

QUETTA VOICE

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Tuesday 29
March, 2022

https:// www.quettavoic.com/

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President Alvi declares acknowledging all segments of the economy crucial



Opposition has complete numbers for no-confidence motion, PM fleeing of contest: Bilawal

Shehbaz Sharif tables no confidence motion in NA against PM Khan

Dawood Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Shehbaz Sharif has tabled a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday evening. Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Qasim Khan Suri is chairing the assembly session. "This house has no confidence in Imran Khan", Shehbaz Sharif said. A total of 161 MNAs supported the no-confidence motion against the Premier.

Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif presented the no-trust motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan. "I will request that you (Suri) give permission to present this item in the house... as the resolution was already on the agenda," he said addressing the NA deputy speaker. The resolution was earlier expected to be tabled on Friday, but



the proceedings were deferred after NA Speaker Asad Qaiser had adjourned the sitting within minutes and ignored Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif who wanted to seek the floor to deliver a speech. Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri adjourned the session till March 31, 4 pm for debate on the confidence motion.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MNA's and party leaders from Sindh called on prime minister Imran Khan, Governor Sindh Imran Ismail was also present in the meeting

President Alvi declares acknowledging all segments of the economy crucial

KARACHI: President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi has emphasized the need to acknowledge and facilitate all sectors and segments of the economy to create an environment of inclusivity, ownership and pride.

Speaking on the occasion of the prestigious 9th Annual Achievement Awards of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Monday, President Alvi called upon the business community to support the government's efforts to promote woman entrepreneurs & woman workforce, digitalization of the economy for transparency & openness, revival of sick industrial units & setting up new industries and replacing the informal economy with the documented & formal economy. Addressing the ceremony, the FPCCI President Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that we are fully cognizant of the fact that Pakistan has successfully endured through the one of the most devastating and economically overwhelming pandemics of the history of mankind; and, it is important to acknowledge the performance of those companies and organizations that have played their significant role in keeping the economy going; and, continued to generate employment & pay taxes as well.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh stated that the Achievement Awards of FPCCI are aimed at appreciating all the major sectors, segments and strata of the national economy; and, it would be the utmost priority of his tenure, as President FPCCI, to help resolve the chronic issues of the business community for the good of future generations. INP

US dollar crosses Rs182 mark against Pakistani rupee

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar with an increase of 37 paisas reached an all-time high at Rs182.15 on the first day of the business week in interbank trading. This means, the US dollar now stands at the all-time high in the country's history against the Pakistani rupee.

The US dollar at the start of the interbank trading increased 17 paisas and was advancing towards Rs182 against the Pakistani rupee but even before 12 noon the US dollar crossed the psychological mark of Rs182 and reached Rs182.15.

The economic experts said that the payment of foreign loans and import bills have put pressure on the Pakistani currency. The government has paid a Rs2.43 billion loan in the time span of a month and 18 days. The previous close on Friday last week of the US dollar was Rs181.78 against the Pakistani rupee. INP

Opposition turns its guns towards Buzdar after PM Imran Khan

News Desk

LAHORE: After the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, the joint opposition has turned its guns toward Chief Minister Punjab, Usman Buzdar on Monday. The opposition has submitted a no-confidence motion against CM Punjab Usman Buzdar.

A delegation of senior lawmakers submitted the no-trust motion against Buzdar with Punjab Assembly Secretary Muhammad Khan Bhatti. The secretary confirmed that the motion had been submitted, adding that it would be presented to the assembly speaker



according to the rules and regulations. "Speaker Chaudhry Parvez Elahi will take action on the no-confidence motion and requisition

[notice] in accordance with the Constitution and the law," he said.

The requisition notice, a copy of which is available with Daily Quetta Voice, has been signed by PML-N leaders Rana Mashhood, Samiullah Khan, Mian Naseer, and others.

An official handout issued by the provincial assembly stated that 127 lawmakers had signed the no-trust motion against Buzdar while 120 had signed the requisition notice. "As per the Constitution, the signatures of 74 members are required to requisition the provincial assembly session," Mashhood said in a video, adding that Buzdar can't dissolve the assembly once the no-trust move is submitted.



QUETTA: ACTIVISTS OF RICKSHAW AND LOCAL BUS OWNERS HOLD A PROTEST IN FAVOR OF THEIR DEMANDS AT CIRCULAR ROAD.

Security forces kill 4 terrorists in North Waziristan IBO: ISPR

Security forces killed four terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in the area of Jhallar Fort in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district on the night between March 27 and March 28, the military's media affairs wing said on Monday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the operation was conducted on the basis of the reported presence of terrorists in the Jhallar Fort's general area.

While the operation was under way, four terrorists were killed during an intense exchange of fire, the statement said, adding that one of the terrorists had been identified as Zar Saadullah.

The "identification of the remaining terrorists is in progress," the statement said.

It added that weapons and ammunition were found in the possession of the killed terrorists, who were "actively involved in terrorism activities against security forces".

"Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the area," the statement read.

The incident comes just days after four soldiers were martyred in North Waziristan's Hassan Khel area during an exchange of fire with terrorists who had attempted to infiltrate Pakistan from Afghanistan.

The ISPR had said at the time that the terrorist's attempt was foiled and according to intelligence reports, they had "suffered heavy casualties". Web Desk

Opposition has complete numbers for no-confidence motion, PM fleeing of contest: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the opposition has the complete numbers for the no-confidence motion but the coward prime minister is running away from the contest. Now, the no-confidence has been tabled and the process has started. We are getting rid of this selected government and progressing towards free and fair elections.

Talking to media outside the Parliament House on Monday, he while condemning the role of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker said that now the voting on the no-confidence has to take place within seven days and there was no way to escape or save the government.

Responding to the questions of journalists, Bilawal Bhutto said that we will focus on the provinces after toppling the prime minister. He said that the religion card should not be used as religion is not a card but a personal matter. Politics and religion cannot be linked. When the rulers are incapable of fulfilling their promises, then they start relying on religion.

He said the prime minister and his cabinet ministers on one hand, talk about Riasat-e-Madina and on the other use abusive language. The prime minister is going and telling more lies in his last days. We would like to work with all the parties. Imran's government has ended. Our numbers are not only complete but abundant. The allies cannot work with the government. The prime minister yesterday said that 'Aaj Bhi Bhutto Zinda Hai'.

To a question about the MQM, the Chairman PPP said that the MQM will decide for itself. We want for every stakeholder to Karachi to work together. It is necessary for the Pakistani economy and progress to focus on the problems of Karachi. INP

VC BUITEMS inaugurates Japanese calendar exhibition in Quetta

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Vice-Chancellor, the Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUISTEMS) inaugurated the Japanese calendar exhibition in Quetta. Honorary Consul General of Japan, Syed Nadeem Shah and other officials were also present on the occasion. "70 years of Pakistan Japan friendship completed", Mr. Shah told the Daily Quetta Voice.

Calendar exhibition is a regular feature in Quetta to promote Japanese culture, language and history among the people of Balochistan. Every year, scores of people visit the Japanese calendar exhibition and take a keen interest in the Japanese culture, history and development.

"This is a good initiative to promote relations between Pakistan and Japan", the VC BUISTEMS said. He said such kinds of activities were good for promoting people-to-people contact between the two countries. The President of the Japan Friendship Society, Syer Feroz Shah was also present on the occasion. "Japan has always extended all possible support to Pakistan in times of need", Syed Nadeem Shah, the Honorary Consul General of Japan in Balochistan said. He said the two countries enjoy cordial relations and support each other on all issues. Students, academicians, intellectuals, writers, authors, and people belonging to various walks of life participated in the event. The calendar exhibition would remain to continue till March 29th (Tomorrow) at the office of Japan's Honorary Consul General in Quetta's Jinnah Town area.

No-trust motion will succeed in Centre, Punjab: Hamza Shahbaz

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Hamza Shahbaz on Monday said that no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar will be a success.

Hamza Shahbaz, in a statement, said that no-trust motion has been submitted against Punjab CM and opposition has finalized strategy to oust Usman Buzdar. Talking about next candidate for CM Punjab slot, Opposition Leader of Punjab Assembly said sending government packing is more important than

announcing the candidate for the position. Earlier in the day, in a bid to dethrone Usman Buzdar, the opposition in the Punjab Assembly submitted a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister (CM) Punjab. The motion was submitted by a Members of Punjab Assembly (MPA) of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). The opposition has also submitted a requisition to summon the assembly session. It should be noted here that after the no-confidence has been filed, the Chief Minister cannot dissolve the Punjab Assembly as per law. INP

IHC bars election commission from any action against PM

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday barred the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) from any action against Prime Minister Imran Khan during the hearing of a petition against the premier and the government ministers for violating the election code of conduct.

Ali Zafar Advocate pleaded with the court to bar the election commission from imposing a fine on the prime minister.

Justice Amir Farooq listened to the arguments and asked the ECP to issue a notice in case of any violation of the election code of conduct.

"Do not take any action except issuing a notice till next hearing," Justice Amir Farooq directed the election commission and also asked it not to disqualify or fine anyone till the next hearing.

The IHC on April 6 sought further arguments from the parties. INP

Governor signs Punjab Regularization of Service Amendment Ordinance 2022

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar has signed the Punjab Regularization of Service Amendment Ordinance 2022 while as the Chancellor of universities of Punjab, he also approved several summaries related to universities.

According to details, Chaudhry Sarwar on Monday signed the Punjab Regularization of Service Amendment Ordinance 2022 under which after amending section 07 of the Punjab Regulation of Service Act 2018, now contract employees can appear before the Scrutiny Committee or Public Service Commission three times. While before this, according to the Punjab Regularization Act 2018, if an employee was not recommended by either Commission or Scrutiny Committee, he would immediately be dismissed from the service. INP

BAP announces to support opposition in no confidence motion against PM

News Desk

Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) has announced to support joint opposition in a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday. BAP parliamentary leader in the National Assembly, Nawabzada Khalid Magsi announced this decision at a news conference.

Opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif, PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari and others were also present on the occasion. BAP has five members in the national assembly.

Magsi said that his party had reached the conclusion to join the opposition after consultations as they had "come with a new aim after bitter experiences in the past".

"We wanted the country to be handled in a new manner, he said, lamenting that "Balochistan has been deprived" and the party wanted the province's issues to be addressed which was why BAP had decided to support the opposition.

During the question and answer session, when asked on whose instructions had he toppled the PML-N government in Balochistan in 2018, Magsi got visibly upset at the reporter. added Matters have been settled.



PML-Q has shown its confidence in Prime Minister Imran Khan and Punjab CM Usman Buzdar has forwarded his resignation to the PM" State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farukh Habib tweeted.

"Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will support Ch Parvez Elahi for Punjab CM slot. PML-Q has announced its support for PM Imran Khan" PM's aide for political communication Shehbaz Gill tweeted just after Farukh Habib.

On the other hand, PML-Q leader and Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema resigned from his office Monday, owing to recent developments. "I have resigned from my portfolio. I will soon issue a detailed statement" Cheema said in a short statement, as per media reports.

Earlier, the joint- opposition on Monday formally moved a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan in the National Assembly.

According to media reports, there were 161 votes in favour of the resolution to move the no-confidence motion in the house from the opposition. While the treasury members of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stood on their seats and chanted anti-opposition slogans.

Around 161 members of the Opposition were present in the House when the motion was moved. Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri was in the Chair.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Balochistan needs inclusive development

Balochistan, the country's resource-rich province is lagging behind all other provinces in terms of key social indicators including education, health, sanitation, clean drinking water etc. Mismanagement, injudicious distribution of development funds coupled with a lack of political commitments are the underlying reasons behind backwardness of the province.

Track record shows, successive governments have always launched politically motivated development schemes to please their influential supporters. Constituency, individual and political schemes always dominated the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) in every year's financial budget. Nexus among the Chief Minister's Secretariat, the Planning Development and Finance Department continue to deprive the constituencies of other lawmakers.

Opposition's constituencies were ignored. Opposition lawmakers constituencies remained ignored during last three-years of former chief minister, Jam Kamal Khan's government. Despite agitation in and outside the assembly, the opposition lawmakers were not able to force government to allocate funds for their constituencies.

This is irony of fate that the mandate of the lawmakers is to frame laws since the assemblies are called legislative assemblies. But legislators are least bothered about the legislation rather they take keen interest in construction of roads, buildings etc. That's why, provincial governments prefer not to hold local bodies elections rather decentralization of development projects.

Development deficit of Balochistan is likely to be Rs. 100b. Balochistan government announced to have allocated Rs. 172 bs for the PSDP during the financial year 2021-22. However, currently the government has more than Rs. 40bs as per the statement of ruling party's Spokesman Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran. The province has already spent Rs. 40bs and it has more than 40bs for the remaining year. It means the deficit is close to Rs. 100bs.

Chief Minister Qudus Bizenjo needs to put his house in order and introduce a strict financial policy to ensure completion of development projects. The government should ensure inclusive development and end the practice of exclusive development so that this backward province could come at par with other parts of the country. Action should match words now.

How illiteracy perpetuates oppression of Pakistani women

Romisa Shah

In many countries more women than men cannot read write as a result women lack opportunities and ignore their rights the lack of education result from gender discrimination. In Pakistan the destructive vicious cycle is evident.

Pakistan has population of 225.9 million people whom 49 are female. The share is so low because of gender bias many of family prefers sons, not least because they eventually take care of their aged parents whereas daughters requires dowry when joining another family girls therefore are the economic burden.

Things are similar all over south Asia but especially tough in Pakistan which is world third most gender unequal country. According world economic forum in 2020 GENDER GAP DISTANCE (GGI) Pakistan 151 out of 153 coun-

tries so only two countries fared worse the GGI ranking is based on magnitude of gap between men and women regarding participation in economy, educational attainment health status and political activity. Lack of women education is consequence of women inferior status and obstacle to making progress.

According to government Pakistan social and living standard measurements survey (2019-2020) only half of women and girls aged only 10 in Pakistan have ever attend the school it is thus no surprise that women basic literacy remains abysmally low that has detrimental impacts including on their ability to grasp many of opportunities that digital technology offers.

Only 10% can read and write in any language in Pakistan this

pattern is not so much better for young generation according to PSLM 64% of women aged 15% to 24% can read and write this higher rate reflects progress made in urban areas IN Balochistan by youth literacy rate is near to 41% in Sindh 55% and Punjab 62% and KP 52%.

Low level of education are key barrier to women participation in former labor force which has been stagnating for long time due to there lack of schooling and skills most women cannot find lucrative job according to vast majority of women who do paid work remained confined like mostly informal activities with poor remuneration in rural areas they typically work as daily laborer on farm and in urban areas they are mostly household helpers The money they make this way is

not enough for there own sustenance and they certainly cannot fend for their families by themselves low incomes moreover mean they cant not save money or accumulate any assets they remain dependent on male and family members.

Women dependence make them vulnerable to abuse and violence violence against women pervades public as well private spaces. According to demographic and health survey (DHS) 2018-2019 28% of women experienced physical violence at home the prevalence of domestic violence was higher in rural areas.

The background is an educated women are too dependent on their families to walk away from abusive men moreover they often only have a traditional understanding of gender role illiterate women typically

don't understand the right they are legally entitled to.

ERICA FIELD and KATE VYBORNÝ are two scholars who have done research concerning about wedding contracts they wrote that 75% of women in Peshawar the capital of KP have not even read their Nikah Nama at the time of marriage. To judge by girls enrollment rates in school women literacy is unlikely to improve fast in near future. Around 32% of children in Pakistan don't attend school.

Girls are more likely than boys to either not go to school at all or to drop out early only 51% of girls in age of 5 to 9 to attend primary school.

The data for secondary and tertiary education are worse any effort to bring about meaningful full change in lives of Pakistani women must prioritize the women literacy.

Demons of darkness

By Raof Hasan

This is a season of desperate voices emanating from all those who see their political fortunes dwindle. Not used to such treatment in the past, they remain incredulous that it is actually happening to them and they are no longer being rescued by their traditional benefactors.

Every day, a new rumour is malevolently coined about a deal which has been struck with the powers that matter. Be it the Sharifs or Bhutto/Zardaris, they appear to be virtually begging for the reprieve they once thought was their prerogative.

The Sharif camp is buzzing with news that their leader is coming back after settling things with their nemesis while Zardari is calling out loud that his help has been sought to put things right in the country. Apparently, neither is true. In fact, the reverse may be closer to reality.

The stranglehold is tightening around Nawaz Sharif on two counts. The British government has refused to extend his visa for further stay and his appeal before the court is likely to be rejected soon, and for good reasons, too. Whether it was the case of his illness and consequent escape to London, or the pretence of his subsequent treatment for imaginary suffering, he has been lying through his grinding teeth. Once his appeal is thrown out, no further legal means

will be available to him to continue living in the UK with his present status. The options for him would include seeking political asylum there which his party stalwarts claim he would not, or shift to another country that is willing to receive him which is unlikely, or come back to Pakistan to walk into the prison cell to complete his term.

On the other count, the Rana Shamim gambit has turned out to be a disgraceful sham. First, he refused to acknowledge the authenticity of the original affidavit in the court. After going through the contents of a sealed copy of what he calls the genuine affidavit, together with dealing with a number of sordid twists and turns in the case, the bench has decided to indict him and others involved for contempt of judiciary on January 7. This has turned the tables on the Sharifs who played the devious game to bring the courts under pressure by assaulting their credibility to steal relief in cases which are pending before them for adjudication.

On the Zardari front, under growing political pressure because of endemic corruption and lack of performance, the PPP government in Sindh is gradually losing ground even in the rural sector which has been generally considered to be its strong base. Every day, there are cases in the courts where its stalwarts

are routinely reprimanded, even humiliated on account of their shoddy deals and grossly deficient governance.

Yet their leader does not shy of saying that unnamed people have sought his help in putting things right in the country, and that he has conditioned it with the ouster of the incumbent government. So, apparently, he considers this to be cuckoo land where he can manipulate things as he may deem and desire, completely oblivious of the reality that times have undergone a drastic change and there may not be much sympathy anymore for these corrupt charlatans and bootleggers. Not only that those times of yore do not exist any longer, there is no likelihood of any movement to bring them back either.

But their likely political demise will impact many a people who have been recipients of their largesse in the past and who would like to keep the coffers flowing in the future also. Their fascination with corruption and glorification of crime is immeasurable. No wonder that these politically comatose politicians are being kept alive artificially only on television screens and newspaper pages. There is a dire desperation to this effort as if its failure will signal the demise of the entire media edifice. So stories of their rampant corruption are regu-

larly pushed under the carpet while grandiose fictional achievements are attributed to their tenures in power. Those whose induction and survival in the power echelons was owed entirely to the patronage of the most vicious of dictators are projected as ardent champions of democracy and stalwarts who have kept the candle of freedom burning. Nothing could surpass this utter distortion.

While the media is likely to continue playing a demeaning role, it is the judiciary which can rid the country of these worms which have skinned it of its flesh and spirit. The devilish machinations of these criminals lie exposed before the courts. Rather than letting them escape the dragnet of justice yet again, it is for these courts to punish them for their grievous excesses. They don't deserve any mercy. The country has plunged to its nadir simply because of a culture of crime and corruption they cultivated and sponsored. Today, it is a towering structure which casts its hideous shadow on all who move within its precincts.

Their punishment and elimination from the political arena is not going to bring the twin scourge of crime and corruption to an end. It would only be the beginning of a prolonged struggle to cleanse society of its numerous contaminations which are

sunk in deep. It is not going to be an easy task. It would require the best of intentions, promulgation of progressive, pragmatic and effective policies and a string of transparent, accountable and functional institutions to work in tandem with unprecedented resolve and dedication to do the job.

But for brief interludes, the country has mostly been subjected to merciless demonisation. Completely drained of its spirit and character, it has been horribly mauled. Work needs to be done on a variety of fronts which would require immense courage and character. No shortcuts will do. The entire distance will have to be covered in measured and well thought-out steps targeting the entire repertoire of maladies that Pakistan is afflicted with. It is a mammoth challenge, but one which has to be undertaken urgently. The Pakistan that we have today is a poor replica of the entity that the Quaid had envisioned on August 11, 1947: a liberal, progressive, enlightened and tolerant country. Instead, we have turned it into a regressive and bigoted country. It continues to plunge further depths of retrogression as the demons of corruption and religiosity cast a long shadow on its ability to rise from despair. But rise it must because, without that happening, there is no recourse to salvation.

Climate reparations

By Daniel Willis

A rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future.

That's the sobering assessment made by scientists on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which earlier this week published its latest report, on the impacts of the climate crisis. In it, the IPCC argues that roughly 3.5 billion people - 45 percent of the world's population - currently live in areas of 'high vulnerability' to climate change, meaning they will be heavily impacted by floods, droughts or extreme weather in the decades to come.

Yet even more striking than the sheer scale of these impacts is their inequality and unfairness. The vast majority of those 3.5 billion people are in 'west-, central- and east Africa, south Asia, Central and South America, small island developing states and the Arctic'. These regions - which have some of the lowest per capita carbon emissions in the world - are now suffering the effects of a crisis that has been driven and exacerbated by the looting of their lands for wealth and natural resources.

Not only are these countries and communities faced with displacement, food shortages,

water insecurity and more, unless there is concerted global action, the report also asserts that many losses are already happening now, and are irreversible. This situation is a result of the failure (or perhaps more accurately, refusal) of rich countries to support the Global South against the climate crisis in UN negotiations. Not only have these 'Annex I' countries, including the US, UK, Canada, Australia and most of the EU, repeatedly resisted ambitious, binding targets on emissions reductions, they have also repeatedly broken promises on financial assistance.

Last November, at COP26 in Glasgow, the Global South had three key demands on finance: greatly increased climate finance grants; far more funding for climate adaptation; and a new pot of money to compensate for the loss and damage already being suffered by frontline communities. This week's report highlights that, despite a 2009 pledge (at COP15) to commit roughly half of \$100bn a year in climate finance to adaptation, only 4-8 percent of funding has supported projects that help vulnerable communities live with the impacts of the climate crisis (and some of those projects actually increase climate vulnerability). Those communities are

now being sacrificed to the selfishness of rich governments that resist paying for the crisis they have caused every step of the way.

The demand for loss and damage compensation has also been heavily resisted at every previous COP. At COP26, the establishment of a new funding pot was rejected and almost all references were removed in the final agreement, the Glasgow Climate Pact. Campaigners have hailed the promise for further discussions on loss and damage as a small win, and will push hard to make it a key issue at COP27 in Egypt this coming November. Yet, insiders have now raised concerns that there was significant pressure from the Biden administration to remove any mention of loss and damage from the latest IPCC report.

Meanwhile, frontline communities, such as in Sub-Saharan Africa, South East Asia and small island states in the Pacific and Caribbean, continue to lose homes, livelihoods and families to the climate crisis. For example, just before Christmas, while it also dealing with a steep rise in COVID-19 infections, the Philippines was hit by super typhoon Rai (also called Odette), which displaced half a million people and impacted nearly five million in total.

The gathering storm

Zamir Akram

War clouds have once again gathered over Afghanistan. Even as American's longest war in its history has ended, the Afghan people are unlikely to enjoy the dividends of peace. In fact, a renewed civil war has already started between the Taliban and the Afghan government. The impact of such a conflict will not remain confined to Afghanistan but will engulf the entire region.

The Taliban have already made extensive territorial gains. They claim to now control 85 per cent of Afghanistan, especially the rural areas and the crucial highways, thereby encircling the major cities with fighting currently raging for the control of Herat, Kandahar and Lashkar Gah. The Taliban are also trying to rebrand themselves, projecting a more tolerant and responsible image in order to increase their domestic and international acceptability.

Rejecting Taliban claims, the Afghan government has asserted that its forces are regrouping to halt the Taliban advance and will retake lost territory. The government has also enlisted local Tajik, Hazara

and Uzbek militia to boost the capabilities of its troops while relying heavily on military support by Washington and New Delhi. In these circumstances, a protracted civil war is now the most likely outcome.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is correct in stating that the Americans made a mess in Afghanistan. Now they are leaving a mess behind. Instead of ensuring a peaceful transition, the Biden administration has rushed for the exits, abandoning Afghanistan to its fate. American "over the horizon" military operations in support of the Ghani government, such as recent air strikes against the Taliban, have encouraged Kabul to reject any compromise solution. The recent meetings in New Delhi between US Secretary of State Blinken and the Indian leadership indicate that India will also militarily assist the Afghan government. The Indian objective was clearly spelt out recently by former Indian Foreign Secretary Sham Seran that an Afghan civil war would be preferable to a Taliban government.

A more sinister aspect of such Indo-

US cooperation, underscored by the meeting between Secretary Blinken and Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, is that Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies would feel encouraged to intensify support for terrorist groups like the TTP and Baloch separatists against Pakistan. The Chechens, Uzbeks, Uighurs of the ETIM and ISIS will also gain greater freedom of action to increasingly target China, Russia and Iran.

In these circumstances, Afghanistan will not only face further devastation but will also be denied the benefits of its potential role as a hub for regional connectivity. Projects like TAPI and CASA-1000 will remain unimplemented. China's extension of its BRI into Afghanistan as well as its investments in the country would have to be put on hold. For Pakistan, the costs would be even higher - continued instability and security threats on its western and eastern borders, influx of Afghan refugees, and denial of access to the region. Since Afghan instability will have regional implications, the geopolitical interests of

Pakistan, China, Russia and Iran converge on the need for a peaceful transition in Afghanistan and avoidance of a renewed civil war. As such, all four countries have individually and collectively reached out to the Afghan parties. The Taliban have, in their engagement with these countries, stressed their willingness to accept a political solution, sought international recognition and promised to ensure that the Afghan territory is not used against any other country. In a significant development, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the visiting Taliban leader, Mullah Bradar that the "Taliban... is a pivotal military and political force in the country and will play an important role in the process of peace, re-conciliation and reconstruction there." Similar endorsement for the Taliban has also been expressed by the Russians and Iranians. Efforts by this 'Quartet', therefore, hold the most promising option to secure peace in Afghanistan. Intensified collective initiatives by them can still prevent a full scale civil war and lead to a peaceful

transition.

While the Ghani government will prove to be a hurdle, it can still be given a safe and honourable exit under conditions that could be guaranteed by the 'Quartet'. More troublesome would be the spoiler's role by India which views its strategic interests against Pakistan and China being better served by continuing warfare in Afghanistan. But the Indians or the Americans will not deploy their forces in Afghanistan to protect Ghani, having learnt the lessons of history. Consequently, the Kabul government cannot survive for long and would be eventually forced to find a political solution. Pakistan's support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process is laudable. But given the high stakes involved and the obvious Indian interference in Afghanistan, there is need for a proactive Pakistan policy in collaboration with China, Russia and Iran to protect shared national interests. Such a collective approach needs to be based on the ground realities, in particular that the Taliban must play a key role in a future Afghan government.

Mess at the Tokyo Olympics

Kamal Siddiqi

Pakistan won no medals in Tokyo. The last time the country won a medal was in 1992 at the Barcelona Games where our hockey team clinched bronze. This is something to feel ashamed about. What has happened to the country that produced so many Olympic greats? Have we resigned ourselves to the consistently poor performances that our athletes deliver?

Granted that despite the poor performances in Tokyo, there were some moments to cheer. For example, Arshad Nadeem made history as the first-ever Pakistani athlete to qualify for the final of any track and field event in the Olympics. Khanewal-born Nadeem made it to the final of the men's javelin throw with a throw of 85.16m, well beyond the qualification mark of 83.50m. He eventually finished fifth in the competition but won much praise for his efforts.

Similarly weightlifter Talha Talib missed out on a medal for Pakistan but turned plenty of heads as Pakistan finally took notice of him. The 21-year-old lifter from Gujranwala, making his Olympics debut, took part in the 67kg category and held the gold medal spot until the final round before eventually being bumped down and denied a podium finish.

But the fact is that among the 10 athletes who took part in the Olympics, only Nadeem and Talib came close to winning a medal. Both finished fifth in their respective disciplines. What about the others? Pakistan's shooters disappointed. National champion Gulam Mustafa Bashir qualified for the medal round at the end of stage one of the 25m rapid fire pistol shooting competition but was eliminated after failing in two stages of qualifiers. Another Pakistani shooter, Khalil Akhtar, could not give a significant performance in Stage I and was eliminated from the medal round.

The country's top shuttler Mahoor Shahzad, who was the country's first badminton player to feature in the Olympic Games, was beaten in straight sets by a Japanese player in just 23 minutes. Sprinter Najma Parveen finished last in the women's 200m heat. What was more disappointing was not her position, but her timing which was recorded 28.12 seconds. Where do we go from here? There are calls now to remove the head of the Pakistan Olympics Association, Lt Gen (ret'd) Arif Hasan. Shahbaz Gill, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, at a news conference "asked" Hasan to resign from the post he has held since 2004. Gill alleged that the POA had

no accountability during the last 17 years. After becoming POA chief, Gill said, Hasan changed its constitution, removing the prime minister as its patron and hence there was never any accountability during his term. He also added hand-picked members as independent voters so he can cling on to his post.

The POA for its part claims that Hasan was elected through a fair process in 2019, with representatives from the IOC and the Olympic Council of Asia also in attendance. It also reiterated that interference in its matters will lead to intervention by the IOC.

Is it not ironic that in a country where a top sports person is the prime minister, the state of sports is in such a shambles? When he was captain of the cricket team, Imran Khan insisted on merit as the sole criteria. Who can forget the number of fights he got into over his insistence of merit? Today he looks the other way.

The culture of patronage, of corruption and of looking the other way needs to end. All major sports bodies need to be revamped. Officials cannot continue to oblige each other. For example, POA cannot please their chosen ones by sending them to the Olympics as coaches. Pakistan Badminton Federation secretary was in Tokyo as the coach of Mahoor Shahzad.

Officials being investigated over removal of record from Punjab CM House,

LAHORE: The officers and other employees at the Chief Minister (CM) House are being investigated over the alleged removal of the official record from the CM House as well as the CM Office and its transfer to an unidentified place, it was surfaced on Friday.

According to official sources, Implementation and Coordination (I&C) Secretary Zaid Bin Maqsood is supervising the inquiry against the suspected officials.

It is to be noted that several disgruntled parliamentarians of the

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had alleged misappropriation of development funds and transfers and postings of blue-eyed officers of the Punjab chief minister in violation of the rules and merit.

Informed sources had also confirmed that not only laptops been removed from the CM Office, but the officials posted there also got the data deleted from cell phones. Two trucks were reportedly hired to shift the official documents from 7 Club Road and 5 Club Road, respectively.

Furthermore, footages

of the interior of the CM House had also been deleted from the CCTV cameras. It is to be noted that several disgruntled parliamentarians of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had alleged misappropriation of development funds and transfers and postings of blue-eyed officers of the Punjab chief minister in violation of the rules and merit.

Informed sources had also confirmed that not only laptops been removed from the CM Office, but the officials posted there also got the data deleted. INP



LAHORE: MarSpouse of Governor Punjab Begum Parveen Server addressing during exhibition by Server Foundation at Lahore College for Women University in Provincial Capital.

Sindh House attack: CJP Bandial orders to arrest perpetrators

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Monday directed authorities to arrest the perpetrators of the attack on Sindh House and directed the Attorney General of Pakistan Khalid Jawed Khan to submit a compliance report on Tuesday (today). During a hearing at the apex court, the chief justice said that he had ordered implementation on the plea as per law and even if there is a complaint then concerned forums should be reached out for redressal. While grilling the AGP Khalid Jawed Khan, the CJP asked him as to why court orders were not implemented regarding arrest of the suspects involved in Sindh House attack case. "We have added concerned sections in the FIR,

however, the case does not fall under terrorism charges," the AGP told the chief justice who said that the suspects should be arrested under new charges framed against them. To this, the attorney general responded that they have arrested them but they secured bails. "The bails were granted when the case was filed under bailable offences," CJP Umar Ata Bandial said and directed that a report should be submitted until tomorrow regarding action needed under fresh charges. It is pertinent to mention here that Inspector General of Police (IG) Islamabad Ahsan Younas has submitted report of an attack on Sindh House by PTI activists before the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice

Umar Ata Bandial has sought report from the IG Islamabad on Saturday regarding an attack on Sindh House. The IG in his report said that more than two dozen people staged a protest outside the gate of Sindh House and damaged its gate. A case has been registered against those involved in hooliganism, the report said and added that two MNAs were also present outside the Sindh House and were also booked in the case. It further said that the sections included in the case are bailable and therefore they were released on personal guarantees.

It may be noted that the names of two Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNAs have been added in the FIR of attack on Sindh House in Islamabad. INP

Parliament may summon Governor SBP on the unjustified devaluation of currency: Ahmad Jawad

KARACHI: Economy and common man paid a heavy price after 32 percent devaluation of rupee against dollar in the last 3.7 years. In this regard it's need of the hour Parliament should intervene and may summon Governor State Bank to seek concrete explanation on the unjustified devaluation said Vice President of Pakistan Businessmen Forum (PBF) Ahmad Jawad.

He said the weakening currency impacted the consumers' purchasing power as devaluation fuelled inflation. "With devaluation, there is inflation, your disposable income goes down, which affects consumption behaviour and spending power. There is a decline in aggregate demand, which is why there is an economic slowdown."

Ahmad Jawad also said our monetary policy may effects day-to-day life of the common man which includes its effects on poverty, inequality and other social out comes. SBP, therefore, needs to assess, consider and communicate the side effects of monetary policy to the public for greater transparency, as well as to the government in order to align fiscal and regulatory policies to counter these unintended consequences.

Today State Bank of

Pakistan reserves stood around at 16 billion dollars, two billion dollars are on the way of the IMF, Chinese debt is also going to rescheduled but still exchange rate at 182 against one dollar, even current account deficit shrinks to \$0.5 bn, but still incumbent country's economic team were forced for depreciation from international donors and it's nothing related with the fundamentals and its one of the international agenda to weak Pakistan economically, as strong currency may impact the country economic outlook.

Now, Parliament of this country should understand where we are heading in rupee? The appreciation of the rupee is inevitable for the country. Until and unless we can't do we will remain in the vicious circle of the inflation and keep enjoying the sky rocket rates of every commodity from automobiles sector to food items.

Jawad further briefed that the value of the Pakistani rupee has fallen by 31.2 percent against the US dollar over the last three years and six months under the government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Took from Rs123 against the US dollar in August 2018 after sworn as PM to Rs 182 against the US dollar till March 16th 2022.

Similarly in automobiles sector depreciation supported much of the country automobile players. They increased their prices of about 72% regardless their assembly plants in Pakistan. Only few parts have to be imported.

On the other hand the cost of essential medicines had also risen. Even the prices of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) of the common medicine, which is imported from China over the past years owing to rupee depreciation have increased manifold.

He openly viewed the recent devaluation of the currency was dictated by the IMF through prior actions and it has nothing to do with macroeconomic fundamentals.

However the regional currencies versus the US dollar shows that the Pakistani currency experienced massive depreciation compared to others.

The Indian rupee stood at 75.39 against a US dollar. The Indian rupee stood at Rs70.09 against the US dollar in 2018, Rs73.66 in December 2019, Rs74.53 in March 2020 and Rs74.57 in April 2021.

In the case of Bangladesh, the Bangladeshi Taka stood at 85.76 against the US dollar and it hovered around 84 to 85.9 on average over the last two years. INP

Hindu youth spreading hate through fake Muslim ID arrested in Karnataka

Bagalkot: A Hindu youth, who created a fake account on Facebook in the name of a Muslim with the sole purpose of posting hateful messages against his own community, and malign Muslims, was arrested in Karnataka state. The 31-year-old Siddharoodha Srikant Nirale created fake online identity in the name of Mushtaq Ali with a profile picture of a Muslim man, wearing skull-cap. On this fake account he threatened family members of a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLC, D S Arun. Arun is the son of a former chairman of legislative council DH Shankarmurthy.

Nirale, a farmer from Shindi Kurbet in Belagavi district, has posted communally sensitive messages against Bajrang Dal member Harsha, who was killed

by unknown persons in Shivamogga. "You may think that a Hindu activist is dead today. But in the coming days, we will target your wife and children," wrote Nirale with his fake Muslim identity on Arun's social media handle. He posted a number of such comments after the murder of Harsha. It is to be noted here that Shivamogga witnessed riots after Hindutva groups resorted to violence pelting stones and setting Muslim properties on fire blaming the minority community for his killing. Such comments by Hindutva elements are deliberately made to add fuel to fire. Apart from this, he also made communally sensitive comments in response to the news reports and statements of political leaders in Kannada.

Nirale was caught after the cyber, economics and narcotics police wing in Shivamogga registered a case with Bagalkot Police on a complaint of MLC Arun. The investigators tracked him and exposed his real identity through digital footprint.

Lokesh Jagalasar, Superintendent of Police, Bagalkot, pointed to the doubtful nature of social media opinions citing Nirale's case. "This case proves that whatever we read or see on social media may not be true. We appeal to the common people not to rely on social media posts blindly. They need to confirm and reconfirm all the claims made in social media posts before forming their opinions on any issue," Jagalasar was quoted by The Hindu as saying. INP

Three drug peddlers held, narcotics recovered

SAHIWAL: The police arrested three drug peddlers and recovered narcotics during a raid here on Friday.

According to details, Yousafwala police conducted operation against culprits involved in drugs business in village 65/5-L of Sahiwal.

During raid, three drug pushers identified as Muhammad Ramazan, Alam Sher and Ismail were arrested besides recovery of 1.12 kilogram hashish and 28 litres liquor from their possession.

The police confiscated the recovered narcotics and after registering separate cases against detainees have started investigations. INP

PU awards PhD degrees to four scholars after approval of thesis

LAHORE: Punjab University on Friday awarded PhD degrees to four scholars in different subjects after approval of their thesis.

A per details, Saad Saad S/o Saeed Ahmad Khan was awarded PhD degree in the subject of Chemical Engineering after approval of his thesis entitled 'Experimental Study of Ionic Liquid Pretreatment of Indigenous Biomass and Coal and their Co-Gasification'. Amal Majid D/o Majid Mehmood in the subject of Mathematics after approval of her thesis entitled 'Some Aspects of Self-interacting Brans-Dicke Theory'. Latif Ullah S/o Ahmad Khalil in the subject of Sociology after approval of his thesis entitled 'Women Participation in Local Bodies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Challenges and Opportunities' and Sahifa Mukhtar D/o Mukhtar Ahmad Bhatti was awarded PhD degree in the subject of Communication Studies after approval of her thesis entitled 'Effects of Social Media Usage on Psychological Well-being of Teenagers in Pakistan'. INP

Fake cop looting foreigners held in Karachi

KARACHI: The police arrested a fake cop involved in looting foreigners here in the metropolis on Friday. Cash, foreign currency, police uniform and walkie talkie recovered. According to details, a fraudster Zahid impersonating as policeman was mastermind of a four-member gang engaged in running online taxi service. The culprit was son of a retired police officer and he along with other members of the gang used to loot the foreigners by alleging them of members of banned INP.



BAHAWALPUR: Director General of TEVTA Akhtar Abbas Bharwana visiting the different stalls of projects made by students, during annual ceremony at Government Technology College in City.

Propaganda of anti-development elements couldn't cheat masses: CM Buzdar

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has emphasized that the spate of propaganda of the anti-development elements could not cheat the masses.

He stated this during separate meetings with a number of provincial ministers and MPAs including Muhammad Asif Nakai, Muhammad Akhtar Malik, Rai Taimoor Bhatti, Taimoor Lali, Waris Aziz, Malik Wasif Mazhar Raan, Saleem Akhtar and others here on Friday and reposed full confidence in his leadership. They also congratulated PM Imran Khan and CM Usman Buzdar over the bill for the creation of south Punjab province.

While assuring them to resolve their constituencies-related problems, Usman Buzdar pointed out that

the government was engaged in public service as the opponents have resorted to the politics of baseless allegations.

The country needs stability instead of anarchy and, regrettably, the opposition parties are involved in negative politics, he added. Meanwhile, the PTI was fully united under PM Imran Khan who has taught the nation to live with self-respect. The nation was standing firmly behind PM Imran Khan and the public meeting of March 27 would prove a public referendum against the opposition, he maintained.

The chief minister repeated that the opposition intends to destabilize the country through the politics of anarchy and maintained that its every effort would be frustrated.

Defeat is the fate of the opposition because people firmly stand with PM Imran Khan, he added and argued that the March 27 meeting would change the course of political history by proving a turning point in the history of the country.

Meanwhile, the South Punjab province bill was a historic step of the PTI-led government as well as a solid step towards the fulfilment of another promise, he told. The PTI government would carve out the south Punjab province and the credit of setting up the south Punjab secretariat and giving full autonomy to it goes to this government. Alongside, a 32 per cent job quota has also been reserved for south Punjab along with ring fencing of the development budget, he mentioned. INP

Cleft Lip & Palate Association condoles death of renowned journalist M. Aftab

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Cleft Lip & Palate Association (ICLPA) has expressed deep shock over the death of its President and renowned journalist M. Aftab.

M. Aftab expired on last Saturday after protracted illness. His death is their personal loss, said Mrs. Farhat Akhtar Rahman, a senior member of ICLPA in her condolence message.

The Association has deprived of its lifelong President who had always been on forefront in alleviating the sufferings of less-privileged section of the society. It was his dream to set up a hospital in the Federal Capital for treatment of cleft lip and palate patients, she added. Madam Farhat said the Association will soon hold a reference in memory of M. Aftab. It may be mentioned that the Association had been providing free medical facilities to cleft lip and palate patients since 2002 with the support of families, friends and well wishers. INP

Two held, 437 kites, eight chemical string rolls recovered

LAHORE: The police arrested two kites manufacturers/sellers and recovered more than four hundred kites and chemical string rolls during crackdown here on Friday.

SP Iqbal Town, Ikhlq Tarar said that on complaints regarding kites, chemical strings manufacturing and selling, headed by SHO Iqbal Town Malik Nisar, the police launched crackdown in Kharak Stop and Shah Noor Studio Kacchi Abadi areas of Lahore.

During raids, two kites manufacturers/sellers including Ahsan and Mehbood besides recovering 437 kites and eight chemical string rolls from their possession.

The police confiscated the recovered kites, chemical strings and after registering separate cases against the detainees have started investigations.

DIG Operations lauded the police team which participated in the operation and urged the citizens to avoid putting lives of others on stake for their joy of few hours. INP



PESHAWAR: Activist of shemale association chanting slogan for their demanstration at press culb

Compassionate attitude of President ACP towards members helped council to develop: Iqbal Memon

KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon said that the compassionate attitude of President Arts Council of Pakistan (ACP) Karachi, Ahmad Shah has helped the council to develop. He said the programs of the Arts Council and the members who are artists, writers, poets, the bright face of Karachi has become prominent all over the world.

These views were expressed by him while addressing a special general body meeting of the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Special General Body Meeting was held in the open-air theater of Arts Council under the chairmanship of Chairman Arts Council Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon. A large number of members including writers, poets who are members participated. Traditionally, the general body meeting turned into a social function.

Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon who is also the Chairman of the Arts Council said that the members of the Arts Council are intellectuals, writers, painters, and artists. You guide society. We work under your guidance, he said, adding that there will be full support of the administration for positive works, development of the society and the city.

He said that the establishment of a welfare fund for the members would benefit the deserving members and the organization would be able to help them instead of reaching out to others. Speaking on the occasion, President ACP

Ahmad Shah said that to make the council more active and for the welfare of the members, some amendment was required in the constitution of the council for which three hundred and fifty members applied instead of one hundred and fifty.

He said that this is the body that is the heir of this institution. He said that with the desire and cooperation of the Arts Council and Agha Khan Foundation, they are expanding the scope of cultural activities abroad. He said, after Islamabad, the Urdu conference will be held in London and Dubai also. The Sindh government wants to promote the activities of the Arts Council throughout Sindh, which

requires co-operation with the Arts Council. Arts Council Karachi has the potential to sponsor the promotion of the arts across the country, he added.

Ahmad Shah said that we will set up sub-offices in Toronto, London, Dubai, and other countries to promote the Urdu language and provide opportunities for our poets, writers, and artists to use their talents abroad. He said that he wanted to make Pakistan famous in the world through Arts Council Karachi. Secretary Arts Council Prof. Aijaz Ahmed Farooqi thanked the members for their support and assistance to the policies of the President. INP

Mian Zahid terms Indian wheat import cheapest option to offset Pakistan's food crisis

Says politics on food security will result in dire consequences, India becoming agri superpower, Pakistan importing food

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance and Former Provincial Minister Mian Zahid Hussain has declared wheat import from India the cheapest option for Pakistan to tackle the shortage of staples in the country.

He said that politics should not be preferred over food security otherwise Pakistan will have to pay a heavy price. In a statement issued

on Monday, Mian Zahid Hussain said that Russia and Ukraine were behind 30 percent wheat exports but now their supply chain has been disrupted and production going down because of war.

He said that now India is banking on the opportunity to get space in the global wheat market while it is also giving the World Food Program which purchases wheat from Ukraine to feed 125 million hungry people.

The business leader said that India is getting a bumper crop of wheat for half a decade, their farm-

ers are happy and their storage facilities are full while in Pakistan agriculture and the standard of living of farmers is declining.

Pakistan is forced to import food through borrowed dollars due to sub-standard urea, counterfeit pesticides and herbicides, low-quality seed and cost of water as well as energy.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Bangladesh, UAE and Sri Lanka are already buying wheat from India while India has stepped into Yemen, Afghanistan, Qatar and

Indonesian markets. He said India is also in talks with Egypt, China, Turkey, Sudan, Bosnia, Nigeria, Oman, South Africa and Iran.

The land and other things are similar in Indian and Pakistani Punjab but their production is poles apart while our policymakers have never thought over the stark difference in agricultural output, he added.

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which purchases wheat from Ukraine to feed 125 million hungry people.

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"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION"
PAKISTAN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
HEAD OFFICE, 13-H-9, ISLAMABAD, 44790

Invitation of Tender

Sealed tenders are invited from the interested Manufacturers/suppliers registered with Sales Tax/Income Tax Department and who are on active tax payers list of the Federal Board of Revenue for supply of Steel Wire Rope (19mm) at PMDC Collieries, Sor-Range as per specifications as under-

Sr. No.	Description	Quantity/Size
1.	Steel Wire Rope (19mm)	30,500 feet.

Tender forms containing detailed specifications and terms & conditions can be obtained on working days from PMDC Head Office at Plot No. 13, Sector H9, Islamabad, Ph No. 051-9265132 and PMDC Branch Office, Biji Road, Quetta Cantt. Ph No. 061-9201103 on payment of Rs. 1,000/- (non-refundable).

Tenders alongwith bid money @ 5% in the shape of demand draft/pay order in the name of PMDC Head Office, Islamabad on account of bidder must reach the undersigned through Registered Post or dropped in the tender box placed in the PMDC Head Office, Islamabad upto 11:00 hours on 13th April, 2022. Tenders will be opened on the same date at 11:30 hours in the presence of participants who may desire to attend the tender opening.

(Muhammad Ilyas) General Manager (HR&EA)
PMD Head Office, Islamabad, Ph. No.051-9265132
PID (I) No. 6787/21

Rashid says no-trust resolution against PM to be decided by March 31

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Monday insisted that the fate of the opposition's no-confidence resolution against Prime Minister Imran Khan would be decided by March 31.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Rashid said the situation on the day of voting on the no-confidence resolution could change even an hour before the vote, observing that it was the opposition, and not the government, that needed

to show the strength of 172 lawmakers.

"People must shun the idea that Imran's politics is teetering on the brink, especially after his 'great' rally in Islamabad a day ago."

He also called the opposition's campaign against the prime minister "a conspiracy to weaken Pakistan".

The interior minister said international conspiracies were often hatched against countries with a weak economy.



"An independent foreign policy can only be introduced by a brave leader," he said, referring to the prime minister.

In response to a question about the claim made by the premier that he had written evidence of a "foreign-funded conspiracy" out to topple his government, Rashid reiterated that international conspiracies were a reality, but added he no idea about the letter that the PM had referred to in his speech on Sunday.

Talking about national institutions, the minister said he saw Pakistan Army as a symbol of Pakistan's integrity.

"They keep an eye on politics as a whole and not any individual whatever they decide will be in favour of Pakistan," he said.

The interior minister clarified that the no-objection certificate given to the JUI-F for a rally in the capital had expired, while the PML-N still had permission to

hold a public gathering today.

To a question about PTI's allies in Punjab and Centre, Rashid said he did not want to annoy PML-Q, adding that he respected the Chaudhrys.

"But I do not forgive those who attack me."

He also informed journalists that the prime minister had turned down his proposal to call [fresh] elections, dissolve the Punjab Assembly and impose governor's rule in Sindh. Web Desk



JAMSHORO: President Arif Alvi addressing in the inauguration ceremony of Servis Long March Tyres at Nooriabad.

Rana Mashhood claims support of over 200 MPAs to oust Punjab CM Buzdar

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Member of Punjab Assembly (MPA) Rana Mashhood said on Monday that over 120 opposition MPAs had signed the no-confidence motion submitted to the provincial assembly against Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar today, while the numbers will rise to over 200 on the voting day.

Addressing a press conference outside the Punjab Assembly, he, while responding to a question that who would be the next provincial CM, Hamza Shehbaz or Pervaiz Elahi, he said the decision had been taken and soon senior leaders of PML-N and PML-Q would announce the decision in this regard. "Right now all pro-democracy and anti-corruption parties are with us," he claimed.

Responding to another question as to whether Jahangir Khan Tareen (JKT) and Aleem Khan groups had also been taken on board, Mashhood said it was understood that the motion was submitted after all the matters were settled. "You will know about the opposition parties' numerical strength in the provincial assembly in a few days from now," he added.

Replying to yet another question as to whether the motion was submitted out of fear of the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly, PML-N MPA said his party wanted that the assembly was dissolved and elections were held early so that it could return to the assembly with a thumping majority. "In fact, the dissolution of assemblies suits us," he clarified.

He also called ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's (PTI) rally held in Islamabad yesterday a 'flop'. INP

AIG Karachi announces measures to improve prosecution

KARACHI: In a bid to improve prosecution in high-profile cases, Additional Inspector General of Police (AIG) Karachi Ghulam Nabi Memon on Monday said that they have divided investigation officers into nine categories.

Sharing the details of the reform, AIG Karachi said that now one police officer will be working on a particular type of cases in order to help him in specialization of such cases. "The official working on murder cases will only probe these cases and nothing else," he explained.

He said that in first phase they would be working on five categories which included murder, killing or injuring over resisting robbery bids, rape and narcotics cases. "A list of investigation officers will be maintained at the level of police station," he said.

"The prosecutor general will be apprised regarding list of officers working on particular cases," he said.

AIG Ghulam Nabi Memon further said that cases will be prosecuted on day-to-day trial basis in model courts and anti-terrorism courts.

He further said that CCTV has helped the police in catching the real culprits and crime scene unit has been upgraded to improve evidence collection from the spot including gathering of CCTV footages from all angles of the concerned area. INP

Heroin capsules seized at Islamabad airport

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) arrested on Monday a man for allegedly attempting to smuggle heroin to Bahrain at Islamabad airport.

The passenger had swallowed capsules filled with heroin powder weighing 690 grams before boarding a Bahrain-bound flight. He was subsequently taken into custody with investigation launched against him.

Separately, the ANF seized a cache of drugs during a raid in Balochistan's Pishin district.

The seized drugs that included 106 kilograms of heroin and 93kg morphine were smuggled into the country from Pakistan in Jan, the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) had foiled a drug smuggling bid in Jhelum. According to details, 479 grams of heroin packed in a parcel that was to be sent to Norway via a private courier service in Jhelum. The ANF on a tip-off recovered the heroin. INP

Asad Umar reaches out to Pervaiz Elahi after no-trust move in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development and General Secretary of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Asad Umar on Thursday reached out to PML-Q leader and Speaker Punjab Assembly Pervaiz Elahi after a no-trust motion is moved against Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar.

Asad Umar will meet Pervaiz Elahi along with other members of the party and convey an important message of Prime Minister Usman Buzdar. The political developments in Punjab will be at the heart of the discussion during the meeting.

The contact was made after the opposition on Monday submitted a no-trust motion against Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar in the Punjab Assembly secretariat.

Opposition MPAs Rana Mashhood and Samiullah Khan submitted the motion that bore

Four 'dacoits' held after police encounters in different areas of Karachi

KARACHI: An alleged 'dacoit' was arrested in an injured condition while his two accomplices managed to flee after an 'exchange of fire' between the police and 'dacoits' in Bin Qasim area of Karachi, police said on Monday.

The bullets fired by dacoits pierced into the police van. But luckily the cops sitting inside remained safe.

The Force further claimed that unlicensed weapons were recovered from the injured dacoit, identified as Khalid s/o Khadim, who was shifted to hospital for treatment.

Police said that Khalid's past record was being searched while raids were being conducted to arrest his accomplices.

In a similar incident in the jurisdiction of Iqbal Market police station in Orangi Town, three suspects were arrested in an injured condition following an 'encounter' with police while two pistols and a stolen motorbike were also recovered from them, police claimed.

According to reports, one of the suspects was injured after he was hit by a bullet while the two others were injured when they were beaten up by ordinary people.

They were rushed to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for treatment. In yet another police 'encounter' in the city, this time in Bhains Colony, four 'outlaws' were held in an injured condition while weapons, motorcycles and cash were also recovered from their possession.

Police said the injured dacoits were taken to Jinnah Hospital, while their past record was being scanned to find out their involvement in other criminal activities. INP

Opposition parties destabilizing Pakistan by becoming agents of foreign powers: Haleem Adil

KARACHI: Leader of the Opposition in Sindh Assembly, Haleem Adil Sheikh, alleged that opposition parties wanted to see Pakistan destabilized and they were conspiring against the country by becoming agents of foreign powers.

In a video statement issued here on Monday, he said that Pakistan is heading on the verge of progress and prosperity and is in safe and secure hands those will determinedly face every conspiracy against the homeland.

Haleem Adil said that these thieves had looted the country in the past and now, they all have come together for getting NRO while Nawaz Sharif, who fled the country under the pretext of illness and sitting in London, was hatching conspiracies against the country. The March 27th Amr bil Maroof public gathering proved the biggest political mass gathering in the history of Pakistan and it has proved that the entire nation is standing shoulder by shoulder to Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said adding that phenomenal success of the Amr bil Maroof jalsa had rendered opposition members sleepless. The opposition leader in Sindh Assembly said that opposition parties which were making hue and cry over adjournment of National Assembly session by speaker Asad Qaiser must see the double standards of Sindh Assembly that was being used as personal manor and sessions were convened at will of majority party.

Sindh Assembly was scheduled to meet on March 16, 2022 but deputy speaker while issuing a letter from home adjourned the session to March 24 although in principal the session could be adjourned after convening the session, he noted. INP



JAMSHORO: Vice Chancellor LUMHS Prof. Dr. Ikram Din Ujjan, inaugurated the Center for Psycho Social and Academic Wellbeing at LUMHS Jamshoro.

Pakistan reports 186 new coronavirus cases with 1 death

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported 186 new coronavirus cases along with 1 virus-related death during the last 24 hours, showed the data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday morning.

According to the statistics released by NCOC, after the addition of 1 new death, the toll has now surged to 30,346, which represents a ratio of 2.0 percent.

The positivity ratio of the coronavirus cases in Pakistan reaches 0.66 percent, as 186 new coronavirus cases emerged in the last 24 hours after conducting 28,159 tests. It takes the total cases tally to 1,524,086.

The number of active cases in the country is 8,314 with 420 patients in critical condition.

There were 110 more recoveries recorded in the last 24 hours as the number of total recovered cases reached 1,485,426 with a 97.5% recovery rate.

Punjab, the most populous province of the country, has reported 53 new cases in the last 24 hours, taking the provincial tally to 504,894 with 941 active cases. In Punjab, 1 more patient died of coronavirus as the death toll reached 13,552. With 77 new recoveries reported, 490,401 patients have recovered from the virus in Punjab so far.

Sindh has recorded 73 new cases during the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally to 574,803 with 6,531 active cases. There was no new death reported related to the deadly disease as the death toll in Sindh remained 8,095. With

no new recovery reported, 560,177 patients have recovered from the virus in the province so far.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recorded 39 new cases during the last 24 hours taking the tally to 218,937 with 619 active cases. The province reported no new virus-related death as the death toll remained 6,315. With 6 new recoveries, 212,003 patients have recovered from the virus in the province so far.

Balochistan recorded no new case as the tally reached 35,469 with 11 active cases. The province reported no new death as the death toll remained 378. With 1 new recovery, 35,080 patients have recovered from the virus in the province so far.

Islamabad has recorded 15 new cases during the last 24 hours taking the tally to 135,038 with 132 active cases. With no new death reported in the Federal Capital, the death toll reached 1,023. With 22 new recoveries, the number of recovered patients is 133,883 in the federal capital so far. Azad Jammu and Kashmir recorded 5 new cases during the last 24 hours as the tally reached 43,249 with 28 active cases. With no new deaths reported, the death toll remained 792. There were 3 new recoveries in the AJK as 42,429 patients have recovered so far from the virus. Gilgit-Baltistan recorded 1 new case during the last 24 hours, as the tally reached 11,696 with 52 active cases. With no new death reported in the province, the death toll remains at 191. With no recovery, the number of patients recovered from the deadly disease reached 11,453. INP

Sea breeze returns to Karachi before another severe weather spell

KARACHI: The sea breeze has restored in Karachi to have a soothing impact on Monday and Tuesday.

"Maximum temperature today, will remain between 34-36 °Celsius," Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said in its weather report. Humidity will remain between 35-45 percent today.

"The city will experience another severe weather spell from Wednesday, March 30," Chief Meteorologist Sardar Sarfaraz has said. "Maximum temperature in the city could go above 40 °Celsius," he said.

The mercury in Karachi on Tuesday likely to soar between 39-41° Celsius, according to a weather forecast.

The scorching weather spell will last upto April 1st, Chief Meteorologist said.

According to a report, the first few days of Ramadan will likely to be very hot and humid.

Sarfaraz, earlier said that the summer has begun in Karachi and the average temperature in the month of April will remain 35 degrees Celsius. He predicted some very hot and dry days ahead in the month of Ramadan. INP

Pak envoy invites Chinese Tech company to invest in Pakistan

BEIJING: The Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin ul Haque invited Chinese tech company Tencent to invest in Pakistan and get advantages of the best policies and benefits offered by Pakistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

He held a virtual meeting with senior executives of Tencent, Danny Marti, Head of Tencent Public Affairs and Global Policy, Pakistan's Consul-General in Guangzhou also attended the meeting. Tencent is a world-leading internet and technology company based in Shenzhen, China, specializing in various internet-related services and products, entertainment, artificial intelligence and technology. It is also the parent company of WeChat. INP

Will fight no-confidence motion in assembly: Spokesman Punjab Govt

LAHORE: The Spokesperson of the Punjab Government Hasaan Khawar said on Monday that they will fight against the no-confidence motion vigorously.

In a statement issued by the Spokesperson, he stated that the Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has been meeting a lot of Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) since the last two weeks. Hasaan Khawar further said that we are in full preparation to stand against the no-trust motion which is submitted by the opposition in the Punjab Assembly.

It merits mention here that, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Hamza Shehbaz on Monday said that no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar will

be a success.

Hamza Shehbaz, in a statement, said that no-trust motion has been submitted against Punjab CM and opposition has finalized strategy to oust Usman Buzdar.

Talking about next candidate for CM Punjab slot, Opposition Leader of Punjab Assembly said sending government packing is more important than announcing the candidate for the position.

Earlier in the day, in a bid to dethrone Usman Buzdar, the opposition in the Punjab Assembly submitted a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister (CM) Punjab.

The motion was submitted by a Members of Punjab Assembly (MPA) of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). The opposition has also submitted a requisition to summon the assembly session. INP



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Jamiat Ulema-e Islam (F) sits in front stage during Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Long March at sector H-9 in Federal Capital.

Downcast Rashid rues no govt allowed to complete term in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Looks like the government has sensed its defeat, as after Prime Minister Imran Khan's marathon speech last night that echoed the pleads of a beleaguered man, the interior minister too sounded pessimistic today (Monday) when the latter said that no government had completed its term in Pakistan.

Addressing a presser in Islamabad ahead of the tabling of no-confidence resolution in the National Assembly, Sheikh Rashid said that the air regarding the no-trust move would be cleared till March 31. If the resolution will be tabled today, then voting will be held on Monday and things would become clear.

However, he said the situation could be changed even in the last hour.

He rued that no government had been allowed to complete its term in Pakistan.

He refuted the notion that he was a spokesperson for state institutions. "I'm not the mouthpiece of state

institutions," he remarked.

On the claim made by Prime Minister Imran Khan in his speech last night that he had proof in the shape of a letter (which the PM showed to the audience) regarding a foreign-funded conspiracy to topple his government, the interior minister expressed his total ignorance saying he had no knowledge of the existence of such letter.

He, however, said that since Imran Khan was making an independent foreign policy, the countries which are poor, they often become target of the foreign conspiracies.

He lashed out at those who took vote in the name of Imran Khan on the PTI ticket, but deserted him. He dubbed them traitors and turncoats. He said though he fought the election on his own party ticket but he never thought of ditching Imran. He said he was heading 15th ministry while pledging his and his workers' support for Imran 'no matter he gets ministry or not'. INP

COFCO shows keen interest to invest in Pakistan

BEIJING: China Oil and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO), a leading Chinese enterprise in the agriculture and food industry expressed its willingness to establish industries and explore further the Pakistani market, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

The Ambassador of Pakistan Moin ul Haque met on with Mr. Luan Riheng, President of COFCO in Beijing where he briefed president Luan on the growing trade ties between the two countries after the launch of phase 2 of FTA, which has given duty-free access to a large number of agro products. The Ambassador noted that Pakistan is a leading producer of grains and agro products like rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, potatoes, etc. which can be exported to China to meet its market's growing needs. He invited COFCO to consider investing in the food processing business in Pakistan. A detailed briefing was also given on Pakistan's investment policies for foreign enterprises in the agriculture sector.

Mr. Luan expressed his keen inter-

est in the Pakistani market. He assured that COFCO stood ready to explore opportunities in Pakistan, benefiting from the attractive investment regime and the strong agriculture sector of Pakistan.

During the meeting, the two sides held an extensive discussion on Pakistan-China trade and investment ties and also exchanged views on possible collaboration between COFCO and Pakistan. COFCO, founded in 1949, playing a major role in China's imports of grain and other agro dairy products as well, has been actively expanding the overseas markets and continuously improving G7O logistics and storage capacity worldwide to ensure a stable overseas supply chain. It is to be noted that in China, COFCO is the largest market-oriented grain enterprise and the major importer and exporter of soybean, wheat, corn, sugar, and other agricultural products. COFCO has an annual processing capacity of over 60 million tons and provides products covering all the main categories of daily consumption. INP