-democracy protests rocked the city in 2019. Some diplomats, legal scholars and businesspeople are watching developments closely, seeing judicial independence and the rule of law as the bedrock supporting the freedoms and capitalist way of life Hong Kong was promised when Britain handed over its colony to China in 1997.

Critics say that the security law has put those freedoms at risk with tough bail provisions and expanded police powers under a legal regime that punishes subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces with up to life imprisonment. It also handed the city's leader the power to select judges for the roster that handles national security cases.

"Our court is very independent in terms of exercising our judicial rights, we handle it very solemnly," Cheung told a press conference after the event. In his speech, he outlined longstanding limitations on Hong Kong's courts, saying they did not make the laws and the judges could not usurp judicial powers under the Chinese constitution and "Basic Law" mini-constitution that governs the

city's relationship with mainland China. While Hong Kong people's fundamental rights must be given a "generous interpretation" by local judges, most were not absolute, he added.

The Basic Law grants Beijing the final power of interpretation, which it used in late December to rule that Hong Kong's chief executive had the power to bar foreign lawyers from national security cases. The Hong Kong government asked for the interpretation in November after local courts repeatedly blocked prosecution attempts to stop British lawyer Timothy Owen from defending media tycoon Jimmy Lai in a national security trial.

Lai, 75, is the founder of now shut pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily and one of the most prominent Hong Kong critics of China's Communist Party leadership. He was sentenced last month to five years and nine months in prison after being convicted on two counts of fraud for covering up the operations of a private company at the headquarters of the newspaper, in what was ruled a breach of its land lease. He had denied the charges.

US drug trial opens for Mexico ex-security head

MEXICO CITY (AP): The man who was once Mexico's top security official and in charge of fighting the drug cartels goes on trial Tuesday on charges he accepted millions of dollars in bribes in exchange for helping the powerful Sinaloa Cartel move drugs and its members avoid capture. Genaro García Luna was best known as the mumbler, tough-looking former security secretary under ex-President Felipe Calderón who spearheaded the bloody war on cartels between 2006 and 2012.

United States prosecutors allege he was so brazen he accepted tens of millions of dollars, often stuffed in briefcases. The evidence against him includes pay stubs, though whether they were from official jobs, private sector consultancy, cartel payments or other bribes is unclear.

They say he continued to live off his ill-gotten proceeds even after he moved to the United States, where

he was arrested in 2019, though the defense says he was a legitimate businessman. Jury selection was scheduled to begin Tuesday.

In the end, the case could reveal the inner workings of how Mexican cartels have been able to operate so openly for so long: by bribing Mexican police and military right up to the top ranks.

"For decades, Mexico's political elite, of all parties, has sought by any means to have security ministers, generals, police commanders, interior secretaries and high-ranking officials tried and imprisoned in Mexico ... all that to avoid them giving information on the ties between the drug cartels and politicians," said Mexican security analyst David Saucedo. "García Luna's trial in the United States breaks with that pattern."

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has welcomed the trial expected to cast light

on corruption in the administration of Calderón, who the president accuses of having robbed him of the presidency in 2006. But López Obrador himself fought tooth and nail to avoid a US trial of former defense secretary Gen. Salvador Cienfuegos on similar charges in 2020, at one point threatening to kick DEA agents out of Mexico unless the general was returned, which he was.

The trial begins just days after US President Joe Biden met with López Obrador in Mexico City. The two governments pledged continued cooperation against the drug cartels, especially against the scourge of the synthetic opioid fentanyl, which contributed to more than 107,000 drug overdose deaths in the US in 2021. López Obrador scrapped the civilian federal police force that García Luna once led and put the military in charge of much of the country's security.

Romania extradites suspected leader to US

BUCHAREST (Reuters): Romania has extradited the suspected leader of the country's Hell's Angels chapter to the United States to face charges of drug trafficking, money laundering and complicity in attempted murder, police said. Romanian media identified the man as the biker club's country branch leader, Marius Lazar, who is wanted for being a member of an international group of drug traffickers and for negotiating the attempted killing of two rivals.

Lazar, 49, was arrested in Bucharest in December. He was met by US Marshals with face coverings as he was led to a plane, according to a Reuters witness. "The extradition request was approved in January 2023, and the Romanian citizen will be transferred to the USA, where he will be tried for the acts he is accused of," police, who did not identify the individual, said. Romanian police began investigating Hell's Angels members in 2020, they said, working with US Marshals and the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

African activists cast doubt

MOMBASA (AP): Climate activists in Africa are expressing anger toward the United Nations climate agency, accusing it of allowing corporations and individuals with dubious climate credentials to greenwash their polluting activities by participating in its annual climate conference.

The criticism follows announcement that oil executive Sultan al-Jaber will lead the next round of UN climate talks, which will be held in the United Arab Emirates beginning in late November. The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance termed the move as the "lowest moment" for the UN agency. The UN's climate body hasn't commented on the appointment. Activists say they are increasingly concerned about oil and gas representatives thwarting the conference, where countries try and agree on ways to cut planet-warming activities. An analysis of the provisional list of last year's conference participants found 636 people linked to fossil fuel companies were set to attend, a 25% increase from 2021.

Campaign groups on the continent are calling on blocs of climate vulnerable nations to reject any move by the UAE that gives fossil fuel actors control of global climate discussions. "This is the textbook definition of impunity and conflict of interest," Mithika Mwenda, PACJA's executive director said in statement on al-Jaber, where he also called for the president-designate to step down. "It is hard to see al-Jaber leading objective, science-backed negotiations in the interest of the most vulnerable."

Mwenda added that he feared the talks would be taken over "by vicious fossil companies whose ill-intentions are to derail the transition" to clean energy. Memory Kachambwa, the executive director of the African Women Development and Communication Network called al-Jaber's appointment "an insult to the collective wisdom of everyone committed to addressing the climate crisis."

Several other climate and environmental groups have expressed concern over the announcement while others welcomed the move. US climate envoy John Kerry told The Associated Press that al-Jaber was a "terrific choice" for the role as he understands the need to transition to clean energy. Activists have also raised concerns about the lack of climate cash being delivered to the continent. Campaigners note that while fossil fuel subsidies and investments in oil and gas are growing in Africa, funding for adapting to climate change and transitioning to renewable energy is still lacking. Last year, nations agreed that countries vulnerable to climate change should receive money from developed countries who are most responsible for burning up the planet.

China's Lunar New Year travel to boost economy after Covid crunch

SHANGHAI (Reuters): Urban workers crowded train stations across China's largest cities as travel for Lunar New Year holidays hit high gear, an early sign of economic recovery as officials confirmed a plunge due to COVID-19 curbs. The world's second-largest economy slowed sharply in the fourth quarter, data showed, dragging 2022 growth down to one its worst performances in nearly half a century after three years of COVID restrictions and lockdowns.

With mass travel for the Lunar New Year possible for the first time in nearly three years after the relaxing of some of the world's tightest COVID curbs, the economy stands to gain from hundreds of thousands of people a day spending more as they return to China's hinterland. While many analysts say a return to economic normality will be gradual as the impact of COVID weakens, some see the Lunar New Year as a welcome early consumption boost.

"Peak infections passed in major cities in January, and with the Spring Festival coming, tourism is back, and the signs of a recovery in consumption are obvious," said Nie Wen, a Shanghai-based economist at the investment firm Hwabao Trust. But with so many people on the move, health experts fear a deepening of the COVID outbreak, leaving the elderly in rural villages particularly vulnerable. Despite authorities confirming a huge increase in deaths - announcing that nearly 60,000 people with COVID had died in hospitals between Dec. 8 and Jan. 12 - World Health Organization (WHO) officials are seeking more accounting of death rates. The WHO earlier welcomed announcement after last week warning that China was heavily under-reporting deaths from the virus.

Reuters reported on Tuesday that doctors in both public and private hospitals were being actively discouraged from attributing deaths to COVID. Specifically, the UN agency wants information on so-called excess mortality - the number of all deaths beyond the norm during a crisis, the WHO said in a statement.



"This is especially important during periods of surges when the health system is severely constrained," it said. The WHO added that it would continue working with China to provide advice and support, but had not yet fixed another formal meeting with Chinese officials after WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus spoke with Ma Xiaowei, director of China's National Health Commission, at the weekend. The Ministry of Transport has estimated the rush will see a total of 2.1 billion passenger trips nationwide between Jan. 7 and Feb. 15 as many city dwellers make the most of their first chance for Lunar New Year trips to see extended family in home regions since the pandemic began.

Chinese officials jettisoned Beijing's "zero COVID" policy - an approach previously championed by ruling Communist Party leader Xi Jinping - in early December, letting the virus run unchecked across its population of 1.4 billion people. Those stringent policies have further damaged China's demographic outlook, now at the start of a historic decline with government figures released on Tuesday showing the population fell for the first time in six decades.

State media reported that some 390,000 passengers were expected to travel from Shanghai train stations on Tuesday alone for what is known as the Spring Festival holiday - seen as the world's largest annual mass migration before COVID. As travellers moved through stations in Shanghai, China's largest city, some expressed optimism despite the risks. "I am not worried about the virus. Because we are young, our immunity is okay," 37-year-old migrant worker Zhou Ning told Reuters outside the Shanghai Railway Station as he prepared to head back to his home area in Bazhong in the northeastern province of Sichuan. "Back in my hometown, there are many people who have tested positive, but I am not worried about it." On a train leaving Shanghai, fellow migrant worker Feng Hongwei, aged 21, said he was "so happy, so excited" as he began a trek home to Puyang, Henan. "I haven't seen my parents in two years". The holiday season has also sparked a revival in domestic air travel with more than 70,000 flights across China between Jan. 7-13, according to industry data reported by Shanghai Securities News. That is equivalent to more than 80% of the levels seen before the pandemic.

Sri Lanka urged to free student activist held over protests

COLOMBO (AP): Human rights groups urged Sri Lanka to release a prominent student activist who was arrested five months ago during anti-government protests triggered by the country's worst economic crisis and has been held without charges under harsh anti-terrorism laws. Wasantha Mudalige was expected to appear in court on Tuesday for a bail hearing.

Seven human rights groups, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, said that under the powerful Prevention of Terrorism Act, which has been used since 1979, courts routinely deny bail if it's opposed by the attorney general. Mudalige is the convener of the Inter-University Students' Federation and was involved in monthslong anti-government demonstrations last year. The protesters demanded wide-ranging reforms to resolve the economic crisis that caused shortages of essential goods, fuel and medicine after Sri Lanka default-

ed on its massive debt. The protests culminated in the flight and resignation of then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after thousands of people stormed his residence in July. His successor, Ranil Wickremesinghe, initiated talks with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout package contingent on reforms and debt restructuring. Wickremesinghe's government also gave sweeping powers to the authorities to crack down on the protests, arresting scores of activists.

Rights groups say the military has sought to curtail protests through intimidation, surveillance and arbitrary arrests since Wickremesinghe took office in July. Many of those detained have been released on bail, but the rights group say authorities had used extraordinary powers to keep Mudalige in detention despite having produced no evidence of his involvement in terrorism. The groups said in a statement that for much of the time, Mudalige has been

held in "solitary confinement and poor conditions, which can violate the prohibition on torture or other ill-treatment under international human rights law."

Mudalige was also arrested and jailed for more than three months in 2021, after protesting for the right to free education. For months, opposition lawmakers, rights and student activists have been demanding the release of Mudalige and an end to the government crackdown on demonstrations linked to the economic crisis. Government spokesmen did not immediately return a call seeking comment on Mudalige.

The rights groups also urged the government to repeal the anti-terror law, which allows for up to a year of detention without charge on the orders of the defense minister, a position currently held by Wickremesinghe. In March, the government introduced some reforms to the anti-terror law. However, opposition and rights groups called them cosmetic and

said the law still allows the detention of suspects without warrants and the use of confessions obtained through torture. They say the law, introduced during the country's civil war in 1979, has been widely abused, causing a large number of innocent people to spend years in prison without trial.

Wickremesinghe was elected by Parliament to complete Rajapaksa's term, which ends in 2024. He is unpopular because he is supported by lawmakers who are still backed by the Rajapaksa family, which ruled Sri Lanka for most of the past two decades. Many accuse Wickremesinghe of protecting the Rajapaksas, who are widely blamed for corruption and misrule that led to the crisis. Sri Lanka is effectively bankrupt and has suspended repayment of nearly \$7 billion in foreign debt due this year pending the outcome of talks with the IMF. The country's total foreign debt exceeds \$51 billion, of which \$28 billion has to be repaid by 2027.

China's first population drop in six decades sounds alarm on demographic crisis

BEIJING/HONG KONG (Reuters): China's population fell last year for the first time in six decades, a historic turn that is expected to mark the start of a long period of decline in its citizen numbers with profound implications for its economy and the world. The country's National Bureau of Statistics reported a drop of roughly 850,000 people for a population of 1.41175 billion in 2022, marking the first decline since 1961, the last year of China's Great Famine.

That possibly makes India the world's most populous nation. UN experts predicted last year India would have a population of 1.412 billion in 2022 though they did not expect the South Asian nation to overtake China until this year. India, however, only collects population figures every 10 years and its latest census, originally scheduled for 2021, has been delayed due to the pandemic.

Long-term, UN experts see China's population shrinking by 109 million by 2050, more than triple the decline of their previous forecast in 2019. That's caused domestic demographers to lament that China will get old before it gets rich, slowing the economy as revenues drop and gov-

ernment debt increases due to soaring health and welfare costs. "China's demographic and economic outlook is much bleaker than expected. China will have to adjust its social, economic, defense and foreign policies," said demographer Yi Fuxian. He added that the country's shrinking labour force and downturn in manufacturing heft would further exacerbate high prices and high inflation in the United States and Europe. "Economic growth will have to depend more on productivity growth," added Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management.

Kang Yi, head of the national statistics bureau, dismissed concerns about the population decline, telling reporters that "overall labour supply still exceeds demand". China's birth rate last year was just 6.77 births per 1,000 people, down from a rate of 7.52 births in 2021 and marking the lowest birth rate on record. The number of Chinese women of child-bearing age, which the government defines as aged 25 to 35, fell by about 4 million, Kang said.

The death rate, the highest since 1974 during the Cultural Revolution, was 7.37 deaths per 1,000 people,

which compares with a rate of 7.18 deaths in 2021. Much of the demographic downturn is the result of China's one-child policy imposed between 1980 and 2015 as well as sky-high education costs that have put many Chinese off having more than one child or even having any at all. The one-child policy and a traditional preference for boys have also created a deep gender imbalance. The latest data shows China with around 722 million males compared to 690 million females. The imbalance, which is more pronounced in rural areas, has led to fewer families being formed in recent years.

The data was the top trending topic on Chinese social media after the figures were released on Tuesday. One hashtag, "#Is it really important to have offspring?" had hundreds of millions of hits. "The fundamental reason why women do not want to have children lies not in themselves, but in the failure of society and men to take up the responsibility of raising children. For women who give birth this leads to a serious decline in their quality of life and spiritual life," posted one netizen with the username Joyful Ned.

Chinese netizens have

also previously complained about pressure on newlyweds to have offspring as soon as possible, reporting regular calls from their local government asking when they can expect a pregnancy. China's stringent zero-COVID policies that were in place for three years have caused further damage to the country's demographic outlook, population experts have said. Local governments have since 2021 rolled out measures to encourage people to have more babies, including tax deductions, longer maternity leave and housing subsidies. President Xi Jinping also said in October the government would enact further supportive policies.

The measures so far, however, have done little to arrest the long-term trend. Online searches for baby strollers on China's Baidu search engine dropped 17% in 2022 and are down 41% since 2018, while searches for baby bottles are down more than a third since 2018. In contrast, searches for elderly care homes surged eight-fold last year. The reverse is playing out in India, where Google Trends shows a 15% year-on-year increase in searches for baby bottles in 2022, while se.

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Philippines deposits and judicial activism

ACCORDING to the media, the Philippine Supreme Court has declared a tri-party agreement unconstitutional, which allowed the Philippines government to start a joint venture along with China and Vietnam to collectively explore oil and gas in the disputed South China Sea. According to the details, 12 adjudicators out of 15 member jury stalled the Joint Marine Seismic operation in the disputed waterway because the charter specifies that the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the state., whereas the agreement authorizes Chinese and Vietnamese firms exploration rights inside the Philippines territory.

Adjudicators, military generals, sheriffs, and Professors are all government servants and are always being recruited for the sole purpose of law appraisal, combat drills, security, and literacy purposes thus they are usually not familiar with politics, the tact of statesmanship, and governance. Whenever public servants tried to take over the country they abused the law, ruined the nation, and created legal, economic, and social issues in the country.

Historically, the Philippines, China, and Vietnam had a decades-long territorial dispute in the South China Sea, and all three nations claim their possession rights over a certain area. As there was no way out for the resolution of the dispute, the three neighbors decided to arrange a joint seismic survey of the area and jointly realize the economic prospects of the minerals hidden under the disputed sea. Meanwhile, anti-accord elements in the Philippines approached the court and argued that the country's constitution demands that oil exploration in Philippine waters should be undertaken by Filipino citizens or corporations that are at least 60% owned by Filipinos. The Philippines government was struggling to overcome the disastrous effects of skyrocketing inflation and the global energy crisis through friendly neighborliness and trade diplomacy, however, public servants vehemently blocked this deal and the court ordered the reverse of all arrangements until a resolution of the issue.

Apparently, Judges and counsels always relayed on visible pieces of evidence, and verbal statements and usually fail to gauge the real motives of the crooks therefore they work within the jurisdictions set by the legislature. Currently, Filipino judges steered foreign policy instead of adjudication and its repercussions will be felt by the nation in the coming years.

The agenda of universal health coverage

PRO-PUBLIC governments always make endeavors to provide essential health services to their citizens in an equitable manner. Being a security state and resource-deficient nation, no Pakistani government gave due importance to public health and well-being while the health budget never accede 2 percent of the GDP throughout history.

Realistically, Universal Health Coverage was the only way to guarantee the socioeconomic well-being of the whole nation in the context of health. The provision of essential health coverage had been an important point of the political manifesto of almost all political parties, however, due to a lack of resources and visionary leadership, state-owned universal health coverage has been a mere slogan of successive governments in the country. Pakistan has joined the Universal Health Coverage 2030 Global Compact in 2018 as a part of the Country's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Realistically, Pakistan is a country where health spending out space economic growth and security considerations of the Strategists, while the ratio of diseases and demand for improved health grows every passing day.

The nation has suffered immensely due to the politically motivated policies of its rulers in the past decades. Currently, the global community is ready to provide all technical and advisory support to Pakistan to comprehend the Country's goals regarding Universal Health Coverage, thus the political leadership must set its priority to provide relief to the public amid dire health exigencies and financial constraints.

THE Asia-Pacific has remained at peace for over forty years thanks to a combination of several factors that have discouraged interstate conflict and deepened economic interdependence.

While it is popular in Washington to attribute much or all of this to the stabilizing role of the United States, its alliances, and its forward-deployed military presence, that is not the whole story of why the peace has endured and it overlooks how the U.S. has sometimes been a bystander or a destabilizing force in Asian affairs.

This is the paradox that Van Jackson identifies in his new book, Pacific Power Paradox: American Statecraft and the Fate of the Asian Peace. It is an incisive and engaging account of how the U.S. has acted both to promote and undermine Asian peace and security since 1979. Policymakers in the United States would do well to read and learn from it to avoid taking the U.S. down the path of destructive rivalry and militarism that it is currently on.

Jackson sees the U.S. as having occupied three distinct roles in the Asia Pacific: the “aloof hegemon” that has stood at the margins and did not involve itself in regional institutions, the “vital bulwark”

that has provided security and deterrence through its alliance commitments, and the “imperious superpower” that has acted according to its own designs without regard for the consequences that its actions might have on the peace.

The U.S. needs to understand the full record of how it has acted in Asia if it is to make smart policy choices in the coming years, and it needs to recognize that the Asian peace is fragile and has grown much weaker as one of the main supports of that peace — U.S.-Chinese détente — has been replaced by an increasingly contentious rivalry.

The book proceeds chronologically through each administration from the start of the peace in 1979, and it identifies how the U.S. contributed and detracted from the peace under each president. Jackson takes us from the early tentative days of U.S.-Chinese détente under Carter and traces how the two governments deepened their cooperation and expanded economic ties under every administration until Trump.

He explains how the Asian peace was built up and consolidated as a result of multiple reinforcing factors that have made the peace as resilient and long-lasting as it has been.

Jackson identifies six distinct factors undergirding the peace: U.S. forward

military presence, U.S. alliances, great-power détente, economic interdependence, regionalism, and democracy and good governance. This is what he calls a “layered peace” with many sources. All of these have been important, but he argues that it was détente between Washington and Beijing that “underwrote or made a constructive contribution to nearly all the factors for the Asian peace.”

The danger for the U.S. and Asia today is that some of these factors are at risk of being ignored or rejected, and that in turn puts the peace in greater jeopardy than it has been before.

Most Americans don't appreciate how close the U.S. and North Korea were to war in 2017, but this was one of the most dangerous moments in the last forty years and the closest that the world has come to nuclear war since the depths of the Cold War. Jackson has previously documented how dangerous the 2017 nuclear crisis was in his earlier book. On the Brink, and he weaves parts of that story into the account of the Trump administration's role in threatening the peace, through both a maximum pressure campaign of sanctions as well as threatening preventative war.

If U.S. policymakers

Daniel Larison

don't understand how close the U.S. came to a major war in that case, it will be much harder for them to avoid future crises and to devise a more successful North Korea policy. While Trump's erratic and aggressive behavior was a major factor in making that crisis as dangerous as it was, this was not just a Trump problem but a persistent problem with U.S. policy towards North Korea.

Trump justifiably gets the worst marks in Jackson's assessment of U.S. policies over the last forty years, but he makes an important point that Trump also represented a great deal of continuity with earlier administrations. Jackson wants us to remember that “the United States has often been the imperious superpower whose actions made war more likely rather than less.”

As he notes in the preface, “the Trump era was an amplification of habits that had always been in U.S. statecraft but simply not in our narrative about it.” As in many other things, Trump's bad conduct revealed ugly truths about how the U.S. has operated in the world long before he came to office.

Washington's new hawkish consensus has concluded that the U.S. was

wrong to pursue engagement with China as much and for as long as it did, but détente and engagement have been very important in stabilizing the region and allowing Asian countries to flourish economically. Without U.S.-China détente, the modern history of East and Southeast Asia would have likely been more fraught and violent than it was.

As Jackson says, “U.S. détente with China—the flawed but long-lasting cooperative relationship between Asia's two largest powers—has been a vastly underappreciated source of regional stability since the 1970s.”

Replacing that détente with rivalry will have serious consequences for peace in Asia. He warns that “rivalry has its own price, and the loss of such a foundational source of the Asian peace requires compensation if stability is to persist.” What troubles is that the U.S. has so quickly “embraced a paradigm of rivalry with China without recognizing the tremendous work that Sino-U.S. détente had been doing to keep Asia stable.” Détente has been one of the pillars holding up the structure of the peace, and now that it has been knocked out without any replacement the entire structure is at risk of crumbling.

The lessons Jackson

offers from Asia are also applicable elsewhere. “No long-term stability can come from a policy tool kit limited to economic sanctions and the threat of war,” he writes. That seems correct to me, and the record of U.S. foreign policy in many parts of the world proves it. North Korea stands out as the most prominent example of how a policy defined by economic warfare and threats combined with unrealistic goals is bound to fail and lead to worse conditions and possibly even war.

Instead of continuing down this dead end road, Jackson proposes that “the only solution lies in living with the Kim regime's need to gird itself against ingrained perceptions of external threat while making a serious bid to change the relationship of rivalry that fuels that perception.” Continuing to insist on denuclearization while piling on more sanctions, as the Biden administration has been doing, isn't going to resolve anything.

Pacific Power Paradox is a thorough, carefully researched study of the Asian peace and the U.S. role in both maintaining and threatening it. It is not written as a polemic, but it has a clear warning for U.S. policymakers that they ignore the full history of the U.S. role in Asia at our collective peril.

The ‘iron belt’

Sergey Savchuk

RUSSIA has set a new record for electricity generation, and that's not just good, it's great, no matter how you look at it. The system operator of the Unified Energy System (SO UES) has published an annual report on the production of electricity with reference to the regions, and if there is a decline in generation in some of them, then the overall dynamics is more than encouraging.

Let's start with the fact that power engineers have their own territorial and administrative division of the Russian Federation. Historically, when developing regional energy networks, the creators started from many factors, taking into account the population of the territories, the availability of a resource base and large consumers, the potential for organizing export flows, and much more. Therefore, today, without any reference to the physical map, our country is invisibly divided into seven separate energy systems (IPS). These are the ECO Center, the Middle Volga, the Urals, the North-West, the South, Siberia and the East.

In total, over the past, to put it mildly, very difficult year for the economy, our power engineers produced 1,106.3 terawatt-hours, which is sixteen units more than in 2021, when there was neither SVO, nor sanctions going in continuous waves, nor all kinds of ceilings prices. Note that this is the highest figure not only in the modern history of the country, but also in the period of

the existence of the RSFSR.

Of all the regional associations, only the Middle Volga and North-Western IPS showed a negative trend. More specifically, the first region produced 110.9 (-0.6 compared to a year earlier), and the second - 97.1 terawatt-hours (-0.4). This fall is absolutely justified for, oddly enough, geopolitical reasons. Moreover, in the process of the current annual adjustment, it moved to the planned section, but more on that below.

Five other energy systems showed growth, some of them even recorded a record. Literally dotted denote the numbers:

—IPS Vostok: 44.5 TWh (+1.6 TWh)

—IPS South: 111 (+2.8)

—IPS Siberia: 224.7 (+7.3)

—ECO Center: 257 (+1.0)

—IPS Ural: 260.8 (+4.2)

We deliberately placed the regions not by the size of the increase in generation, but by the total volume of production, so that the scale of the increase was more obvious.

These data cause a surge of optimism for a reason. Any economist will tell you that electricity generation is an indirect universal indicator of the growth and stability of industry, that is, the real sector of the economy. Recall what was initially declared and is being repeated today by the West when introducing another countless package of sanctions: all these restrictions have one goal - to bring down the Russian economy, which, as they were sure on the other side, rests

solely on commodity trade. Well, further along the chain, various branches of production would be destroyed, causing the collapse of the internal financial and military systems. It was understood that the budget of Russia, deprived of oil and gas dollars, would not be able to fulfill social obligations, and the state defense order and other state programs would be disrupted in many and better in all industries. Plants and factories that do not receive money, additionally deprived of their usual supply routes and cooperation, will stop production, thereby further reducing the volume of budget injections - already in the form of taxes. If the strangulation scheme had worked, the country would most likely have simply ceased to exist, but, fortunately, Moscow had aces in his pocket in the form of ready-made system and managerial developments.

We do not just focus on the industrial sector of the Russian economy. The public perception of internal processes is made up of millions of personal impressions of individuals who, due to natural human egocentrism, habitually try on what is happening for themselves. And for some, the news that we are discussing today may seem insignificant, because their families and colleagues do not see any significant changes. This is both true and not.

The fact is that the population in any country is a priori a minority consumer of electricity. The lion's

share is eaten by factories, combines, conveyors, desalination plants and many other industrial and infrastructure facilities. Very roughly speaking, out of every hundred megawatt-hours of electricity, only ten are spent on the needs of the population, everything else goes deep into the factories via high-voltage power lines. That is why the volume of its production indirectly judges the growth or decline of domestic production. For example, even before the terrorist attack on the Crimean bridge and subsequent retaliatory strikes on the energy infrastructure of Ukrainethe Kyiv authorities announced a drop in domestic energy consumption by 20-25 percent. This happened due to their own direct ban on working with Russian customers, on whom the lion's share of Ukrainian production was tied.

At the same time, however, the production and export of electricity grew, but here we should only talk about machinations and Kiev's indefatigable desire to make money in troubled waters.

As we mentioned above, both the growth and decline in generation are associated exclusively with geopolitical events. For example, the decline in production in the North-West IPS is caused by the refusal of Finland and the Baltic countries to buy Russian electricity, which had previously been exported there for decades.

As for the regions that came out in the plus, then everything is simple here,

just remember the school course in geography and history. Generation grew in the Central, Siberian and Ural IPS, that is, along the line of the "iron belt" and the industries associated with it. The second largest growth with the largest production was demonstrated by the Urals, the very one where our tank, aircraft, rocket and other plants are located.

Spoiled by the simplicity of computer games and movie plots, many began to forget that for the production of one conditional tank it is not enough to collect money and click the mouse. It is necessary to manufacture armor plates, guns, optics, turbines, rubber, thousands of kilometers of low-current wiring, on-board computer systems, explosives for dynamic protection, gunpowder for shells, oil, fuel, and thousands more items that flock to the workshops of the Urals and other factories from hundreds, and then thousands of subcontractors. These enterprises, according to unconfirmed and completely correctly concealed information, work in three shifts, which makes everyone who helps to assemble the same tank, "Pantsir" or "Tiger", actively stir.

Any of us, habitually turning on a kettle, a TV or putting a smartphone on charge, is unlikely to think that at the same time, thousands of megawatts, the number of which has grown imperceptibly, go to plants to melt the charge in arc furnaces, to raise cages and skips from mines, turn the drive rollers of conveyors,

illuminate career paths, turn the rotors of electric locomotives and set in motion multi-ton stamping presses.

But let's digress to more peaceful aspects.

Our conversation today would be one-sided if we did not mention the growth in electricity production in the Far East. It is connected to a large extent with a sharp increase in the supply of electricity for export, namely to China and Mongolia. Another unexpected driver is increased exports to Kazakhstan, the northern part of which has recently experienced significant energy hunger. There is nothing wrong with this trend - on the contrary, large cross-border flows bring significant profit to the budget and provide jobs for thousands of our power engineers.

Still, of course, it is necessary to mention such a moment as reducing losses during transportation. In Kazakhstan, this value, according to the reports of the local national operator, can reach 12-13 percent, that is, so much due to the deterioration of power transmission lines and distribution lines is lost on the way from the power plant to the end consumer. In Russia, this figure is slowly but steadily declining, which indicates the inconspicuous work on the modernization of transport infrastructure, which reduces planned losses and increases profitability. In general, if somewhere in Russia more electricity is produced, it is not necessary for anyone, but for you and me. And this is good.

No singular approach is sufficient, nor should it claim to be

THE desire to make a difference is embedded in the human psyche. The effective altruism movement, recently made famous by the exploits of one of its most prominent advocates, taps into this aspect of our nature and offers a clearly defined, logical answer to the core question of which causes and organizations to support. While this confident simplicity gives the movement force, it is also its great shortcoming. EA does well to ask people to think carefully about the way they give, but it is not a one-size-fits-all solution to the challenges that philanthropy seeks to resolve.

Effective altruism advocates supporting the most cost-effective ways to save lives and reduce suffering. This evidence-based approach naturally directs funds toward measurable interventions, most often in developing countries because of lower costs. Beyond individual charitable decisions, EA also recommends that adherents choose an overall lifestyle that can maximize their incomes, so they can maximize their giving. Because of the ongoing scandal with

Sam Bankman-Fried, a prominent effective altruist, and his company FTX, the lifestyle element has received significant attention and is expertly analyzed by Mark Mutz and Richard Gunderman in their article “FTIX and the Lust for Wealth.”

Saving lives and alleviating suffering are noble goals, but they are not the only legitimate goals of philanthropy. Traditionally, philanthropy has also served to strengthen civil society by providing forums for democratic discussion, exploring cultural meaning through the arts, and cultivating a strong network of religious organizations. From something as simple as a Little Free Library down the street to the vast network of State and National Parks, Americans make it a regular practice to offer their time, treasure, and talent for the common good.

Philanthropic history shows us a rich tapestry of causes, with different ideas of the good competing in society. EA adds to this dialogue on “the good” with the claim that its way of giving is the most ethical and the most urgent. Peter Singer makes this argument

throughout his 2015 book The Most Good You Can Do. Any other aims of philanthropy can wait until certain material needs are met. Singer writes, “In a world in which everyone had enough to eat, basic healthcare, adequate sanitation, and a place at school for each of their children, there would be no problem about donating to museums.” Put another way, Singer is suggesting that until we solve the problems that governments, nonprofits, and markets have failed to solve so far, we cannot justify devoting resources to the cultural and spiritual goods that feed the soul.

Imagine, for a moment, the implications of redirecting all funding for museums. Museums could be seen as archaic institutions passing down an outmoded cultural inheritance. On the other hand, museums are an invitation to understand who we, the audience, are, and our values. Although museums reflect the choices of curators, they are also a public forum for discussion and a physical space that connects the knowledge of the past with the needs and interests of the present. Singer presents a

false dichotomy. Philanthropy can pursue more than one end. We should not burn the Library of Alexandria for firewood.

Along with museums, Singer discourages gifts to higher education, where much of the research necessary to develop medical treatments is conducted. In her book In Defence of Philanthropy, Beth Breeze notes that effective altruism channels “funds to those causes and organizations that can demonstrate the greatest impact per dollar spent today.” This focus on immediacy overlooks the fact that “the \$5 intervention is dependent on that earlier, and far more expensive scientific effort.” Building and distributing seemingly-simple goods, like vaccines or deworming medication, requires extensive research, coalition building, and international negotiations. These activities are expensive and more difficult to quantify than the number of lives saved per mosquito net. The requirement for measurable impact glosses over the complexity of the entrenched problems that philanthropy tries to address.

There are many different

Rebecca Richards

opinions on how philanthropy should operate, but one almost universally recognized benefit of philanthropy is its ability to absorb risk. Rob Reich, the author of Just Giving, argues that the ability of philanthropy to fund experiments for meeting social needs that can be adopted and amplified by the government is one of the only just uses of charitable giving. EA often recommends giving through organizations like GiveWell, a project that recommends charities based on their effectiveness and advocates giving to methods that have already been proven. While some funding may go toward developing more effective solutions, the emphasis on only giving to methods that are cheap and proven discourages gifts that may not work, but whose failure leads to better solutions down the road.

EA then poses a dilemma for high-capacity donors. Should they consult GiveWell and award \$30 million to produce the highest number of guaranteed interventions? Or should they absorb more risk by funding research that could

potentially develop better solutions? Should they invest in the classic Hallmark dilemma of saving a town landmark facing demolition, or make a more urban reinvestment in the symphony? EA would say these latter options are not the best use of funds because they do not meet the stated values of EA, and their impact is not measurable. Yet, often the most treasured parts of our lives are immeasurable. We do not conduct a cost-benefit analysis on ourselves when we fall in love—we are too busy being in love to bother with metrics.

For donors who have less financial flexibility, the menu model of EA is an appealing way to direct gifts. A \$30 gift may not cure cancer, but it can potentially save a life. The emphasis on cost reveals how EA's giving model treats donors as interchangeable wallets. It underestimates the potential impact that donors can have through serving on a nonprofit board or engaging in service, both of which can have important long-term effects. Through service, donors connect

emotionally to a cause by seeing the impact firsthand rather than reading a statistic online. EA argues that relying on this emotional connection when deciding where to give is a mistake, leading to less good being done overall. Rather, disinterested investment, based on just the facts, will lead to the greatest good.

While effective altruism can have impressive results in international relief, promoting EA as the best, most ethical approach to giving does not allow philanthropy to fulfill its full potential. Philanthropy seeks to address problems beyond poverty, which, as a perpetual, deeply entrenched issue, is itself best tackled with multiple approaches simultaneously. Leading effective altruists seem to recognize the deficiency of relying on cost-per-life-saved equations in their movement toward political giving as well as funding research on AI safety. In these areas, they implicitly acknowledge that change also comes from supporting broader movements and not just low-cost interventions.

Although philanthropy can seem like a niche topic reserved for the nonprofit sector and those who fund

it, much of what our society values has been established through the generosity of donors from every walk of life and with every conceivable interest. We feel the impact of charitable giving every day, from statues in the park to the painted white lines on the road.

Effective altruists dismiss the warm glow a donor feels when giving as selfish. Yet, giving is often motivated by some of the deepest emotions, like grief over the loss of a loved one to sickness or gratitude for a kindness at the right time, that are far more intense and complicated than simply feeling better about yourself. Sometimes, the donor is offering a part of his or her heart as well as a check. A robust vision of philanthropy allows donors to support solving the large-scale problems and the problems of the everyday. Effective altruism offers a refreshingly simple way to give with confidence, but donors who choose to honor their motivations—both emotional and rational—to support causes they care about also help to solve society's problems. No singular approach is sufficient, nor should it claim to be.

'In times of war, the laws fall silent'

"Li—is that a Chinese name?"

"No, it's an American name."

MANY of us might remember learning Plessy v. Ferguson for the patently odious claim that races could by law be "separate but equal" in public accommodations. A few of us might remember Justice Harlan's passionate dissent that the Constitution is colorblind and that state-enforced racial segregation is anathema to its principles. I would bet that even fewer of us would remember Harlan's colloquy on the Chinese, which is often edited out of textbooks that quote his dissent.

There is a race so different from our own that we do not permit those belonging to it to become citizens of the United States. Persons belonging to it are, with few exceptions, absolutely excluded from our country. I allude to the

assimilate with us."

Harlan voted differently in a third major case involving those of Chinese descent, Yick Wo v. Hopkins, a seminal Equal Protection case. Yick Wo involved a San Francisco ordinance that prohibited laundromat owners from operating inside wooden buildings without a permit from the city. While purportedly enacted for fire hazard concerns, the ordinance was alleged to have targeted the predominantly Chinese laundromat business. The discrimination was more obvious in how the ordinance was enforced. Permits were granted to only 0.5% of Chinese applicants but were granted to nearly 99% of non-Chinese applicants. The Court, including Harlan, held that the Equal Protection clause applied not just to how laws were written but also to how they were executed. Yick Wo is still cited today for that proposition.

Vincent Li

immigration. It has the dubious distinction of being the only law that tried to stop immigration based openly on ethnicity. As a result, Chinese immigration was stymied until the 1960s. The common motivator in these laws was partially economic (immigrants were willing to work more for less, threatening the wages of native laborers), but also largely driven by the belief, expressed by Harlan, that those immigrants were too alien to adopt American values.

This history and the Supreme Court cases discussed above all raise the question of foreignness. At their heart, the question is whether East Asians can ever be truly "American" or whether they will always be "others," or, at best, conditional Americans. Unfortunately, the belief that East Asians can never be Americans isn't just embraced by the traditional

groups has been to reject the neutral solution of eliminating considerations of race in admissions, and instead advocate for the inclusion of Asian Americans as a favored racial category. Setting aside principled objections to such a scheme, it also happens to be imprudent. The Constitution, with its guarantees of race neutrality, protects individuals from being bullied by political fortunes based on their race. To reject its protection in the hopes that one can pick up benefits in the ensuing political scramble is not only wrong, but foolhardy when one has been historically weak in political contests.

Assimilation doesn't mean giving up unique customs or cherished cultural heritage. Assimilation into being American means to have allegiance to a certain creed, that is, a set of distinctly American values. While we can debate about which exact principles are

direct descendants of the Founding generation, when Americans look through that old Declaration of Independence they find that those old men say that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," and then they feel that that moral sentiment taught in that day evidences their relation to those men, that it is the father of all moral principle in them, and that they have a right to claim it as though they were blood of the blood, and flesh of the flesh of the men who wrote that Declaration and so they are.

Frederick Douglass, in a speech well worth reading in its entirety, went even further. Explicitly opposing the popular anti-Chinese sentiment at the time, Douglass posed and answered a series of rhetorical questions:

Do you ask, if I favor [Chinese] immigration, I answer I would. Would you have them naturalized, and have them invested with all

the rights of American citizenship? I would. Would you allow them to vote? I would. Would you allow them to hold office? I would.

Douglass didn't think to narrowly define his allegiance to his racial identity, explaining, "I want a home here not only for the negro, the mulatto, and the Latin races; but I want the Asiatic to find a home here in the United States, and feel at home here, both for his sake and for ours."

Explaining his notion of America as fundamentally a composite nation, Douglass announces a vision and program for Americans: "We shall mold them all, each after his kind, into Americans; Indian and Celt; negro and Saxon; Latin and Teuton; Mongolian and Caucasian; Jew and Gentile; all shall here bow to the same law, speak the same language, support the same Government, enjoy the same liberty, vibrate with the same national enthusiasm, and seek the same national ends."

Douglass took Harlan's kernel and drew out its full implications. In the same generation when Harlan voiced his belief that the Chinese could never assimilate, Douglas confidently asserted the capability of America to impart its values and the capability of any race to accept those values. That vision is a beautiful one and is the promise, if not immediately fulfilled, of our founding. It's a vision worth fighting for.



A political sense

Titus Techera

THE English journalist and historian Paul Johnson has died. His importance to conservatism is such that in America president George W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006, the highest civilian distinction, and he was even honored in his native Britain, when, in 2016, the late Queen Elizabeth II made him a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Johnson earned this acknowledgment by championing the decent of modern politics of England and America—political liberty secured by empire and republic both. One could summarize his very popular work as a historian by saying that he largely followed the line suggested by Churchill in his sketch, The History of the English Speaking Peoples. Much of his success must be due to the fact that almost no one else did. Since so much of elite education and public discourse in the last two generations reduces to contempt for intelligent patriotism, Johnson was both daring and ordinary, qualities required for success in a democracy.

Johnson was born in 1928, lived through the poverty of the times, but received a Catholic education and went to Oxford. He then worked as a journalist and a man of the left until the '70s, rising to edit The Statesman. In the second half of his life, he made a spectacular political turn by supporting Lady Thatcher for Conservative leader and becoming a Tory himself, as well as becoming her advisor and speechwriter. He also became a columnist for the Spectator in 1981.

The Turn to History Johnson's greatest public service was as a historian. In his middle age, he turned from journalism to history, as though recalling that he had studied with the famous historian A. J. P.

cated in our times; they are the fulfillment of the Enlightenment ideals that animated him and of the Enlightenment historians whom he imitated better than most in our times. His The Birth of the Modern: World Society 1815-1830 (1991) makes these ideals most obvious. He also wrote histories of Christianity (1976) and of the Jews (1987), to offer a moral correlative of the political ideas he pursued in his other works.

In his old age, Johnson turned to supply what he thought was most needed for our times, a lively interest in adventure and manliness. He wrote biographies of great men who founded or saved political liberty—Washington, Napoleon, Churchill. And he also turned his attention to other impressive achievements of the human soul, in the conviction that without such examples, civilization cannot sustain itself. These volumes seem intended to amaze and inspire young men: Creators (2006), Heroes (2007), and even Humanists (2010). Altogether, his aim was to help restore nobility, since otherwise, liberty would not be well used and, if ill-used, would not long be maintained.

Johnson's outlook is that of a gentleman; his success shows the great desire audiences have for such teachers, who are incredibly scarce. Going beyond politics, Johnson revealed his beliefs honestly in his biographies of Jesus (2010) and Socrates (2011), the two figures of the greatest importance for our civilization. His basic decency shows in describing Socrates as a devoted husband and father and a patriotic soldier of Athens in war. Obviously, he could not say the same about Jesus, but he tried to explain with modesty his faith in the most exalted vision of the human heart.

moralistic liberals of that era started a trouble that has yet to end—it is too easy to compare Nixon to Trump, who also faced impeachment. Another measure is Johnson's defense of Pinochet, who saved Chile from the complete catastrophe of the economy, society, and constitutional order unleashed by Allende. Such positions were of course enough to make Johnson intolerable to most liberals; it didn't help that he condemned all the revolutionary tyrannies that these people loved. As a consequence, Johnson ended up entirely dependent on conservatives for his reputation.

Altogether, Johnson was on the side of ordered liberty and when he faced the economic collapse of the '70s, he faced the foundation of modern politics in private property and prosperity—without it, nothing else is possible. As he reached down to this foundation, he also reached up in Christian hope for a certain kind of progress especially dear to Americans, but which was once the pride of Englishmen as well—the hope of spreading among mankind the knowledge of the law and a respect for human nature as somehow part of a providential order.

Taste Johnson also seems to have met every important man or woman in Britain and many in America in his time and came away with anecdotes. My favorite is his Churchill anecdote. Johnson was a very young journalist in the '50s when Churchill last was PM and then an MP. As young journalists did then and clever students still do now, he asked the great man what got him into politics in the first place. Churchill answered, ambition, and added, and anger kept him involved in politics all his life. These are fundamental truths the young Johnson cannot have understood at the time, but he remembered the exchange as any-

Johnson also seems to have met every important man or woman in Britain and many in America in his time and came away with anecdotes. My favorite is his Churchill anecdote. Johnson was a very young journalist in the '50s when Churchill last was PM and then an MP. As young journalists did then and clever students still do now, he asked the great man what got him into politics in the first place. Churchill answered, ambition, and added, and anger kept him involved in politics all his life.

Taylor at Oxford, and he attempted to give the general audience the best introduction available to the important questions of modern life. Even today, I believe all high school seniors and college students should be required to read his 1983 overview (later revised to cover the 90's) Modern Times, that they may learn what the passion for revolution has wrought in our times. Just as useful for education is his 1997 volume, A History of the American People, which shows his great love for Americans and the understanding it fostered.

Johnson wrote incredibly long histories that make for very pleasant reading, teaching his audience without condescension or any pretense, gradually making them familiar with the things they presume to know already or not to care about at all—in short, helping his readers come into possession of their civilizational heritage. His volumes make the best case that democracy can be edu-

Political Sense Johnson seems to have only really become himself in the '70s, when all this impressive work began. Partly, the misery of that decade shocked him into seriousness. The chapter concerning that decade in Modern Times, written at the beginning of the '80s, is titled "America's suicide attempt." Like most decent people, Johnson was very grateful for the arrival of remarkable politicians like Thatcher, Reagan, and Pope John Paul II (whose biography he also wrote), who restored faith in democracy. Unlike most people, he was aware of the grave weaknesses revealed by the crisis that made their rise necessary and possible.

A measure of his political seriousness is his defense of Nixon, who was treated as the devil in public discourse after Watergate. Johnson understood that Watergate the political scandal did much more harm to America and the cause of liberty than Watergate the crime; the

one would, with pleasure and gratitude for the generosity of a man arrived at the age of candor.

As for his own English witticisms, readers should consult a volume published in America a generation back, in 1994, The Quotable Paul Johnson. It makes for enjoyment and gives some measure of the desire of the man to provoke his readers to look at things with lively interest, perhaps the only decent justification for comedy.

I will close with an encouragement to read his other books as well, especially Art: A New History (2003). He also wrote about the castles and cathedrals of England. All told, Johnson encouraged understanding of the beautiful works bequeathed to us, which should, not least, encourage gratitude in us. And to the extent to which we make him an educator of our young, we can be grateful for his impressive achievements, which is the best way to remember Paul Johnson.

Editor Note

The Frontier Post apologize to the Embassy of Iran for a cartoon published recently. It's intent was not the hurt or insult our brotherly Muslim neighbour country. We will assure that in future such mistakes are not repeated.

Important Notice

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

Trump figures out how to defeat Biden

THE former US president was accused of trying to help Jair Bolsonaro, who lost the elections in Brazil, stage a coup d'état. The media named the alleged conspirators and the resources they counted on. About the prospects of the international union of right-wing populists - in the material of RIA Novosti.

"Poison Flower" Over 70 deputies from the US and Brazil turned to Joe Biden with a request to expel Bolsonaro from the country. Parliamentarians are sure that he organized riots in his homeland. In addition, "influential Americans who are in Florida" helped him. They also need to be punished.

Although Trump is not mentioned, it is clear that he is in question. In Florida, the main residence of the ex-president, and Bolsonaro is his longtime admirer, nicknamed "tropical Trump". And the affection was mutual. The American stated that he fully supported the "wonderful man" Bolsonaro. As head of the United States, he spoke to a Brazilian more than any other head of state.

The Guardian writes about the "poisonous flower" of the symbiosis of these two politicians. Bolsonaro's son Eduardo was in Washington during the capture of the Capitol in January 2021, and in

August 2022 he discussed with Trump's inner circle the spread of fakes about electoral fraud, the publication indicates. American journalists sympathetic to Trump campaigned for Bolsonaro in articles and TV shows. Brazil has become the second market after the US for the social network Gettr, created by former Trump press secretary Jason Miller, who is friends with the Bolsonaro family.

"Now we have the first major international simulated riot in the Capitol," notes The New York Times. Both riots almost coincided even on dates: January 6 in the USA and January 8 in Brazil. They copied the image of the American rebels, assures The Atlantic.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre informed about the readiness of the authorities to seriously consider the extradition of Bolsonaro. Brazilian Senator Renan Calheiros sent a request to the Supreme Court to formally appeal to the United States on this issue.

Bolsonaro flew to Florida on December 30, a couple of days before the transfer of power to President-elect Luis Inacio da Silva. Since he entered the US as head of state, he can stay there until the end of January. The politician spent the past week in the hospital due to abdominal

Mikhail Katkov

pain that arose immediately after the riots at home. In 2018, at an election rally, he was stabbed with a knife, which resulted in acute intestinal obstruction. He has already been treated in the clinic. However, seeing how events were developing, Bolsonaro assured that he would return home without waiting for him to be expelled from the country.

People's court According to the sociological service Datafolha, 93 percent of Brazilians condemn the December 8 seizure of government buildings by protesters in Brasilia. Moreover, 46 percent believe that the rioters should be arrested. For the rebels - only three percent. More than half of the respondents consider Bolsonaro responsible for the riots.

In total, about 1800 people were detained. They defeated the camps of the ex-president's supporters, set up near military bases, in order to agitate the soldiers to go over to the side of the rebels. Criminal cases are initiated under articles on terrorism, a coup d'état and an attempt on democracy. Bolsonaro is accused of incitement.

Authorities have also asked a federal court to freeze \$1.3 million worth of assets from 52 Brazilians and seven companies that

are said to have funded the riot and transported activists from the regions to the capital.

And in Trump's Florida estate, they found secret documents that he took with him when he left the White House. Democrats still want the ex-president on trial for organizing the attack on the Capitol. Over 800 people were arrested in that case.

Trump considers the accusations far-fetched and is sure that the Democrats are trying to prevent him from being elected president a second time. However, many Republicans are also tired of him. If in the summer Trump unconditionally led the party, then in December he lost the championship to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (rating - 56 and 65 percent, respectively). The Brazilian riots scandal made matters worse.

Far-right international Leading researcher at the Institute of Latin America of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexander Kharlamenko believes that Trump really tried to help Bolsonaro. "Their interaction was overseen by former senior Trump adviser Stephen Bannon, who is forming an international network of far-right parties," the expert says.

Vladimir Vasiliev, chief researcher at the Institute for the USA and Canada of the Russian Academy of



PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 1,378 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 1,378.54 points, a negative change of 3.47 percent, closing at 38,342.21 against 39,720.75 points the previous day.

A total of 205,906,982 shares were traded during the day as compared to 105,542,468 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs6.710 billion against Rs3.203 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 340 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 34 of them recorded gains and 281 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 25 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading

companies were K-Electric with 29,912,473 shares at Rs2.07 per share, WorldCALL Telecom with 14,479,623 shares at Rs1.10 per share, and Sui North Gas with 9,689,650 shares at Rs35.33 per share.

Nestle Pakistan witnessed a maximum increase of Rs196.00 per share price, closing at Rs5,595.00, whereas the runner-up was Pak Services with a Rs104.00 rise in its per share price to Rs439.92.

Bhanero Textile witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs76.80 per share closing at Rs948.20, followed by Bata (Pak) with Rs69.00 decline to close at Rs851.00.

Rupee extends losses against dollar

The exchange rate of the Pakistani rupee depreciated

by 31 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Tuesday and closed at Rs228.65 against the previous day's closing of Rs228.34.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs236.5 and Rs238.75 respectively.

The price of the euro increased by 24 paisa and closed at Rs247.51 against the previous day's closing of Rs247.27, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen lost one paisa to close at Rs1.77, whereas an increase of 09 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British pound, which was traded at Rs279.28 as compared to

its last closing of Rs279.19.

The exchange rates of the Emirates dirham and Saudi riyal increased by 09 paisa each to close at Rs62.25 and Rs60.87 respectively.

Gold price declines by Rs.1800 per tola to Rs.183,900

The price of a single tola of 24-karat gold was recorded in Hyderabad at Rs.183,900 on Tuesday. The price of 10 grams of 24k gold was recorded at Rs157651.

All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver and ten-gram silver sold at Rs. 2,097 and Rs1800 respectively.

Likewise, 10 grams of 22k gold were being traded for Rs.144514 while a single tola of 22-karat gold was being sold at Rs14451.

Govt urged to restore LCs opening with availability of foreign exchange

ISLAMABAD (APP): The President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik Tuesday urged the government for immediate restoration of the opening of letters of credit with the availability of foreign exchange for the import of raw materials putting industries into gear.

Chairing an emergent meeting of the "Founder" group of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) to discuss the prevailing economic scenario, he said a total of 13 senior former presidents of Lahore chamber, Mian Muhammad Ashraf,

Sheikh Muhammad Asif, Tariq Hameed, Mian Muzaffar Ali, Bashir Bakhsh, Mian Misbah Ur Rehman, Shahzad Ali Malik, Almas Hyder, Farooq Iftikhar, Shahid Hassan Sheikh, Abdul Basit and Tariq Misbah were invited to share their points of view and suggest viable solutions for prompt economic revival.

Iftikhar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar both belong to founder group and as former presidents of Lahore chamber, they are rightly expected to understand and steer the economy out of financial

crunch.

The President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik who is Chairman founder group said what we need urgently is opening of LC with availability of foreign exchange for meeting the requirements of industrial sector.

He said all participants were of the view that a number of foreign countries have recently promised billions of dollars to Pakistan for supporting relief measures and early rehabilitation of flood victims which they said will help stable the foreign reserves.

He said so in the light

of foreign support assurance, necessary instructions be issued to State Bank of Pakistan to provide solace to hard hit industrial sector otherwise poor workers will also continue to suffer.

The President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik said all former presidents collectively made an impassioned appeal to Prime Minister and Federal Finance Minister to intervene and bail out industrial sector from looming crisis which he added is backbone of national economy.

He hoped that their humbled genuine request will bear fruit.

IMARAT Group organised Annual Recognition Awards



F.P. Report

KARACHI: To honour and recognise the achievements made by its esteemed team members, the IMARAT Group, Pakistan's leading real estate brand, organised Annual Recognition Awards in the country's economic hub - Karachi.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Chairman IMARAT Group Mr. Shafiq Akbar, Director Hospitality Farhan Javed, Director Agency21 International Sharjeel A. Elmer, Group Director Arslan Javed, President of the Advisory Board Lt. Gen. (R) Muhammad Haroon Aslam.

"We are proud of our team at IMARAT Group for consistently delivering results that go above and beyond what we had anticipated," said Chairman IMARAT Group Shafiq Akbar, in statements made at the occasion.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our hard-working team for their outstanding work this year." He added, "Not only were our goals accomplished, but they were also exceeded."

In his address, chairman IMARAT also shed light on his Vision2047 and how the group was working to make Pakistan a country that was

along the exact lines of what its forefathers had envisioned.

The prestigious organisation recognised and appreciated the dedication of its team members by awarding shields and certificates. Each individual received praise for their role in helping the organisation reach its achievements.

Following the event, a delicious feast was served while live music filled the air. The live barbecue also added to the evening's enchantment.

When it comes to IMARAT, the sky is certainly not the limit. The IMARAT Group has suc-

cessfully delivered 5 projects in 5 years, paving the way for its biggest milestone: Vision 2047. The past year was a testament to the fact that the renowned Group can achieve the best of the best within its promised time frame.

It goes without saying that 2022 was a historic year for the prestigious Group. Last year could be simply characterised as one of transformation and resilience. With tremendous accomplishments and notable achievements, the renowned IMARAT Group has established itself as the fastest growing brand in Pakistan.

Asian stocks struggle after China data but outlook hopeful

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Asian stocks mostly fell Tuesday after data showed China's economy at its slowest pace in four decades last year, though traders remain hopeful about the country's outlook as it emerges from years of debilitating zero-Covid measures.

The three percent expansion was the worst since 1976 -- excluding pandemic-hit 2020 -- and sharply down from the previous year, as widespread lockdowns and other containment policies hammered business activity.

However, it beat the 2.7 percent forecast and the fourth-quarter reading also topped estimates, while a healthy reading on retail sales provided extra cheer.

There is now growing optimism that the reopening that started last month will fuel a strong rebound this year and help support the global economy as central banks try to avert a recession caused by soaring

inflation and interest rate hikes.

"Looking forward, we expect to see a sustained economic recovery in 2023 as a result of reopening and policy stimulus," said Chaoping Zhu, of JP Morgan Asset Management.

"Service sectors should be the early beneficiary when pent-up demand is released."

Regional markets, however, struggled to maintain the strong momentum that has characterised trading at the start of the year, which has been powered by China hopes and signs that the battle against inflation appears to be turning in central banks' favour.

Hong Kong, which had piled on more than nine percent so far this year, lost more than one percent, while Shanghai, Sydney, Seoul, Singapore, and Manila were also in negative territory.

There were gains though in Tokyo, Wellington, Taipei, Mumbai, Bangkok

and Jakarta.

Wall Street was closed Monday for a public holiday.

Still, analysts remain upbeat.

"We are in the early phase of recovery in terms of asset prices," said Paras Anand, at Artemis Investment Management.

"A recovery or normalisation of the Chinese economy will be positive for global growth at the margin."

Traders are now awaiting a key policy decision by the Bank of Japan on Wednesday, which comes after it last month surprised markets by announcing a shift away from its ultra-loose monetary policy, sending the yen soaring.

The bank has kept a tight rein on bond yields for years in an attempt to kick-start economic growth, but it came under pressure in recent months as other countries ramped up interest rates to fight inflation, pushing the yen to multi-

decade lows.

Speculation is now swirling that it will further tweak policy or indicate that another adjustment is in the pipeline.

"We've seen some good moves for Asian stocks this year, particularly China, and with the BoJ meeting looming and its potential to be a huge risk event, it's logical to see some risk be taken off of the table," City Index's Matthew Simpson said.

"So today we're seeing a slight risk-off tone and natural pullbacks, but not to the degree it causes major concern."

There will also be a focus on speeches by top finance officials at the annual Davos summit in Switzerland this week.

And Wall Street titans including Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Netflix are due to release earnings, which could give an insight into how business is coping with the effects of higher rates.



LARKANA: A vendor arranging and displaying tomatoes in plastic bags to attract customers at vegetable market.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships namely, MSC Mundra III, Maersk Brooklyn, CMA CGM Cendrillon, Ifestos, CI Dayang He, N-Rohan and Al-Gharrafa carrying Containers, Canola, Coal, LPG and LNG, arrived at Port Qasim and berthed at Container Terminal Grain Terminal, Bulk Terminal, Sui Southern Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile another containers ship 'MSC Madhu B' also arrived at outer anchorage of the port on Tuesday morning.

A total of 11 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them, three ships, MSC Mundra III, Maersk Brooklyn and Mild Bloom left the Port on Tuesday morning, while three more ships, CMA CGM Cendrillon, Al-Salam-II and N-Orhan are expected to sail on today in the afternoon(.

Cargo volume of 154,889 tonnes, comprising 98,895 tonnes imports cargo and 55,994 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,672 Containers (1,235 TEUs Imports and 2,437 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 20 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them 03 ships, ChemroadSinyoo, Bai Lu Zuo and MSC Madhu-B & another ship, Maersk Hartford Carrying Palm oil, Gas oil and Containers are expected to take berths at LCT, FOTCO and QICT on Tuesday, and two more container ships, Irenes Ray and Xpress Bardsey are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Wednesday.

LSMI output increases by 3.55%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The output of the Large-Scale Manufacturing Industry (LSMI) increased by 3.55 percent in November 2022 as compared to the production of the previous month of the same year.

According to the provisional quantum indices of LSMI for November 2022 released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), on a month-on-month basis (MoM), the LSMI index went up from 108.45 points in October 2022 to 112.30 points in November 2022.

On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the production of Large-Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) witnessed negative growth of 5.49 percent, the LSMI index went down from 118.81 points in November 2021 to 112.30 points in November 2022.

Overall the Large-Scale Manufacturing Sector has shown a decline of 3.58% during July-November (2022-23) as compared with the same period of last year. The LSMI during the first five months of the current fiscal year was recorded at 111.41 points as compared to 115.55 points during July-November (2021-22).

The provisional quantum indices of Large-Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for November 2022 with the base year 2015-16 have been developed on the basis of the latest data supplied by the source agencies including the Ministry of Industries and Production, Ministry of Commerce and Provincial Bureaus of Statistics.

TSS sign MoU with Knowledge Plaform

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Smart School (TSS), one of the largest school systems of Pakistan, signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Knowledge Platform, a blended learning solution providers, who will provide a customized digital platform for enhanced learning experiences of Matriculation students across TSS network.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Abdus Sattar, Project Director TSS and Mr. Omar Iqbal, COO of Knowledge Platform in a graceful ceremony held at The Smart School Head Office in Lahore. Under the agree-

ment, The Smart School will be introducing "DigiSmart", an enhanced learning Platform for improved results of Matriculation stream in collaboration with Knowledge Platform.

DigiSmart, a customized digital learning solution that brings technology directly to the classrooms and into students' own personal spaces will meet the learning needs of the Matric students, ensuring consistent quality and offering flexibility in learning both in and outside the classroom. DigiSmart will provide immersive learning experience based on well-developed content and self-

directed learning options through latest technology in the form of customized videos, activities, games, and assessments.

Through the effective use of DigiSmart by the teachers and students, data driven performance can be measured for both individual as well as class progression. It's easier for parents to check the learning curve of their child and work to improve their performance using DigiSmart at home. We believe that DigiSmart will prove to be engaging and result focused for improved board exam results which will greatly benefit TSS network and its students.

Telenor appoints Mindshare as their Media Agency

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Telenor has appointed Mindshare as its media agency, for both traditional and digital, following a competitive pitch.

Mindshare Pakistan, part of GroupM, is the largest media buying house in Pakistan and is continuously thriving on data, digital and technology along with its conventional portfolio of business. The agency also secured gold wins for Campaign Asia's Media and Digital Media Agency of the Year recently.

Understanding the significance of a data-driven approach, this partnership

between Telenor and Mindshare is set to bring several positive changes for both parties and the telecom industry. Telenor, with its vast reach, customer base and real-time data, will benefit greatly from Mindshare's expertise in media, digital and buying.

"We are truly honored to be appointed as Telenor's media agency in Pakistan. This provides us with an incredible opportunity to work with one of the most robust telcos. My team and I are extremely delighted and motivated to apply the best of our thinking and capabilities to create winning momentum for Telenor. The

tech-driven mindset and the agility in adapting to new challenges are few of the many reasons why the synergy between the two organizations seems promising and passionate," said Agha Zohaib, Managing Director, Mindshare Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion Helen McRae, CEO Mindshare Asia Pacific, said "We are delighted to be appointed as Telenor's agency in Pakistan. Our ambition of connecting data to good growth for our clients is at the heart of our partnership with Telenor. We look forward to propelling Telenor to even greater heights."

COMSATS University: Rector calls for promoting women entrepreneurship



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caroline Cummings, Chief Executive of US based non-profit, Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (RAIN) visited the Business Incubation Center facility at COMSATS University Islamabad on Tuesday to further cooperation on women entrepreneurship.

During the visit Ms. Cummings held one-on-one interactions with female students and faculty of COMSATS University Islamabad and discussed ways to promote women-led enterprises under a US-funded project for Pakistani women entrepreneurs.

As part of the program Ms. Cummings also delivered a talk on "Women-Led Entrepreneurship" and

informed participants about the opportunities of securing funding from the US State Department under the aegis of the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan.

The delegates later called on Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal, Rector CUI, and briefed about their engagements in Pakistan. Prof. Afzal appreciated the efforts of RAIN and encouraged to take the program to remote campuses of Sahiwal, Vehari and Attock. He said that the female students in these campuses were quite enthusiastic about such activities.

Prof. Afzal also said that it was the need of the hour to encourage women to contribute towards the national economy through export focused business in local as well as foreign

markets. Present in the meeting were Prof. Shamsul Qamar, Head, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization, Aqsa Khan, Project Director RAIN, Ehtisham Bokhari, Incubator BIC and Rashid Irfan, Manager Cubator.

COMSATS University Islamabad along with the US-based non-profit Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network had earlier secured a project worth 500,000 US Dollars for supporting Women-Led Startups in Pakistan.

This project will offer the opportunity to help Pakistani women to get seed money, a monthly stipend, and a fully sponsored one-week networking visit to the U.S later this year for qualifying female entrepreneurs.



In brief

DG SBP distributes cash prizes

LAHORE (APP): Director General (DG) Sports Board Punjab (SBP) Muhammad Tariq Qureshi on Tuesday distributed cash prizes among medal winning athletes of Pakistan pentathlon team that demonstrated glorious performance and clinched eight medals in recently held International Pentathlon Championships in Egypt and Kirghizstan. The DG SBP was the chief guest at the ceremony, held here at National Hockey Stadium under the auspices of Pakistan Modern Pentathlon Federation here. Secretary Pakistan Pentathlon Federation (PMPF) Zahoor Ahmed and other officials were also present. Seven countries participated in the International Islamic Pentathlon Championship in Egypt where Pakistan athletes captured three silver and two bronze medals. After this event, national pentathlon team featured in 6-Nation International Pentathlon Championship in Kirghizstan in which national players bagged one gold, one silver and one bronze medal. Mohammad Munir Ahmed was given a cash prize of Rs 15,000 for winning gold medal while three athletes Sharjeel Zafar, Asad Ali and Naeem Ahmed Zafar were given cash prizes of Rs 10,000 each for winning silver medals while Salman Ahmed, M Talha, Mohsin Razaq and Kamran Babar got Rs 8,000 each for winning bronze medals in Pentathlon Championships.

Iyer ruled out of New Zealand ODIs

NEW DELHI (AFP/APP): A back injury has forced India batsman Shreyas Iyer out of the one-day international series against New Zealand, the country's cricket board said Tuesday. Rajat Patidar will replace Iyer in the squad from Wednesday's opener in Hyderabad, under the leadership of Rohit Sharma. Iyer "will be heading to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for further assessment and management", the Board of Control for Cricket in India said in a statement. The hosts are fresh from their 3-0 sweep of Sri Lanka as they prepare for this year's 50-over World Cup at home. India's updated ODI squad: Rohit Sharma (capt), Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan (wk), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, KS Bharat (wk), Hardik Pandya, Rajat Patidar, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umran Malik.

Rwanda stun Zimbabwe

DUBAI (BBC): Rwanda have registered a historic first victory at a cricket World Cup after their under-19 team beat Zimbabwe by 39 runs in their second group match. Rwanda's top three scored the bulk of their 119 runs with none of the other batters getting into double-figures, but they defended their total fiercely. They had Zimbabwe 80 for 5 before capping victory with five wickets in six balls including four in four balls by seamer Henriette Ishimwe. Her hat-trick is the second at this tournament after South Africa's Madison Landsman took the competition's first against Scotland on Monday. The Zimbabwean collapse started with a run-out in the 17th over, when victory already seemed to be evading their grasp.

Djokovic given rapturous welcome back to Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AFP/APP): Serbian flags waved and Rod Laver Arena rose to give Novak Djokovic a rapturous welcome back to the Australian Open on Tuesday, a year after he was kicked out of the country.

The nine-time Australian Open champion was deported on the eve of last year's Grand Slam event because of his stance on Covid vaccines.

But spectators, among them members of Melbourne's Serbian community, gave him a rousing reception as he entered the court he has made his own down the years to face Spain's 75th-ranked Roberto Carballes Baena.

It has been 1,821 days since the Serbian great last lost a match at Melbourne Park and he seemed in the mood to continue that run

as he slapped down an ace with the opening serve of his match, to a huge roar.

Fans had earlier been unsure of the welcome Djokovic might receive after his three-year ban from Australia was lifted in November, enabling him to go for a record-extending 10th victory at Melbourne Park. The Serb's attempts to compete with a medical exemption in 2022 angered many Australians in a city that endured some of the longest lockdowns in the world at the height of the pandemic. But on a scorching-hot day 12 months later, most believed it was time to move on from last year's saga.

"I don't know how he goes from being a national threat a year ago to being allowed to play, but that's a discussion for another



time," said Goran, who was draped in the Serbian flag, referencing one of the reasons that Australia

deported Djokovic.

"He's gonna win it. He's going to win his 10th and he's going to secure him-

self as the best of all time. It's never going to be close. He's not going to drop a set." Australian Open

organisers have said any fans targeting Djokovic would be slapped with potential tournament bans.

There was no hint of public dissent on his return, but some remain quietly unconvinced.

"I'm not a fan of Djokovic but you can't deny his genius," said Australian spectator Rob, who like other fans only wanted to give their first name.

"Emotionally, he rubs me up the wrong way. But I think in terms of what happened last year, it is literally in the past," added his friend Tom. "I don't think there isn't any reason that he shouldn't be playing."

Rob described why he thought Djokovic had never historically won over the Australian public in the same way as his

great rivals Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. "I think it's about demeanor," he said. "It's just a personal preference, in my view, for the way that Roger, Rafa and Ash (Barty) would conduct themselves."

"I'm reading 'The Remains of the Day' at the moment and the butler talks about dignity all the time. And I think that's a quality that those players have." Many of the Serbian fans at Melbourne Park did not have tickets for the centre court night session when their hero was in action, but instead cheered him on from big screens in the gardens. "I was at the charity match with (Nick) Kyrgios the other night," added Goran. "And he got a warm reception. The crowd seem to love him. 'So it's good to have him back.'"

20-K Cup 2023: Four more matches decided

LAHORE (APP): Four more matches were decided in the 20-K Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament, as the winning teams notched up easy wins against their respective rivals here at various venues on Tuesday.

All-rounder Shahrukh Ali guided Township Whites to a 43-run victory over Prince Club in the 25th match of the tournament. Township Whites, batting first, posted 164-8 on the board in 20 overs with Shahrukh Ali smashing 33-ball 55 and while Hamza Akbar slammed 37. Asif Ghafoor claimed 3 wickets 25.

Prince Club failed to chase the target and were all out for 121 in 19.4 overs. Only Burhan Riaz (35), Ammar Tariq (16) and Sham ud Din (12) batted well. Shoaib bagged 3-19 while Shahrukh Ali, Mohammad Yasin and Kamran Afzal took two wickets each. Shahrukh Ali was named player of the match.

Awais Zafar's century steered Model Town Greens to a superb 7-wicket success over Golden Star Cricket Club in the 26th match of the

tournament. Model Town Greens, batting first, posted a mammoth total of 200-7 in 20 overs. Awais Zafar hammered unbeaten 111 runs off 48 balls with the help of 6 fours and 10 sixes. Bilal Dar fired a fabulous fifty (56) for the winning team. M Junaid got 4 wickets and Abrar Ahmad took two. Shinning Club routed Model Town Whites by 52 runs in the 27th match of the tournament. Shinning Club, batting first, scored 152-5 in 20 overs. Ulfat Rasool cracked unbeaten 56 while Rao Khayyam struck 34 and Abdul Salam 27. For Model Town Whites, M Ikhlaiq captured 3 scalps.

Brilliant bowling by Zahid ul Hassan (4 for 12) helped Shinning Club restrict Model Town Whites to 100-9 in 20 overs. Rao Khayyam also batted well and bagged 2 for 22. Farhan Khan slammed 29 runs and Muhammad Ikhlaiq 13 runs respectively for Model Town Whites.

Ali Garh Club emerged as triumphant by 7 wickets against Apollo Club in the 28th match of the tour-

nament. Apollo Club, batting first, piled up a low total of 114-7 in 20 overs. Usaid Amin scored 34 and Reyan Nadeem 18. Ali Shafi and Shahid Bhutta grabbed two wickets each and Ali Usman one.

Ali Garh Cricket Club chased the target comfortably for the loss of just 3 wickets in 13.1 overs. Muhammad Faizan hammered 37 runs and Zeeshan Ashraf 28 and Hazrat Wali 21. Nisar Ahmad, Mohammad Rameez and Umair Butt got one wicket each.

On Wednesday (January 18, 2023), five matches will be played at different venues of the city. In the 29th match of the tournament, Model Town Greens will take on Pak Lions, in the 30th match, Yu Slim Club will face Shah Kamal Club, in the 31st match, Model Town Club will play against Model Town Whites, in the 32nd match, Ludhiana Club will vie against Ali Garh Club and in the 33rd match, Shah Faisal Club will compete against Valencia Gymkhana.

Tatum half century as Celtics pound Hornets, Curry saves Warriors

LOS ANGELES (AFP/APP): Jayson Tatum produced an electrifying 51-point display as the Boston Celtics marked the NBA's Martin Luther King Day holiday schedule with a 130-118 win over the Charlotte Hornets on Monday.

Two days after scoring 33 points against Charlotte on Saturday, Tatum once again took center stage with a commanding performance as the Eastern Conference leaders claimed a seventh straight victory.

Tatum's virtuoso display was one of several eye-catching individual performances around the NBA on Monday, with LeBron James erupting for 48 points in the Los Angeles Lakers' win over Houston and Golden State's Stephen Curry scoring 41 points against Washington.

Tatum brought up his half century in the closing seconds, nervelessly draining a long-range three-pointer which drew roars of appreciation from the home crowd at Charlotte's Spectrum Center. It was the final act of an 18-point fourth quarter from Tatum, who made 15-of-23 from the field with seven three-pointers, nine rebounds and five assists.

It marked the fifth time in Tatum's career he has posted more than 50

points in a game. His career high remains a 60-point performance against San Antonio in 2021.

Monday's tally also means the 24-year-old is the Celtics all-time leader in regular-season 50-point games, surpassing franchise icon Larry Bird's total of four. "It's been a while since I scored 50, so I needed that one," Tatum joked after the win, adding that scoring 51 points on the national holiday to honor civil rights hero King carried added meaning. "Without him I wouldn't be able to do what I do and live out my dream," Tatum said. Boston's victory saw them improve to 33-12 at the top of the East, 4.5 games clear of second-placed Brooklyn.

Elsewhere on Monday, Warriors ace Curry bagged the 67th game of his career with 40 points or more to save the Golden State Warriors with a 127-118 road win over the Washington Wizards.

The Warriors, who played in the nation's capital a day before a scheduled White House visit in recognition of last season's NBA championship win, looked to be sliding to defeat as Washington led 106-98 midway through the fourth quarter.

But two three-pointers from

Draymond Green sparked a burst of Warriors scoring, with Curry finishing on 41 points after a closing 27-8 run. "It's whatever it takes at this point for us to try and right the ship, and get some good momentum, good energy around the team and an understanding of how to win games on the road," said Curry, paying tribute to the work of Green and Jordan Poole, who finished with 32 points.

"Draymond was unbelievable in the fourth quarter and Jordan kept us alive in the first half," said Curry.

"Collectively we just had a little bit more composure down the stretch and a little bit more intelligence on how to finish the game and not get rattled in that fourth quarter."

In Los Angeles, LeBron James guided the Lakers to a 140-132 win over the Houston Rockets with 48 points, eight rebounds and nine assists. But James' heroics could not mask a shaky display from the Lakers against a Rockets side who are bottom of the Western Conference with the worst record in the NBA at 10-34.

In other games, the Memphis Grizzlies extended their winning streak to 10 games with a 136-106 drubbing of the Phoenix Suns.

Gen Saeed-uz-Zaman Janjua Memorial Polo Cup

LAHORE (APP): Remington Pharma overwhelmed BN Polo team 7-2 in the opening match of the Major General Saeed-uz-Zaman Janjua Memorial Polo Cup 2023, sponsored by JS Bank here at the Jinnah Polo Fields on Tuesday.

Hamza Mawaz Khan from Remington Pharma played brilliantly and scored five fabulous goals while Ahmed Zubair Butt banged in a beautiful brace. Haider Naseem played well for BN Polo team by converting two tremendous goals.

Remington Pharma dominated the match right from the word go as they hammered a hat-trick in the first chukker against one goal by BN Polo to gain a 3-1 lead. Remington Pharma maintained their supremacy in the second and third chukkers and smashed in three and one goal respectively to enhance their lead to 7-1. The only goal of the fourth chukker was scored by BN Polo but Remington won the encounter 7-2.

Majid Qureshi, Regional Head JS Bank, was the chief guest on the

first day of the eight-goal event. Jinnah Polo Fields presented Lt Col Shoaib Aftab (R), JS Bank Team Leader Zubair Ehsan Khan and Kashif Butt, a large number of polo players, families were also present on this occasion. The first match tomorrow Wednesday (January 18, 2023) will be played between Black Horse Paints and Platinum Homes/Master Paints at 1:30 pm while Pindi Express will compete against Diamond Paints/Nagina Group in the second match of the day at 2:30 pm.

Veteran Murray stuns Berrettini over five sets at Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AFP/APP): Andy Murray stunned Italian 13th seed Matteo Berrettini on Tuesday, saving a match point to prevail over five grueling sets and book a spot in the Australian Open second round.

The three-time Grand Slam champion has battled major hip and abdominal injuries for half a decade but declared himself free of pain and fired up before the tournament.

His renowned grit was on full display in toppling the Italian 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-7 (7/9), 7-6 (10/6) in 4hrs 49mins under a closed roof on Rod Laver Arena due to extreme heat.

It was a huge win for the 35-year-old Briton, now ranked 66, to knock out last year's semi-finalist for a landmark 50th match-win at the season-opening Grand Slam.

"I'll be feeling this this evening and tomorrow, but right now I'm unbelievably happy and proud of myself," said Murray, a five-time runner-up at Melbourne Park.

"I've put a lot of work into the last few months with my team to give me this opportunity to perform on stadiums like this, in matches like this and against players like Matteo and it paid off tonight."

It was Murray's first victory over a



top 20 player at a Grand Slam since defeating ninth-ranked Kei Nishikori in the quarter-finals of the 2017 French Open.

Victory also brought up his 50th Australian Open match-win, becoming only the fifth man in the Open Era to achieve the feat alongside Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Stefan Edberg.

"I think some of the tennis at the end was really good, it felt like that playing," he said.

"He's a brilliant competitor, one of the best on tour, he always fights to

the end and I did well to get through."

Coached by Ivan Lendl, who won the Melbourne Park title in 1989 and 1990, Murray broke into the first set and twice in the second as the Italian struggled on his second serve while making a slew of unforced errors. But Berrettini rallied in the third set with a break to move 3-2 clear and helped by six aces took it to a fourth set. Nothing separated them and it went to a seessawing tiebreak that the Italian won on his third set point when Murray sent a forehand long.



In brief

IRSA releases 25,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 25,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 43,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1498.40 feet and was 100.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 16,500 cusecs while outflow was 8,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1123.35 feet, which was 73.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,700 cusecs and 100 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 15,700, 18,200, 4,000 and 4,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,300 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 6,500 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

Rain-snowfall over hills predicted

ISLAMABAD (APP): A westerly wave is likely to enter North Balochistan on January 18 (Wednesday) and produce rain with snowfall over the hills in parts of Balochistan till January 19 (Thursday), according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). Under the influence of this weather system, rain-snowfall with isolated heavy fall is expected in Quetta, Zhob, Barkhan, Ziarat, Chaman, Pishin, Nokkundi, Dalbandin, Harnai, Qilla Saifullah, Qilla Abdullah, Muslim Bagh, Kalat, Khuzdar, Turbat, Panjgur and Makran coast on January 18 and 19. Partly cloudy to cloudy weather conditions are expected in other parts of the country during the period.

About the possible impacts, the met office informed that moderate with isolated heavy fall/snowfall may disrupt and cause the closure of roads in parts of North Balochistan. Tourists are advised to remain extra cautious during the spell. Rain will be beneficial for the crops and orchards in Balochistan while temperatures are likely to fall significantly during and after the spell. All authorities concerned are advised to remain alert for avoiding any untoward situation during the forecast period. The met office has also indicated the onset of another weather system that would approach the upper parts of the country from January 21.

AIOU announces schedule

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Tuesday announced the schedule of entry tests for applying in Ph.D., MS, and Mphil programs. Entry tests for these programs will be held in the academic complex, main campus, AIOU Islamabad from February 17 to February 22. Admissions in BS, MS/Mphil and Ph.D. programs for Semester Spring 2023 will continue till February 15. Admission forms and prospectuses for these programs are available on the University's website, said a press release here on Tuesday. Students can apply through online portal only. Admission in BS programs will be given on merit basis. It is necessary to pass the entry test to get admission in MS/Mphil and PhD programs. According to the details, the entrance tests of the Mphil and PhD programs of the Faculty of Education will be held on February 17 and the interviews will be conducted on February 18.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf launches the Sustainable Development Report, 2022 in collaboration with All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) at PIPS.

‘Indian media reported flood alert in Ravi river during 2022 monsoon’

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to PM for Kashmir & GB, Qamar Zaman Kaira on Tuesday said that during the current monsoon season, a flood alert was reported in Indian media regarding the release of 200,000 cusecs flows in the river Ravi.

Speaking in the Senate Session during the question hour, he said that Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters (PCIW) approached the Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters (ICIW) on 31st July 2022 to validate the said news and asked to share the flow/discharge information in this regard to take preventive/mitiga-

tion measures in Pakistan.

The ICIW in his response, dated 1st August 2022, intimated about the flow of 140,000 cusecs, likely to be released in the river Ravi downstream of Ujh Barrage on the river which is a right bank tributary of river Ravi, he informed.

Later, however, the flows observed and reported by Pakistani Punjab Irrigation Department in river Ravi at Jassar were reported as 33,850 cusecs, he added. Similarly, he said, in the second instance the information was shared by India on 15th August 2022 whereby it was inti-

mated that the flow of 171,797 cusecs has been released downstream of Ujh Barrage in river Ravi.

The corresponding river flows observed and reported by Punjab Irrigation Department in Ravi at Jassar was 63,720 cusecs, Qamar informed.

The information supplied by India in the above two instances was shared by the office of PCIW with all the quarters concerned for taking preventive measures including the flood forecasting division, federal and provincial flood disaster and response agencies/departments, etc, Kaira added.

Five drug peddlers held, drugs recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while conducting various operations, arrested five drug peddlers and seized over 37 kilograms of narcotics from their possession, here on Tuesday. According to an ANF spokesman, the team recovered 47 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a Sharjah-bound passenger who was a resident of Charsadda at Islamabad International Airport.

In another operation, ANF and ASF recovered 62 grams of hashish at Islamabad International Airport from the possession of a Bishkek-bound passenger, a resident of Haripur, was going on flight number KA-4506. The ANF conducted a raid near CMH Chowk Attock and recovered 7.2 kg hashish from a car and rounded up two accused. The spokesman informed that ANF foiled a bid to smuggle six kg of hashish from Peshawar to Taxila and arrested a drug smuggler resident of Rawalpindi intercepted near Motorway Park Peshawar. ANF and FC in a joint operation in Khyber seized 23.5 kg of hashish.

Action urged for routine profiteering at motorway tuck shops

ISLAMABAD (APP): Travelers have urged the authorities to take strict action against the tuck shop owners who are engaged in profiteering on motorways and taking advantage of the high volume of travelers passing through the area.

Talking to APP here on Tuesday, a passenger traveling from Islamabad to Lahore, Saad Zaheer said that business owners at motorways have unfairly increased the prices and making excessive profits. He said that various items at the tuck shops do not come under the essential commodities but tuck shops along the motorway are selling products at significantly higher prices than the printed prices. He said that it is not appropriate for businesses to engage in profiteering, which is the act of unfairly taking advantage of a location and situation to make excessive profits. Another traveler at Motorway M2, Masood Shah raised the concern over the substandard and unhygienic food items being sold at the various tuck shops on the motorways.

When contacted by the owner of the old bookshop at F-10 Markaz, Nadeem Iqbal said that they purchase used books at the quarter price and resell them at half price. He said that the publishers offer a discount on the books which are printed in the bulk but such sales lack variety. He said that the collection of old book shops, variety, old editions, and rare collections make such outlets popular among the public.

A research scholar at Federal Urdu University while commenting on the old books said that various publishers are offering up to 50 percent discount on the new books while owners of old bookshops purchase the books at a cheaper price to resell them to needy readers at higher profit margins.

He stressed that the implementation of EPHS had been developed, its implementation was more important and for which multi-sectoral collaboration is crucial. He added that the health security agenda should be enhanced along with the programmatic monitoring.

Dr Ala Alwan from Disease Control Priorities (DCP3) Secretariat appreciated the Government of Pakistan for their hard and dedicated work.

He stressed the role of the Ministry of Planning and Finance towards the implementation of EPHS as their engagement was required for sustainable financing of EPHS. He added that the private sector should be involved in the implementation phase as the primary healthcare services were majorly delivered by the private sector in Pakistan. He mentioned that retaining the capacity in the Ministry of National Health Services and partner institutes was necessary for the sustainability of the UHC-BP. Special Secretary of Health, Mirza Nasir ud din Mashood said that the Ministry of National Health Services was committed to working closely with the provincial and federating areas and other stakeholders, not only for effective coordination but also to ensuring the provision of required technical support in health.

Govt allocate Rs 362m to NDMA for FY 2022-23 as a regular budget: Awan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Law Shahadat Awan said on Tuesday that Rs. 362.6 Million have been allocated to NDMA as a regular budget for the fiscal year 2022-23, whereas, an amount of Rs. 8 Billion has been allocated to NDMA for procurement in view of monsoon flood 2022. Speaking on the floor of the Senate, during question hour, he said that NDMA Annual Reports for the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 are already available on NDMA Website.

Furthermore, he said, NDMA Annual Report 2022 will be prepared and published after the conclusion of the year 2022. Sharing the details of the objectives achieved by NDMA during the last 05 years, he said that from 2018 to 2021, NDMA has been managing multiple man-

made and climate-induced disasters including heavy rains/snowfall, flash floods, hill torrents, glacial lake outburst floods, urban flooding, tropical cyclones and earthquakes in AJ&K, Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan. In addition, NDMA was intimately involved in responding to two major national/international emergencies, locusts and COVID-19.

Based on the PMD forecast, the Minister of State said, monsoon contingency plans were prepared at the national, provincial and district levels. Monsoon Seasons from 2018 to 2021 saw climate change-induced impacts ranging from flash floods, hill torrents, cloud bursts, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) to urban flooding with the latter being the most recurrent theme in recent years.

PIMS staffers’ non-professional attitude causing nuisance in patients: Mandokhail

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Committee on Affected Employees Chairman Qadir Khan Mandokhail on Tuesday raised the issue of the non-professional behavior of staffers of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS)’s Pathology Department with patients causing grave concerns among the people.

Talking on a Calling Attention Notice, he said there was a dire need to polish the professional etiquette of medical practitioners working particularly in the government hospitals in the domain of federal capital.

On this, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram

Durrani asked the respective member for sending the matter to the privilege committee if the issue of misconduct pertains to a particular official.

Replying to the query, Mandokhail said he was also a social worker beside a legislator and he had no personal grudge against anyone but he was worried about the rest of the hospitals of the country where patients were not being treated as per qualified standards. He urged the chair to refer the matter to the committee for its redressal on a long-term basis.

Parliamentary Secretary Agha Rafiullah informed the house that the

Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination had taken immediate action on the concerns expressed by the respective member Mandokhail.

He said he had no objection to sending this matter to the committee, but since the minister himself had issued clear-cut instructions on the subject, the respective member should wait for the action.

Agha Rafiullah himself admitted that the staffers of hospitals must properly be trained in a bid to provide a congenial environment to the patients and the public.

Govt bans new connections due to gas shortage: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik on Tuesday said that currently, the government has imposed a ban on expansion in the domestic network due to the shortage of gas. Speaking in the Senate session during question hour, he said the same shall be reviewed upon improvement in gas supplies and removal of pricing distortion.

The minister said that new policies regarding gas production would be brought in the next two weeks, adding, the results of these policies could be seen in the next four years.

Replying to a question, he said that

the total indigenous production of natural gas and volume with a percentage share of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last three years was 11.09 MMCF in 2019-20, 12.27 MMCF in 2020-21 and 12.00 MMCF in 2021-22.

Furthermore, he said that this ban was imposed by the previous government and added it even changed the OGRA rules.

He said that as per the rules, gas was provided to those provinces where it is being produced. It is in the "deep interest of the country" to continue the ban on gas connections till the end of its shortage, he added.

PCRWR declares 20 brands of bottled water unsafe for human consumption

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared 20 brands of bottled water unsafe for human consumption due to microbial, chemical, or both types of contamination for the fourth quarter (October-December) of the year 2022.

The PCRWR collected 168 samples of mineral/bottled water brands from 22 cities during the said period and found 20 brands unsafe, said a press release.

As many as 12 brands (Best Natural, Excellent Natural, Klear, Pinar,

Neno, Ice Drop, Premium Safa, Orwell, Indus, Minwa Kashaf, Barsay, Nayab Pure Life) were found to be unsafe due to the presence of higher levels of sodium, two brands (Excellent Natural, Aqua One) due to the presence of high level of Potassium than the permissible limit, one brand (Nayab Pure Life) due to presence of high level of TDS than the permissible limit.

Similarly, eight brands (Alfa Premium, Isberg, Aqua pack, Sip up, Ever pure, Noble, Neno, Asha) were found microbiologically contaminated and thus

were unsafe for drinking purposes.

The general public is encouraged to look at the detailed report to know about the status of the water quality of bottled water brands they consume.

The detailed report is available on the PCRWR website www.pcrwr.gov.pk.

It is pertinent to mention here that the government has directed PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled/mineral water brands and publicizing the results for awareness of public health.



ISLAMABAD: Girls taking keen interest in painting during exhibition by Artist Muhammad Javed at Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

8 killed in 3 road accidents

LOGAR (Agencies): Local police officials of Logar Police say that eight people lost their lives and four others were injured in three traffic accidents. The police spokesman of Logar police, Mawlawi Ahmadullah Anas said that a car with high speed collided with another car, which killed eight people and two others were injured. In another incident motorbik collided with be a car, where two people were injured in Barki Barak district of Logar province, Anas added.

New uniforms distributed

PAKTIKA (Agencies): New uniforms were distributed to guards of Paktika Central prison. During the distribution of the uniforms, the Deputy Governor of Paktika Mawlawi Mohibullah Hamas, called the protection of Islamic Emirate system their responsibility. He asked the guards of this prison to wear the uniform properly. Mawlawi Hamas, in the meantime listened to the problems of the prisoners and assured them of addressing their problems.

IEA authorities flog nine people in Kandahar

KANDAHAR (Khaama Press): The Islamic Emirate court in southern Kandahar has announced that nine people allegedly accused of committing "adultery and theft" have been flogged in public in this province.

Kandahar province's court of appeals announced in a press release that nine individuals allegedly accused of committing adultery and theft have been lashed in public. The Taliban authorities have not provided further clarifications in this regard.

Meanwhile, according to official sources, the Islamic Emirate authorities have

lashed a man and woman in front of a huge crowd in Badakhshan province, accused of having extramarital affairs.

Public punishment which includes flogging, stoning, and public execution has been widely exercised by the Taliban authorities across the country in the recent past, drawing massive criticism from the international community.

Taliban Supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada issued a series of decrees in the recent past, legitimizing some strict practices which are not in line with the con-

temporary lifestyle of the people. Barring Afghan girls from getting secondary education and university lessons is a clear example, which sparked serious demonstrations in some parts of Afghanistan.

Additionally, the latest announcement by the Taliban which restricted women employees from working with non-governmental aid organizations was another clear example of their gender-based apartheid policies.

Although a considerable number of international aid organizations and foreign governments called on

Afghanistan's de facto authorities to reverse their decision – respect human rights, particularly that of women and girls, nothing has changed for better so far.

Afghan women and girls have been left deprived of their inherent rights to participate in education, work, sports and more – with no hope, no future, and no prospects under the country's ruling regime.

Whereas the IEA authorities emphasize practicing the strict version of Sharia laws with no exceptions in social, cultural, ethical, and religious matters.

45 drug addicts died in Herat so far this winter

HERAT (TOLONews): At least 45 drug addicts have died in Herat province due to exposure to severe cold so far this winter, officials said. Officials added that the drug addicts who live in Herat city come from various provinces across the country.

In recent days, around 3,500 drug addicts have been rounded up by relevant institutions in Herat and have been sent to rehabilitation centers.

"This year, 45 drug addicts have died since the cold season began, and we have started the process of collecting drug addicts," said Hayatullah Rouhani, head of the counter-narcotics department at Herat Police Command.

Drug addicts expressed gratitude for being saved from the cold and express a desire for therapy and a return to normal life.

"It is enough. I have repented. I want to recover for a few days and worship Allah," said Safdar, a drug addict.

"I'm delighted they got us here and we're getting treatment. It was chilly outside," said Mohammad Rasool, another drug addict.

Around 22 private rehabilitation centers are operating in the city of Herat and some districts in the province.

Locals, businesspeople, and governmental organizations all are contributing financially to the treatment of addicts in rehab centers, according to officials.

"If people work with us, we can treat many drug addicts, and if they don't cooperate, it would be difficult," said Ziauddin Maldar, head of private addiction treatment centers in Herat.

The cold weather has made life extremely difficult for drug addicts who are homeless in Herat. Nearly 70,000 drug addicts, most of whom are homeless, live in Herat, according to government figures.

Afghanistan export goods to turkey by trucks



KABUL (Agencies): For the first time, Afghanistan's export goods were exported to Turkey by trucks from Aqena port.

From now the country's

goods will be exported to Turkey by domestic transport companies by trucks, said the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation in a statement.

The export process has started from Aqena port, which after passing through Turkmenistan and Iran, will reach Turkey, the statement added.

UK to provide a learning opportunity for denied Afghan girls



KABUL (Khaama Press): A Scottish foundation, Linda Norgrove, hopes to bring Afghan girls who are denied education in Afghanistan. The foundation is a Scotland charity run by Lorna and John Norgrove in their daughter's memory, Linda Norgrove. Their daughter was working as an aid worker in Afghanistan, was

killed in 2010.

Since coming to power last August, the Taliban (IEA) has introduced some new education policies. They do not allow girls to attend school beyond six-grade and prevent most girls from attending formal secondary and high school education.

On the other hand, they banned Afghan women

from higher education and universities in December 2022. The ruling authorities stated that "female students were not following instructions including a proper dress code", which is why they were banned from attending universities. The Taliban's minister for higher education said.

Linda Norgrove, a charity

foundation base in Scotland, wants to fund medical students to continue their studies in Scotland. Most of the medical students were in their final year and hoping they would have a career and life of their own, but now it looks as if they are not going to be able to go back to university and complete their education, said John, who runs the foundation. He also added, "it would be great if we were able to get visas for them and get them across."

Despite the enormous challenges, they were more committed than ever to helping the women of Afghanistan. "We must keep going and supporting Afghan women because their needs are increasing. It would be terrible if we were to disappear right now." Said John, and Lorna, who runs the foundation.

Winter clothes distributed

BAGHLAN (TOLONews): Local administration in Baghlan has started the distribution of winter clothes to children in collaboration with a number of aid organizations in the province.

The children who work on the streets in the city of Pul-e-Khumri to feed their families called on aid agencies and the government to provide them with more

support. "It has been one month that my father is jobless, and I have to work in this cold weather," said Adila, a child.

"My father had a job a month ago. But he has lost his job and I work for my family," said Benafsha, a working

"We are seven people in the family and don't have income just work and help

my family," said Mustafa, a child.

Local officials in Baghlan said they will distribute winter clothes to at least 300 children in the city of Pul-e-Khumri.

"We distribute winter clothes to children who work on streets and need help," said Nusratullah Parsa, head of the Labor and Social Affairs

Department in Baghlan.

"We distribute winter clothes to children to protect them against the cold weather," said Sayed Kabir Sadat, the head of the United Nations Children's Fund.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, nearly 15,000 children are engaged in child labor in the province.

‘Mursal murder to be probed seriously’

KABUL (Agencies): The police of Kabul says the recent assassination of former member of parliament, Mursal Nabizada will be investigated.

The spokesperson of Commander Police of Kabul, Khalid Zadran, said that two days back, the former Member of Parliament, Mursal Nabizada, and one of her bodyguards were killed by unknown gunmen in their house.

In the first police investigations, it was found that there were guests in Nabizada's house on the night of the incident, and that the incident happened late that night, Zadran added.

According to the source, at 7 o'clock in the morning, the relevant security site is informed and they immediately start the investigation.

Zadran stressed that a full investigation of the incident is underway and everything will be clarified truthfully and precisely.

A brother of Mursal was also injured in the incident and no one has been arrested on charge with the incident so far.

Wardak investors struggling with electricity shortage



MAIDAN SHAHR (Pajhwok): Investors in central Maidan Wardak province are complaining about lack of electricity and want the government to address the problem.

Eng Noorullah, chief engineer at an oxygen producing factory in Kotal area of Maidan Shahr, the provincial capital, told Pajhwok Afghan News that due to the lack of electricity, their work had been disrupted and they could not meet the expenses.

He said: "Lack of electricity has a very negative effect on our work because high consumption of generator electricity is expensive and we cannot afford it."

He urged the government to ensure smooth supply of electricity to industries and prevent power outages, otherwise they had to wind up their businesses.

Mohib Rahman, an engineer with the Basir Ahmadzai Road construction company, said: "Due to the lack of government electricity, our work is often delayed because electricity requirement increases in winter."

He said if the government invested in electricity generation in the country, this problem would be addressed forever.

He added: "We don't avail electricity for two

hours a day. We use private electricity which has more cost than benefit." He asked the government to solve this problem in order to encourage investors.

Maulvi Abdul Haq Talha, electricity department director, said the problem of electricity distribution was a nationwide issue and the government was striving to resolve it.

He said: "In the next year, the problem of electricity shortage would be mostly solved because more hydropower dams would be built in the country."

He added consumption of electricity increased in winter season so its price had also surged.

Weapons discovered

KABUL (Agencies): A large amount of weapons, and military equipment were discovered by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's Intelligence forces in Kunar and Baghlan.

The Intelligence forces of Baghlan discovered and confiscated a large amount of light and heavy weapons and military equipment that were illegally kept in Deh Salah district of Baghlan, said department of Intelligence reports.

Same like, the report says that the intelligence forces of Kunar conducted operations in different districts of this province, where they have discovered many weapons and military equipment that were kept illegally.

Residents frustrated with continued power cuts

KABUL (TOLONews): A number of Kabul residents said they feel frustrated with power outages in the city that have continued for the past few weeks, leaving people with many challenges amidst the freezing winter.

The residents asked the government to address the matter. According to the residents, electricity is supplied four to five hours a day, which is not enough for them.

"The issue of electricity has reached its peak, especially in the Makrorayan area because we cannot use gas and the heating system is not activated yet," said Shabana, a Kabul resident.

"There is water shortage. If we don't have electricity, we don't have water too," said Sherzai, a Kabul resident. The business community said that the power shortage has also affected factories in Kabul's industrial park.

"We don't have electricity even for one hour. We should use thermal power resources until the transmission lines for power supply from Uzbekistan are reconnected," said Sakhi Ahmad Payman, first deputy of the Chamber of the Industry and Mine.

The country's power distributor, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS),

said at least 30 percent of the electricity for Kabul is supplied through internal sources.

"Efforts are underway to provide electricity for people for two hours," said Hekmatullah Maiwandi, DABS spokesman. A former DABS chairman, Amannullah Ghalib, meanwhile, suggested that there is a need to invest in producing electricity from coal.

"We have to invest in the country's resources such as coal because Afghanistan has a lot of coal sources," Ghalib said. Afghanistan imports most of its needed power from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Iran.

Afghan acting minister meets elders of Paktia province



PAKTIA (Agencies): The Afghan Acting Minister for

Energy and Water Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor met

with elders of Zermat district of Paktia and discussed

the conducting water and energy projects in that district.

Elders of Zermat district shared their problems and suggestions with acting Minister of Energy and Water, asking for the construction of water dams in their district.

For his part, Minister Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor assured the elders of Zermat district that the Ministry of Energy and Water will take into account in its future plan to conduct the project of building water dams in Paktia, which is currently technically Research and necessary studies underway he added.

Construction of 50 houses completed

PAKTIKA (Agencies): local officials Natural Disasters Management of Paktika said that 50 houses were handed over to the earthquake effected residents of Gyan district of province.

According to the officials of the province the houses cost about 184,000 US dollars which financial support by the Swedish Committee.

The provincial head of natural disasters management of Paktika, Mawlawi Mutiullah Mansoor, said that 50 houses built with the financial support of the Swedish committee in three months.

DAB to auctions another US\$15 million today

KABUL (Agencies): Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) said today that it will put in auction 15 million US dollars Wednesday as part of efforts to keep the local currency Afghan stable.

The Central Bank has asked eligible banks and money changer services to participate in the tender,

adding that the winners of the auction are obliged to settle their accounts by the end of the day.

Partial settlement of transactions is not allowed and the winners of the auction are obliged to deliver the money owed to Da Afghanistan Bank in cash once, within a certain time,

the bank added.

This the second time in a week that the central bank auctioning United States dollars to further strengthen the value of the Afghani currency.

The exchange rate of one US dollar has been announced at 89.50 afghani today, Saturday.

Alvi for realizing full potential of Sino-Pak trade

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed enhancing bilateral trade with China, which currently stands at US\$ 27.8 billion, and said the strengthening of business could prove mutually rewarding.

Talking to the outgoing Chinese ambassador Nong Rong here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president noted that under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), 19 projects were completed, 28 were under construction while 41 were in the pipeline. President Alvi said the CPEC was a transformational flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, which had the potential to act as the pivot of regional peace and connectivity.

The expeditious completion of four broad clusters of cooperation — Gwadar Port and its auxiliary features, energy projects, transport infrastructure and industrial cooperation including the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) — will change trade, business and investment outlook of the country, he said. The president observed that with shifts underway on the world stage, there was a need to further expedite the progress on CPEC so that the goods should start moving from South China to Gwadar port and upward in a regular manner.

The second phase of CPEC should be pursued expeditiously to promote agriculture; innovation and IT sector; industrial cooperation; livelihood generation and poverty alleviation; automobiles, textiles and leather manufacturing; and shifting of Chinese industries to Pakistan wherever possible, he added. The president noted that the signing of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement in January 2020 had further liberalized the trade resulting in a significant expansion in trade volumes adding that as per data for the first 11 months of 2021, bilateral trade reached a record high at US\$ 27.8 billion registering an increase of 60 per cent with the corresponding period of 2020.

Pakistan's exports amounting to 3.6 billion US \$ also registered an increase of 68% year over year. The president expressed his satisfaction over the encompassing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of defence to socio-economic development. He conveyed his deepest gratitude to the people of China and President Xi Jinping for extending generous financial support to Pakistan which helped the country to deal effectively with the financial situation faced by it and during global warming-induced super floods last year which proved helpful in alleviating the suffering of the flood affected persons.

He said the Chinese grant to the Presidency would be used to build a digital outreach platform to provide help to people under stress or facing mental health issues. He said that the First Lady during her upcoming visit to United Kingdom would engage the psychologists and psychiatrists of the Pakistani diaspora in United Kingdom to seek their active involvement to provide online counselling and advice to people facing mental health situations.

The president expressed the hope that the approaching year of the Rabbit would be monumental for Pakistan-China relations. He appreciated the outgoing ambassador for representing China with dignity and grace in the best traditions of Chinese diplomacy and wished him success in his future professional assignments.

PPP involved in electoral rigging: JI

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has expressed the resolve that the JI will give mayor to Karachi, saying the party is ready to hold talks with all stakeholders on the agenda except the People's Party.

Presiding over a meeting of central leadership at Mansoorah on Tuesday, he said the JI would only hold negotiations with Sindh's ruling party if the latter accepted the JI as the top leading party of the port city. Sirajul Haq alleged the PPP was directly involved in electoral rigging in the second phase of the local government elections throughout the province and particularly in Karachi, and it had tried to block the way of the JI under a conspiracy in some union councils (UCs).

"We have proof of the election rigging in at least nine UCs," he said, adding that had the rigging not been held in some areas, the JI would have emerged single largest party in Karachi on Sunday. He asked the PPP to accept the reality and give back the JI mandate if it was serious about moving ahead. He further said the JI believed in dialogue, hoping the PPP would accept the real mandate of the people of Karachi.

The JI Chief reiterated the demand for electoral reforms, saying the JI had long been calling for free and fair polls. The bad practices of the past of controlling the election results would no longer be accepted by the people, he said, adding the rigging in polls will bring anarchy to the country. He said the people were much more aware now in the age of social media and technology, and they could not be deprived of practicing their democratic rights and electing their representatives in transparent and free manners.

Separately, the workers of the JI hold protest demonstrations in various cities against the rigging in the Karachi elections on the appeal of Sirajul Haq. The JI chief said the protest rallies would continue until the poll results are announced according to the results of farm 11, which the JI contesters received in their UCs. JI Karachi emir Hafiz Naeem Rahman briefed the central leadership about the latest situation. Haq congratulated Rahman and other leaders and workers of the JI on their success, vowing the JI would continue serving the people of Karachi.

Suri moves IHC against FIA's action

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s leader Qasim Suri has approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against FIA's notice on inappropriate tweet about TV anchor Saleem Safi.

He stated in his plea that a complaint was filed to the Federal Investigation (FIA) on basis of political rivalry. Journalist Saleem Safi had alleged him for trying to target his personal life as the twitter comment had affected the privacy of his family, he added. He said that being an activist of PTI, he defended the ideology of Imran Khan at every forum. The tweet which was referred by the complainant was an answer of journalist's tweet dated December 28. Qasim Suri said that he had commented about the journalistic career of Saleem Safi which had no connection with his personal life. There was also no any provocative material in his tweet and he had never commented on privacy of his family, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Mr. Nong Rong paying farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

SC hears Imran's petition against NAO amendments

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial has said that through media they have learnt that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers intend to return to the Parliament.

The SC bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah conducted hearing of former prime minister Imran Khan's petition against the amendments in the NAO, 1999.

Makhdoom said that if and when they (PTI MNAs) can go to the Parliament to get the grievance addressed, they may move a bill to amend or repeal the amendments. There is parliamentary procedure, they either can move the private bill to amend or repeal the law. Justice Bandial said that at this we need cooperation in every aspect, whether that is economic, police and social. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan said that suppose there is bipartisan then they should consider amending the law. He added that the sanity must prevail on both sides. Everyone needs the best of the national interest.

Makhdoom said that the judicial approach is based on principle, while the political approach is based on generality. He further said that without politics there is no democracy and the country or the society survives with the spirit of accommodation. Then the counsel cited the Britain history, how the democracy flourished there. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah stated that the parliamentary process is available to the PTI MNAs therefore go back and take up the matter in the National Assembly.

When the bench inquired from Imran Khan counsel whether he has any instruction from his client regarding the matter, Khawaja Haris said that the political situation is untenable and chaotic therefore nobody knows what will happen next. He said

that not only the petitioner, but many other people also have suffered by the amendments. The Chief Justice said that dozen times my colleague (Justice Mansoor) stated that this matter to be decided in the Parliament and not in the court. However, the petitioner brought this case which attracts Article 184(3) of the Constitution.

Makhdoon contended that when the Supreme Court looks at strike down a statute then it should see the boundary of exercise of its power. Unless there is clear-cut unconstitutionality pointed out, the statute is not struck down mere on different of perception. He said the ethical issues need to be looked at with the perspective of constitutionality. Justice Ijaz observed that there are parliamentarians against whom there are serious allegations and some facing trial have introduced the amendments in the Assembly, which was passed into law. Due to this law the accountability courts, where cases were pending, took other way. The judge inquired from the counsel whether he had seen this in other countries.

Makhdoom replied no adding that there are many cases where the executive branch involved in corruption were given pardon, and clean chit was given to them. Justice Ijaz remarked that the pardon is different thing. He questioned does the counsel think the legislature can give clean chit or exonerate retrospectively. Justice Bandial said that they do not touch the amendments, but only say that the amendments are not retrospective then 90 per cent cases will go. But we are listening the case with patience. There is no requirement of the interpretation. He asked the counsel that the government should be open to review the amendments.

Makhdoom Ali Khan, representing the federation, said he would communicate the observations to the govern-

ment, adding that the best thing is that the PTI MNAs contest these issues in the political forum. Makhdoom said that conflict of opinion has never been a ground to invalidate the legislation. There is no precedent that the court strikes down the law that a number of the parliamentarians benefited from the law. He argued that many parliamentarians have suffered because of the NAB law. The prime minister, finance minister and the chief executive of the country had been kept in jail and were not given bail for months, while a business man against whom there was evidence was acquitted without valid reason. No one challenged it even the NAB did not appeal against that order.

He said though laws for the accountability of the public-office holders have been since 1947, but it had been misused. No one has accused the prosecutors. The chief justice said why no one brought such cases in the apex court. Don't leave everything to the Court. We don't take suo moto notice on every issue. Justice Mansoor said that the PTI MNAs walked out of the Parliament, avoided debate in the parliament, undermining the Parliament and now approached the Supreme Court against the amendments. He questioned that should such case be heard by them by putting everything on hold?

Justice Ijaz said that if exercising Article 184(3) of the Constitution we hearing and when we find that Fundamental Rights are involved in this case then the locus standi of the petitioner is immaterial. Justice Mansoor said public importance becomes irrelevant when the fact before the Court is that the petitioner has undermined the parliamentary democracy. Later, the bench deferred the hearing of the petition till Wednesday (today) for further hearing.

Senate gets details of expenses incurred during Imran's tenure

ISLAMABAD (INP): The details regarding the expenses of the Prime Minister's Office from 2019 to 2021 were presented in the Senate on Tuesday. The Senate meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sadiq Sanjrani.

During the question hour, PPP Senator Bahramand Tangi said former prime minister Imran Khan talked about coming to office by a bicycle and preached simplicity but travelled by a helicopter. The senator said according to the data, Imran Khan spent Rs1 billion as the prime minister in the last three years. Minister of State for Law Shahadat Awan said that during three years a budget of Rs1.17 billion was allocated for the Prime Minister's Office while the expenses remained more than Rs900 million.

In response to the allegations, Senator Shehzad Waseem asked for the details for flood funds and said how much and where those funds were allocated. "They had to submit the details of the crowd that they had taken to the conference in Egypt. Where did the money go that was taken from the world conference, or they are having the intention to spend the money for their personal use?" he interrogated. On Senator Shahzad Wasim's question, Shahadat Awan said an irrelevant question had been asked. "If a written question is submitted according to the rules, I will provide all the details," he said.

Govt urged to declare 2023 as Constitution Year: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation Mian Raza Rabbani has urged the government to declare 2023 as the Golden Jubilee Year of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan.

Speaking on the floor of the Upper House of the Parliament, the veteran PPP leader said, "The Constitution, passed on April 10, 1973, was authenticated on April 12 and promulgated on August 14 [of the same year.] So, this is the Golden Jubilee Year." Raza Rabbani said that in this regard he had written a letter to the prime minister requesting to dedicate the whole current year to 'the Constitution of 1973', besides arranging seminars and events across the country to create awareness about the Constitution.

He said the Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) had already 'accepted' 2023 as 'the Constitution Year', and hoped that the government would also consider it in the same way. Earlier, the Senate referred three bills, passed by the National Assembly and transmitted to the Upper House of the Parliament, to the its Standing Committees for further deliberation on the proposed legislative amendments.

Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan, on behalf of

Law Minister Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, moved a bill further to amend the Control of Narcotic Substances Act, 1997 [The Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2022].

He moved another bill, on behalf of Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor, to amend the Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) Act, 1973 to the extent of Islamabad Capital Territory [The Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendment) Bill, 2022].

Advisor to the PM on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira on behalf of Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah moved a bill, further to amend the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources Act, 2007 [The Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (Amendment) Bill, 2022]. On the other hand, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani deferred a bill that was meant to amend the Trade Organizations Act, 2013 [The Trade Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 2022] after the Minister of State for Law and Justice, conveyed the request of Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar about its deferment for the time being.



MUZAFFRABAD: Shopkeepers are busy in cleaning snow in front of shops at Pir Chinasi area after the heavy snowfall.

KP CM takes cabinet on board about assembly dissolution

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Tuesday informed the provincial cabinet that a summary to dissolve provincial assembly would immediately moved to the Governor and also expressed gratitude to cabinet members, MPAs and bureaucracy for their support to his government.

Presiding over the 86th cabinet meeting here at the CM house, Mahmood Khan said that the four-year in power spent very good and he was grateful to people of KP for endorsing trust in him, adding that dissolution of assembly would not be delayed any further and the summary would be moved to the Governor immediately in vital national interest. He hoped that PTI would come to power again with two third majority after winning the next general elections.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet in a

meeting held here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair approved upgradation of the posts of Secondary School Teachers (SST) and Primary School Teachers (PST) from BPS-16 to BPS-17 and from BPS-12 to BPS-14 respectively with effect from the next financial year. The upgradation of these posts, which was a long-standing demand of the teachers community, will benefit as many as 21,800 SSTs and 51,000 PSTs the province over.

Likewise, the posts of CT, DM, AT and PET have also been upgraded from BPS-15 to BPS-16 to fulfill their demand for upgraded scales. Similarly, a four-tier formula was also approved for the teachers to pave the way for promotion of 13,888 teachers working in various scales ranging from BPS-17 to BPS-20.

The chief minister while addressing the meeting said that he was grateful to all the cabinet members as

well as the bureaucracy and masses for extending him all out support during his tenure as chief minister of the province. "It was the team work and best planning that ensured speedy development of the province", he remarked. Upgradation of the teachers, he hoped, will enable the teachers to work with further commitment and devotion contributing towards promoting quality education in the province. He expressed the hope that PTI will emerge victorious in the next elections too by getting two third majority on the basis of its good performance and continue serving the masses selflessly.

The meeting besides the cabinet members was also attended by the Provincial Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue and Administrative Secretaries of various government departments.

Minister for Elementary &

Secondary Education Shahram Khan Tarakai and Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information & PRs Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif while briefing media persons about the decisions of the cabinet meeting at ITLA'A Cell informed that promotion of education sector was at the top of the PTI government's priorities and the provincial government had taken various revolutionary steps in this regard which included the recruitment of thousands of teachers purely on merit, launching of double shift in schools, making the teaching of Quran compulsory as well as allocation of record funds for the education sector in the budget.

They further informed that the cabinet also approved one time cash grant of Rs. 50 million, and Rs. 20 million for Peshawar Press Club and Swat Press Club respectively. Similarly, a grant of Rs 5 million was approved for

the Nowshera Press Club, they further told. The cabinet, they said, also approved the establishment of District Committees on the Status of Women (DCSW) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The District Committees, which will be headed by a female chairperson and comprising of two elected female councilors as members besides others, will work for the wellbeing of the females as well as addressing their problems. The cabinet, they said, also approved policy on Urban Forestry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They further said that the cabinet also approved a grant of Rs 5 million as Annual Sustenance Fund for Umeed Special Education School during the FY 2022-23. They further informed that the cabinet also approved the transfer of 3 kanal land for the establishment of Rescue 1122 station at Mouza Kakki -1, Tehsil Kakki, District Bannu. The establishment of the station will contribute

towards providing prompt relief to the people of this far flung area in Bannu during natural calamities and emergency situations.

The cabinet, they said, also approved the grant of age relaxation to as many as 77 Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASIs) in Police Department, selected through Public Service Commission four years back. The provision of Rs 180 million as supplementary budget was also approved by the cabinet for bullet proofing of 20 number vehicles for 20 sensitive districts of the province, they further said. The cabinet, they said, also approved the Diseases Control Act 2022 and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Animals Welfare Act 2022 to provide protection to the livestock from falling prey to diseases. Similarly the cabinet also approved annual budget of Rs. 19414 million of the Pakhtunkhwa Highways Authority for the construction of highways.