

FM to visit Moscow

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal will undertake an official visit to Moscow from 29-30 January, at the invitation of Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Lavrov. “The FM will hold official talks with his Russian counterpart where the two sides would deliberate upon the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and exchange views on the regional and international issues of mutual interest,” the FO Spokesperson said.



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LAHORE: Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer of PML-N Maryam Nawaz Sharif addressing to supporters after arriving from London.

Nation rejects Imran’s ‘lies’: Info Minister

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said the people had rejected the “lies of Imran Khan” by giving warm welcome to PML-N Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz at the Lahore Airport on her return from London.

The minister, in a tweet, said Imran Khan who was a “plunderer” of Toshakhana had received an answer from the people who accorded a warm welcome to Maryam Nawaz. “By giving a warm welcome to Maryam Nawaz without a call from party, the nation has proved with whom they stand with,” she added. The minister extended gratitude to the nation for turning out in a large numbers at the airport for welcoming Maryam Nawaz back to the country.

Contempt of court plea filed against IGPs

ISLAMABAD (INP): A contempt plea was filed in Lahore High Court (LHC) against IG Punjab and Islamabad for not presenting PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry before the court despite the court orders.

As per details, Azhar Siddique filed the contempt plea on behalf of Fawad Chaudhry’s relative Nabeel Shehzad. The plea stated that the LHC order three times to present former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry before court but Islamabad police did not present him. Hence contempt court plea should proceed against the concerned officials. Earlier, the LHC summoned the inspector generals of Islamabad and Punjab police on Saturday at 6 pm after the authorities failed to produce PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry before the court.

The former federal minister was arrested by Islamabad police on Wednesday morning from outside his residence for “inciting violence against a constitutional institution”.

Meanwhile, a petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court (LHC) seeking court’s order for election in Punjab within 90 days of dissolution of the assembly. Petitioner Muneer Ahmed has made the President, Punjab Governor and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) as respondents in the case.

According to the petition, “It is compulsory to hold elections within 90 days after dissolution of the assembly under the constitution.” “Two weeks have passed to dissolution of the provincial legislature but no date announced for the election in province,” petitioner said. “The governor is not announcing the election under the political agenda,” petitioner claimed. “The governor is violating the constitution while avoiding to announce the election date,” petitioner said. Petitioner sought the court to issue an order to the Governor of Punjab to announce the date of election in Punjab.

Fawad sent on two-day physical remand

ISLAMABAD (INP): A district and sessions court on Saturday accepted the police’s request for an extension in the physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Fawad Chaudhry in sedition case. The court announced the verdict reserved on the petition filed by the police seeking an extension in the physical remand, while Fawad Chaudhry had filed a plea seeking his discharge from the case.

The PTI leader, who is facing sedition charges for ‘threatening’ the members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), was brought to court today on directives issued by Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Mehmood Khan.

The district and sessions court judge had asked police to produce PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry before the court by 12:30pm as it took up a plea filed by Islamabad police challenging Judicial Magistrate Waqas Ahmed Raja’s decision on extension in physical remand. Separately, another case seeking post-arrest bail of Fawad is also underway at a local court in Islamabad.

In his statement before the court, Chaudhry said he was not retracting his remarks. “I stood by my statement and would not backtrack on it.” During the course of the proceeding, Fawad’s lawyer Babar Awan informed the court his client was being deprived of his fundamental right to meet his family and legal team. He pleaded with the court to allow his client to meet his family.

At this, Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Mehmood Khan accepted Fawad’s plea and allowed him to meet his family. The Islamabad sessions court Friday rejected police request for physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry in a case related to using ‘threatening language’ against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) members. At the outset of the hearing, the prosecutor pleaded for an extension in physical remand as interrogation in the case is yet to be completed. Fawad’s lawyers Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry are also present in the court.

Islamabad police challenge ruling on Fawad’s physical remand: The capital police on Saturday filed a petition in a dis-

trict and sessions court against a verdict of a judicial magistrate to reject a plea for extension in physical remand of PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry in a case related to threatening members of the electoral body and their families.

The police have pleaded the court to declare Judicial Magistrate Waqas Ahmed Raja’s ruling null and void. Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Mahmood has issued notices to the parties in the case. A day earlier, the judicial magistrate sent the former information minister to the Adiala Jail on 14-day judicial remand after turning down a police plea for extension in the physical remand.

The PTI bigwig was produced before the magistrate in handcuffs after his two-day remand ended on Friday in the case filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) secretary. During the hearing, the prosecutor pleaded the court to extend physical remand of the PTI leader as the investigation team needed more time to complete the probe. Reading out the content of the FIR, he said the former minister attempted to incite violence against ECP officials and their families.

He said voice-matching test of the suspect had been completed while there was a need to take him to Lahore for photogrammetric test. He also sought permission to search the house of Imran Khan’s aide to recover laptop and mobile phone. He said the role of the electoral body was crucial in the coming months due to elections but Mr Chaudhry was trying to put pressure on the ECP. However, Fawad Chaudhry’s lawyer Babar Awan expressed reservations over treatment meted out to his client, stating that the PTI leader was treated as a “terrorist”. He said the statement of Mr Chaudhry was reflection of public opinion against the ECP. He also requested the court to discharge his client’s name from the case.

Earlier, the capital police on Saturday filed a petition in a district and sessions court against a verdict of a judicial magistrate to reject a plea for extension in physical remand of PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry in a case related to threatening members of the electoral body and their families.

Bilawal announces to take legal action against Imran

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a series of tweets on Saturday, Chairman PPP & Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that “We [PPP] are exploring legal response to Imran’s latest defamatory & dangerous accusations. In the past, he threatened my father that he was ‘in the crosshairs of his gun’.”

He further said that After terrorist outfits called myself & my party out by name in direct threats, Imran has now made false accusations against my father former president AZ. These statements increase threats to my father, my family and my part. We take them seriously given our history.

Billawal bhutto stated that We are exploring legal response to Imran latest defamatory & dangerous accusations. In the past he threatened my father that he was ‘in the crosshairs of his gun’. His & his associates history as both sympathizers & facilitators of terrorists are well documented. he added.

PPP chairman further said that When in power he released terrorists & arrested democrats, he handed over Pakhtunkhwa to terrorist organization, his

party funds terrorist groups to this day. All of this will be taken into account if any attack were to take place against myself, my father, or my party.

Bilwal bhutto said that Imran must realize every time his wife has a dream he cannot just come on tv & make accusations about people. Her dreams won’t stand up in court.

His latest accusation that my family has any association to a terrorist organization or that we would employ them to cause him harm not only defies logic but exposes us all to an increased threat. he added

PPP will challenge him. We cannot let populist fiction dominate our discourse, poison our politics & damage our democracy. We will not tolerate being victims of terrorist & put up with propaganda from their political frontmen.

Shazia Marr says Imran gone ‘insane’, allegation against Zardari not even worth answering: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marr, while condemning allegation of PTI chief Imran Khan against former president Asif Ali Zardari, said that “Imran Ahmed Niazi has gone insane as his allegation and statements are

not even worth answering”.

She stated this while talking to media persons after inaugurating ‘enazir Nashonuma Center’, here, on Saturday. The minister said that Zardari had never uttered a single word against his opponents, adding that “Imran Ahmed Niazi is a narcissist”. She blamed that “Imran Niazi is trying to spread anarchy in the country”. The minister said that the institutions had announced they would remain apolitical.

Shazia Marri said the federal government did not ignore any province. “We are contacting every provincial government,” the minister said, adding that the Sindh government was cooperating with them. “The Sindh government also cooperated when Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced Rs25,000 each under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for deserving families,” she recalled.

She said that under the BISP programme 1.5 million beneficiaries would be targeted. The federal minister said that pregnant women, lactating females, and females, whose children were aged 6 to 23 months would be covered under this initiative.

PM hails Maryam on return

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday welcomed Senior Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League(Nawaz) Maryam Nawaz on her return to Pakistan.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, “With the blessing of Allah and prayers of the nation, daughter Maryam Nawaz came back to the country after regaining her health.” “In the way, she always upheld the ideology of Quaid Muslim League (Nawaz), principles and truth, with the same enthusiasm and energy she will assume her responsibilities,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister also said Imran Niazi’s baseless and dangerous allegations against former President Asif Ali Zardari were not only irresponsible but also conformed to a pattern of conspiracy theories meant to spread venom against his political opponents.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, “such nonsensical rhetoric is an attempt to remain politically relevant. The whole nation knows how he has used politics of hatred to divide the society for the sake of power.”

Prime Minister also appreciated Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique for launching the Greenline Train from Islamabad to Karachi. While responding to a tweet of the minister about the impressions of the passengers travelling on the train, the PM in his tweet said, “True public service is serving the people and making their lives easy.

PML-N not ‘scared’ of polls: Maryam

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President has said that her party is not afraid of elections and that it would win majority seats when Punjab heads to polls. Maryam, who was appointed as the party’s chief organiser earlier this month, landed at the Allama Iqbal International Airport from Abu Dhabi at around 3:30pm after a brief delay in her flight.

Addressing the PML-N workers in Lahore, the senior party leader reiterated that Nawaz would be among them soon — a topic that has been widely speculated about. “These [establishment] people ousted Nawaz from the government again and again. You brought him into power thrice but these people toppled his governments,” she said. The PML-N leader termed the ouster of Sharif on July 28, 2017, in the Panama leaks case as a “national tragedy”, adding that Pakistan has not recovered since then.

Maryam vowed that she would not rest until her party changes the fate of the nation and steers the country out of the ongoing crisis — both economic and political. “All the characters who hatched a conspiracy against Nawaz have to pay the price for their actions,” the PML-N senior vice president said, who will now lead the party’s efforts ahead of the provincial elections.

Maryam thanked Nawaz, PML-N President and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the party workers for posing their trust in her leadership and assigning her new responsibilities. Taking a jibe at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, she said that he was “crying” after dissolving his governments in the two provinces. Maryam hoped that her party would win the next elections with a heavy majority and Khan will have to “cry for the rest of his life.

Talking about her election strategy, the PML-N leader said that she would visit each district of Punjab from February 1. In conversation with journalists, those who showed

loyalty to the party will be given priority and the tickets would be issued on merit. The PML-N leader said that she wanted to reorganise and strengthen the structure of the party.

Maryam said that PML-N is united, however, there might be differences at the local level, which are of common occurrence in every political party. She said that PML-N Senior Vice President Shahid Khaqan Abbasi’s loyalty to the party goes back three decades and that his loyalty could not be questioned. “Party is like a home and it should be united. There should be no personal agenda in the party,” she added.

Addressing the party workers, the PML-N vice president lauded Finance Minister Ishaq Dar for his efforts aimed at putting the country on the path of economic progress and prosperity. Posing her trust in Dar, Maryam said that he was making all-out efforts to overcome the crisis, adding that the finance czar had steered Pakistan’s economy out of crisis several times. “It will take some time to fix the problems left behind by the previous PTI government,” she said, adding: “Have faith in Ishaq Dar [and] God. We’ll take the economy out of this [quagmire].”

The statement comes at a time when FinMin Dar is under severe criticism from stakeholders across the board for stalling the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, which led to a steep fall in the foreign exchange reserves, and the severe depreciation of the rupee. Maryam’s flight, PK264 was delayed due to a medical emergency on the plane. The flight was scheduled to depart for Pakistan at 11:00am Emirates local time, but it was delayed after a passenger on the plane complained of heart pain.

Upon the complaint, a medical team rushed to the plane and conducted a medical examination of the passenger. The passenger was off-loaded and taken to a hospital for further medical assistance. The flight, after a one-hour delay, departed from Abu Dhabi to Lahore at 12:54pm.

Terrorist gunned down

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The security forces on Saturday killed an active terrorist involved in extremist activities during an Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) conducted in general area Mir Ali, North Waziristan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the operation, intense fire exchange took place between the army troops and terrorists, ISPR said.

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Dacoit killed by civilian in Defence, Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): An alleged dacoit, who escaped after looting in the Defence area of Derakhshan (Karachi) was shot dead by a citizen on Saturday while an accomplice escaped from the spot.

According to a private media report, the incident happened in Defence Area Phase 6, where an alleged dacoit was killed in cross-firing in an attempt to flee after looting, while his accomplice managed to flee the scene.

The age of the slain dacoit was reportedly 24 years, and police were making efforts to identify him with the help of a biometric system.

According to the report, the police have also recorded the initial statement of the citizen and other eyewitnesses, while 30 bore pistols, 4 mobile phones, and a wallet containing 14 thousand rupees in cash have been recovered from the deceased.

Ahsan, Governor Punjab discuss promotion of higher education, other issues

LAHORE (INP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore on Saturday and discussed with him various issues including promotion of higher education.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that the development of knowledge-based economy is very important for the development of the country. He said that as Chancellor, my first priority is to strengthen the links between academia and industry in universities and in this regard, consortia have been formed on 07 important sectors.

Governor Punjab further stated that when he visits the universities as a chancellor, he was happy to see that the projects started in the higher education sector during the period of 2013-2018 have reached completion. He said that these projects have brought significant improvement in the higher education sector.

On this occasion, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal informed Governor Punjab about the projects initiated by the federal government for the improvement of education, especially for universities. He said that the improvement in the higher education sector will continue under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He said that special measures are being taken to promote skill-based education.

Later, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman as Chancellor has taken notice of the riot of students outside the house of Punjab University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar and in this regard, the Governor has asked the administration of Punjab University to report the incident.

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KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri talking to media persons after inaugurating the 'Benazir Nashonuma Centre'.

Farrukh advises govt to use energies to run country

LAHORE (NNI): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) spokesperson Farrukh Habib said on Saturday that the energies put by the incumbent government in victimizing political opponents must be diverted to run the country and strengthen the rupee against the US dollar instead.

Speaking to media, he said the cloak put on PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry's

face was [actually] a cloak on the black law. He questioned what [wrong] Mr Chaudhry had done when he said "protection set-up" was introduced instead of caretaker set-up.

"May 25 set-up [purported violence by the PML-N workers on the PTI's gathering] is being launched", he added.

He said he saluted Mr Chaudhry over tolerating the behaviour of influential people adding who would dare stand against the inhumane behavior meted out to Mr Chaudhry. "Struggle for the rule of law will continue in this country", he added.

Proposal underway to reduce university fees by 50%

KARACHI (PPI) Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Saturday said that a proposal to reduce university fees by 50 percent for students is under consideration.

"A meeting of the vice-chancellors of government and non-government universities will be called soon and steps will be taken to increase the scholarship for deserving students so that the parents can get relief," these views were expressed by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori while talking to the media representatives after laying the foundation stone of Bagh Karachi along with UAE Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al-Rehmeithi and Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman.

Municipal Commissioner KMC Shujaat Hussain, Director General Parks Junaidullah Khan, heads of departments of KMC and a large number of citizens were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Sindh Governor said that they have come out with a determination against occupation mafia. He said that Bagh Karachi (Aladeen Park) will be a great addition to Karachi and will try to complete its construction in six months.

He said that it is his responsibility to maintain a pleasant atmosphere in the province. Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan and Pakistan People's Party are negotiating with each other.

"The governor has many powers. I will use them, considering the economic situation, I will try to provide maximum services for the city and the province," Tessori said. He said that the youth are our future and we stand with them. He said that getting admission in universities has become a very difficult task, work is also going on to make it easier and to provide higher education opportunities to all.

The Governor Sindh said also thanked the Consul General of UAE for coming to the foundation stone ceremony of Bagh e Karachi. Sindh Governor said that the Consul General of China has given KMC 100,000 US dollars to be used to improve the situation in the city. He said that efforts will be made to make a beautiful and attractive park within six months.

Tessori said that if Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman can build an ideal park like Kidney Hill, then it can be expected that he will also build and show Bagh e Karachi.

"All people will be seen working day and night. To eradicate street crime, I have directed the Additional IG to visit the city and the SSPs of the areas to be seen on the streets. DG Rangers is playing an active role. This is our city and our province and everyone should do their duty.

UAE Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al-Rehmeithi while addressing the event said that the Bagh e Karachi is a positive development to increase the splendor of the city of Karachi. He said that I am glad to be here and we will try to help with its construction. The Consul General announced that three employees of the Parks Department of KMC will be sent to Dubai on his behalf.

Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur told media representatives that this park is being constructed on an area of 72 acres and all efforts are being made to complete the construction of this park as soon as possible.

He said that more than 5000 saplings have been planted so far, adding that all recreational facilities will be provided in this park. The Administrator hoped that the park will further enhance the beauty of the area.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF FAZAL GUL ASJ-IV KOHAT. Appeal no. CA-105/13, Date of hearing: 14-02-2023, Titled:- Zarbat Khan Vs Badshah Khan(etc) Notice against:- (1)Badshah Khan (2) Arbab (3) Ilyas Khan (4) Nadir Khan (5) Zahoor Khan Sons of Aziz Khan R/o Banda Daud Khel District Kohat presently r/o(now in Abroad Damman Saudi Arabia) (Respondents) Whereas the above plaintiff has Appeal of against you Respondents in which date of hearing 14-02-2023 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you Respondents is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 14-02-2023. ?otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law. Order issued on 23-?01-2023 (Court of ASJ-IV Kohat).

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF QAZI MUHAMMAD ADNAN CIVIL JUDGE XI KOHAT, Suit no.446/1, Date of hearing: 16-02-2023, Titled:- Fairuz Khan(etc) Vs Provincial Govt. (etc), Notice against:- (14) Muhammad Iqbal S/o Noor Zada (8/1) Shahid Nawaz (8/3) Saddar Nawaz (8/4) Fazal Nawaz Sons and Lrs of Fairuz Jan (Late) R/o Muhammad Zai Hangu Road District Kohat presently (Defendant no.14 now in Abroad) (Defendant no. 8/1 & 8/4 now in Dubai UAE) (Defendant no.8/3 now in Saudi Arabia) (Defendants) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a civil suit against you defendants in which date of hearing 16-02-2023 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 16-02-2023 ?otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order issued on.21-?01-2023 (Court of C.J XI Kohat).

کوہاٹ: دو کھین گلیاں - زرعی پراجیکٹ

WAPDA **Decade of Dams**

INVITATION TO BIDS / PRE QUALIFICATION PROPOSALS FOR

1. Pre Qualification for PROCUREMENT of Grocery, Fresh, Frozen & Meat items for Mess.

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WAPDA Cadet College Tarbela invites sealed bids/Pre Qualification proposals from the original manufacturers / authorized distributors / local suppliers/ Contractors/ laundry service providers etc. registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments, and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue.

Bidding documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, etc. are available at Admin Department WAPDA Cadet College Tarbela. Price of the bidding documents is Rs.5,000/-.

The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents, must reach at Administration Department of WAPDA Cadet College Tarbela on or before 14-02-2023 (10:30 am) All Bids will be opened on the same day consecutively i.e. 14-02-2023 at 11:00 A.M onwards.

Principal, WAPDA CADET COLLEGE TARBELA
Email: accounts.wcct@yahoo.com Phone: 0995-350132, 350233
This notice is also available at PPRA Website: www.ppra.org.pk

PID(I) 2213 Website: www.wapda.gov.pk PRD(I)/WAPDA/196/2022-23

DONATE FOR DIAMER BASHA & MOHMAND DAMS

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)

TENDER NOTICE

Applications are invited for tenders in sealed cover by Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority duly supported With documentary evidence from contractors having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category C-6 or above for the work mention below:

| S.No | Name of Work | Tender Fee |
|------|---|------------|
| 1. | Provision of Double Gate System, Check Post and canopy shed at PSO Gate BKIAP Peshawar. | Rs.1000/- |

1. Bidding document, for above mentioned work on **single stage-single envelop bidding process**, will be issued to those contractors/firms having valid PEC certificate in category C-6 or above with specialization code CE-10.

2. The firm shall have valid registration with FBR having active NTN certificate, Professional Tax Certificate from Excise Department. The firm shall also submit declaration as sole proprietor/partnership deed and copy of CNIC of owner(s) / proprietor.

3. Tender documents shall only be issued to authorized representative of the contractor/ firm/ company having valid and genuine proof of authorization of the firm/company which he represents against a written application on letterhead of firm.

4. Tender documents will not be issued to those firms/contractors whose past performance with PCAA at any airport/location is found unsatisfactory or currently under litigation/debarring/blacklisting process with PCAA.

5. Tenders will be received in the office of the **DIVISIONAL ENGINEER ES (CIVIL) BIKIAP PESHAWAR AIRPORT ON 16-02-2023 ON 11.00 A.M AND WILL BE OPENED ON THE SAME DAY AT 11.30 A.M.**

6. Earnest money amounting to **Rs. 100000/-** should be deposited in the shape of Call Deposit/Bank Draft prepared in favour of Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority.

7. Tenders can be purchased from the office of the undersigned on payment of prescribed tender Fee (Non-refundable) as mentioned against above work.

8. The successful bidder will have to provide all facilities and equipments to his Supervisor And Laborers/Workers according to HSE requirements and obey all rules and regulations

As defined in the HSE Manual.

9. No tender document shall be issued by post or on the opening date of tenders.

10. The authority may reject all the tenders as per PPRA rule in vogue.

11. Tenders are also available at PPRA Website **www.ppra.org.pk** and CAA Website **www.caapakistan.org.pk**.

12. **"WARNING"** Pay orders/Bank Drafts or any other financial instruments to be submitted by Bidders and Contractors as Tender Cost, Earnest money /Bid Security and Bank Guarantees, if found fake or dishonoured by issuing bank/financial institution at any pre/post contract stage of the case, would call for blacklisting and legal action as per law of the land."

DIVISIONAL ENGINEER ES (CIVIL)
BKIAP PESHAWAR

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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
PAKISTAN COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

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Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PC SIR) intends to recruit competent and experienced professional on following position under a PSDP Project "Digital Transformation, Strengthening and Automation of PCSIR" on contract basis:

| Sr.# | Post Description | No. of Posts | PPS | Max. Age | Location |
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| 1. | Project Director | 1 | 9 | 45 | Islamabad |

- Posting of the incumbent may change as per project requirement.
- Advertisement, Eligibility Criteria and Application Form are available on <http://www.pcsir.gov.pk>
- Interested Pakistani National meeting the eligibility criteria should submit their application within 15 days of the publication of Job advertisement.
- Applicant must submit attested copy of all the necessary documents at the time of apply.
- No TA /DA will be paid for test and interview. Late and incomplete applications will not be entertained.
- Only short listed candidates will be invited for Test/Interview.
- Organization can stop or cancel the recruitment process at any stage without assigning any reason.
- Age relaxation, as per Government rules.
- Those already in Govt. Service may apply through proper channel.
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Director (Technology), PCSIR Head Office.
PCSIR Head Office, 01-Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad
Tel: 051-9225395-99

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Government of Pakistan
PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISLAMABAD

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Technical & Financial bids under single stage two-envelope procedure are invited, from well reputed civil contractors registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) at least in category (C-5) with specialization in CE-10 category for Development / remodeling of 5th Floor (half) of Workers Welfare Board Building at Phase-V Hayatabad, Peshawar to establish PEMRA offices (South & North) & Regional Directorate Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Tender Documents/Terms of References (TORs) can be obtained from the office of Deputy Director (Admin-I), HQs Islamabad during **0930 to 1630 hours** from Monday to Friday on payment of **Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) (Non-Refundable)** in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft (DD) drawn in favor of PEMRA.

Each bidder shall have to submit 3% of the total bid value as Earnest Money in the form of Demand Draft /Pay Order/CDR drawn in favor of PEMRA along-with their sealed bids. Bids without earnest money shall be out-rightly rejected.

Technical & Financial Sealed Bids in the form of single package should reach at the office of Deputy Director (Admin-I), HQs Islamabad on or before **21st February, 2023 at 1130 Hours**. Technical bids will be opened in the presence of the representatives of the participating firms/companies (who choose to be present) at **1200 Hours**, on the same day.

The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids prior to acceptance as per PPRA rules.

Deputy Director (Admin-I)
Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority
PEMRA HQs, Mauve Area G-8/1, Islamabad.
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حکومت پاکستان
وزارت داخلہ

نیشنل ڈیٹا بیس اینڈ رجسٹریشن
اتھارٹی (نادرا)

نوٹس بوجہ غیر حاضری

آپ سہ ماہی پرمیٹ (ریجنل/نیشنل) کی - آر۔ بی۔ نمبر: **66785**۔ بند ہو گیا ہے (پتہ: ڈاکٹر احمد فاضل، تحصیل سرائے، ضلع ساہیوال، مورخہ **21-Nov-2022** سے اپنی ڈیوٹی سے بغیر درخواست / پیشگی اجازت مجاز اتھارٹی مسلسل غیر حاضری۔

مجھے ہذا سے دو (2) نوٹس بکوال نمبر: **RHO/NADRA/Disp/08/HR/66785/First Notice** **Dated: 08-Dec-2022** اور دو نم نوٹس بکوال نمبر **RHO/NADRA/Disp/08/HR/66785/Second Notice Dated: 27-Dec-2022** کے ذریعے ڈیوٹی پر حاضری ہونے اور اپنی غیر حاضری کی وجوہات کی وضاحت کرنے کی ہدایت کی گئی لیکن آپ ان کی تعمیل میں تا کا میں رہے اور آپ کا یہ عمل سروس / ریگولیشنز ریڈر (کارکردگی اور نظم و ضبط) **2020** کی سرینا خلاف ورزی کے ضمن میں آتا ہے۔ آپ کو بذریعہ نوٹس ہذا ہدایت کی جاتی ہے کہ آپ اشتہار پڑا کی اشاعت کے **چودہ (14) ایام** کے اندر اپنی ڈیوٹی پر حاضریوں اور گزری طور پر اپنی غیر حاضری کی وجوہات کی وضاحت پیش کریں۔ بصورت دیگر سروس / ریگولیشنز ریڈر (کارکردگی اور نظم و ضبط) **2020** کے تحت یک طرفہ مذہبی کاروائی مکمل میں لا کر آپ کو ملازمت سے ہر طرف کر دیا جائے گا۔

ڈائریکٹر جنرل (مجاز آفیسر)
ریجنل ہیڈ آفس نارادای۔ او۔ بی۔ آئی بلائنگ پلاٹ نمبر 31 سیکٹر B-1 نمبر 5 حیات آباد پشاور
فون نمبر: 091-9217735

PID(I) 4690/22

حکومت پاکستان
وزارت داخلہ

نیشنل ڈیٹا بیس اینڈ رجسٹریشن
اتھارٹی (نادرا)

نوٹس بوجہ غیر حاضری

آپ سہ ماہی پرمیٹ (ریجنل/نیشنل) کی - آر۔ بی۔ نمبر: **67071**۔ بند ہو گیا ہے (پتہ: ڈاکٹر احمد فاضل، تحصیل سرائے، ضلع ساہیوال، مورخہ **14-Nov-2022** سے اپنی ڈیوٹی سے بغیر درخواست / پیشگی اجازت مجاز اتھارٹی مسلسل غیر حاضری۔

مجھے ہذا سے دو (2) نوٹس بکوال نمبر: **RHO/NADRA/Disp/08/HR/67071/First Notice** **Dated: 10-Dec-2022** اور دو نم نوٹس بکوال نمبر **RHO/NADRA/Disp/08/HR/67071/Second Notice Dated: 27-Dec-2022** کے ذریعے ڈیوٹی پر حاضری ہونے اور اپنی غیر حاضری کی وجوہات کی وضاحت کرنے کی ہدایت کی گئی لیکن آپ ان کی تعمیل میں تا کا میں رہے اور آپ کا یہ عمل سروس / ریگولیشنز ریڈر (کارکردگی اور نظم و ضبط) **2020** کی سرینا خلاف ورزی کے ضمن میں آتا ہے۔ آپ کو بذریعہ نوٹس ہذا ہدایت کی جاتی ہے کہ آپ اشتہار پڑا کی اشاعت کے **چودہ (14) ایام** کے اندر اپنی ڈیوٹی پر حاضریوں اور گزری طور پر اپنی غیر حاضری کی وجوہات کی وضاحت پیش کریں۔ بصورت دیگر سروس / ریگولیشنز ریڈر (کارکردگی اور نظم و ضبط) **2020** کے تحت یک طرفہ مذہبی کاروائی مکمل میں لا کر آپ کو ملازمت سے ہر طرف کر دیا جائے گا۔

ڈائریکٹر جنرل (مجاز آفیسر)
ریجنل ہیڈ آفس نارادای۔ او۔ بی۔ آئی بلائنگ پلاٹ نمبر 31 سیکٹر B-1 نمبر 5 حیات آباد پشاور
فون نمبر: 091-9217735

PID(I) 4691/22



PESHAWAR: Provincial cabinet members meeting Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan.

Governor urges people to opt for solar energy — to reduce burden of inflation

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Saturday urged people to opt for renewable sources of energy, especially solar, in their home as these provides uninterrupted and inexpensive electricity and will help in reducing the burden of inflation on masses.

He said this while presiding over a review meeting on solar energy projects at Governor House that was attended by Provincial Ministers including Adnan Jalil and Fazal Elahi.

Secretary Energy and Power, Nisar Muhammad, Chief Executive Officer Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization

(PEDO), Engr Muhammad Naeem and other relevant officials also participated the meeting

Secretary Energy, Nisar Muhammad briefed the participants that 55 megawatts of solar power supply projects are underway in the province from which about Rs 2 billion per year would be generated.

Under the solar energy projects, more than 1,000 government schools, 3,000 mosques in all the tribal districts of Kurram, Mohmand, Bajaur, North and South Waziristan, Khyber, Orakzai are being transferred to solar energy, while 1.5 megawatt solar grids are also being installed that would be

completed soon.

Similarly the plan to provide solar energy in 102 streets in Peshawar was in progress, he apprised the meeting participants.

Haji Ghulam Ali said that under the Prime Minister's vision and energy saving policy, the promotion of solar energy in the province was inevitable to get the country out of the energy crisis. He said that all the projects should be completed as soon as possible to utilize solar energy throughout the province.

He also directed for organizing awareness campaigns about energy savings and installation of solar projects to cope with the energy crisis.

CM takes notice of petrol shortage

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan has taken notice of the public complaints regarding unavailability of petrol and diesel at petrol pumps in some cities of the province.

According to an official handout issued here on Saturday, the chief minister has directed the Chief Secretary to seek a report from Deputy Commissioners across the province.

The action has been taken in wake of rumous of possible increase in the prices of petroleum products and there were some complaints about the unavailability of petrol at some petrol pumps.

The Chief Minister has directed the concerned authorities to ensure round the clock the availability of petrol and diesel to consumers at petrol pumps across the province and initiation of legal action against those creating hardships for the general public.

Furthermore, the caretaker chief minister has also called a report regarding the situation of flour availability in the province.

PPP based hospital attentions of competent authorities

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The operational capacity of hospital running under Public Private Partnership (PPP) due to ignorance of competent authorities and unavailability of funds especially at Mir Ali hospital.

According to sources, former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Health Taimour Salim Jaghra did not took actions neither provided funds after identification of problems in this regard. The unavailability of funds had compelled PPP hospital toward collapse because Health Foundation had attached funds.

The unavailability of funds had leads PPP based hospital that cannot able to pay salaries, renovation and to procure medicine for running of the institutions. Although, funds also didn't provide for procurement of necessary equipment for the hospital.

Tehsil Headquarter Hospital Mir Ali obtained by Sarhad organization through PPP while deprived from funds despite assurance of Health's department, Director Nadeem Sardar claimed. He added that several OPDs and operation theaters were inaugurated at Mir Ali since 26th September 2022.

Medical Superintendent (MS) Saeed Bacha Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Mir Ali briefed tribal elders and claimed that 10 specialist doctors will provide services around the clock to tribesmen as per PPP procedure.

He added that numerous successful operations and maternity cases is proof of hospital's efficiency.

Now, the interim government should take concrete steps to ensure provision funds for operation of PPP hospitals across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially THQ Mir Ali hospital for welfare of public at large.

Facilitation counter inaugurated

PESHAWAR (APP): National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) facilitation counter was inaugurated in General Post Office here on Saturday.

The counter has been established in light of a memorandum of understanding being signed by the Director General Pakistan Post Office Islamabad and Chairman NADRA to open 88 Nadra facilitation centers throughout the country.

During the inaugural speech, Senior Post Master Syed Shahid Akhtar said that people could get new national identity cards or can obtain verification or duplication of their CNICs from GPO Kohat during official hours. He urged people to take benefit from the facility that is available in GPO Kohat.

Chairman HEC: Digital transformation imperative for development

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Prof Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission, has said that digital advancement had become need of the hour for every organization to work at par with global trends that's why digital transformation was highly important for all businesses - from a small entity to a large enterprise.

He stated this during a function held at a local hotel on Saturday, wherein he inaugurated the Cisco International Networking Academy and Support Centre at BRAINS Institute, Peshawar. The event marked by a large number of professionals, including educationists,

researchers, industrialists and media persons from Pakistan and abroad.

"The setting up of Cisco International Networking Academy and Support Centre will provide a host of opportunities for the educational institutions, including schools, colleges and universities of public and private sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," said Prof Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, adding that HEC really admired and supported such initiatives to promote innovative IT technologies in Pakistan.

Fahim Anwar, Country Manager, Cisco International Pakistan, stated, "In association with the Cisco Country Office, Cisco International Networking Academy and

Support Center at BRAINS Institute will be an IT skills development and career building program for both the public and private sector organizations."

"Leading the digital transformation, BRAIN-STECH (BRAINS Technology Enterprise Center) is an enduring initiative of BRAINS Institute for imparting education, training and research services in emerging hi-tech fields," told Zafar Ullah Khan, Rector, BRAINS Institute, adding that the joint initiative of Cisco International and BRAINS Institute was to develop highly skilled workforce and prepare the future leaders through access to advanced technology.

Interview for post of Dean; ECP takes notice

PESHAWAR (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan has taken notice of the conduct of an interview for the post of Dean at Mardan Medical Complex, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

On receiving the complaint, the District Election Commissioner, Mardan has issued a dispatch to the Director Mardan Medical Complex and him to cancel the interview as per directives of the Election Commission.

The ECP has imposed a ban on all appointments and recruitments.

PHC orders release of alleged smuggler Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim of Peshawar High Court has ordered release of alleged smuggler involved in carriage 46 kilograms drugs via vehicle on bail, on Saturday.

According to prosecution, Excise police has recovered 20 kilograms hashish and 26 kilo opium from vehicle on 18th September 2022 on intelligence-based report at Wali Khan Interchange while the alleged smuggle escaped another vehicle.

The counsel Daras Khan Advocate informed that petitioner was arrested after two months after the recovery because Excise police obtained CNIC of Khear Muhammad while he does not the owner of vehicle.

The counsel argued that neither petitioner is arrested from the spot nor case property was produced before Magistrate during his appearance before court which demanding further investigation into the matter.

PHC has ordered release of Khair Muhammad on bail after conclusion of arguments before court.

Trading community felicitates KP minister

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of the trading community Peshawar visited the residence of the Caretaker KP Minister Adnan Adeel and congratulated him on his induction in the provincial cabinet on Saturday.

The delegation was led by the Chairman, Anjum Tajir, Malik Meher Elahi and former president, Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders and Industries, Mohammad Shakeel Saraf.

A large number of traders also accompanied them on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik Meher Elahi congratulated Adnan Adeel on his induction in the provincial cabinet and expressed the hope that being a representative of the trading community, he will leave stone unturned in the resolution of their long standing problems.

Talking to the delegation, the Caretaker Minister

assured them that he will make all-out efforts to resolve the problems of the trading community and come up to their expectations.

He expressed special gratitude to the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, Senior Vice President, Awami National Party Ameer Haider Khan Hoti and provincial president ANP, Aimal Wali Khan for his induction in the provincial cabinet.

Minister withdraws privileges

PESHAWAR (APP): Newly appointed minister in KP caretaker cabinet Haji Muhammad Ghufraan has voluntarily withdrawn all ministerial perks and privileges. In a letter to caretaker CM KP Azam Khan here on Saturday, he wrote that he would continue to serve the people to the best of his ability and conscience. He has withdrawn all privileges, including salary, admissible allowances, POL, TA/DAs, accommodation, staff car and ancillary staff including driver, etc.

Chairman FBR discusses commerce, trade issues with businessmen during City visit

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Asim Ahmad held a consultation with businessmen about issues pertaining to commerce and trade with Afghanistan.

The discussion took place during the visit of Chairman FBR, Asim Ahmad to Peshawar, says a press release issued here on Saturday.

The delegation was led by the former senior Vice President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and the Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi. Others present on the occasion included SVP PAJCCI, Khalid Shehad, Vice President Frontier Customs Agents Association, Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, President Khyber Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Syed Jawad Ahmad Kazmi.

A number of officials including Chief Collector Customs KP, Muhammad Salim, Collector Custom Enforcement, Dr. Moeen ud Din Ahmad Wani, Collector Customs Appraisment, Ashfaq Ahmad, Director Transit Trade, Arbab Qaiser Hameed, Director General Custom Intelligence, Faiz Ahmad Chadhar, Director Custom Intelligence KP, Shafiqat Niazi, Collector Custom D.I.Khan, Yousaf Haider, PS Chairman FBR,

Khawaja Khurram accompanied Chairman FBR during the meeting.

In the meeting, detailed discussion was held on issues pertaining to commerce and trade and problems being faced by the business community in dealing with different departments.

Zia ul Haq Sarhadi also pointed out that despite the issuance of notification regarding the de-stuffing of containers by shifting goods to local containers for saving demurrage charged on importers in case of delay is not being implemented.

The business community

was informed that the issue is passing through inclusion in module and soon its implementation will start.

Other issues like problems being faced during the clearance of goods at the Pak-Afghan border were also discussed during the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman FBR apprised the business community about measures being taken for providing ease to the business community.

He said country was passing through a difficult phase and people from each segment of society had to play their role in resolving

these crises.

The government, he added, the focus is on the promotion of commerce and trade in the country to stabilize the economy and for this purpose, all possible steps would be taken.

Later, Zia ul Haq Sarhadi thanked Chairman FBR for holding a consultation with the business community and for giving a patient hearing to their problems.

He also held out assurance of cooperation of businessmen to the government and all the relevant departments in efforts for overcoming of the prevailing financial crisis in the country.



PESHAWAR: Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addressing a press conference. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

Extortion, money laundering, cybercrime Service launched for registering complaints

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has launched a service for the registration of complaints from the public about receiving calls for extortion, illegal activities of money laundering, lethal weapon, use of non-custom paid vehicles and cyber-

crime.

"General public are asked to inform the government about illegal activities especially extortion and other acts of lawlessness," reads an advertisement that appeared in different newspapers.

The ad has been issued

by the Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday.

Citizens are also assured about the secrecy of the identity of those who register complaints with the concerned department.

Man hurt in blast

PESHAWAR (APP): A person sustained serious injuries when explosive material ripped in his house situated in Daudzai, suburban area of provincial metropolis. Explosive material went off ripped in house of an Afghan national identified as Rafiullah. The blast tore away his both hands and

burned face. The injured has been shifted to nearby hospital. Meanwhile, Bomb Disposal Squad and Counter Terrorism Department rushed to site of blast and started collecting forensic evidences. SSP Operation has said that police is also working to ascertained causes of blast.

Cold, rain predicted

PESHAWAR (APP): The Regional Meteorological Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday predicted cold and cloudy weather for most districts and rain with snow over the hills for northern parts of the province for next 24 hours.

Rain (with snow over the hills) is likely to occur over Chitral, Upper and Lower Dir, Malakand, Bunner, Swat, Shangla, Kohistan, Battagram, Torgbar, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Kurram, Haripur, Swabi, Mardan, Peshawar, Nowshera and Charsadda districts.



PESHAWAR: Businessmen delegation led by provincial president Khyber Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi meeting Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Asim Ahmad. — F.P. photo



In brief

Body retrieved from well

BARA (INP): Dead body of a four-year-old boy, who had fallen into a boring well, has been retrieved after 18 days on Saturday. Locals on self-help basis, in Alam Godar area of Khyber, dug up an 85 metres deep hole adjacent to the well with the help of machinery. The four-year-old boy on January 10 had fallen into an 85 metres deep boring well. Rescuers had tried hard to rescue the child during the first two days when the boy had fallen into the boring well but their efforts failed to bear fruits. The people, on January 11, declaring the boring well a grave, had also offered funeral prayer of the child. On January 12, locals, with the help of heavy machinery, started digging a parallel hole. Hundreds of citizens had gathered there when the dead body was retrieved.

Labourer dies as elevator fell down

MULTAN (APP): A labourer killed as an elevator fell down at Nawabpur road Basti Nao here on Saturday. According to Rescue officials, a 45 years old labourer namely Hyumaun s/o Muhammad Abid was busy at work at his workplace when suddenly a lift fell down and he sustained serious injuries and died. Upon receiving the information, Rescue teams rushed to the spot and recovered the body from the lift. The local police were busy interrogating the incident.

RTA secretary visits bus stands

SIALKOT (APP): Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Secretary Muzaffar Hayat Sial visited various D-class bus stands and directed the administration to improve facilities for passengers. On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi, RTA Secretary inspected cleanliness, waiting rooms for passengers, transport staff in four D-class Addas established in different areas of the city and reviewed the cleanliness arrangements in washrooms. He urged the transport owners to ensure facilities in bus stands, otherwise their licenses would be cancelled. He also imposed a fine of Rs 40,000 on the owners of buses parked illegally at Kashmir Road.

Six booked for pilfering electricity

SARGODHA (INP): Six people were caught for pilfering electricity from direct main lines in and around the city on Saturday. A team of Faisalabad Electric Power Company (FESCO) circle office Sargodha raided at Model Town area, Chak No 136 NB and other areas, and caught Muneer Ahmed, Muhammad Ehsan, Muhammad Ejaz, Shaqat Hayyat, Ali Muhammad and Muhammad Tariq for pilfering electricity from direct mainlines. Further action against the accused was underway.

MD WASA for 100% recovery

MULTAN (APP): Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Managing Director Chaudhry Muhammad Danish directed the recovery department to ensure 100 percent recovery targets to prevent the department's financial crisis. Presiding over a meeting to review performance on recovery here on Saturday, he gave a special task to the engineering department and directed all SDOs to visit the field to spot illegal connections, causing loss to the department. He asked them to check domestic consumers' bills and review tariff categories to identify irregularities.



TANK: Security Forces conducted a search operation in Umar Adda area of Tank. During search operation, one SMG along with magazines, one 303 rifle, one pistol and a huge cache of ammunition was recovered.

Govt schools' teachers not getting salaries

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The newly inducted government schools' regular teachers on Saturday complained that they had not been provided with their salaries despite the passage of five months. Talking to local journalists the teachers said that they had been performing their duties at government schools since September last year.

They said their documents and degrees had also been verified from the concerned institutions while the elementary and secondary education department high ups had issued directives to the accounts' offices to release the salaries.

They said that despite the passage of five months they were yet to get their salaries. The affected teachers said that due to no-payment of salaries their families

were suffering hard and they were running getting loans from others to make both ends meet.

They demanded the caretaker chief minister Azam Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa education secretary and director of the education department Dr Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim to take notice of the matter and resolve it soon. They also pointed out that teachers recruited in other districts were getting their salaries regularly but the issue was unsettled only in Lower Dir for unknown reasons.

Free medical camp: Doctors during a free medical camp said that cleft lip could be fixed by a surgery in infancy during which the cleft lip is repaired. The Al-Khidmat Foundation set up a free medical camp for cleft lip and cleft palate children at its charity hospital in Zwal Baba here on

Saturday. Plastic surgeons from Lahore examined a total of 105 children and advised surgery to 15 of them. The plastic surgeon Dr Faisal Rasheed said the 15 children would be taken to Lahore for proper surgery wherein they would be provided with free of cost medical care, food and residence.

He said the AKF would set up such free medical camps in other areas of the district in future. The director of Al-Khidmat hospital Zwal Baba Majeedullah said the Foundation had been providing free medical care to poor patients in the district. He said the AKF was going to start general OPD at the hospital after the successful experiment of the Gynecology and eye surgery unit. He said the hospital was entitled to provide treatment to patients on their Insaf sehat cards.

Seven school kits among students distributed

F.P. Report

GHALANAI: Mohmand Welfare Organization (MWO) The Children's Voice has distributed winter clothes among seven thousand government school students across the district to facilitate pupils of marginalized segments of society.

According to details, absence rates are high among students due to severe cold. The organization gives priority to orphan students in providing clothes. Like last year, this year too, the provision of vests, jackets, shoes, socks and warm hats has been continued to the students studying in government primary schools of Mohmand tribal district in winter to avoid cold.

The Children's Voice has so far distributed winter clothes to more than 7000 students. According to the teachers, most of the children are absent from school due to severe cold. Now, by providing the equipment, the children will ensure their attendance in schools.

The Children's Voice founder Najibullah Mohmand said that the project was officially launched on December 15, 2021. He added that so far more than seven thousand children and children of various government primary schools of Mohmand tribal district have been provided vests, shoes, socks and warm hats to avoid cold. This time too, the same step has been taken to support them. So that the children can focus on their studies and ensure their attendance in schools, protected from severe cold.

NARC hold training on garlic cultivation: National Agriculture Research Center (NARC)

experts training in Embarkadura. G1 The training seminar organized by the landowners regarding garlic gave guidance on the cultivation, yield and benefits of garlic. G1 The climate of the tribal districts is very suitable for garlic production.

Inspection of plots. NARC has produced 100,000 tons of G1 garlic during the last two years. While the normal garlic required by the country is imported from abroad, it will take four more years through G1 to meet the needs of the country. G1 garlic experts from National Agricultural Research Center Islamabad inspected the G1 demonstration plots in different areas of Kamali Halimzai, Ghazi Beg, Dowezeai and Ambar on the occasion of tribal district Mohmand Kadura and participated in the training workshop organized regarding the mentioned garlic in Tehsil Ambar.

In the training workshop, experts of NA Arsi, Ali Jan, Taimur, Ismail Orandim said that the first experiment of G1 garlic was done by Dr. Humayun Sakna Bannu in 2017. However, Dr. Humayun died in the Corona epidemic. They said that Pakistan imports one hundred thousand and twelve thousand tons of garlic from China annually. The value is about 20 billion. While NA Arsi has produced 100,000 tons of garlic during the last two years from G1 garlic.

Plantation drive-2023 inaugurated: As many as seventeen hundred twenty-eight thousand different saplings will be distributed during plantation drive 2023 which inaugurated on Saturday. According to the details, in the forest nursery

of Mohmand district, the tree planting campaign was officially inaugurated in the spring season, in which the special guest, Lower Mohmand Nazim Ala Malik Naveed Ahmed, Divisional District Forest Officer, Arslan Tariq, Ranger Officer Attaullah, was among the people.

Forest Officer Arslan Tariq said that this year seventeen hundred and twenty-eight thousand saplings will be planted in different areas of Mohmand district. Tariq Arslan said that we have formally started the spring season from today. It will continue till March that legal action will be taken against those who are cutting forests illegally because now all the laws have been implemented in the tribal areas as well as in other districts.

The permit will be issued. Malik Naveed Ahmad, the governor of Lower Mohmand, said that it was the desire of our former Prime Minister Imran Khan to have a clean and green Pakistan and this campaign is a continuation of this campaign which is still ongoing and its credit is provincial. It is given to the government and the forest department and in Mohmand district.

450 kites seized

SARGODHA (APP): Police on Saturday arrested two kite sellers and recovered 450 kites from their possession.

On a tip-off, a police team conducted a raid in Chowki Bhagat area and nabbed Ali and Akram with 450 kites and 12 chemical coated string rolls. A case has been registered against the accused.

BMW elects cabinet following its constitution

F.P. Report

BUNER: Buner Minorities Welfare Organization (BMW) elected new cabinet while Dr. Om Parkash was nominated as patron in chief for the organization, on Saturday.

According to detail, Gobind Ram as president Ghurghustu, Dr Sardar Tilak Swari, Sardar Santh Singh Pir Baba, president Ganga Veshn Pir Baba, general secretary Annand Lal, general secretary Mokand Lal, general secretary Nanak Chand, deputy general secretary Onesh Singh, deputy general secretary Ashok, cultural secretary Baldef, coordination secretary Kirpal and youth secretary Najindar Singh.

The patron in chief Dr. Parkash, general secretary Annand Lal and deputy general secretary Onesh Singh in media briefing claimed this organization would be apolitical and would extend help to all of minorities sans religion and would develop best working relationship with Muslims community and district administration to serve humanity.

BMW argued actually the persisting situation of uncertainty and economic crisis were badly affected the marginalized segments of society including minorities and that was why the elders agreed upon to form such like welfare organization to play positive and helping role in the society.

Convocation of GCWUS held

SIALKOT (APP): The 4th convocation of Govt College Women University Sialkot (GCWUS) was held at University campus here on Saturday. Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) Chairperson Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir was chief guest.

Addressing on the occasion, GCWUS Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Kausar said the students of GCWUS were serving in leading institutions which was a great honour for the institution. She said that students would play a key role in the development of nation in practical life and would be a source of pride for parents and the institution.

Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Kausar said that GCWUS was playing a key role in positive change in the society and development of Pakistan. She said that those students who got the position today should maintain it and make the name of university bright by doing excellent services as ambassadors of GCWUS.

PHEC Chairperson Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir congratulated the successful students and expressed good results. He said the role of women in the development of country was of great importance. He said that educated women would have to play a role in the development of country side by side with men. Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir lauded the efforts of GCWUS faculty and its leadership for providing quality education to the students. Later, gold medals and certificates were awarded to position holder students. PHEC Chairperson Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir and VC GCWUS Prof. Dr. Rukhsana Kausar also distributed medals and degrees among 1535 graduating students. Directors, faculty members, students and parents attended the ceremony.

Police recover narcotic pills

F.P. Report

KOHAT: City police detained the alleged accused Ayaz Khan resident of Chakrah Mela Jangal Khel in an operation near City Gate and recovered 1440 narcotic pills and 96 bottles of narcotic syrup from his possession.

The accused has been detained for the crime of carrying narcotic drugs without legal documents. The accused, who was caught with narcotic drugs in the operation, has been transferred to the city police station. The detained accused will be handed over to the Drug Authority for further legal action.

PML-N put economy on track: Petroleum Minister

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musaddaq Malik has said that Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was put the country on the track of progress and prosperity and taking result-oriented steps for changing the fate of poor and less resources segment of society and he always worried about the poor because after passing 75 years the poor people were not given opportunities to raise their head and to get rid of generation after generation of poverty.

While addressing inaugural ceremony of Sue gas high transmission pipeline completed with the cost of more than one billion of rupees, he said that Nawaz Sharif was committed to raise the poor and PMLN government was appointed teachers and upgraded the schools so that no any child of the poor left out of the school while hospitals were also upgraded to provide free of cost medicines and diagnostic machinery and

equipments for ensuring provision of healthcare to the people at their doorsteps.

Minister for petroleum said that someone could not tolerate poor friendly measures taken by the PML (N) and toppled the government of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. He said that parents desired to see progress and property of his children but Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was sent to jail for not receiving salary from his son.

He said that who raised slogan to establish Madina like state but they taken political revenge from leadership of PML (N) and sent to jail all leadership of PML (N) in fake and unjustly cases. They were not spare daughter of Mian Nawaz Sharif and drag to Mariam Nawaz to jail in front of her father but state of Madina was not like this at all. In state of Madina, Caliph Hazrat Umar Farooq (R.A) was used to visit the streets of Medina at nights to get awareness about

needs and difficulties of people but PTI government was remained engage in political victimization and ruining national economy.

He said that Mian Nawaz Sharif was sent his daughter Maryum Nawaz to Pakistan and she was reaching to Pakistan, on Saturday (today). He said that PMLN led by Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif would come up on expectations of the people by the grace of almighty Allah.

Addressing on the occasion, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Attaullah Tarar said that Imran Khan was dispirited on depriving from power and he was leader of layers. He said that PTI was went against government of PDM but they were lost their own governments. He said that Fawad Chaudhry was first man who went to hospital before go to jail and now he was crying in his turn to go jail. Ex-Federal Minister Saira Afzal Tarar was also addressed the ceremony.

SAC to launch protest movement against crimes

NAUNDERO (PPI): Shehri Action Committee (SAC), consisting of various political, non-political, social welfare, traders, shopkeepers and religious parties have decided on Saturday to launch a movement and stage a sit-in on 31st January to ensure end to lawlessness in Naundero, recovery of all stolen goods of the residents and also formed a 10-member committee to have talks with police officials.

While addressing the attendants of the meeting held at Municipal Committee, SAC Chairman Ghulam Hyder Narejo said that effective action should be taken against the incompetence of the police who have so far failed to recover anything stolen from the city of martyrs who sacrificed their lives to change the conditions of the people and their followers cannot give peace and order to the city.

Narejo further stated, "The police arrest legitimate and illegitimate people and collect a portion of the thefts

and give it to the victims and remain silent." Chairman continued saying, "It is important for the MPA and MNA to play their role in improving law and order here." Chairman Ghulam Hyder Narejo said that due to the intervention of the people of the ruling party, the crimes in the city are being increased by freeing the people involved in the crimes who are alleged to be their blue-eyed-boys, there would be definitely be a sit-in against the incompetence and sheer negligence of the police.

Even after the appointment of private Chowkidars, the robberies could not be stopped. The people from the government talk on behalf of the police whereas they should support the citizens instead of supporting the administration to save precious valuables of the denizens. The administration wants to maintain peace, tranquility and order in the city but the police have become the accomplice of thieves and robbers, the chairman added.

Javed Bhutto said that as other departments have been handed over to private people, now the police department has also been handed over to a private group which is terrible and will have far-reaching consequences in future in view of the presence of police. Bhutto said, "The police should be depoliticized immediately and freed from the clutches of political figures to work independently for the betterment of the citizens for which they are paid."

It was unanimously decided that starting from 31st January, the protest movement will be launched from Allahwala Chowk in the city, and all the parties will hold a protest sit-in from the platform of the SAC, which will be continued until the demands are resolved, and with the police and administrative officials. A 10-member committee was also constituted to discuss the citizens' demands with the police and other administrative officials.

Problems of teachers, students to be resolved

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Tanzeem Asateza Pakistan (teachers association) will strive hard to work for the welfare of the teachers' community. The association will continue to support orphans and poor students to make useful citizens of the country.

These were expressed by the former head of Tanzeem Asateza, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Khairullah Hawari while addressing to a gathering organized in connection of distribution of school bags among poor students held in government high school, Loy-Shelman, the remote area of subdivision Landi

Kotal, district Khyber last day.

Col Muhammad Hussain Haider, district and tehsil chief of the association Haqmal Khan and Sharifullah Afridi, headmaster of the school Abid Khan, major Ateaz, tribal elders, teachers and students were among the participants.

Khairullah Hawari said that the teachers of the state-run educational institutions executed their duties well in limited available sources.

He said that the motto of the Tanzeem Asateza was to protect the legal rights of the teachers and would leave no stone unturned to work for their betterment.

Col Muhammad Hussain Haider urged the teachers to impart knowledge to the pupils to make them responsible citizens of the society.

Utilize your all energies to learn and serve the tribal society he added and said be educated and change the fate of the country. The speakers called upon the philanthropists to assist them to facilitate poor students of government schools. At the end free school bags were given away to 150 deserving students of the area besides awards were bestowed to best teachers. Books and other gifts were presented to Col Muhammad Hussain Haider and other guests.

Deps asked to provide officers, staff lists to ECP

SIALKOT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi on Saturday directed the heads of all departments to provide lists of their officers and staff to the District Election Commissioner (ECP) office in next week. The Election Commission should inform the details of sensitive polling stations and their requirements for the security.

Rangers will also be deployed to assist the administration and police to maintain law and order. He stated this while addressing the meeting to review the preparations for upcoming elections. The meeting was attended by DPO Muhammad Faisal Kamran, ADC Revenue Rizwan Mehmood,

District Election Commissioner Muhammad Khalil, CEO Education Tariq Rathore and Deputy Director Local Government Umer Amjad.

Addressing to the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Khurram Niazi said that it was the national responsibility of all departments to provide full support to the Election Commission of Pakistan for conducting elections, for which timely preparation was imperative. He said that staff appointed for the census should not be assigned duty for elections.

He said that lists of education, health, local government, government banks and departments concerned should be updated in all respects to

meet the requirement of polling staff. He said that polling stations would be set up only in those public sector buildings which had four walls including furniture and electricity facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner said that for the deployment of Rangers, a complete action plan would be prepared in consultation with the Punjab government, the police and the Election Commission of Pakistan. DPO Faisal Kamran said that district police had increased the security of District Election Commission office and if necessary, more personnel would be deputed. He said that police officers would visit the sensitive polling stations and review the facts on the ground.



Haiti police block streets, break into airport to protest officer killings

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Reuters): Haitian police officers blocked streets and forced their way into the country's main airport to protest the recent killing of officers by armed gangs expanding their grip on the Caribbean nation. Protesters in civilian clothes who identified themselves as police first attacked Prime Minister Ariel Henry's official residence, according to a Reuters witness, and then flooded the airport as Henry was arriving from a trip to Argentina.

Henry was temporarily stuck in the airport, but returned to his residence in Port-au-Prince, followed by police protesters. A Reuters witness heard heavy gunfire near his home. Haiti's National Police and the Prime Minister's Office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Roads around Port-au-Prince and in several cities to the north were blocked by protesters. A group of US government officials were visiting Haiti at the time, and a US State Department spokesperson said all Washington's personnel were accounted for and they had moved some meetings as a precaution. Haitian human rights group RNDH said in a statement that 78 police officers had been killed since Henry came to power in July 2021, averaging five each month, saying the prime minister and the head of the national police Frantz Elbe were "responsible for each of the 78 lives lost during their reign."

"History will remember they did nothing to protect and preserve the lives of these agents who chose to serve their country," it added. The Bahamas' foreign ministry said the



country's prime minister had ordered all Bahamians, including its diplomatic personnel, to leave Haiti as soon as security conditions permit.

Haitian police had earlier in the day stopped the neighboring country's local charge d'affaires and taken their vehicle and weapons, it added, saying all its diplomats were safe, as well as five citizens who had been trapped around the airport. Last week, four police officers near the capital were killed by the Vitelhomme gang, while shootouts with the Savien gang in the town of Liancourt left another seven officers dead, according to Haiti's National Police and local media reports.

US Assistant Secretary of State Brian Nichols expressed condo-

lences to the families of police officers killed in the latest violence, and said the United States would continue to "impose costs on those responsible for this heinous violence." Asked how the developments could affect efforts to craft an international armed intervention, the US State Department spokesperson told Reuters the United States was still working with international partners to develop "a framework" for a security mission to "provide security and stability." The United Nations is discussing sending a foreign strike force to confront the criminal groups. The proposal was originally made three months ago but no country has offered to lead such a force.

Peru recalls ambassador to Honduras

PERU (Reuters): Peru withdrew its ambassador to Honduras, Jorge Raffo, due to Honduras' "unacceptable interference" in the internal affairs of Peru, the South American nation's foreign ministry said. The step is part of a deepening showdown between Peru President Dina Boluarte and her regional peers, including the leftist leaders of Mexico, Bolivia and Honduras.

As a consequence of the position adopted by Honduras, bilateral relations with said country will be maintained, indefinitely, at the level of chargé d'affaires," the foreign ministry said on Twitter. At the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Argentina earlier this week, Honduran President Xiomara Castro called Boluarte's ascension to power a "coup d'état." "We condemn the coup d'état in Peru and the aggression to which the Peruvian people are subjected, our solidarity (is) with the legitimate elected president, Pedro Castillo, and we demand his immediate release," Castro said. Boluarte became president in December after Castillo attempted to illegally dissolve Congress, was ousted and detained. Boluarte has struggled to calm political unrest as protests have left dozens dead, although she has called on Congress to move up elections.

SK extends curbs on travelers from China

SEOUL, South Korea (AP): South Korea says it will continue to restrict the entry of short-term travelers from China through the end of February over concerns that the spread of COVID-19 in that country may worsen following the Lunar New Year's holidays. South Korea in early January stopped issuing most short-term visas at its consulates in China, citing concerns about a virus surge in the country that abruptly eased coronavirus restrictions in December and the potential for new mutations.

South Korea has also required all passengers from China, Hong Kong and Macao to submit proofs of negative tests taken with 48 hours before their arrival and put them through tests again once they arrive. The steps, which originally were imposed for the month of January, prompted China to retaliate by suspending South Korean short-term visa applications, raising concerns about disrupted business activities in a country that heavily depends on exports to China.

Following a meeting on South Korea's COVID-19 response, health authorities decided to extend the coronavirus measures on short-term travelers from China for another month. While there had been some indications COVID-19 outbreaks in major Chinese cities were slowing, South Korean officials remain concerned about a viral resurgence following the massive gatherings and cross-country travel during the Lunar New Year's holidays that ended this week. South Korean officials during the meeting left open the possibility of easing the restrictions earlier if it becomes clearer that China's COVID-19 situation is improving, the Ministry of Health and Welfare said in a statement.

When asked about concerns that China may take further retaliatory steps toward South Korea over the extension of the virus measures, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it was closely communicating with Beijing and maintaining that all pandemic responses should be based "only on anti-virus reasons." According to South Korea's Disease Control and Prevention Agency, around 10% of the 6,900 short-term travelers from China who arrived in the country from Jan. 2 to tested positive after being tested at the airport. While allowing the extension of existing visas, South Korea has stopped issuing most short-term visas as its consulates in China, except for essential government, diplomatic and business activities and humanitarian reasons.

DR Congo rebels take eastern town

DR CONGO (AFP): Rebels from the M23 group in Democratic Republic of Congo seized a town from the army as they continued to advance in the country's troubled east, the military said. DRC's army confirmed the withdrawal, calling it a tactical move to protect civilians in the face of renewed unrest provoked by the rebel fighters' reinvigorated offensive.

The rebels took control of Kitshanga after capturing several villages on the road linking the town of about 60,000 people to the provincial capital Goma. The city of more than one million people, located just on the Rwandan border, was already cut off from the north after rebels took National Highway 2 during their offensive in October and November. The M23, which Kinshasa charges is backed by Rwanda, took up

arms at the end of 2021 and has since seized parts of Rutshuru and Nyiragongo, north of Goma. Kigali denies backing the rebels. Under diplomatic pressure and under the supervision of a regional force deployed in the region, the rebels announced their withdrawal in December and January from two captured areas. But clashes continued in other areas, notably towards the west towards the Masisi, an area known for farming and livestock.

After three days of fighting, the rebels entered Kitshanga, about 90 kilometres (55 miles) from Goma, despite the presence of loyalist forces and armed groups claiming to be "patriots" resisting the M23 advance. "We have tactically withdrawn from the city in order to attract these genocidal forces deep into the city and avoid the worst

for our people in Kitshanga," said Lieutenant-Colonel Guillaume Ndjike, spokesman for the military governor of North Kivu.

"We are making every effort to dislodge this enemy," he added. "We are with the rebels here in the city," said a resident of Kitshanga who asked not to be named.

"The M23 controls all of Kitshanga and this morning the rebels are advancing" towards Walikale, he said. The Walikale region, one of six in North Kivu province, is rich in minerals including cobalt, gold and tinstone. At least 14 people were killed in the fighting, according to security and health sources. Former Kenyan president and facilitator Uhuru Kenyatta "expressed deep concern over the sharply deteriorating situation" earlier this week.

Biden extends deportation protection for HK residents

WASHINGTON (AP): President Joe Biden signed off on a two-year extension of a program that protects Hong Kong residents in the US from deportation, renewing the protection until January 2025. Biden first authorized the program, the Deferred Enforced Departure for Certain Hong Kong Citizens, in August 2021 for 18 months. It was set to expire on Feb. 5.

The decision to provide a temporary safe haven was in response to Hong Kong's sweeping national security law and other measures that undercut the rights promised when the former British colony was handed back to China in 1997. "With this action, we are demonstrating again President Biden's strong support for the people of Hong Kong in the face of increasing repression by the (People's Republic of China)," the White House National Security Council said in a statement. "We continue to strongly oppose the PRC's use of its National Security Law to deny the

people of Hong Kong their human rights and fundamental freedoms, undermine Hong Kong's autonomy, and chip away at Hong Kong's remaining democratic processes and institutions."

The Chinese government moved to stifle opposition following protests in Hong Kong in 2019 against a proposed law allowing extraditions to mainland China. Under the national security law, which took effect in June 2020, police have cracked down on opposition politicians, activists and demonstrators. Changes were also made to Hong Kong's election laws to reduce the number of directly elected lawmakers and give a largely pro-Beijing committee the leeway to nominate lawmakers aligned with the mainland government.

Liu Pengyu, spokesman for China's embassy in Washington, said in a statement that the Biden administration move further exposed the United States' "sinister intention" to undermine stability in Hong Kong and "contain

China's development." "We urge the US to stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs," he said.

Since China imposed its national security law, at least 150 opposition politicians, activists and protesters have been taken into custody on politically motivated charges, including secession, subversion, terrorist activities, and collusion with a foreign country or external elements, according to the White House.

Additionally, it said 1,200 political prisoners are now behind bars, and over 10,000 people have been arrested on other charges in connection with anti-government protests.

In addition to criticizing Beijing's crackdown on democracy activists in Hong Kong, Biden has repeatedly taken China to task for human rights abuses against the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, coercive trade practices, military provocations against self-ruled Taiwan and differences over Russia's prosecution of its war against Ukraine.

New Venezuela opposition leader confident US will protect assets

MADRID (Reuters): The new president of Venezuela's opposition legislature is confident the United States will back the body by continuing to protect foreign assets like oil refiner Citgo Petroleum from creditors, she said. Dinorah Figuera, a 61-year-old doctor from the Primero Justicia party, was chosen to lead the opposition's national assembly earlier this month as it prepares to pick a presidential candidate and pushes for renewed talks with the government.

Figuera, who lives in exile in Spain, told Reuters in an interview that the assembly's new triumvirate of women leaders will be able to confront President Nicolas Maduro, whom the United States and other countries consider a dictator, and protect assets like Citgo and nearly \$2 billion in gold at the Bank of England from creditors. Maduro has accused the opposition of working with the United States and other countries to stage coups against him. This month the US Treasury Department extended protection for Citgo until April and Figuera said it could be renewed.

"The United States supports the National Assembly, England supports the National Assembly ... we have had conversations and that (Citgo) licence can be renewed for more months," Figuera said. Venezuela owes more than \$60 billion to creditors and is facing legal judgements over nationalizations and delayed bond payments. Opposition lawmakers have appointed a committee to manage assets abroad.

Venezuela traditionally has only one legislature, but currently has two parallel bodies - one of government-allied lawmakers and another for the opposition. Figuera, who moved to Spain in 2018, aims to "stitch together" the unity of the opposition, after sometimes fierce infighting between its largest parties. As with other opposition lawmakers, she does not receive a salary for her role.

She is in the process of transferring her medical credentials so cannot yet practice as a doctor and makes end meet by caring for an 87-year-old diabetic woman in Valencia, in southern Spain. "I have received threats sent by people who know or have people near to Maduroismo," she said, referencing Maduro's allies, and adding police confiscated the apartment and a car she still owned in Venezuela a few hours after she was appointed. Though she lost her sister and mother to COVID-19 after leaving Venezuela, she still hopes to return one day. "I have faith that we are going to move forward," she said. "Dictatorships are not eternal."

Thai activist sentenced for online posts on king

BANGKOK (AP): A court in Thailand sentenced a 27-year-old political activist to 28 years in prison for posting messages on Facebook that it said defamed the country's monarchy, while two young women charged with the same offense continued a hunger strike after being hospitalized.

The court in the northern province of Chiang Rai found that Mongkhon Thirakot violated the lese majeste law in 14 of 27 posts for which he was arrested last August. The law covers the current king, his queen and heirs, and any regent. The lese majeste law carries a prison term of three to 15 years per incident for insulting the monarchy, but critics say it is often wielded as a tool to quash political dissent. Student-led pro-democracy protests beginning in 2020 openly criticized the monarchy, previously a taboo subject, leading to vigorous prosecutions under the law, which had previously been relatively rarely employed.

Since November 2020, according to Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, a legal aid organization, at least 228 people, including 18 minors, have been charged with violating the law, even as the protest movement withered due to arrests and the difficulties of conduct-

ing protests during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chiang Rai court found that 13 messages posted by Mongkhon, an online clothing merchant, did not violate the law because they related to the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the father of current King Maha Vajiralongkorn, or did not mention a specific royal figure. Mongkhon was found guilty and sentenced to three years in prison for each of the other 14 posts. The 42-year total prison term was reduced by one third, to 28 years, because of Mongkhon's cooperation with the court.

Mongkhon was granted release on bail while his case in on appeal, under the conditions that he does not engage in acts that damage the monarchy or leave the country. Prosecutions under the lese majeste law have recently drawn increased public attention because of a prison hunger strike by two female activists charged with the offense.

The two, Tantawan "Tawan" Tuatulanon and Orawan "Bam" Phupong, had been free on bail but announced earlier this month that they were revoking their own release to return to prison in solidarity with others held pending trial on the same charge. They issued demands including reform

of the justice system, the release of political prisoners and the restoration of civil liberties by abolishing legislation such as the lese majeste law. After three days back in prison, they began a hunger strike in which they are not consuming either food or liquids, a life-threatening tactic. On Tuesday they were transferred from the prison hospital to a state hospital with better facilities.

As their strike continued, supporters staged small protests. The opposition Move Forward Party, which has been offering support, has proposed amending the lese majeste law, but no action has been taken in Parliament.

The proposal would reduce the punishment for defaming the king to a maximum of one year in prison and a fine of up to 300,000 baht (\$9,160), while an offense against the queen, the king's heirs or the regent would be subject to a maximum six-month prison term and a fine of up to 200,000 baht (\$6,100). "The entire Thai justice system has a problem and so does the enforcement of the lese majeste law, which is also used as a political tool. Thailand has to solve this and make its distorted justice system better," said Pita Limjaroenrat, the party's leader.

Mali defends Russian ties and opposes options for UN force

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Mali's foreign minister defended the military government's cooperation with Russia and rejected three options proposed by the UN chief to reconfigure the UN peacekeeping force in the west African country where Al-Qaida and Islamic State extremist groups are driving insecurity.

Abdoulaye Diop told the UN Security Council that security is the country's top priority and Mali will not continue to justify its partnership with Russia, which is providing training and equipment to the military. He did not mention Russia's Wagner Group, the private military contractor with ties to the Kremlin. But Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' internal review released this week of the 17,500-strong UN mission, known as MINUSMA, noted that Mali's longstanding security partnership with France and others deteriorated over concerns about a Wagner Group personnel operating in support of the Malian armed forces, which he said Russian officials have publicly acknowledged.

US deputy ambassador Richard Mills said the United States welcomes the UN's acknowledgement in the internal review of the Wagner Group's presence in Mali. He called Wagner "a criminal organization that is

committing widespread atrocities and human rights abuses in Mali and elsewhere." The US has slapped several waves of sanctions on Wagner and its owner, Yevgeny Prigozhin, a rogue millionaire with longtime links to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Last year, France pulled its troops out of Mali, where they had been helping drive Islamic extremists from the country for nine years, following tensions with the ruling junta and the arrival of Wagner mercenaries.

"Their presence is equated to regular abuse against Malian civilians and increasing obstruction of MINUSMA," France's deputy UN ambassador Nathalie Broadhurst told the Security Council. "This is not acceptable." Mali has struggled to contain an Islamic extremist insurgency since 2012. Extremist rebels were forced from power in Mali's northern cities with the help of a French-led military operation, but they regrouped in the desert and began launching attacks on the Malian army and its allies. Insecurity has worsened with attacks on civilians and UN peacekeepers in central Mali as well.

In August 2020, Mali's president was overthrown in a coup that included Assimi Goita, then an army colonel. In June 2021, Goita was

sworn in as president of a transitional government after carrying out his second coup in nine months. Foreign minister Diop told the council that Goita is "resolutely committed" to holding a referendum on a draft constitution in March, electing deputies to the National Assembly in October and November, and holding presidential elections in February 2024.

He said the government remains committed to defending its territory, protecting its people and implementing a 2015 peace agreement. The peace agreement was signed by three parties — the government, a coalition of groups called the Coordination of Movements of Azawad that includes ethnic Arabs and Tuaregs who seek autonomy in northern Mali, and a pro-government militia known as the Platform — but the movements suspended participation in December. Diop called their decision "regrettable" but said "we hope soon to reach a common understanding with our brothers from the signatory movements."

Secretary-General Guterres' internal review of MINUSMA called Mali "one of the most difficult operating environments for peacekeeping," citing significant air and ground restrictions imposed by Malian security authorities.

Myanmar army set to cement rule

YANGON (Reuters): Myanmar's ruling junta announced tough requirements for parties to contest an election this year, including a huge increase in their membership, a move that could sideline the military's opponents and cement its grip on politics.

Myanmar's top generals led a coup in February 2021 after five years of tense power-sharing under a quasi-civilian political system that was created by the military, which led to a decade of unprecedented reform. The country has been in chaos since the putsch, with a resistance movement fighting the military on multiple fronts after a bloody crackdown on opponents that saw Western sanctions reimposed.

The military has pledged to hold an election in August this year. An

announcement in state media said parties intending to compete nationally must have at least 100,000 members, up from 1,000 previously, and commit to running in the election in the next 60 days or be de-registered as a party. The rules favour the Union Solidarity and Development Party, a military proxy stacked with former generals, which was trounced by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party in 2015 and 2020 elections.

The NLD was decimated by the coup, with thousands of its members arrested or jailed, including Suu Kyi, and many more in hiding. Richard Horsey, senior adviser to the International Crisis Group, who was based in Myanmar for 15 years, said the rules aimed to restore a political system the military can control.

"Parties are going to be either too scared, offended at the sham that the election is, or it will just be too expensive for them to mount a nationwide campaign in that kind of environment. Who would fund a political party right now?" he said. "This whole exercise is something to perpetuate military rule. It's a piece of theatre. It doesn't have to work, because they've decided what the outcome will be."

The junta says it is committed to democracy and seized power because of unaddressed violations in a 2020 election won in a landslide by the ruling NLD. The NLD in November described the election as "phony" and said it would not acknowledge it. The election has also been dismissed as a sham by Western governments.

Tearful tribute to Tanzanian student killed in Ukraine

DODOMA (AFP): Hundreds of Tanzanians attended an emotional memorial ceremony for a student who was killed fighting for Russia in Ukraine after being recruited in jail. Nemes Tarimo was serving a seven-year term for an undisclosed offence when Russia's Wagner mercenary group recruited him for payment and the promise he would be freed after the war, Tanzanian authorities said this week.

Following his death on October 24, his body arrived in Tanzania, with tearful family members gathering at the Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam to receive his remains. The short memorial service was attended by government officials as well as representatives from the

opposition Chadema party, which counted Tarimo among its members.

In a eulogy, a family member said Tarimo was father to a three-year-old girl who was still in Russia. After prayers, mourners lined up before the closed coffin, which had a framed photograph of Tarimo. "Due to circumstances which are out of our control, we will not display the physical face of the late Tarimo," a relative told mourners. Tarimo's uncle Dickson Muro said he spoke to the student last year.

"Tarimo called me and said he was free and promised to return home this January. He also warned that I should not call him until he does so," he said. Tarimo's stepfather said the student had told him he had

secured a job in Ukraine. "I told him to be careful there because of war, but he told me not to worry," said Sultan Nassoro.

Chadema official Ernest Mgwawe said Tarimo had bid for the party's member of parliament nomination in Dar es Salaam in 2020. "We lost a commander," he said. Tarimo's body will now be transported for burial to the southern region of Mbeya. In recent months, men have been recruited from Russian prisons to fight on the front lines in Ukraine with the promise of lucrative wages and reduced sentences. Zambian student Lemekani Nyirenda, 23, was killed in Ukraine in September, triggering a diplomatic spat and prompting Lusaka to demand an explanation from Moscow.

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Palestine issue and Israel’s peace

PALESTINIANS, the years-long inmates of Israeli open prisons in Gaza and the West Bank, are forced to endure unprecedented Israeli atrocities and high-handedness of all forms ranging from restricting provision of their basic utilities to blockage of supplies and essential medicines on baseless accusations, along with arbitrary arrests, killings and unlawful prosecutions of freedom seekers coupled with inhumane airstrikes and artillery shelling on Palestinian population on regular basis is a common phenomenon in the occupied territories. The recent tension escalated in Palestinian-occupied territories after the controversial visit of an ultranationalist Israeli lawmaker to the Jerusalem Holy sites and Israeli military strikes in the Jenin refugee camp that resulted in multiple casualties, over two dozen injuries, and property damages. In response Palestinian armed groups also started attacks against Israeli forces and fired missiles into Israeli territory, thus a large-scale conflict is likely to erupt in the area if warring groups do not observe restraint.

Currently, over 14 million Palestinians are living a miserable life in both confined regions surrounded by Israeli forces from all sides, and no one enters and exits the territory without permission from the occupied regime. The Israeli Army and Jewish settlers are jointly attacking unarmed innocent Palestinians in broad daylight, even then, the international community and the United Nations are unable to implement any decisive measures against the belligerent Jewish state except issuing a mere verbal condemnation and appeal for a peaceful resolution of the issue. The UN has adopted multiple resolutions regarding the Palestine dispute in the past and endorsed the two states’ solution to the issue, unfortunately, the UN authorities could not force Israel to implement resolutions of the global forum.

The Jewish state shamelessly bulldozed the UN resolutions, and global laws and remained involved in mass violations of the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian people through the expansion of illegal settlements on Palestinian land. In fact, none of the violence occurs if Israel was to end its half-century-old illegal occupation of the Palestinian territory and works toward peaceful co-existence with an independent Palestinian state as required by the law and an UN-backed two-state solution to the dispute. Realistically, no belligerent nation abandons its occupation easily until and unless its own sovereignty and core interests come under threat, or it confronts massive diplomatic and trade isolations globally. Unfortunately, the global community is not ready to endanger its economic and political interests by supporting the Palestinians’ just struggle for their right to self-determination. Palestinian people have lost their faith in the United Nations which failed to provide the Palestinians with their basic right to self-determination, while their just struggle is being considered terrorism. The Palestinian leaders accuse the UN and the US of impunity, and double standards for protecting Israel from being held accountable for its unparalleled atrocities, and violations of the UN resolutions. In fact, Israel can not progress and prosper without peace with Palestine, as early as Israeli authorities realize this fact and abandon the dream of the greater Israel, the Palestine issue would be resolved and peace will be restored in the Middle East.

Lese majeste law and Thailanders

A Thailand court sentenced a 27-year-old political activist to 28 years in prison on account of posting messages on Facebook that violated the country’s law and defamed the country’s monarch. The reports suggest that two young women charged with the same offense, continued a hunger strike after being hospitalized, while several other Thailanders are currently in detention on the same charges.

The Kingdom of Thailand, a southeast Asian Monarch is famous for its historic beauty, tropical beaches, opulent royal palaces, ornate temples, and ancient ruins along with numerous effigies of Buddha. Historically, the Thai people had rendered unmatched sacrifices to get rid of monarchs, however, the nation could only attain nominal achievements in the shape of a national constitution, political reforms, and meager political processes. The nation suffered multiple coups, constitutional collapse, and fake elections, but the ruins of Monarchs flourished in different forms throughout history.

Interestingly, the Thai nation still battling the worst kind of Monarchical laws that resist the public freedom of expression, and civil liberties and regulate political activities in the country. One of the notorious legislation which gained worldwide attention is the lese majeste law, which deals with the so-called prestige of the Thai Monarch, his family, close relatives, and other associates who enjoy some kind of relations with the Highness. The law carries a prison term of three to 15 years for each insulting action/statement regarding the monarchy.

A Student-led pro-democracy movement began in Thailand in 2020, which encouraged the youth to raise their voices for their rights and thus an open criticism of the monarch became customary. Previously, a taboo was subject to vigorous prosecutions under the law, currently, Facebook and social media posts and messages are being monitored by the LEAs to safeguard Monarch’s esteem among the masses. Thai political parties are considering some legislation to reduce the severity of the lese majeste law, but no one dares to be a whistleblower. In fact, the prestige of the high-ups is a highly sensitive and delicate aspect which seriously hurts by the trivial posts and vague messages while its implications cost the lives of the poor. Although the world had made unprecedented progress in the modern age yet, slavery, monarchs, dictatorship, and absolutism persist in the world. A sense of humiliation has arisen in the Thai public so sooner or later the menace of the Monarch would collapse in Bangkok.

Quote of the day

The world is a stage, life is a passage. You came, you saw, you departed.
— Democritus, 470-370 BC, Ancient Greek philosopher.

Ukraine war: How long can the US maintain support in the absence of negotiations?

Ben Armbruster

THE war in Ukraine is in its twelfth month and shows no sign of ending. On the contrary, the war is escalating on the battlefronts of Donbas and against civilians in cities throughout Ukraine. The carnage is destroying the country, devastating its utilities infrastructure, threatening nuclear power generation facilities, and claiming thousands more casualties on both sides. Ukraine and its supporters are aiming to defeat Russia and expel its forces from Ukraine. Both sides seem to be preparing for major blitzes in the spring.

Eventually, however, the warring sides will exhaust their human and material resources and will realize that the cost of any pyrrhic victory in terms of minor territorial gains is too high, and the war will peter out to a halt with a de facto cessation of fighting, in essence a “frozen conflict.” Without a peace agreement, reconstruction of Ukraine will remain stalled, and the war will likely resume at will, intermittently. Moreover, Europe will remain divided with a new Iron Curtain.

The alternative, an immediate ceasefire with follow up peace negotiations requiring difficult compromises from all sides and support in terms of important Western incentives could be within reach. Admittedly, this will be challenging.

Ukraine is unlikely to sign a ceasefire or peace agreement if the outcome

will include loss of territory, temporary or long-term. Public opinion in Ukraine is firmly against any territorial concession. Moreover, justifiably, Ukraine and its supporters want Russia punished for the aggression, assessed reparations, and saddled with continuing Western sanctions. Armed with nuclear weapons, pariah Russia will remain a source of instability globally.

Ukraine maintains it must defeat Russia and expel the invading forces from all of Ukraine, regardless of the humanitarian and economic costs. Ukraine holds long-standing, visceral grudges against Russia and its predecessor the Soviet Union for atrocities committed going back decades. The 1932-33 famine and Holodomor in Ukraine engineered by the Soviets is one example. Understandably, avenging historic wrongs and current war crimes are major driving forces for Ukrainians.

Proposals to end the war have fallen on deaf ears. Any compromise on Ukraine’s territorial integrity is equated with appeasement. Both sides are convinced wrongly that continuing the war can lead to a better alternatives than a negotiated agreement.

An idea to avoid endless war in Ukraine was proposed in an article in December, suggesting an arrangement under which the occupied territories of Ukraine either would be placed under a UN administration or Ukraine and

Russia would share “ownership” as a condominium. The proposal was based in part on a model imposed on the northern district of Brcko in Bosnia and Herzegovina following the Dayton Agreement, with the territorial “ownership” of the district shared by Republica Srbska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the two ethnic entities that make up the country, and an independent administration of Brcko under international supervision.

However, the Brcko model was not negotiated, it was imposed on the parties by a Dayton mandated international arbitration decision and enforced by NATO forces. I proposed the Brcko model when I was the director of the International Crisis Group mission in Bosnia (1998). The international arbitrator at the time, Roberts Owen, adopted the proposed model and turned it into a binding arbitration decision.

In August, I suggested in an article an immediate ceasefire and postponement of territorial issues to later long-term negotiations under international auspices, and an eventual peace treaty that would require compromises. This proposal, including eventual EU and possibly NATO membership, failed to motivate peace negotiations. Other similar proposals have failed to convince the belligerent parties as well.

The United States, capa-

ble of persuading Ukraine to accept compromises, including a limited defeat of Russia, has been reluctant to press for negotiations, deferring the decision to negotiate to the Ukrainian government.

However, four scenarios could force the Biden administration, albeit reluctantly, to press Ukraine for urgent ceasefire and peace negotiations: (1) if the battlefield situation in Ukraine turns in Russia’s favor and Ukraine faces a prospect of more territorial losses; (2) if Russia’s nuclear threat becomes imminent; (3) if China makes a military move against Taiwan. With the buildup of Russian forces and preparations for a spring offensive, and more military aid to Ukraine, the war trajectory and scenario 1 remain uncertain. Fortunately, scenarios 2 and 3 are not likely to materialize.

A fourth scenario emerged in the past month with the Republican takeover of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Immediately after taking office in January, Republican leaders threatened to use debt ceiling increase discussions, likely before June 2023, to extract budget cuts. Concerns about high military expenditures in general and support to Ukraine are on the minds of Biden administration leaders. In December 2022, Congress allocated \$45 billion aid to Ukraine for the current fiscal year

ending in October (this, in addition to the \$68 billion aid to Ukraine in 2022). Given the current toxic atmosphere in Washington, open ended and massive aid to Ukraine cannot be guaranteed, especially if aid is still needed beyond the current fiscal year.

As the principal funder of Ukraine’s war effort, a significant reduction of U.S. aid is likely to give Russia an advantage on the battlefield. To preempt such a turn, the Biden administration could seize the initiative and together with its allies offer substantial incentives and disincentives to both Ukraine and Russia to end the war with an immediate ceasefire deal and start negotiations for a peace agreement. The incentives must include accelerated EU membership for Ukraine, possibly NATO membership to deter Russia from resuming the war, and generous funds for compensation, reconstruction, and re-development of Ukraine.

Incentives must be on the table for Russia as well, including conditional sanctions easing and relief against Russian forces withdrawing from at least parts of the occupied territories. NATO membership of Ukraine would be the price that Russia might have to endure.

If the United States, EU, and NATO allies are unable to overcome the barriers for a negotiated end of the war any time soon, the war is likely to continue unabated for the foreseeable future,

gradually destroying what is left of Ukraine, claiming tens of thousands more casualties on both sides, and sending more refugees to neighboring countries. Suffice it to remember that, in the absence of international peacemaking, the Iran-Iraq war went on for eight years in the 1980s, claiming millions of lives.

Eventually, however, when the sides realize victory is too costly and is not possible, the war will come to a halt with a de facto ceasefire, but without a peace agreement. A “frozen conflict” would be an undesirable outcome as none of the drivers of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia or the West and Russia would have been addressed, and the war is likely to resume at will and intermittently.

Regardless of the prospects for a ceasefire and a peace agreement in the foreseeable future, the United States and its allies should engage in dialogue with Russia on a framework for post-war European and global security architecture. Dialogue is also needed with Ukraine to urge acceptance of a limited Russian defeat and withdrawal possibly from parts of the occupied territories. Dialogue at this level could encourage eventual Russia-Ukraine negotiations. The UN, absent to date in Ukraine peacemaking, must be part of the dialogue and must assume a significant role during the post-war peace-building phase.

Can Modi government absolve of its responsibility?

P J James

WHILE these lines are being written, Adani group had already lost around more than \$50 billion (more than Rs. 4 lakh crore), equaling almost 20 percent of its market value (‘aggregate market capitalization’) since January 24, following the release of the “credible and well-researched” report of Hindenburg Research alleging “brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme over course of decades” by it, India’s biggest crony capitalist. Hindenburg has only focused on what is called “sky-high valuations” or manipulations in equities and unmanageable debt levels that had galloped the share prices of 7 listed Adani companies by more than 85 percent of their ‘stock value’.

But more serious for India is the underlying ‘bank exposures’ connected with this alleged ‘fraud’ by Adani. According to the Hong Kong based investment group CLSA (Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia), of the more than Rs. 2 lakh crore ‘debt’ (based on the estimate of financial year ending March 2022) of Adani, 40 percent is from Indian public sector banks and financial institutions including LIC and SBI. LIC

alone had invested Rs. 77000 crore in the inflated shares of Adani of which Rs. 23500 crore had already been lost within two days! State-owned banks have lent twice as much to the Adani Group as private banks, with almost half of the lending by SBI alone based on mere ‘goodwill’ on account of Adani’s closest nexus with the Indian regime. Obviously, the hard-earned savings of millions of Indians are at risk.

Under the corporate-saf-ron regime of Modi who came to power on an anti-corruption plank, Adani transformed himself into an epitome of crony capitalism, sky-rocketing his wealth to hitherto unknown levels in global corporate history. Amidst Modi’s sermons against black money leading to the arbitrary superimposition of Demonetization, the biggest-ever “corporate-onslaught” on the Indian people, Adani had unfettered economic and financial avenues of plundering public wealth and bank-money with impunity, the details of which are already there in public domain. In spite of Modi’s poll-eve rhetoric on repatriating huge deposits stashed away in foreign banks by wealthy Indians, Adani could easily carry forward the use of foreign tax havens. Thus, as reported,

Adani group’s net profit for the second quarter ending September 30, 2022 doubled to Rs. 900 crore, while its total income nearly tripled to Rs. 79500 crore.

Of course, the political basis of Adani bubble, whose essence being financial speculation and stock jobbing together with the gobbling up of public wealth and bank money, was his close proximity to state power over the two decades of this century. In 2001, Adani was a small fry compared with Ambani, the latter then being the biggest Indian corporate, whose wealth at that time was 500 times that of Adani. Since then, Adani’s transformation as India’s biggest corporate and as world’s third richest billionaire are inseparable from his identification with Modi. Being a college drop-out, starting his career by setting up a commodity trading business in the 1980s, it was the liberalisation-globalisation regime of the 1990s that enabled Adani to set up the Mundra port in 1995. In 2002, the total worth of the main holding company of Adani was just \$70 million. But within a span of just a decade, Adani could gallop his wealth to \$ 20000 million (a growth of 300 times), quite unprecedented

in corporate history, according to Forbes!

Before Modi’s ascent as PM in 2014, he could be seen frequently flying in a private jet owned by Adani. And, under Modi’s prime ministership Adani travelled with him more than any other Indian corporate billionaire. He could be seen flying with Modi across the globe from the US to Australia or New York to Canberra covering all the continents. And Adani’s wealth multiplied several times in the process. The rest is known to all. The corollary of crony capitalist Adani’s meteoric rise as India’s number one and world’s third richest billionaire is the horrific levels of India’s worsening economic inequality and transformation of India as the ‘citadel of global poverty’ under the saffron-corporate fascist regime.

At the same time, according to the laws of motion of corporate capital today, there is nothing untoward in the bursting of Adani bubble. The ‘fictitious’ financial empire that is built up by Adani and of his kind under neoliberalism does not have any material basis in production. The market value of ‘financial capital’ or speculative asset accumulated by Adani is arti-

ficially inflated and driven up by manipulating supply and demand for making the highest profit within the shortest possible time. The inflated values of such assets can be easily punctured like balloons even by the slightest disturbance to its upward spiral, resulting in a crash. The sudden plummeting or collapse of Adani stocks following Hindenburg report is to be viewed in this inherent logic of corporate accumulation today. No doubt, as media reports indicate, the invention of new financial and stock market devices along with the granting of unfettered freedom and deregulation of corporate capital including possibilities of even ‘insider trading’ have made the situation beyond the control even by the corporate-saf-ron neofascist regime.

Obviously, Adani, India’s biggest crony capitalist, could easily balloon his financial corporate empire solely due to Modi regime’s far-right neoliberal policies such as liberal tax, labour and environmental regulations that enabled him to buy up precious national assets including land, natural and mineral resources, factories and stocks at throw-away prices while remaining mainly in the sphere of speculation. His unholy

nexus with power made it easy for him to massively transfer thousands of crore worth of bank money to his flourishing corporate empire on the basis of mere ‘goodwill’. Now following the Hindenburg Research Report, all of a sudden and according to the inherent logic of corporatisation today, Adani’s assets are becoming “toxic” in the stock market, and are facing massive selloff.

Now while Adani is facing the severest crisis in his corporate history, as already noted, Indian banks and financial institutions whose assets Adani has used for his money-spinning businesses are subject to what is called maximum “market exposure” that call for urgent intervention on the part of the authorities for protecting the interests of customers and people. At the same time, people should be vigilant over any “rescue operation” on the part of Modi regime to bailout Adani by shifting the whole burden to the shoulders of tax-payers, bank-depositors and common people. Above all, the Modi regime cannot evade its responsibility regarding the circumstances that led to this ignominious development and hence it is bound to explain to the people on them based on proper procedures.

So what’s the way out of here?

Yusuf Kaplan

I have called the age we live in the age of digital civilization. In this column, I want to discuss what digital civilization is and what it is not.

The world has become global, and all borders have disappeared, but people’s horizons have narrowed, and people have become myopic.

The problem of myopia started with modernity and got out of control with post-modernity.

Modernity was man’s destruction of his inner world, his orientation to the outer world, and his control and colonization of the outer world.

Postmodernity, on the other hand, is a person’s being closed to his inner world, the temptations of his soul, being a slave to his pleasures, and becoming myopic.

Postmodernity means abandoning big questions and big problems, losing all ideas, and locking people into micro-truths and small stories.

The disappearance of the

gaze and the horizon, the human being trapped in the detail, the piece.

The great wealth chain, narcissism, order and humankind

Narcissism, the blinding of the gaze, the darkening of the other, the consecration of the self, the height of selfishness, and ultimately the ruthlessness of cruelty. All imperialists are narcissists. All arrogance is narcissism.

In the West, the system is narcissistic! The system is blessed. The system takes precedence over man.

“First the system, then the order” is essential in Western civilization.

In us, in Islamic civilization, “human first, then order” is essential. The result is regularity: It is aimed to build a balance between beings, both philosophically / ontologically, sociologically, and culturally, and to build flow-gaze, round-trip, and mutual nourishment.

Since the principle of “first the system, then the human” is dominant in

Western civilization, the process of revenge, not order, is in effect: man is from God, nature, man is woman, woman is man; If he is white, he seeks revenge on the black, and the black on the white...

When the ontological hierarchy of existence is preserved, order, peace, and tranquility prevail both in the world of man and throughout the world. The heart of man becomes calm, he gives voice to the voice of nature and other beings, and he comes to himself.

When the ontological hierarchy of existence is destroyed, revenge, chaos, and conflict dominate both in the human world and between classes, races, species, genders, religions and cultures. Man becomes soulless.

The great chain of existence consists of the Creator, man and the universe. The ontological balance between the creator and the created will continue to exist if the hierarchi-

cal relationship in the great chain of existence continues, and a balance, peace, and order prevail both in the inner/spiritual world of man and in the outer/material world.

When the ontological hierarchy of existence is broken, that is, when man attempts to become deified or dominate other beings, such as nature, such as other civilizations and cultures, a great depression arises both in the inner/spiritual world and the outer/material world of man; man’s life and the world of humanity turn to hell, where the “survival of the fittest” / Darwinian barbarism, where the strong are right and dominate, “laws of the jungle” are enforced; this is social Darwinism; civilized barbarism. This is only one dimension of civilized barbarism.

Digital civilization: Myopatism and civilized barbarity

Digital civilization is

also barbaric because it is narcissistic and narcissistic, where all borders have disappeared, but human beings are trapped in the virtual world of boundlessness, where they fall ill with myopia, where the key, source, and roadmap of depth, and therefore the truth, evaporates, and human’s horizon, gaze, and pleasures focus only on himself. is a civilization.

Myopia is a narrowing of the horizon that prevents people from seeing the hidden truths beyond the visible, looking to the horizon and beyond, throwing people to the threshold of a dead-end street, where the end is uncertain, loss of depth and being trapped in the surface, getting lost in virtual, parallel universes, everything turns into dust.

Digital civilization is the reign of meaninglessness and soullessness in the world of machine and virtual algorithms that virtualize and evaporate human’s instincts of seeing, hearing, and thinking.

Myopia brings about a

loss of depth. The loss of depth also means that people are trapped in the surface and lost in their seductive journeys on the surface... Turning into an object... Turning them into an established machine, so to speak.

As digital civilization cancels the human faculties of hearing, thinking and seeing (in depth) and condemns humans to surface speed, pleasure, and temptation, we are confronted with a new form of barbarism: The civilized kind.

A civilization that forgot big questions lost the idea of unity and depth and was trapped in a myopic and seductive gaze on the surface and the superficial, would inevitably not be able to avoid writhing in the grip of minor problems, evaporating the truth, depressing and brutalizing people.

So what’s the way out of here? There are clues in the article, but opening and discussing them in depth is the subject of another article, of course.

What has changed - times or people?

IN the second half of the eighties, almost forty years ago, two young people lived on German soil: the one who was five years older in Dresden, and the younger in Hamburg. Germany was not united at that time and they did not know each other, although the second often came from the FRG to the GDR. The first left German soil in 1990, against the backdrop of German reunification, while the second remained and now works as chancellor in Berlin. Vladimir Putin and Olaf Scholz are the leaders of Russia and Germany, and they had much more in common in the past than

After all, they were raised this way, they received such an education - and they simply cannot imagine a different picture of the world. This can be said about the 42-year-old Burbock, but certainly not about Merkel, who grew up in the GDR, or about the 64-year-old Scholz. The chancellor began his career in the organization of young socialists, the youth wing of the SPD - and was among the left wing there. The other day, he was reminded of this again - in an article by Politico, the European branch of the American publication, entitled "The Roots of Scholz's Tank Injury in the Cold War."

Its essence is simple -

Petr Akopov

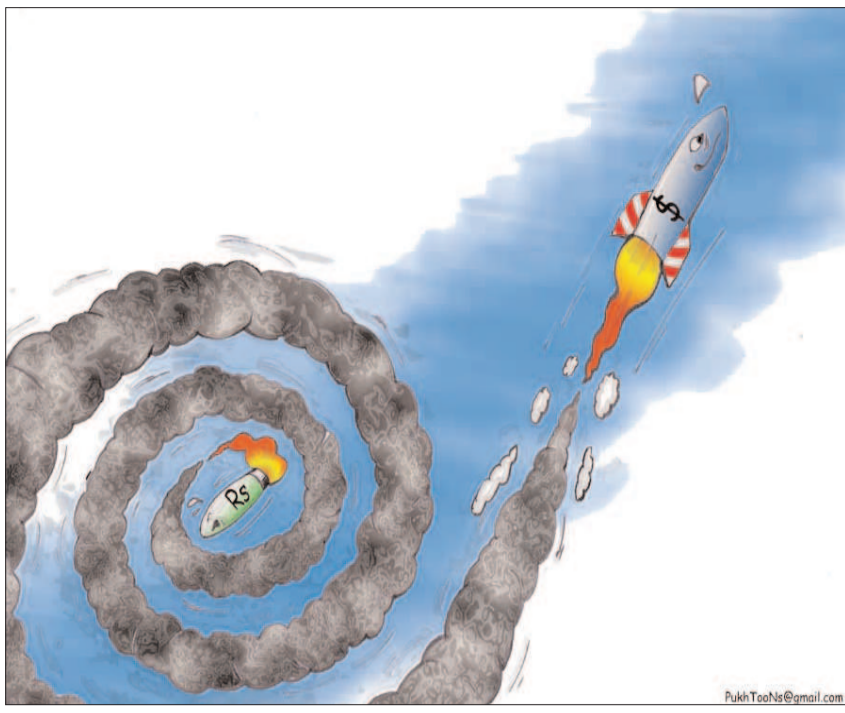
SED, the ruling communist party. This is not about recruitment - it is not confirmed by the Stasi materials either, but simply about what they talked about at those meetings.

In 1988, a delegation led by Scholz told the German Komsomol members that "the true enemies of the world <...> are in the US military-industrial complex" and in the "steel helmet faction", that is, the then ruling CDU bloc in Germany - CSU with the FDP. And during one of the meetings in January 1984, Scholz (well, that is, the delegation headed by him again) stated that the USSR

the problem is that Putin thought exactly the same way in the 1980s, that is, he did not change his views. Not because he is dogmatic or divorced from reality, but because everything has remained the same: the FRG does not have full sovereignty. And this is precisely what prevents Russia and Germany from agreeing on the future of Europe.

And Scholz today says that Russia threatens European and German security, calls Putin an imperialist who sees the existence of a democratic Ukraine as a threat to his dictatorship. That is, today's Scholz treats Russia in the same way that Scholz treated the USA in the 80s -

through Warsaw going to Berlin? Of course not. But is he really sure that the Russians have no reason to fear NATO? That is, he used to consider NATO in West Germany a threat to Russia, but now he refuses to recognize NATO in Ukraine as unacceptable for us? What has changed since then? Quite a trifle: the Russians left Germany, and the Germans united. In Russia, it was believed that unification, as well as building a united Europe around Germany, would help the Old World eventually gain true sovereignty, get rid of dependence on the Anglo-Saxons, but instead received another "Drang nah Osten" and



‘We are waging war against Russia’

Elena Karaeva

FOR all the time of confrontation in the past and present centuries, the main strategic goal of the West was the destruction of Russia. The Russian Empire, the USSR, a modern country - the target has never changed from a name change.

Not observing too closely the moves and exits in various political and military-political games, we as a state in the last 30 years seemed to have lost a little awareness of this simple fact.

The West is always against us. The West is always against the Russians.

We were for many decades a single powerful, armored fist: not because we are militaristic and not because militarism is our middle name, but because it was the only way to survive. As a country, as a nation, preserving both culture, traditions and ideals.

They tried to mislead us and almost achieved this by starting, as part of the policy of "new thinking", to cut rockets into scrap metal, and as part of the "new sincerity" to transfer the schemes of the installed listening devices in the new building of the US Embassy to the Americans. And it was actually done by the one who was obliged from these same Americans to protect the interests of our national security. The then chairman of the KGB.

But all these gestures of good and very good will did not change the plans of the military elites and the political establishment - in Washington, in London, in Brussels, in the Baltic countries - to settle accounts with us militarily.

The transfer of tanks as part of assistance to Ukraine, their careful calculation by the entire planetary media community, assessments of the combat capability of the Abrams and Leopards, analysis of their performance characteristics are in fact just a smokescreen to prevent global public opinion from seeing the main thing. And most importantly, this is not at all an increase in the degree of escalation, this is the beginning of a war.

Because they don't talk about it directly, nothing changes, because the solvers in NATO epaulettes, of course, cannot fail to understand that all their undertakings are doomed to failure. In addition, they, of course, lie to the Europeans themselves (they must become and will eventually also become expendable material - and there can be no illusions here) that as a result of such a desire for geopolitical domination, millions, and maybe tens of millions, will die.

Well, because the strategists of the Pentagon and NATO did not invent a war in which you can fight without casualties from those who initiated this war.

The lessons under the motto "divide and rule", tried many times, are poorly learned by those who even now want to divide in order to rule. The power of the West (and power without quotes, real) lies in very long-term and extremely layered planning, in a variety of scenarios of possible wars and conflicts, each of which is provoked in order to make money. It is precisely profit and the acquisition of new resource markets that is the

goal of any anti-Russian, anti-Soviet, anti-Russian campaign. For not the last centuries, but even millennia.

Eight years ago, when the President of Russia, under an absolutely far-fetched pretext, was not invited to the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by the Red Army, we considered this a manifestation of the pettiness of the nature of the hosts, who invented as an excuse that "Auschwitz was liberated by the Ukrainians." Russia told the ignorant that the fronts during the Great Patriotic War were formed by regions, and not by nationality, adding that the 60th Army of the 1st Ukrainian Front, the same one that first entered Auschwitz, served Red Army soldiers of 39 nationalities.

"For the fact that Auschwitz was liberated by the Soviet troops, I am grateful for the rest of my life," a former (at that time minor) prisoner of the death camp will say many years later.

And he will add: "For me, during the Second World War, Russia was a savior. <...> I was saved by the Battle of Stalingrad, which became the turning point of the war, and the offensive of the Soviet army."

Let's return to the personality of the author of the quotes, but for now let's say this with all our frankness.

Everyone saw how we refrained from responding to provocations of any kind, to attempts to humiliate, cancel, and slander us. We retained the dignity that comes with the feeling that we have the country and the security of all its citizens behind us. They tried to reproach us, they gagged us, they accused us of everything that could only be blamed on the state.

At the same time, self-appointed prosecutors in the most beautiful way, with the support of the media, capital and various politicians, overthrew governments during the "Arab spring", caused chaos in Syria to remove Assad, ironed Libya with Rafale ammunition.

There is so much blood on those who today in sparkling knightly armor jumps, or rather, rides on "Abrams" and other armored vehicles to kill us, so much that it reaches their nostrils. They almost choke on it.

But since the appetite comes with eating, and blood drinking is not cured, now these geopoliticians, geostrategists and grandmasters of the big chess game, where there are no pieces on the board, but living people, will now let the blood flow to the Europeans. Under the pretext that it is they, the Europeans, who must go and fight "against Russia and its armed horde", which, as we know from Goebbels' manuals, "brings slavery to the peoples of the continent."

One way or another, Europeans, citizens of the countries of the Hitlerite axis, were driven to fight the Russians in Stalingrad. In addition to the Wehrmacht, a Croatian infantry regiment, one Italian, one Hungarian and two Romanian armies fought with the Red Army on the snow hot from artillery salvos.

The outcome of the battle is known. Next week our victory in Stalingrad

will be 80 years old.

Today, after these eight decades, after the decision was made to send heavy tanks, the next step of those whose grandfathers and great-grandfathers wandered in the columns taken prisoner by us in that battle is not difficult to predict.

As support and assistance, a NATO army contingent is sent to the line of clashes in the zone of the NMD so that, as the military says, "the front does not collapse." Limited or unlimited, retirees or reservists, the current squad - anyone, just to defeat Russia. Or rather, to destroy it.

This task is geostrategic. Russia, winning this confrontation, is today the main nightmare of European politicians (with very few exceptions). Russia losing, that is, destroyed, is their main joy.

In the first case, they lose everything - such carefully accumulated capital and zones of influence. In the second, NATO naval units are stationed in Sevastopol.

We just need to understand now that the stakes in this game for the West are higher than its life, the collective West. Therefore, today he is almost ready to pay with the lives of his citizens.

Only lazy people do not talk about the transfer of the common European economy to a war footing, statements are made by official serious people whose eyes sparkle with anticipation of revenge. For example, Manfred Weber, leader of the European People's Party, made a quite unambiguous statement on this score.

The memory of the loss, terrible and bloody, as we can see, did not sober up European politicians even once, but only inflamed militant moods, as Annalena Berbock, head of the German Foreign Ministry, said directly in the European Parliament: "We are waging war against Russia."

Her own ministry tried to disavow these words, but what has been said cannot be taken back. And the first word, as you know, is more expensive than the second.

This is the general, so to speak, disposition of the coalition that opposes us. And the intentions set forth by her.

And now the disposition is private.

Testimonies of a minor prisoner of Auschwitz (he was not even 15), who, during the advance of the troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front, was driven by a "march of the dead" to another extermination camp - Dachau. This prisoner was Samuel Pizar.

Pizar is the stepfather of current US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. He raised and raised him. And the same Samuel Pizar spoke about the Battle of Stalingrad.

If it weren't for the Red Army, its victims, if it hadn't taken Auschwitz with the forces of the 1st Ukrainian Front, if it hadn't won in Stalingrad, the head of the American Foreign Ministry would simply not have a family today.

And Blinken, who works in the administration, declaring the possibility of an "offensive on the Crimea" and sending "Abrams" to kill the descendants of those who saved Samuel Pizar's life, should be reminded of this more often. Perhaps it will come!

it seems. In the 80s, both believed that NATO was a threat to our country, and now only the President of Russia thinks so. In the 80s, both were against NATO being in Germany, and now the German chancellor wants it to come to Ukraine, that is, to the historical territory of Russia. What has changed - times or people?

After the Second World War, Germany has never been a sovereign state in the full sense of the word - this is how Vladimir Putin assessed the position of Germany, specifying that some German politicians are talking about this. And the problem is not only in the presence of essentially occupying American troops (no matter how their status is formalized), but in the rigid ideological dependence of most of the German political elites on the Anglo-Saxons - a dependence that many of them do not recognize, because they do not even understand about what is being said.

"Olaf Scholz's long hesitation before sending tanks is symptomatic of a deeply rooted belief that détente, not Reagan's militancy, won the Cold War", and his biography indicates that he was against NATO:

"For Scholz and his associates in the 1980s, the communists were allies and NATO the aggressor. Scholz, who was considered leftist in the Social Democratic Party, pushed his party to consider withdrawing West Germany from NATO, which he characterized as "aggressive and imperialist."

Indeed, in the 1980s, Scholz, who served as deputy chairman of the Young Socialists from 1982 to 1988, was not just a Marxist and opponent of capitalism, but also a sharp critic of NATO. Here, Politico did not reveal anything new, but in its article it emphasized Scholz's repeated trips to the GDR, as well as his contacts with the leadership of the German Komsomol and the

should respond to the deployment of American missiles in Europe by "putting something on America's threshold", that is, by placing nuclear weapons there because Soviet missiles aimed at Europe "did not pose an adequate threat to the United States."

This, by the way, is a completely normal position for a German left patriot, and it's even clear what Scholz proceeded from: there's no need to aim Soviet missiles at our country, because you understand that we are not independent, we have limited sovereignty, deal directly with America. The fact that this was discussed in conversations with equally dependent East Germans does not change anything - the Germans from East and West thought first of all about their security and their national interests.

It turns out that Scholz thought about the independence of Germany in 1984 in the same way that Putin thinks in 2023. But

maybe he is also true to his views, he simply believes that the situation has changed and now the main threat to the world comes from Moscow?

If he really thought so, then the Atlanticists would not have criticized him for the slowness with the transfer of tanks to Ukraine. And if they scold him - and even remind him of the anti-Americanism of the 80s, then they do not believe in the sincerity of his support for the "war with Russia." Therefore, Nord Stream 2 was blown up as a safety net, so as not to leave the Germans any chance to make decisions on their own.

So it turns out that Scholz understands everything perfectly both about the Americans and about the independence of his country - he simply cannot say anything, although he tried to minimize Germany's participation in the conflict with Russia. Does he believe in Putin's imperialism, in the fact that after Kiev, Russian tanks

attempts to tear away, transfer to the Atlantic camp already historical Russian lands, that is, Ukraine. This is real imperialism, against which the young socialist Scholz fought so fervently.

Over the past year, Germany has not strengthened, but weakened its sovereignty - and lost relations with Russia, replacing them with a conflict over interests alien to it. And now Olaf has no one to turn to with a request not to aim Russian missiles at Germany, and the Russians are outraged not by the lack of independence of the Germans, but by their historical ingratitude. For the unification of Germany, we are paid by participation on the side of the Anglo-Saxons in the battle for Ukraine, not wanting to admit what this will eventually come back to haunt Germany itself. Young Scholz would call Scholz 2023 insane - and Vladimir Putin would completely agree with him: both in the eighties and today.

An end to capitalism

FRIDAY evening, after weeks of protests by the family and community members, the city of Memphis, Tennessee released video footage documenting the January 7 fatal police beating of Tyre Nichols.

The footage from police body cameras and a stationary camera near the site of the police assault documented the savage attack on Nichols by at least five Memphis police officers, which resulted in his hospitalization and death three days later.

The gruesome footage, watched by millions across the US, evoked shock and outrage, triggering protests in Memphis, Atlanta, New York, Washington D.C. and other cities. The protests are expected to continue over the weekend and spread to other cities. On Friday evening, police reportedly arrested protesters at Times Square in New York.

The 29-year-old father and FedEx worker was attacked after he was stopped, supposedly for a traffic violation, by members of the Scorpion ("Street Crimes Operation to Restore Peace in Our Neighborhoods") unit of the Memphis Police Department, created in the fall of 2021 by the Democratic city administration.

Driving unmarked vehicles, the police aggressively advanced on Nichols' vehicle and surrounded the terrified and completely innocent man. Like Nichols, all of the police officers involved—Demetrius Haley, Tadarious Bean, Emmitt Martin III, Desmond Mills and Justin Smith—were African American.

The video shows that

Nichols ran after he was surrounded by the police, who attempted to tase him. The police caught up with Nichols and viciously beat him for many minutes, using batons, tasers, fists and boots. As the police assaulted him, Nichols, who was roughly 100 yards from his mother's house, repeatedly screamed out for his mother and questioned why he was being attacked.

The cops took turns mocking and pummeling Nichols until he lost consciousness. They could be heard yelling, "Give me your f***ing hands," and, "I'm going to baton the f**k out of you."

The stationary camera video shows that for more than 25 minutes at least a dozen cops, by then gathered at the scene, refused to offer medical aid or get the limp police beating victim to a hospital.

In an attempt to tamp down anger ahead of the release of the video on Friday, the Memphis Police Department announced the firing of the five cops who killed Nichols, and on Thursday the Shelby County district attorney brought multiple felony charges against them, including second-degree murder, kidnapping and oppression. While all five cops were booked into the Shelby County jail on Thursday, as of this writing, four had bonded out.

The killing of Nichols is the latest in an unending series of murders at the hands of police. So far this year, at least 79 people have been killed, according to a tracker maintained by the Washington Post. At this pace, roughly three killings a day, 2023 will meet or top the 2022 toll of

Jacob Crosse

more than 1,100 people killed by police officers in the US.

The fatal beating of Nichols by five African-American police undercuts the racialist narrative of police violence advanced by the Democratic Party and its identity and racial politics allies. It shatters the claim that the answer to police brutality is to "diversify" police departments.

Police violence, like every other social evil under capitalism, is fundamentally a class question. There are more white people killed by police in the US than blacks or Hispanics, although people of color are killed in numbers disproportionate to their percentage of the population. Racism plays a part, but a part secondary to social class. The police are recruited from more backward layers of the population, and police departments are known to be riddled with fascist and white supremacist elements, including many veterans of US imperialism wars around the world.

What the overwhelming majority of victims of police violence and murder have in common is that they are part of the working class. Racism is itself an ideological and political weapon long employed by the capitalist class to divide the working class, in accordance with the strategy of "divide and rule."

Racialist politics buttress this ruling class strategy. Memphis is a clear example. The second largest city in Tennessee has a population of 635,000, over 65 percent of which identifies as African-American.

Roughly 56 percent of the police likewise identify as African-American, including female police chief Cerelyn Davis. Within four months of being sworn in as police chief on June 14, 2021, Davis created the Scorpion unit, which has become notorious for its brutal and repressive methods.

The tragedy of Tyre Nichols underscores the dead end of subordinating social opposition among workers and poor people to the Democratic Party and its promises to "reform" the police.

Following the police murder of George Floyd in May 2020, millions of youth, students and workers of all races marched together in opposition to police violence in cities and towns across the US, as well as in countries around the world. The Democratic Party and its allies intervened to derail the protests along racialist lines and channel them behind the election campaigns of Democratic politicians, including then-presidential hopeful Joe Biden.

In the nearly three years since the police murder of Floyd, billions of dollars have been spent on police departments around the country, and the killing of workers and poor people of all races has continued unabated.

In June of 2021, five months after taking office, President Biden announced that states and localities could use any portion of the \$350 billion in pandemic relief funds allotted them under the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan to fund their police departments.

In a speech last March unveiling his 2023 budget,

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Speakers for fast-track implementation of Pak-Russia agreements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at a webinar on Saturday highlighted the importance of a fast-track implementation of the agreements reached between Russia and Pakistan in the energy sector, terming it crucial for the economic uplift of the energy-starved country.

The webinar titled “Russo-Pak Economic and Energy Cooperation, Scope and Challenges” was organized by Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications network) and DTN.

Former Senator Lt. General (Retd.) Abdul Qayyum was the keynote speaker, while among other participants were foreign affairs expert Dr Salma Malik, energy and environ-

ment expert Qaiser Aijaz, and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, besides Hussain Ali Shah, Iftikhar Ahmed, Sarah Khan, Natasha Jameel, Maliha and Ayan Mitra.

Abdul Qayyum said the recent Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Russia were a long-awaited icebreaking that could lead to an important partnership and investments in the defence, oil and gas sectors of Pakistan after the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

He said Pakistan needed sustainable and balanced foreign relations while increasing its exports, and attracting more foreign investment.

He stressed political stability and consistency of policies, declaring them as a ‘key’ to achieving steady national development and prosperity.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said a comprehensive Russo-Pak Energy Corridor was ‘very crucial’ for both countries at this point.

Munir Ahmed said it was high time for both countries to think about the larger and more comprehensive Russo-Pak Energy Corridor (RPEC), similar to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Dr Salma Malik termed the Pakistan-Russia energy cooperation a “welcomed step” that needs to be

viewed with cautious optimism, given the larger geo-economic dynamics.

Qaiser Aijaz said the Russo-Pak economic and energy development cooperation had a history, recalling that Pakistan’s first five-year plan of 1950 was based on the Russian Economic Model and subsequent provision of technical and financial support in the promotion of the oil and gas development sector in 1960 and establishment of Pakistan Steel Mills in the 1970s.

He said Russia-Pakistan Economic and Energy Cooperation had a huge potential to grow and was expected to develop further on a fast-track basis.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting on role of Pakistan Development Fund and State Owned Enterprise at Finance Division.

Minster reviews role of PDF, SOEs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired a meeting on role of Pakistan Development Fund (PDF) and State Owned Enterprise (SOEs) at Finance Division.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Akif Saeed and senior officers from Finance Division attended the meeting, said a press release issued here.

The meeting discussed the role of Pakistan Development Fund (PDF) and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in the light of new SOE Act 2022.

The meeting discussed modalities to improve governance of SOEs and line ministries and restructuring of PDF to re-vitalize its role to promote infrastructure in the country.

The finance minister emphasized on revisiting the role of PDF and SOEs considering business plan, governance structure and financial viability with the concept of accountability to safeguard public assets.

IT exports remittance increases by 2.38% in 1st half of 2022-23

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Information Technology (IT) exports remittance including telecommunication, computer and information services during the six months (July to December) of the current fiscal year 2022-23 recorded US\$1.333 billion growing by 2.38 percent in comparison to US\$ 1.302 billion during the same period last year.

Despite persistent ease of doing business challenges, ICT export remittances of US\$ 1.333 billion have been realized by the

IT & ITes Industry during the period July to December of FY2022-23, an increase of 2.38% in comparison to US\$ 1.302 billion reported for the same period last year said the data shared by Ministry of Information Technology and telecommunication here on Saturday.

Trade surplus of US\$ 1.166 billion (87.47% of total ICT export remittances) has been realized by the IT & ITes Industry during the period July to December of FY2022-23 to meet the foreign currency

crunch faced by the country, an increase of 19.96% as compared to trade surplus of US\$ 972 million for the same period in FY2021-22. ICT sector exports of US\$ 1.333 billion are the highest among all Services (37.8% of total export of services) with ‘Other Business Services’ trailing at US\$ 816 million.

ICT services have delivered a phenomenal trade surplus of US\$ 1.166 billion which is the highest among all Services with ‘Other Business Services’ trailing at US\$ 201 million.

OGRA for avoiding speculations about POL products’ prices

ISLAMABAD (APP): A spokesman for Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Saturday expressed serious concern over the circulation of speculative reports about the prices of petrol and diesel in the media.

“It has been observed that speculative prices of petrol and diesel are being reported in the print and electronic media since last evening that is misleading and incorrect,” OGRA spokesman Imran Ghaznavi said in a brief press statement.

He advised the elements, spreading misleading and incorrect information, to avoid disseminating speculative prices of petroleum products in the ‘public interest.’

Dealers warned to avoid profiteering

VEHARI (APP): Director Agriculture (Extension) Multan Shahzad Sabir on Saturday directed fertilizer dealers to avoid black marketing and profiteering otherwise strict action would be taken against them.

During his visit to different dealer shops at Vehari, the director of agriculture said that all possible efforts were being made to ensure the availability of fertilizer to dealers at controlled rates. He said that no one would be allowed to loot farmers by selling fertilizer at high rates adding that strict action would be taken against the dealers involved in such activities.

He directed fertilizer dealers to properly maintain records of their shops.

Shahzad Sabir said that farmers were the backbone of the country’s economy and added that the prosperity of the country was possible by making farmers economically strong. He said that a special crackdown was continued by the agriculture department against the hoarders and profiteers of fertilizer.

Assistant Director Agriculture (Extension) Asif Aziz and other concerned officers were also present.

‘Best tax cut is a cut to inflation’

LONDON (APP): The best tax cut is a cut to inflation, said Britain’s Treasury chief on Friday, adding that this is the “only sustainable way to restore industrial harmony.”

Speaking at Bloomberg headquarters in London about his plans to grow the economy, Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt said that they need to make Brexit “a catalyst for bold choices.”

He said that enterprise, education, employment, and everywhere are the four E’s for economic growth and prosperity.

“If we’re to be Europe’s most prosperous economy, we need to have quite simply its most dynamic and productive companies,” added Hunt.

Gift University delegation visits PSGMEA

SIALKOT (APP): A delegation of Gift University led by Prof Dr Farrukh visited Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) office here on Saturday.

Other members of the Gift University delegation were Dr Zahoor Abbas, Head of Department (HOD) Business & Commerce; Waleed Naem, Assistant Manager Corporate Relations; Qasim Naseem Mir, Faculty Member Business & Commerce and Faisal Rasheed, Faculty Member Business & Commerce of Gift University, Gujranwala.

PSGMEA Chairman Arshad Latif Butt gave a detailed briefing to the delegation about the Sialkot industry. He said that

Sialkot was the second largest city of Pakistan which was playing an important role in strengthening the national economy through foreign exchange.

He said that Sialkot made surgical instruments, leather products, footballs, gloves of all sorts, textiles items, sports wear, martial arts uniforms & accessories, musical instruments, kitchen ware & table ware, hollow ware, hunting knives, table cutlery/flatware and military uniform badges were used internationally.

Arshad Latif Butt said that Sialkot exporters had set unique examples of self-help by completing several mega projects including Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL), Sialkot Dryport and own private airline namely

AirSial Airline.

The industry of Sialkot would continue to play its full role in strengthening national economy, he added.

Prof Dr Farrukh of Gift University said that Gift University was paying special attention towards Accounts, IT and other subjects that could meet the needs of industry.

The meeting was attended by PSGMEA Vice Chairman Sheikh Umer Zaman, Secretary General Mohsin Maqsood, Sheikh Rafi Soni, Rana Naseer Ahmed, Rana Suleman, Zarar Doodhi and other members.

Later, PSGMEA Chairman, Vice Chairman and Zarar Dhoothi also presented a commemorative shield to Prof Farrukh.

China aims to boost consumption, imports

BEIJING (Reuters): China’s cabinet said on Saturday it would promote a consumption recovery as the major driver of the economy and boost imports, state broadcaster CCTV reported, at a time of cooling global demand as major economies teeter on the brink of recession.

At a meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang, China’s state council - which functions as the cabinet - also vowed to speed up the roll-out of foreign investment projects, maintain a stable yuan, ease cross-border travel and help companies to participate in domestic and overseas trade shows.

The cabinet also reaffirmed its support for the private sector and digital

platform economy, which have taken a knock from a series of regulatory crackdowns in recent years.

It also discussed measures to support farmers to start spring planting, including subsidies for soybean sowing, CCTV reported.

During the week-long Lunar New Year holiday that ended on Friday, consumption increased 12.2% from the same period last year, the tax authority said on Saturday, reflecting a rebound after the relaxing of some of the world’s tightest COVID-19 curbs.

Analysts at Japanese brokerage Nomura said in a research note on Saturday that consumption of in-person services had recovered notably, as seen in the

rebound of trips made and tourism earnings. But they said households were likely to be moderate in releasing pent-up demand.

Chinese exports shrank sharply in December as global demand cooled, but a more modest decline in imports led economic analysts to forecast a slow recovery in domestic demand in the coming months.

China’s economy likely grew by 2.8% in 2022, when stringent COVID measures were still in place, well below the official target for “around” 5.5%, according to a Reuters poll of economists.

Growth is expected to rebound to 4.9% in 2023, before steadying in 2024, the poll showed.

Gold falls on expected inflation data

CHICAGO (APP): Gold futures on the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange fell on Friday as US inflation data met market expectations.

The most active gold contract for February delivery fell 0.6 US dollars, or 0.03 percent, to close at 1,929.4 dollars per ounce.

Gold holds onto a slight gain of nearly 0.1 percent for the week, the sixth weekly gain in a row.

The US Commerce Department reported Friday that the US Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index excluding food and energy, the Fed’s preferred measure of inflation, increased 4.4 percent year on year in December, down from the 4.7-percent reading in November and the slowest annual rate of increase since October 2021.

The data, in line with market estimate, indicates that US inflation is waning.

Other economic data released Friday also dampened gold.

The Consumer Sentiment Index released by the University of Michigan (UM) Surveys of Consumers rose to 64.9 in the January 2023 survey, up from 59.7 in December.

Intel’s ‘historic collapse’ erases \$8b from market value

NEW YORK (Reuters): Intel Corp (INTC.O) saw about \$8 billion wiped off its market value on Friday after the US chipmaker stumbled Wall Street with dismal earnings projections, fanning fears around a slump in the personal-computer market.

The company predicted a surprise loss for the first quarter and its revenue forecast was \$3 billion below estimates as it also struggled with slowing growth in the data center business.

Intel shares closed 6.4% lower, while rival Advanced Micro Devices (AMD.O) and Nvidia (NVDA.O) ended the session up 0.3% and 2.8%, respectively. Intel supplier KLA Corp (KLAC.O) settled 6.9% lower after its dismal forecast. “No words can portray or explain the historic collapse of Intel,” said Rosenblatt Securities’ Hans Mosesmann, who was among the 21 analysts to cut their price targets on the stock.

The poor outlook underscored the challenges facing Chief Executive Pat

Gelsinger as he tries to reestablish Intel’s dominance of the sector by expanding contract manufacturing and building new factories in the United States and Europe.

The company has been steadily losing market share to rivals like AMD, which has used contract chipmakers such as Taiwan-based TSMC (2330.TW) to make chips that outpace Intel’s technology.

“AMD’s Genoa and Bergamo (data center) chips have a strong price-performance advantage compared to Intel’s Sapphire Rapids processors, which should drive further AMD share gains,” said Matt Wegner, analyst at YipitData.

Analysts said that puts Intel at a disadvantage even when the data center market bottoms out, expected in the second half of 2022, as the company would have lost even more share by then. “It is now clear why Intel needs to cut so much cost as the company’s original plans prove to be fantasy,” brokerage Bernstein said.

“The magnitude of the

deterioration is stunning, and brings potential concern to the company’s cash position over time.”

Intel, which plans to cut \$3 billion in costs this year, generated \$7.7 billion in cash from operations in the fourth quarter and paid dividends of \$1.5 billion.

With capital expenditure estimated to be around \$20 billion in 2023, analysts said the company should consider cutting its dividend.

Labour representative says Ford yet to make proposal on feared cut-backs in Germany

Ford executives have offered to hold talks with labour representatives over planned structural changes at the US carmaker’s Cologne plant and other German sites but no concrete proposals have been put forward, a shop steward said on Saturday.

Speaking at a media briefing in Cologne, the Ford site’s works council head Benjamin Gruschka said workers were ready to push back against restructuring plans, without being more specific.

Emirates cancels flight

NEW ZEALAND (Agencies): A number of Emirates’ flights from Dubai to Auckland have been disrupted as violent weather whips the city in New Zealand.

Auckland Airport (AKL) is currently closed for all international arrivals due to heavy flooding, prompting Dubai’s flagship carrier to cancel some flights.

Flight EK448 from

Dubai to Auckland — which was supposed to depart tomorrow, January 29 — has been cancelled, Emirates said in an advisory.

“Customers connecting to EK448 on January 29 will not be accepted to travel at the original point of departure,” it added.

On Friday, flight EK448 — which was headed to Auckland — returned to

Dubai. The flight will depart tomorrow, January 29, at 10.20am as EK8448.

The airline confirmed that operations for flight EK449 from Auckland to Dubai on both January 29 and 30 are unaffected.

Customers impacted due to cancellations are advised to contact their travel agents or Emirates Call centres for rebooking options.

UAE stock markets poised for another stellar year

DUBAI (Agencies): The UAE stock markets were the second-best performing stock market in 2022, and the best in US dollar terms with a gain of 37 per cent, recent research showed.

The interest in the country’s equities is likely to continue this year as 11 initial public offerings are slated for this year.

“The interest in the local market last year was a result of the region’s success in taking many of the national companies public. In 2022 GCC share of global IPOs jumped to 23 per cent with the UAE in the lead by 12 companies raising \$11 billion,” StoneX Retail’s Regional Director Ritu Singh told Khaleej Times in an interview.

The UAE is attractive because the stocks and

priced in the dirham, which is pegged to the dollar and therefore there is not much exchange rate risk as in other emerging markets with currencies not pegged to the US dollar, Singh said. “Furthermore, with oil demand expected to reach a record high in 2023 according to the International Energy Agency, the region and the UAE will continue to enjoy budget surpluses and that will be reflected in its financial markets,” she added.

A Fortune 100 company with a nearly 100-year track record, StoneX Group Inc. serves more than 50,000 commercial, institutional and payments clients, and more than 370,000 retail accounts, from nearly 80 offices across six continents.

StoneX Group operates a global financial services network that connects companies, organisations, traders and investors to the global market ecosystem through a unique blend of digital platforms, end-to-end clearing and execution services. The company providing its network, product and services to allow clients to pursue trading opportunities, manage their market risks, make investments and improve their business performance.

From a macroeconomic perspective, the global economy is expected to further slow down in 2023. Although the pandemic itself has rather subsided, its effects still weigh heavily on many countries which are struggling to recover. Europe, the UK,

and to a less extent, the US, are all vulnerable to falling into recession in the coming year, while growth is likely to be more robust in emerging and developing Asia. Gloomy scenarios are expected if inflation stays stubbornly stuck in the 5 per cent range, despite rising interest rates, - or worse - increases beyond the 5 per cent mark, confirming International Monetary Fund forecast that “the worst is yet to come”, StoneX research shows.

In terms of commodities, Singh believes that as long as there’s high demand and low supply, prices will remain up. “Inflation could provide a tailwind to Commodity prices, provided demand continues to outstrip supply,” she said. Forex.com

(a StoneX subsidiary) analysts are tightly linking commodity prices to geopolitics, especially after 2022, where a mixture of supply chain bottlenecks, war and demand-driven inflation created ripples across financial markets. “Today, oil prices are caught between fears of a global slowdown, a raging conflict between superpowers, and Opec’s desire for higher prices. However, oil is more likely to close higher in 2023 than lower,” Singh said. With China reopening and Opec’s support, Forex.com experts estimate the commodity price to range between \$60-\$110 this year. “So what we’re likely to see is continued volatility going to get impacted by various factors,” Singh said.

For global indices, 2023

is likely to be equally, if not more, turbulent than 2022. Analysts expect the sharp central bank policy tightening to become less aggressive, before rate hikes are paused altogether and potentially reversed in the latter parts of the year. Inflation might remain sticky, and the global economic slump is likely to worsen, holding back consumer spending. Despite European indices experiencing a strong rally in Q4, it is doubtful whether the rise in stocks can continue. Given the expected central bank-induced recession early 2023, European indices could fall in the first half, before mounting a slow, drawn-out recovery in the second part of the year. “People are on the edge and reactions are more extreme and that

defines volatility,” Singh said.

While online trading took off in a major way during the pandemic, Singh believes that every area of consumer interaction the spike is going to flatten out a bit. “Those customers who have not done it before will realise that this is a possibility and a convenient way of dabbling in the markets and add internet to their portfolio. That knowledge and exposure is not going to get taken away,” she said. “I think we gave created a space which is going to continue to engage going forward as investors understand that this is an avenue available to them. More and more people will take to taking investment decisions by themselves and get control in their hands,” she added.



In brief

Pakistan gears up for third Australia T20I

CANBERRA (Agencies): Pakistan women's cricket team held a full-strength training session on Saturday at the Manuka Oval before the final T20I of the three-match series against Australia, scheduled for January 29. All the players of Pakistan's T20I squad participated in the final training session held here in a bid to finish a disappointing tour of Australia on a winning note. Pakistan players engaged in rigorous batting, fielding and bowling drills throughout the day as they gear up for the final encounter and deny Australia a chance to clean sweep the series. It is pertinent to mention that Australia have an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series after they beat Pakistan in the prior two fixtures. The Green Shirts also had a flop show in the recently-concluded ODI series where Bismah Maroof's side endured a series sweep by the dominant Aussies. Furthermore, after concluding a disappointing Australia Tour, Pakistan women's team will depart for South Africa to partake in the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup, scheduled to take place from February 10 to 26.

18th Cholistan jeep rally to start fro Feb

LAHORE (PPI): The schedule of 18th Cholistan Jeep Rally 2023 has been announced, and according to it, the mega event will start from February 6 and end on February 12 in Fort Abbas Town of Bahawalnagar, according to a report on Saturday. Full-blown vehicles will be the center of attention of people in Cholistan. On February 9, there will be colorful celebrations at Qila Jamgarh in Fort Abbas, with events like horse and camel dance, Kabaddi, and tug of war. Millions of people from all over the country will come to enjoy this event. A Jeep rally will be held at Jamgarh Fort's mid-point on February 10.

Atkin breaks Farah's record

BOSTON (Agencies): Sam Atkin broke a record set by Mo Farah as he recorded the fastest 3,000m time in history by a British runner. The 29-year-old ran seven minutes 31.97 seconds at the John Thomas Terrier Classic event in Boston, improving on Farah's time of 7:32.62 from 2016. Atkin set the time by finishing second behind American Yared Nuguse, who won the race in 7:28.24. "The race plan was to sit on Nuguse and see what I could do. It went well," said Grimsby-born Atkin. Speaking to let-srun.com, he added: "I wish I'd gone a little bit earlier but I can't complain as it's a British record. It's a good first win of the season."

Pogba available for Monza clash

LONDON (Agencies): Paul Pogba is available for Juventus' Serie A fixture with Monza after recovering from a long-term knee injury, coach Massimiliano Allegri said on Saturday. France midfielder Pogba is yet to play a match for Juventus since returning from Manchester United last summer, injuring the meniscus in his right knee in July and missing out on the World Cup. He initially elected not to go under the knife in a bid to make the Qatar tournament but despite later changing his mind he didn't recover in time to play for Les Bleus who lost their crown as world champions in a thrilling final with Argentina. Pogba will be in the Dutchman squad alongside Madsen Vlahovic who comes back from a groin injury which has kept the Serbia striker out since early December.



MELBOURNE: Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus holds the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Trophy after defeating Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship.

Naughty Boy announced as Executive Producer for Zalmi's Main Anthem

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: As Peshawar Zalmi assembles the Yellow Storm for PSL 8, it unveils its Executive Producer for the official anthem - Naughty Boy. Peshawar Zalmi's anthems are globally anticipated and celebrated tracks that exhilarate the fans as the HBLPSL draws closer. Featuring the finest celebrities with massive star power and players that the crowd anticipates to see, Zalmi anthems are power packed with talent. More importantly, as a platform for emerging singers, Zalmi anthems share a deep relationship with its fans. With Naughty Boy's addition to the main anthem, who has been an immensely prominent and imperative part of the western music industry and has produced records for English rappers, Wiley, and Chimpunk as well as the famous album 'Our Version of Events' by Emeli Sande, the hype and excitement around the fans is only growing. Naughty Boy's presence in the anthem is surely going to be prominent in ensuring fan enjoyment in Peshawar Zalmi's journey in the HBLPSL 8. One of his famous productions is Runnin' (Lose it all) featuring the well-known artists Beyonce and Arrow Benjamin. This production was seen to hit top of the charts and was nominated for Brit award for British Video of the year and BBC music award for song of the year. "I am incredibly honoured to have the opportunity presented by Peshawar

Zalmi to get on board as executive producer for their 2023 anthem. It is a great platform for new emerging artists filled with talent. I love empowering young homegrown talent here in the UK & having watched their anthems over the years and the global feel they carry, I am not surprised that Zalmi Anthems are globally anticipated music videos. It is an honour to help continue this amazing trend. I have always wanted to connect with Pakistani audiences, being a proud Pakistani myself who loves Pakistani cricket and I could not have found a better opportunity than this to do so! I am excited to work with the team and cannot wait for the magic to come out," added Naughty Boy. Previously produced by Rohail Hyatt in HBLPSL Season 7, a music sensation from the South Asian music industry, the Peshawar Zalmi anthems have been curated around a narrative. The Peshawar Zalmi anthem for PSL 8 is going to reflect Peshawar as the bright city of flowers that it is, with urban progression and development. Combatting the puritanical notion attached to Peshawar, Naughty Boy's musical rendition is going to resonate with the Yellow Storm. With PSL going to Peshawar in its 9th Season at the Arbab Niaz Stadium, the anthem is going to leave the fans excited already. Connecting with the masses on a greater magnitude, Peshawar Zalmi's anthems have previously been power packed with the likes of Altamash Haroon,

Abdullah Siddique, Gul Panra, Farhan Saeed, and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan. With the anthem videos featuring star celebrities such as Mahira Khan, Hania Amir, and Farhan Saeed to further amplify the power of it, Peshawar Zalmi remains consistent with the route of providing a platform to the emerging talent of the country. Peshawar Zalmi's anthems have discovered the likes of Abdullah Siddiqui in the years before who has now become a national sensation with a dense fanbase. "Naughty boy has done exceptional work in the past and Peshawar Zalmi is proud to be associated with such a massive name in the music industry. Peshawar Zalmi anthems have always been a forefront of the Peshawar Zalmi's PSL campaign and Naughty Boy's addition to the Yellow Storm is a testament to our narrative of providing a platform to upcoming artists and working with an international music producer who has previously worked with the likes of Beyonce, Wiz Khalifa and Sam Smith would provide international exposure to the young artists as well as add great charm to our powerful anthems", said Mr. Nausherwan Effandi, Chief Commercial Officer, Peshawar Zalmi. With the Yellow Storm growing every year with the presence of its artists hailing from different parts of the world, it stands true that Peshawar Zalmi is a franchise that holds a diverse, global fanbase with music as the core of its passion points.

More matches decided in KP Badminton League

PESHAWAR (APP): Several matches were decided in the ongoing first Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton League at Peshawar Sports Complex with some tough matches also witnessed alongside one-sided matches between the junior and senior players as part of the League. In the ongoing Badminton League organized by Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton Association, JJ Sports defeated Future Champions by 3-0 in Group A. The matches were decided in a one-sided affair. In the first single, Shoaib Riaz defeated Fahad Ahmed 21-13, 21-12, in the second single, Tahir Shah defeated Najamul Saqib 21-10, 21-12, in doubles, Shahan and Malik Faraz defeated Taimur and Fahad 21-23, 21-14 and 21-11. In Group B, Peshawar Falcons defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police by 3-0. In the first singles, the national junior champion Qari Adnan beat another promising international badminton player, who was also playing international league Zohaib Khan Khalil by 21-17, 13-21 and 21-14, in the second singles, Abdullah beat Mikael 21-12, 21-15, in the doubles, Ihtsham and Umar beat Masood and Usman by 21-13, 14-21 and 23-21. President Peshawar District Badminton Association Mian Sadaqat Shah was the chief guest on the occasion. Athletic coach Adnan Afridi, badminton coaches of Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa internationals Nadeem Khan and Hayatullah were also present on the occasion.

Leeds, Leicester avoid FA Cup shocks

LONDON (Agencies): Leeds beat Accrington Stanley 3-1 to book their place in the fifth round of the FA Cup for the first time in seven years as Leicester also avoided a shock with a 1-0 win at Walsall on Saturday. Jack Harrison's stunning long-range strike settled Leeds' nerves of an upset against the League One side at the Wham Stadium. Jesse Marsch's men face a fight to survive in the Premier League, but are beginning to click as an attacking force with the return of Patrick Bamford and Luis Sinisterra from injury to complement new signing Georginio Rutter. Bamford's brilliant reverse pass teed up Junior Firpo to double the visitors' lead just after the hour mark. Two minutes later, Sinisterra tapped home Harrison's cross to end the tie as a contest. But there was a moment to savour for Stanley as 18-year-old Leslie Adekoya pulled a goal back nine minutes from time. Leicester were pushed even closer by League Two Walsall only to be bailed out by FA Cup specialist Kelechi Iheanacho. The Nigerian has scored more goals in the competition than any other player since making his debut in 2016. Iheanacho's 17th goal in 23 FA Cup appearances had some fortune as his strike took a wicked deflection for the only goal 23 minutes from time.

Sabalenka wins 1st Grand Slam title at Australian Open

MELBOURNE (Agencies): An emotional Aryna Sabalenka said it will take a "few more days" to sink in after battling from a set down to win a maiden Grand Slam title at the Australian Open on Saturday. The hard-hitting Belarusian collapsed to the court in tears after winning 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 against Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina in a high-quality 2hr 28min arm-wrestle on Rod Laver Arena. The 24-year-old Sabalenka wiped away tears before getting a warm hug from Moscow-born Rybakina, who played a full part in a thrilling match between two of the most powerful hitters in the women's game. Sabalenka, the fifth seed and form player in 2023, then ran to her player's box to celebrate with her team. "Thank you, my team, the craziest team on the tour. We've been through a lot of, I would say, downs last year," Sabalenka said, addressing her team after receiving the trophy. Turning to beaten 22nd seed Rybakina, she added: "You're such a great player and of course we are going to have many more battles, hopefully in finals of the Grand Slams." Asked by reporters if it was the greatest match she had ever played, Sabalenka said: "I would say it was. She played unbelievable tennis. I fought so hard to win this one. I think the tennis was great... I really enjoyed

this battle." Sabalenka will now rise to second in the world rankings behind Poland's Iga Swiatek, equalling her career high, having triumphed in her first Grand Slam final. The finale was a captivating match of brutal groundstrokes, precision serving and wonderful rallies from two players at the top of their game. It was a fitting end to two weeks of drama and shocks at Melbourne Park. "I need a few more days to realise what just happened," Sabalenka told Australia's Channel Nine. "Oh my god, I'm speechless, to be honest." - "Take a deep breath" - Rybakina cruised through the first set in 34 minutes but Sabalenka scrapped her way back in a 57-minute second set to take it to a nervy decider. It was then a case of which of the big servers would blink first in a toe-to-toe battle. At 3-3 Rybakina -- who represents Kazakhstan -- could not find enough first serves and though she saved two break points, a third was too much, and Sabalenka had the finish line in sight. Another ace took her to 5-3 but the 23-year-old Rybakina held to force Sabalenka to test her nerves and serve for the championship. She was up to the challenge, but needed four nerve-shredding match points after a display where she hit an astonishing 51 winners and 17 aces. She remains unbeaten in 2023.

"I just kept telling myself that nobody said this is going to be easy. She's going to fight, this is the final, just work for it," Sabalenka said afterwards, describing how she got through those four match points. "Take a deep breath and just work. I was just super happy that I was able to handle all the emotions in the last game, it was super tough for me," added Sabalenka, who had reached three Grand Slam semi-finals before this year but never gone farther. She suffered nerves in the past and struggled badly with her serve last year. "They were really tough matches and I just couldn't understand until right now that I really needed that to understand what I have to change," Sabalenka added, casting her mind back. "I now know what else I have to work on and I'm just super happy right now to break through this wall." Rybakina will have the consolation of breaking into the top 10 for the first time, after reaching her second Grand Slam final in seven months. She was awarded no ranking points for her Wimbledon win because of the ban on Russian and Belarusian players there. "I don't think tomorrow I'm going to feel different just because of the ranking now," said a disappointed Rybakina, who is projected to rise to 10th from her current 25th when the new rankings are published on Monday.

Remington JPF win U-19 Junior Polo C'ship



LAHORE (APP): Remington JPF won the U-19 Junior Polo Championship 2023 title for the third time in a row after thumping Team Raptors by 7-4 in the final played here at the Jinnah Polo Fields on Saturday. Rising polo player Basel Faisal Khokhar performed exceptionally well from the winning side and smashed in five fabulous goals while Ibrahim Sultan and Faris Nuruddin contributed with one goal

each. For Team Raptors, Ibrahim Ali hammered a hat-trick of goals while Mustafa Fahad converted one goal for Team Raptors. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Captain Remington JPF Basel Faisal Khokhar said: "My parents have given me the opportunity to play polo at every level due to which I have won this honor and the title. I am very delighted and excited with this title victory and I am eager to win more titles."

The U-19 Junior Polo Championship, which is a calendar event of the Pakistan Polo Association (PPA), was participated by three teams out of which Raptors and Remington JPF qualified for the finals. President of Jinnah Polo Fields Lt Col Shoaib Aftab (R), Secretary JPF Major Ali Taimur (R), former polo legend Irfan Ali Hyder were the special guests and distributed prizes among the winners.

Shiffrin wins slalom, moves within 1 win of WC record

SPINDLERUV MLYN (AP): Mikaela Shiffrin celebrated with a shoulder wiggle and a bright smile Saturday after dominating a slalom and moving within one victory of the 34-year-old World Cup record of 86 wins. The American showed no signs of pressure, a day before another slalom in which she could match the best mark set by Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark in the 1980s. "I don't feel a lot of pressure to get this record. Now, I am so close that it's like just take a breath and enjoy the moments we are in now," Shiffrin said. She had shared the women's record of 82 wins with former teammate Lindsey Vonn before triumphing at back-to-back giant slaloms in Italy this week and adding career win 85 on Saturday. "I'm always trying to think about everything else except these numbers, because they just make me nervous. And I don't have a reason to be nervous if I achieve 86 or 87," Shiffrin said. "But, for sure, if everybody asks, then I feel pressure to do it and then I don't enjoy the races as much." Shiffrin certainly enjoyed the race Saturday, which marked her third win within five days. "Today, it was just an amazing day. From the moment I woke up, I felt good and ready to go. And I



was so happy with how I skied," said the American, adding she had to overcome signs of fatigue. "Sometimes when you're tired, it takes away the nerves because you just don't have the energy to be nervous," she said. "Maybe it's an advantage for me today, but I'm barely making it through tomorrow before I need a couple of days off." The American held a lead of 0.29 seconds after the opening run, but lost one-tenth of the advantage after going wide on a few turns early in the second before speeding up and posting the fastest run time again, this time shared with Croatian skier Leona Popovic, to beat Germany's Lena Dürr by 0.60 seconds. Shortly after Shiffrin finished the race, third-place Wendy Holdener of Switzerland and runner-up Dürr came over to hug her. "I knew it would take some risk and there's a chance that I don't finish at all, but I have to do my best turns to have a chance because these women are

so strong," Shiffrin said. Holdener was 1.31 behind in third, followed by Olympic slalom champion Petra Vlhová of Slovakia in fourth and Shiffrin's American teammate Paula Moltzan in fifth. The race took place at the resort near the Czech-Polish border where she had her World Cup debut as a 15-year-old almost 12 years ago. Shiffrin also won when the venue last hosted a World Cup race, in 2019. "Wow, I can you hear you all so loud. Thank you for cheering, it's amazing to race for this crowd," she said to the spectators during a post-race interview. Shiffrin laid the foundation for her victory with a clean opening run, in which she had a fast start and already led her competitors by at least a quarter of a second at the first intermediate time. She also gained time on most racers in a tricky passage halfway through her run, where the course set allowed various ways to pass the gates. "You could ski it either way," Shiffrin said. "I was able to really carry a lot of speed on the end of the course. In the end, I felt very good on my run." Shiffrin has won five of the eight slaloms this season and extended her lead in the discipline standings over Holdener to 175 points. She could wrap up the title if she leads by at least 200 points after Sunday's race.



DHAKA: High Commissioner for Pakistan to Bangladesh Mr Imran Ahmed Siddiqui awards trophies to the Champion team of the first Pakistan-Bangladesh Friendship Badminton Tournament. Bangladesh team won the tournament while WFP team stood runner up. Pakistan high commission team gained third position in the tournament. —APP Photo



In brief

7-year-old burnt in acid attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a horrific incident, a seven-year-old boy suffered burns in an acid attack by his classmate in a government school in Sukkur. According to a private media report, a seven-year-old boy identified as Matiullah suffered burn injuries when his classmate, Hasnain, threw acid on him in the school. The student of second grade victim suffered burns on the face, legs, and other body parts. Meanwhile, the victim's father demanded authorities to take legal action against the school administration for 'expressing indifference' to the incident. He demanded that action should be taken against the school administration and teachers for negligence and not providing timely medical aid. In a statement, the victim's said that his classmate Hasnain threw acid at him but the teachers refused to take any action despite his complaint.

12 held for decanting LPG illegally

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested 12 accused for illegally decanting the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) into cylinders here on Saturday. According to a police spokesperson, gas cylinders and decanting equipment were recovered during a crackdown. Gujjar Khan police arrested Iqbal, Faizan and Kamran. Similarly, Mandra police nabbed Noman, Abid, Naseeb and Abdul Sattar. While, Dharmyal police arrested Ahsan, Zulfiqar, Umair and Saddam. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. SP Sattar appreciated the performance of police teams adding that that action will be continued against the law-breaking elements.

1,000 kites confiscated

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested 11 kite sellers and confiscated more than 1,000 kites and strings from their possession during a crackdown, here on Saturday, informed the police spokesman. According to details, Rawal Division Police seized 180 kites and strings from 06 accused Abbas, Hasan, Abu Bakr, Ibrahim, Osama and Ehtsham while, Potohar Division Police arrested four kite seller Najam-ul-Zaman, Shehzad, Saeed Akhtar and Habib-ur-Rehman and recovered 410 kites and strings from their possession. Following operation, Saddar Division Police recovered 450 kites and strings from the accused Hasan Farooq, SSP Operations said that kite-flying was a deadly sport and crime. "Action against kite makers and kite sellers are being accelerated," he added.

Rain-wind thunderstorm expected

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rain-wind/thunderstorm (snowfall over the hills) is expected in Islamabad, Potohar region, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, northeast and central Punjab and north Balochistan during the next 24 hours. Moderate to isolated heavy snowfall may occur in hilly areas. Isolated heavy falls/hailstorm is also expected in upper parts during the period. According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave was affecting the western and upper parts and was likely to intensify in the upper parts on Sunday and Monday. During the last 24 hours, cold and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country, while very cold in upper parts and north Balochistan. The rainfall recorded during the period was Quetta (Sheikh Manda, Samungli) and Jiwani 01mm.

Govt determined to legislate for rights of domestic workers: Azam Nazeer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday said that the government was determined to take all possible measures to protect the rights of domestic workers and consultation in this regard would help in comprehensive legislation.

He expressed these views while addressing a consultative conference regarding the drafting of the ICT Domestic Workers Act 2022. He said that there were millions of domestic workers

but there was no legal protection for their rights. It was an industry and it was a weak section that provides services for other sections of society, he said.

The minister said that the services of domestic workers were admirable and they need attention. He said that all the participants should give their effective suggestions in this regard which would be made part of the legislation.

He further said that the purpose of sitting for dis-

cussion was to talk openly and create consensus. Instead of artificial legislation, such legislation should be made which was in the interest of this section, he added.

On this occasion, Senator Azam Nazir Tarar presented written suggestions for drafting the ICT Workers Act 2022.

Earlier, Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Justice Mehnaz Akbar Aziz gave the opening remarks and explained the aims and objectives of the consultative conference.

Motorway Police issue rain, snow warning for travelers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) have issued a warning to motorists to exercise caution during the forecasted rain and snowfall from January 28th to 30th.

Talking to APP, spokesperson of NHMP said that Quetta-Zhob (N-50), Kalat-Chaman Highway (N-25) and Kuchlak-Amuslimbagh Section (N-50) have received heavy snowfall and responding to the weather conditions heavy machinery and staff on

standby have been ensuring that the roads remain open and safe for travel.

He said that of the National Highway Authority (NHA) has begun a salt sprinkling operation on highways to prevent icing at Kan Mehtarzai and NHMP is providing assistance to the teams. He said that the initiative of salt sprinkling was taken as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of drivers and pedestrians during the winter months.

He urged motorists to take necessary precautions while driving on the roads,

such as slowing down and maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles. He advised that drivers should be aware of the risks such as hydroplaning and black ice that occur during wet and snowy weather conditions.

Additionally, he said that drivers should ensure that their vehicles are equipped with necessary safety features including good tires, brakes, and windshield wipers along with carrying necessary supplies such as blankets, food, and water in case of unexpected delays.

Pindi admin foils 10 bids to smuggle wheat

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police foiled 10 bids to smuggle 2281 bags of wheat and fine flour (Maida) and 40 tons wheat flour.

Spokesman of the district administration told on Saturday that the authorities of the Food Department along with Potohar Division police conducted

raids in different areas and rounded up 13 accused namely Numan, Khubaib, Abdul Haseeb, Talha, Samiullah, Ismail, Sher Afzal, Shafique, Wasif, Farmanullah, Usama, Zain Dad and Wasif on recovery of 2281 wheat, fine flour bags and 40 tons wheat flour.

He informed that the accused were trying to ille-

gally ship out wheat flour and Media out of Rawalpindi division.

He said that the Food Department Rawalpindi and district police, on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters running at Islamabad expressway. —APP Photo

IESCO notifies power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Saturday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00

PM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Khanna Road, Benazir Hospital, Gangal, Sector 4, APHS Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Rawalpindi 3, Pindi Bor, VIP Park View, Morgah Feeders, From 10:00 am to 03:00 pm, Jhelum Circle, Abbaspur Feeder, GSO Circle, From 11:00 am to 01:00 pm, Jahangir Road, MSF, National Park, Khanna Road, CN C, SPD.II, Gulistan Colony,

Topi Pump, Rahmatabad-2 Feeders, From 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM, G-13/2, G-13/3, G-13/1, G-13 /4, G-13/2-1, RIC, Banazir Bhutto, Chaklala Garrison, Gangal, Makkah Chowk, Sector-4, Humayun Road, APHS, Rawalpindi-III Feeders, From 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM, Gharibwal, Pindi Ghep, Nikka Kalan, New City, Kharpa, Toot Oil field, Malhwali, Sony Feeders and surrounding areas.

IRSA releases 44,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 44,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 44,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1494.65 feet and was 96.65 feet higher than its

dead level of 1,398 feet. The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 17,000 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1128.15 feet, which was 78.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,000 cusecs and

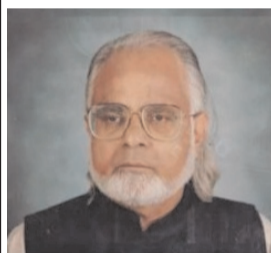
100 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 35,700, 41,900, 23,900 and 8,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 5,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing a press conference. —APP Photo

Renowned poet, naat khawan Muzaffar Warsi remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): A prominent Urdu poet, critic, essayist, lyricist, and scholar Muzaffar Warsi was remembered here on his 12th death anniversary.



He was born on December 20, 1933, in Meerut as Mohammad Muzaffar ud din Siddiqui and used the pen name 'Warsi' for his writings.

He used to work for the State Bank of Pakistan as Deputy Treasurer.

Muzaffar Warsi started his poetry by writing lyrics for songs for Pakistani movies but gradually changed direction and his style of poetry became more oriented towards writing Hamd and Naats.

Talking to APP, Naat Khawan Uzair Khan said that Warsi was one of the few "distinguished voices of the present century" and one of the most prominent poets of Pakistan. He said that if a list of Urdu poets is prepared impartially, it would be impossible to skip his name.

He said that Warsi experimented with every genre of poetry including ghazal, nazam, naat, and hamd. Unique style and diversity of themes made Warsi prominent among the poets of his era, he added.

He said Warsi enlightened 'Natia Poetry' with a new style and naats like "Ya Rahmatullah Al Alameen" would always be remembered among people having a literary taste.

He received the pride of performance award from the government of Pakistan.

His published books include 'Barf ki Nao', 'Baab-e-Haram', 'Lehja', 'Noor-e-Azal', 'Alhamd', 'Hisaar', 'Lahoo ki Haryali', 'Sitron ki Aabjoo', 'Kaaba-e-Ishq', 'Khule darechey band hawa', 'Dil sey dar-e-Nabi tak', 'Zulm na sehna Kamand' etc. He died at the age of 78 on January 28, 2011, in Lahore.

Poor will not be burdened: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik on Saturday said multiple proposals were papered for IMF review; let me be clear, the poor people will not be burdened from gas price hike.

Talking to a private news channel, the state minister claimed that his ministry had devised a

broader framework under which 50 percent of the country's total population, comprising the poorest of the poor, would be saved from the gas price hike.

The Prime Minister has been presented with suggestions that, if approved, will satisfy both the IMF and the general populace.

Musadik Malik said

that very soon, we would be able to cut down circular debt and the problems in the gas sector would be fixed.

Repudiating the possibility or proposals to extend the constitutional term by imposing a financial emergency, he said that no such proposal or possibility had been considered at the party level.

Hiba Fawad raises concern over 'search warrant'

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Hiba Fawad, wife of Pakistan Terheek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry, has expressed mistrust on police by saying that the law enforcement agency might "recover" some objectionable or illegal stuff by placing it themselves inside her house under the pretext of 'search warrant'.

Talking to journalists in Islamabad, Hiba Fawad raised concern over 'search warrant' and said that the police might "recover" some objectionable or illegal stuff by placing it themselves inside her house.

She regretted that Fawad was taken to court handcuffed and head covered "like a terrorist", urging the authorities to 'stop such treatment'.

Chaudhry's wife further said she was not being allowed to meet her husband despite the court's orders, requesting Punjab caretaker Chief Minister (CM) Mohsin Naqvi to allow her daughters to meet their father.

Hiba said she was ready to file a petition "if that is the only way my children and I can meet Fawad".

It is pertinent to mention here that a judicial magistrate on Saturday granted police two-day physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry, who was arrested for 'threatening' members of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Omer Hamid Khan.

A case against PTI leader was registered at the Kohsar police station in Islamabad on the complaint of Secretary of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Omer Hamid Khan.

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two-day physical remand. In the order, the judicial magistrate ordered the Islamabad Police to produce the PTI leader before his court on Monday (January 30) upon the expiry of his remand.

The former federal minister was arrested for 'threatening' Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) members.

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ANF recovers over 51 kg drugs, arrests nine

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan, in six separate counter-narcotics operations, seized over 51 kg narcotics, including 10 ketamine injections, 65 heroin-filled capsules, and 100 intoxicated tablets, besides arresting nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday.

He said that ANF, in an operation at Karachi International Airport, arrested an Abu Dhabi-bound passenger, resident of Sargodha and flying by flight no EY-232 on recovery of 65 heroin-filled capsules. ANF North, in a raid conducted near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza, recovered 16.8

kg charras from secret cavities of a car and nabbed an accused who was a resident of Lahore, he added.

ANF also recovered 21.8 kg charras from secret cavities of a car and arrested three drug smugglers from the Quetta western bypass area. In the sixth operation in Quetta, ANF seized 100 intoxicated tablets and held an accused, resident of Chaman.

The spokesman said that separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations were underway.



ISLAMABAD: A view of construction work of bridge at IJP Road during development work in the city. —APP Photo

Police arrest criminals
BAMYAN (Agencies): The local security officials of Bamyan province of Afghanistan on Saturday has state that the police arrested four people on charges of robbery from the center of that province. The police spokesman of Bamyan province of Afghanistan, Mohammad Khwani Rasa, told this news agency that these people were involved in the robbery of the property of several shops in Bamyan city.

Three drug dealers held
KUNAR (Agencies): Counter-Narcotic Department officials of Kunar province arrested three people in connection to selling drugs in Manogai and Marawara districts of the province. The provincial Counter-Narcotic Department director Sarwar Sadiq told this news agency that two people were arrested in the Marawara district by officers of the department who also seized 228 gram of hashish from the detainees.

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

Protests over Quran burning incident continues



KABUL (Khaama Press): Thousands of people took to the streets on Friday in several provinces of Afghanistan to express their anger over the burning of the holy Quran incident which took place in Sweden last week. On January 21, an anti-immigration politician from the far-right fringe of Sweden burned a copy of the Quran, Muslim's most valuable scripture, during a protest near the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm. In heinous incident was followed by worldwide condemnations, sparking rallies in major Muslim countries. Afghanistan

joined the group after people took to the streets after the Friday prayer and chanted death to those who publicly burned the holy Quran. Protests were held in Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Badakhshan, Balkh, Kandahar, Zabul, Ghor, Herat, Panjshir, and Kabul provinces. In Badakhshan protesters chanted "death to Sweden, the US, and the UN," a Taliban official said. "The perpetrators should be handed to the Muslim World, otherwise their interest will be in danger, no matter where they are," Abdul Qadeer, head of the

counter-terrorism office of the Taliban in Ghor, said. Earlier in the week, Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi called on the Swedish government to punish the perpetrators and avoid similar incidents in the future. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, a US State Department spokesperson said, Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom and other influential world leaders and organizations have strongly condemned the act – describing it as Islamophobic, provocative, and disrespectful against the entire

Muslim world. The desecration of the holy Quran in the western world has caused extreme anger among Muslim Ummah, which may possibly end with serious consequences if not prevented. In 2011, violent protests took place in Afghanistan over burning a copy of the Holy Quran by a radical fundamentalist Christian in the United States. Protesters over-ran a UN mission in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and killed at least seven foreign staff, and injured many security personnel and protestors, according to a Reuters report.

Over 3m Afghan children expected to face acute malnutrition in 2023

KABUL (TOLONews): The World Food Program said that 875,000 children are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition and 2.3 million children as well as 840,000 women from moderate acute malnutrition in 2023 in Afghanistan. According to the spokesman of the WFP in Afghanistan, if Afghanistan enters a third year of drought, the nutrition situation could deteriorate by a further 20%. Zabi, 2, has been affected by malnutrition. Zabi's mother said that another child of hers has also been affected by mal-

nutrition. "We have two malnourished children at home. They are malnourished due to lack of food, clothes and staying in areas with bacteria. This is all due to poverty," said Khal Bibi, mother of Zabi. "There are sick and weak children and the reason is poverty. We were staying under this curtain in the hot weather and we are still living under it during rainfall and snowfall," said Khair Mohammad, grandfather of Zabi. This comes as the WFP's spokesman in Afghanistan said that they have reached out to 1.4 million people

within the first two weeks of January this year. "Live-saving food assistance continues across Afghanistan where it is possible, and Afghan women continue to access assistance and distribution sites, where it is safe for them to do. In the first two weeks of January, WFP and our partners have been able to reach nearly 1.4 million people across the country. This includes nutrition services for malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers who are at the sharp end of the hunger crisis," said Phillipe Kropf, a spokesman for the WFP

in Afghanistan. According to him, female workers play a vital role in providing aid to Afghanistan. However, the Ministry of Economy said that the aid would be effective if it is distributed in coordination with the ministry. "Considering the current economic situation, and its fair distribution to the vulnerable areas and people who deserve it, the UN agencies and its partners may coordinate their activities with the ministries and relevant organizations," said Abdul Rahman Habib, a spokesman for the Ministry of Economy.

Former AG buried in Surkh Rod in Nangarhar



N A N G A R H A R (TOLONews): The former attorney general, Abdul Jabar Sabit, who died of respiratory disease at a hospital

in Khyber Pakhtunwa, was buried in Surkh Rod district of Nangarhar on Friday. According to relatives, Sabit was 78. "He was

mainly involved in books and writing. He had a light heart," said Abdullah Durani, a nephew of Sabit. "He was a serious per-

son. He was working a lot at his administration," said Imranullah, a colleague of Sabit. Relatives and people close to Sabit said that he was suffering from respiratory problems and thus he had recently settled in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "He was affected with a disease in his lungs, which affected his breathing. Then we took him to the North West hospital and he was there for four days, and lost his life there," said Shakirollah Nasiri, a secretary of Sabit. Abdul Jabar Sabit worked as the Attorney General of Afghanistan for two years. He worked in many government positions before being appointed as attorney general. Sabit was a university instructor and held a PhD in political science.

Taliban officials refill Afghan prisons with fresh inmates

KABUL (Khaama Press): Since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, the de facto authorities have detained more than 29,000 Afghans including men and women for alleged crimes. Over the past 18 months, Afghanistan's Islamic Emirate authorities have refilled prisons with 29,000 inmates including men and women alleged of different crimes including theft, kidnapping, murder, and moral crimes according to the country's top prison official. "We have released some 15,000 inmates in the recent past. Currently, there

are approximately 14,000 inmates in Afghanistan jails," according to Mohammad Yusuf Mistari, the Taliban's director of prisons. Taliban's claim to have no political prisoners has not been confirmed by independent organizations and human rights groups. According to Anonymous sources, hundreds of servicemen and security personnel of the previous government have been persecuted, put behind bars, or even killed to death by the country's ruling regime. On the contrary, the Taliban states that all the prisoners are held on crimi-

nal charges, not a very convincing claim regarding the number of people put in prisons. Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch say that the Taliban have opted to kill the criminals affiliated with opposition armed groups or Islamic Militants rather than putting them behind bars. This can be considered a human rights violation according to the independent source. Furthermore, Various forms of torture have been widely practiced at formal and informal detention centers and jails in Afghanistan, according to UNAMA and various rights

groups. According to the rights group, extra-judicial practices are conducted under the ruling regime, which also is a violation of human rights. The Taliban have restarted practicing public execution after several decrees were issued by the group's Supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada in November. Since then, more than 100 men and women have been publicly punished across Afghanistan, according to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The UN agency closely monitors human rights in the country.

Helping orphans, headless families our priority: IEA

KABUL (Agencies): The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's deputy of the Prime Minister in a meeting Takhar and Sar-i-pul scholars and elders, said helping orphans and headless families is one the priority of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Publishing a statement the Arg said the Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi Deputy Prime Minister, during a meeting discussed the social, economic, and security situation of the martyred and orphan families of the elders of Northern provinces. A general commander of National Defense Ministry, Mullah Mansoor Khalid called the social, economic, and security are the fundamental problems of the martyred and orphan families and asked the Islamic Emirate to cooperate in the field. Meanwhile, Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, hearing the elders said that helping orphans and headless families is one of the priority of the Islamic Emirate, and the authorities will make serious efforts to address the mentioned problems.

Afghan economy on path of development

KABUL (Agencies): The World Bank monitored Afghanistan's economic growth positively and said that the country's economic indicators are developing. While several other organizations, including the United Nations, said that poverty is spreading in Afghanistan, the statements of the World Bank show that the realities of Afghanistan are something different that the organizations and the international community have paid less attention to it, the fact is that Afghanistan has a positive economic growth and the World Bank recognizes it. The World Bank report said that the inflation rate in Afghanistan continues its "downward" trend. Annual inflation in November 2022 was announced at 18.3% at its peak in July, which decreased to 9.1% in November 2022. The currency of "Afghani" rates against the US dollar has been stable in the last few months, said the world bank. Spokesman of Afghanistan Zabihullah Mujahid said that Afghanistan's exports increased to nearly two billion dollars in nine months, which indicates the recovery of the country's economy. The latest report of the World Bank shows that Afghanistan's exports have increased to 1.7 billion US dollars in nine months of 2022. The report said that the prices of oil and food also dropped in Afghanistan. The report mentioned saying that the salaries of government employees are paid to male and female employees on time and the collection of revenue and taxes by the relevant departments of the Islamic Emirate is deep.

Technical study to begin on Afghan railway project

KABUL (TOLONews): The head of the Afghan railway department met with Pakistan and Uzbekistan authorities, and, according to the department, they decided to start technical studies for the Trans-Afghan railway project, and funding will be provided by Tashkent and Islamabad. According to the department, almost 465,000 metric tons of goods have been exported and imported by rail through the nation's land ports in the past month. "The railway department of Afghanistan is trying to increase meetings with neighboring countries to create perfect harmony so we can turn Afghanistan into the economic crossroads of Asia through the railway line," said Abdul Sami Durani, spokesman for the railway department. Meanwhile, the Ministry of the Commerce and Industry said that currently

Afghan traders send their goods through Hairitan, Aqina, and Torgonde ports to regional and European countries. "Our traders can import and export their products in a short time and at low cost; we are connected to the regional countries by Hairatan, Aqina, and Torgonde ports," said Akhonzada AbdulSalam Jawad, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Some traders welcomed the facilities for export and import by railway and called on the railway department for more facilities in this regard. "Railways from Hairatan to Mazar-e-Sharif provide great assistance for traders, and also the Khawaf railway in Herat... we asked the government to complete this project to create opportunities for traders," said Ahmad Sayed Sediqi, deputy of the Chamber of Commerce

and Investment in Herat. "We request that the officials of the Afghan railways reconsider the relevance of their their work procedure, because their work bill is from the time of the previous government and is very complicated and we hope that they will reevaluate it," said Abdul Mujeeb Niazi, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment in Faryab. Recently, the foreign ministers of Uzbekistan and Pakistan emphasized the importance of using the existing cooperation capacities in the field of the Trans-Afghan railway, on the sidelines of the Economic Cooperation Organization meeting. According to the railway department, the Afghan train project from Mazar-e-Sharif to Pakistan will be 764 km long and will be completed in five years and will cost six billion dollars.

EU help Afghanistan's private sector amid crisis



KABUL (Khaama Press): The European Union mission in Afghanistan in collaboration with the World Bank convened more than 25 small and large-scale Afghan businessmen and women to understand their challenges and obstacles. On Saturday, the EU mission in collaboration with the World Bank held a consultative meeting with a group of Afghan business people and entrepreneurs to address the many issues they are currently faced with and meet the expectations of the private sector. Challenges in the banking system, power outages, trade and economic connectivity, restrictions on female employees, and regional cooperation were the agenda of the discussion, the EU mission in Kabul said on Twitter.

Since the overthrow of the previous regime by the Taliban in August 2021, the national economy is faced with an unprecedented recessionary period, with almost zero foreign investment in the country. The recent regime change caused a large majority of national business people to flee the country and minimize their business activities, having adversely affected the private sector. Lack of recognition of Afghanistan's de facto regime by the international community has led to new problems including not having access to the international banking system and financial services in the global markets. This has made it very complicated for Afghan businesspeople and entrepreneurs to engage in eco-

nomics and trade activities in the region and beyond. The ban on female employees of non-government organizations (NGOs) has also negatively affected the inflow of humanitarian aid and business activities in Afghanistan. A large majority of aid organizations have set the removal of female employee restrictions as a pre-condition to resume their operations across the country. Worst of all, the power shortage, is a new addition to the many challenges the private sector is currently facing in the country. Due to technical issues, the imported power from Uzbekistan has been substantially decreased, causing further hurdles in the day-to-day activities of the local business across Afghanistan.

DAB to auction 16m USD by today

KABUL (Agencies): Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) said Saturday that it will put in auction 16 million US dollars as part of efforts to keep the local currency afghani stable by Sunday. 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. Last week, the central bank auctioned 16 million US dollars to further strengthen the value of the Afghani currency. The exchange rate of one US dollar has been announced at 89.60 afghani today, Saturday.

Deputy PM discuss public social, economic issues with Governor

KABUL (Agencies): The Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanifi met with Kabul governor, Sheikh Mohammad Qasim Khalid and a number of other officials. The media office of the Prime Minister in a statement stated that during the meeting, Sheikh Mohammad Qasim Khalid shared information about the social, economic, security, and governance situation in Kabul province. Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanifi expressed his gratification by meeting the governor of Kabul and other important officials



and said that responding to people's problems is the priority of the Islamic Emirate and officials con-

cerned would take needed measures on the regard.



WELLINGTON: Vehicles on the way after heavy floods in New Zealand.

KP facing financial crisis due to delay in payment from Centre

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Due to delay in release of funds under various federal transfers by the Federal Government and nonpayment of net hydel profits, the provincial government is facing financial constraints. Currently, the federal government owes billions of rupees to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province which has resulted in an adverse impact on the ongoing development and welfare activities in the province especially merged areas.

This was told in a meeting held here on Wednesday with the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair. The meeting discussed and reviewed various matters related to current economic condition and financial situation with special focus on the budgeted transfers withheld by the federal government.

Chief Secretary Dr. Shehzad Bangash, Additional Chief Secretary Ikramullah, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan and higher authorities of finance and Planning & Development departments attended the meeting. Briefing about the financial constraints due to non-transfer of the budgeted shares by the federation and other related matters, it was informed that the federal government has allocated a grant of only Rs 60 billion for newly merged districts for fiscal year in 2022-23 against a minimum current budget requirement of Rs 89.5 billion for salary and non-salary expenditures. Similarly, Rs. 50 billion have been allocated for development projects in the merged districts, out of which only 5.50 billion rupees have been released during the first six months of the year.

Moreover, the share of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa fixed in the National Finance Commission award is not being given, while Rs 61.89 billion are also due with the federal govern-

Upcoming elections in province top most priority: KP cabinet

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Care-Taker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has termed the peaceful holding of the upcoming General elections in the province as the top most priority of his government, and said that special attention would be paid to improve overall law and order situation in the province with the aim to ensure the holding of the general elections in a peaceful, transparent and fair manner.

He has said that the caretaker provincial government is fully aware of its responsibilities for holding the general elections in a peaceful and transparent manner adding that the caretaker provincial government would leave no stone unturned in the discharge of its responsibilities in an admirable manner. He expressed these views while talking to the newly sworn in provincial Care-Taker ministers who separately called on him at Chief Minister's House here on Saturday. Matters related to holding fair and transparent elections came under discussion on the occasion.

Talking to the caretaker cabinet members, the Chief Minister said that the provincial caretaker setup would extend all the required support to the Election Commission of Pakistan in this regard. Muhammad Azam Khan maintained that his government would also focus on good governance to ensure better and effective utilization of resources in hand and curtail unnecessary expenditures in the best public interest.

The Chief Minister expressed his resolve to address the financial issues faced by the province and said that all possible efforts would be made to this effect adding that all the financial issues of the province related to the federal government would be taken up at federal level for their timely redressal. He said that all out efforts would be made to get the due shares of the province including the newly merged districts under the federal transfers, and expressed the hope that the federal government especially the Prime Minister would cooperate in this regard.

The Chief Minister stressed upon the caretaker ministers to work hard with the aim to discharge their responsibilities in an admirable manner. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister while taking notice of difficulties faced by the general public in getting petrol from petrol pumps in some of the cities, has directed the Chief Secretary to get reports from all the Deputy Commissioners in this regard.

ment on account of Net Hydel Profit (NHP). It was informed on the occasion that the actual Own Source Revenue of the province has increased more than double in the past three years but it is not enough to meet the requirements, and the province mostly depends on the federal transfers.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the financial matters of the

province related to federation would be taken up at federal level adding that caretaker set up will make every possible effort to get the due rights and share of the province. However, he directed the concerned authorities to implement the austerity policy of the government in latter and spirit adding that the government cannot afford unnecessary and unjustified use of available resources.

Two Indian military jets crash, one pilot killed

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Two Indian Air Force fighter jets crashed Saturday, killing one pilot, in an apparent mid-air collision while on exercises south of the capital New Delhi. The crash involved a Russian-made Sukhoi Su-30, carrying two pilots, and a French-built Mirage 2000, operated by a third. Both aircraft had taken off in the morning from the Gwalior air base, around 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of where they came down.

"The aircraft were on routine operational flying training mission," the country's air force said in a statement, adding that one of the three pilots had sustained fatal injuries. An investigation was underway to determine the cause of the crash, it added. Police officer Dharmender Gaur told AFP from the scene of the crash that another pilot had been found alive but injured in the forests of Padargarh around 300 kilometres (185 miles). "We have located the wreckage of one of the planes," the officer said. "The other plane has likely fallen further away from the site and we have sent teams to locate it."

Local authorities had been instructed to assist with the air force's rescue and relief work, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan tweeted. "I pray to god that the pilots of the planes are safe," he added. Five army soldiers were killed last October when their helicopter crashed in Arunachal Pradesh state, near the country's militarised and disputed border with China. It was the second military chopper crash in the state that month, coming weeks after a Cheetah helicopter came down near the town of Tawang, killing its pilot.

India's defence chief, General Bipin Rawat, was among 13 people killed when his Russian-made Mi-17 helicopter crashed while transporting him to an air force base in December 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is grappling with the urgent task of overhauling India's outdated armed forces. Its military establishment is fretting over a growing assertiveness by China along its vast Himalayan frontier, which in 2019 sparked a lingering diplomatic freeze after a deadly high-altitude confrontation between troops of both countries.

India unveiled its first locally built aircraft carrier last year as part of government efforts to build an indigenous defence industry and reduce reliance on Russia, historically its most important arms supplier. An effort to reform military recruitment to trim down India's bloated defence payroll stalled last year after a backlash from aspiring soldiers, who burned train carriages and clashed with police in fierce protests.

2 Israelis hurt in Jerusalem shooting

JERUSALEM (Agencies): Two people have been wounded in a shooting attack in occupied East Jerusalem, officials said, a day after seven people were killed in an attack near a synagogue in the city. A father, 47, and son, 23, were in serious condition with "gunshot wounds to their upper body", a spokesperson for Israel's rescue emergency response service (MDA) said, after the shooting in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan, near Jerusalem's Old City.

A police spokesman told Israel's Army Radio that Saturday's incident was a "terrorist attack" and that the assailant, who was "neutralised and injured", was a 13-year-old Palestinian from occupied East Jerusalem. The incident came a day after a Palestinian attacker shot dead seven people near a synagogue on the outskirts of the city. On Thursday, Israel carried out a deadly raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. Ten Palestinians were killed, including an elderly woman, after dozens of Israeli soldiers attacked a house the army said housed suspected fighters, leading to several hours of intense confrontations. It was one of the deadliest Israeli army raids in the occupied West Bank since the second Intifada, or uprising, of 2000 to 2005.

President upholds fine on hospital over negligence

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday directed the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) to issue instructions to Shifa International Hospital Islamabad (SHIFA) to refund an amount of Rs2.9 million to the daughter of a patient who died due to the medical negligence, professional misconduct, and malpractice of the doctors of the hospital.

The President also upheld the imposition of fine of Rs900,000 on SHIFA as maladministration and medical negligence had been proven against the hospital. The President issued these directions while rejecting a representation filed by IHRA against the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (WM) in which the Mohtasib had held that the complainant (deceased patient's daughter) had been discriminated against as in a similar case in the past, IHRA had not only imposed a fine on SHIFA but had also issued the directions to the hospital to refund the amount in lieu of medical bills.

While rejecting IHRA's representation, the President observed that IHRA had investigated the complaints, found medical negligence and imposed fine of Rs900,000 upon SHIFA which had also been received by IHRA and thus medical negligence had been established upon the healthcare establishment.

He further stated that IHRA did not direct the hospital to reimburse actual amount of medical bill incurred on the treatment of the complainant's mother as per orders of the learned Wafaqi Mohtasib; whereas in another case namely Dr Iqtidar Mehmood Dara Vs. Shifa International Hospital, Islamabad, IHRA had held that "The Medical Bill should be refunded to the complainant by SHIFA International Hospital".

The President held that it was an established principle that similarly placed persons should be treated alike and equal treatment to all is the hallmark of our

Constitution i.e., Article 4 and 25. He further stated that the object and purpose of the law would be fulfilled only when the complainant was provided relief for any negligence by the hospital.

"The Agency must have been more vigilant and watchful to fulfil its responsibilities", he added. The President further observed that the main purpose of the establishment of Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority was "...to provide a regulatory framework to ensure provision of quality health care services, by implementing quality standards by the health-care sector, to residents of the Islamabad Capital Territory".

He noted that IHRA was responsible to "exercise any powers and perform any functions as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of its Act on the instruction of the Federal Government", and since maladministration and negligence had been established and it had not been assailed by SHIFA, therefore, the orders had been rightly passed, and the representation deserved to be rejected.

As per details, Mst Farrukh Naem Tahir (the complainant) had alleged that her mother was diagnosed with COVID-19 who died due to the negligence of the doctors of SHIFA and she lodged a complaint before IHRA against the hospital and IHRA imposed a fine of Rs900,000/- on the hospital for committing negligence but did not ask the hospital to refund the medical bill amounting to Rs2,979,637/- as per order of the Wafaqi Mohtasib.

Thereafter, she filed a review application and requested to re-open the case and re-visit its earlier decision with the direction to IHRA to issue instructions to the hospital to refund of the medical bill. The Mohtasib issued the orders in her favour, which were impugned by IHRA by filing a representation with the President.

The President rejected IHRA's representation and ordered the refund to be paid within a week to the complainant.

Pakistan Navy ships visit Oman, Iran

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Flotilla comprising PNS RAHNAWAD and PASADGAR along with PNS Submarine HASHMAT port-called Muscat in Oman and Bandar Abbas in Iran, respectively, during overseas deployment. On arrival at host countries' ports, Pakistan Navy ships were warmly welcomed by representatives of Pakistani embassies and officials of host navies, a Pakistan Navy media release said.

The Mission Commander along with the Commanding Officers of ships called on the naval leadership of both countries. During the interactions, matters of mutual interest and cooperation in maritime security, the shipbuilding capability of Pakistan, training opportunities in PN including sea training were discussed. The Mission Commander conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of host countries in general and host navies in particular.

During the port calls, various bilateral activities were undertaken, including exchange visits onboard units, orientation visits of military installations, and coordination meetings. Students of Pakistani School Muscat and members of Pakistani community also visited PN Ships. Upon

completion of the port call at Iran, PN ships participated in a passage exercise with Iranian Navy Ship IRIS KAMAN to enhance interoperability. The port visits of Oman and Iran by PN Flotilla will further enhance existing close diplomatic ties and cordial relations with friendly countries.

Keel laying of first indigenously designed gunboat for Pakistan Navy held: Pakistan achieved another mega milestone in the indigenous ship's development as the keel laying ceremony of the first indigenously designed gunboat was held at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW). Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami graced the occasion as chief guest, according to a communique here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said it was a matter of great pride to witness the development of the first indigenously designed gunboat for Pakistan Navy. He appraised that Pakistan Navy was aware of the evolving geo-strategic situation in the region and would continue to enhance the naval potential to remain combat-ready to counter any nefarious designs.

He praised the joint efforts and performance of the Ministry of Defence Production, Pakistan Navy and Karachi Shipyard for

achieving the historical milestone of indigenously designing the gunboat and reaffirmed PN's resolve in mastering shipbuilding in Pakistan. Earlier during the welcome address, the MD KS&EW Rear Admiral Salman Ilyas highlighted that Karachi Shipyard was fully cognizant and completely aligned with the goals set forth by the government and Pakistan Navy in pursuing self-reliance in the defence shipbuilding industry.

He also appraised the audience on various ongoing projects at KS&EW. The indigenously designed gunboat would be equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, he added.

LHC fixes plea against Imran

LAHORE (PPI): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has fixed former prime minister Imran Khan's plea against proceedings by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to remove him as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman for hearing on Jan 30.

During the previous hearing, the high court issued a stay order on Imran Khan's removal as the PTI chairman.

Pakistan flays act of desecration of Holy Quran

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday condemned in the strongest terms the senseless and deeply offensive act of desecration of the Holy Quran in Denmark, by the same Islamophobe who committed a similar act in Sweden a few days ago.

"This repetition of the vile act leaves little doubt in the minds of Muslims around the world that freedom of expression is being blatantly abused to spread religious hatred and incitement to violence," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. Pakistan's concerns were being conveyed to the authorities in Denmark.

"We urge them to be mindful of the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and Muslims around the world and take steps to prevent such hateful and Islamophobic acts," it was further added. Pakistan also called into question the legal framework behind which the Islamophobes hide and spread hatred with impunity.

At a time when there was an increasing need for inter-faith harmony and mutual respect for peaceful coexistence, the international community could not turn a blind eye to these hate-mongers.

Pakistan reiterated its considered position that freedom of expression came with responsibilities. "Pakistan also believes that it is the responsibility of the national governments as well as the international community to prevent these racist and Islamophobic acts", the spokesperson said.

Death toll in Afghanistan cold snap rises to 166

KABUL (Agencies): At least 166 people have died in a wave of bitterly cold weather sweeping Afghanistan, an official said Saturday, as extreme conditions heaped misery on the poverty-stricken nation. Afghanistan has been frozen by temperatures as low as -33°C (-27°F) since January 10, combined with widespread snowfall, icy gales, and regular electricity outages.

Aid agencies had warned before the cold snap that more than half of Afghanistan's 38 million people were facing hunger, while nearly four million children were suffering from malnutrition. The disaster management ministry said on Saturday the death toll had risen by 88 over the

past week and now stood at 166, based on data from 24 of the nation's 34 provinces.

The deaths were caused by floods, fires and leaks from gas heaters that Afghan families use to heat their homes, ministry official Abdul Rahman Zahid said in a video statement. Some 100 homes were destroyed or damaged and nearly 80,000 livestock, a vital commodity for Afghanistan's poor, also died in the cold.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said this week 17 people had died in a single village in northeastern Badakhshan province due to an outbreak of "acute respiratory infection". "Harsh weather prevents help from reaching

the area," the WHO said. Afghanistan is enduring its second winter since US-backed forces withdrew and the Islamist Taliban surged back into Kabul to reclaim government.

Foreign aid has declined dramatically since then and key central bank assets were seized by the United States, compounding a humanitarian crisis considered one of the world's worst.

The Taliban government banned Afghan women from working with humanitarian groups last month, leading many to suspend operations. Women NGO workers in the health sector were then granted an exemption and some organisations restarted their programmes.

Rasheed wishes revival of good ties between Khan, establishment

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed has asserted that he wants revival of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's ties with the Establishment. Speaking to a private TV channel program '11th Hour', the former interior minister alleged that PPP co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari has given money to a terrorist organization to assassinate Imran Khan.

"Zardari wants Imran Khan to be disqualified," Sheikh Rasheed said, adding that former presi-

dent was behind a new plot to assassinate the PTI Chairman.

The AML chief further expressed hope that the date of general elections will be announced in March or April, adding that the elections of national and provincial assemblies will be held together.

The former minister added that Imran Khan will decide whether he would contest election or not. "Imran would come out in public after a few days and destroy the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)," he said, vowing that he would

always stand by the PTI chief. Responding to a question, Sheikh Rasheed said that whoever came to demolish Lal Haveli will be dealt with constitutionally and legally.

Earlier in the day, Imran Khan alleged that former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari was among four people who were planning to kill him, ARY News reported on Friday. Imran Khan accused Zardari of being involved in the assassination attempt, saying that the former president was among four people who were planning to kill him.