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FO 'deplores' Indian advisory stopping students from seeking higher education in Pakistan



Contempt petition against President Alvi likely for not following LHC orders

Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan soon, passport issued

News Desk

Prime Minister, Former Nawaz Sharif is expected to return to Pakistan soon as the interior ministry issued his pass-port on Monday. The former pre-mier is currently in London. Sources within the interior

ministry revealed that the former premier has been issued a passport for 10 years. This developport for 10 years. This develop-ment has come after the forma-tion of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) led coalition govern-ment in the country. Shehbaz Sharif, the younger brother of Mr. Sharif is currently

the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The mainstream opposition party, the Pakistan Tehrike Insaf (PTI) has criticized the government for issuing what it called a passport to an accused wanted in corruption cases.added The Islamabad High Court (IHC) had Monday dismissed a petition



challenging the possible issuance of a diplomatic pass-port to Nawaz. The court dismissed the petition stating that it is "based on unreliable material

and is, therefore, frivolous".

Advocate Naeem Haider
Panjutha had filed a petition in
the IHC based on media reports
that said Nawaz was being issued a diplomatic passport on the instructions of his brother and newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Two weeks back, the federal

FO 'deplores' Indian advisory

stopping students from seeking

higher education in Pakistan

Grants Commission for advising its students against travelling to Pakistan for the purpose of seeking higher education and sought a

"clarification" from the Indian government over the matter.

The statement from the Foreign Office comes in the wake of a notice issued by the All India Council for Technical Education and University of Grants Commission of India warning that "Indian nationals or overseas Indian citizen who intended to take admissions in any Pakistani educational institute or degree programme would not be eligible for employment or higher education in India."

However, it added that migrants and their children who had received higher education in Pakistan would be eligible for seeking Indian employment, provided they were granted citizenship and obtained security clearance.

obtained security clearance.

Pakistan strongly condemned the notice as "tyrannical authoritari-

Pakistan strongy contented the notice as tyramical authoritarianism". "It is regrettable that driven by its incurable obsession with Pakistan, the Government of India is unabashedly coercing the students in order to deter them from pursuing quality education of their choice," the FO said.

It stated that the contents of the notice had exposed the BJP-RSS combine's deep-seated ideological animus and chronic hostility towards Pakistan.INP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a prepara-

Deputy Chairman Senate stresses

need to reduce trade deficit

between Pakistan and Australia

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi has stressed the need of reducing trade deficit between Pakistan and Australia. "Business Communities and TDAP should be sent to Australia for showcasing expo's which will accelerate the Business activities."

The Deputy Chairman Senate was talking to a delegation led by the Member of the Legislative Council (MCL) of New South Wales of Sydney, Australia, H.E Shaoquett Chaher Moselmane comprising of ten Charity-cum Business Community members while called on him here at the Parliament House on Monday. During the meeting, Mr Shaoquett Chaher Moselmane said that the trade volume between Pakistan and Australia is under two billion dollars which need to be elevated given the size of the Pakistani Community. Mirza Muhammad Afridi underlined that the existing cordial ties between the two countries need to be enhanced

the existing cordial ties between the two countries need to be enhanced further as the vast potential exists for enriching bilateral cooperation in politics, trade and economy, agriculture, technical education and vocational training science & technology and sports. The Deputy Chairman Senate apprised the delegation that Gwadar will be a game-changer in the entire

region and we are inviting countries to invest in Gwadar. He underscored that opening the central Asia gateway and making transportation opera-

tional will pave way to the upward trajectory of our bilateral relations. Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi urged the Charity cum Business Community members to facilitate Pakistan with advance equipment for disabled citizens.H. E Shaoquett Chaher Moselmane said that over 125,000 strong diasporas and more than 11, 500 Pakistani students in

Australia are a source of great Strength for Australia, adding that Australia plans to set up Australian faculties in Islamabad and create opportunities

tory meeting on upcoming Saudia visit.

'clarification" from the Indian government over the matter.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday slammed India's University

government directed the Ministry of Interior to renew the passports of the ex-prime minister and former finance minister Ishaq Dar.

Imran Khan's government had refused to renew Nawaz's passrefused to renew Nawaz's pass-port after it expired in February last year but then-interior minis-ter Sheikh Rasheed had said if the PML-N supremo wanted to return he could be issued a special certificate.

The PML-N supremo was granted an eight-week bail on medical grounds in October 2019, and a month later, he was allowed to travel abroad for treatment for four weeks he is still in London to date.

Khan had repeatedly lashed out at Nawaz for going abroad for treatment, but earlier in February, he noted that letting the PML-N supremo leave Pakistan was a "major mistake" of his government.

Bolan mail

collision with

goods train

leaves 4 injured

QUETTA:Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo chairing a high-level meeting about the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA): Photo provided by DGPR **Balochistan Govt approves** establishment of Cadet College for Gwadar

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Balochistan govern-ment has approved the establishment of the Cadet College for Gwadar on

of the Cadet College for Gwadar on Monday. This decision was made at a meeting of the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) at the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo presided over the meeting. Member National Assembly (MNA), Muhammad Aslam Bhootani, MPA from Gwadar, Mir Hamal Kalmati, and others para-Asiam Bhootani, MFA from Gwadar, Mir Hamal Kalmati, and others par-ticipated in the meeting. The meeting approved the issuance of NOC for the establishment of the Cadet

The meeting made a number of

Ibrar Ahmed

targeted him.

witnessed.

tribesman on Monday.

men had opened fire and killed a

The incident provoked the peo-

ple to stage a protest demonstra-

tion and block the Quetta-Karachi highway to vent their

anger. Long queues of vehicles on both sides of the road were

The angry protesters brought

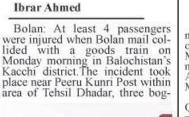
the dead body of the victim on

important decisions regarding GDA. The meeting was briefed about the Gwadar town planning and decided

Gwadar town planning and decided to make amendments to the GDA act 2022.GDA responsible for the development of Gwadar. CM Bizenjo
Speaking on the occasion, CM Balochistan said that GDA was responsible for the development and prosperity of the port city of Gwadar. He directed the GDA and other concerned quarters to protect the inter-He directed the GDA and other con-cerned quarters to protect the inter-ests of the indigenous people of Gwadar while developing the old city. CM Bizenjo urged the con-cerned departments to make sure participation of local people and fishermen in the process of develop-ment. "Rights of indigenous people must be protected", he directed the officials. CM Balochistan directed the GDA to make sure provision of clean drinking water to the people of the port city. CM's comments have come after the people of Gwadar have suffered because of the scarcity of water in the area.

A number of development projects launched in Balochistan Quddus Bizenjo said that the pres-ent government has launched a nument government has faunched a num-ber of development projects to bring the least developed parts of the province with other parts of the country. He assured that investors would be provided security and all possible support in Gwadar and other parts of Balochistan to complete dayslopment projects. development projects.

"We are trying to create a conducive atmosphere for investors", CM Bizenjo said.





gies of the train derailed from rail-way track and at least four passenway track and at least four passen-gers were injured. Soon after the incident residents of nearby vil-lages rushed to the site and fol-lowed by rescue operation, while after receiving information about the incident rescue team of Pakistan railway along with technical staff also rushed to the site from Quetta and Sibi junctions. The collision caused suspension of service between Quetta and other parts of the country. Pakistan Railway's technical staff is busy in repair of the boggies.

Current load-shedding result of PTI's inefficient power policies: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the current issue of power load-shedding in the country was due to the policies of the govern-ment of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) which failed to address the problem of electricity generation in its tenure. The PTI government neither purchased fuel in time nor repaired power plants. Hence the current load-shedding, he said in a tweet. Shehbaz Sharif recalled that previously, Pakistan Muslim eague leader Mian Nawaz Sharif during his government had ended the worst load-shedding in five

> Sheikh Rashid terms country's situation disturbing, worrying

RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Sunday termed the current coun-try's situation "disturbing and wor-

rying"
Sheikh Rashid, in a tweet, said that the people who should have been behind bars were being given important posts in the government, while those whose respect was essential for the sake of the country

were becoming questionable.Rashid said, "The agents of imperialist forces have exalted their dirty deeds."Former prime minister Imran Khan's call for Islamabad march will surprise the world as it would be fierce. inp



the main highway to mount pressure on the authorities to arrest

the killers behind the attack Subsequently, the district administration of Khuzdar held successful negotiations with protesters, and the highway was opened for traffic. Passengers suffered as a result of the blockade in the scorching heat.

Contempt petition against President Alvi likely for not following LHC orders

Quetta-Karachi highway

blocked at Wadh against

ISLAMABAD: A contempt petition is likely to be filed against President Dr Arif Alvi over his indifference to implement the orders of the Lahore High Court (LHC) to appoint a representative for administering the oath to Chief Minister-elect Hamza Shehbaz.

It is learnt that the legal experts have found a point to file a contempt petition against Arif Alvi who has once appeared in court as an accused by relinquishing his impunity as president under Article 248

of the Constitution.
It is reported that Chief Minister-elect Hamza Shehbaz will file the contempt petition against the president in the LHC today.

"President Arif Alvi has been acquitted by a special court as an accused in the PTV attack case only after relinquishing his impunity," legal experts said.

If the president can appear in the court by relinquishing his impunity, contempt proceedings can also be initiated against him," they added. "The president himself has

surrendered his constitutional immunity, so the contempt peti-tion can be filed against him,"

they stated.

Hamza Shehbaz is likely to file a contempt petition against Arif Alvi, and also a plea for the implementation of the LHC decision to appoint a represen-tative for administering oath to him.INP

Imran Khan to address Multan Rally on May 29: Mehmood Qureshi

MULTAN: Referring to large public gatherings of Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaf (PTI), former for-eign minister and PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that never in the history have masses so warmly welcomed a party after its ouster than the receptions being hosted by them in the honour of PTI now.

Addressing the party's corner meeting at Daulat Gate Chowk in Multan, his hometown, on Sunday night, he said that people had rejected the 'imported' government. "The way people are turning out at the PTI rallies is enough to show that they are not happy with show that they are not happy with the change of faces," he remarked. He urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to

simultaneously hear the foreign funding cases against Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), adding if it did not do so, it would be safe to assume that it was part of a conspiracy to ban PTI and declare former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan 'ineligible' to contest the general elec-

The history of these political parties which today have formed parties which today have formed the coalition government at Center is an open secret," he said, adding, "Both PPP and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) have seldom been cordial towards each other. Similarly, Prime Minister and PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif had once said that he would drag PPP Co-Chairman on roads for corruption." on roads for corruption.

Asking the gathering whether they would vote for the party's 'turncoats' in the next elections, former foreign minister said that the PTI had already sent references against these 'deserters'

Informing that Imran Khan would address party's rally in Multan on May 29, he asked the workers to start making arrange-ments for the event from now.INP

to start student exchange programs between the two countries. The meeting discussed Islamophobia and ways to tackle this challenge in detail. Member of the Legislative Council (MCL) of New South Wales of Sydney, Australia enlightened the Pakistani side that laws exist to protect the social and religious rights of every citizen, however, further legislative reforms are being made to counter it. INP Fuel prices: Miftah says 'no chance' of immediate hike but won't rule out eventual subsidy reversal

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Monday said there was "no chance" of an immediate hike in petrol prices in the next few days but did not rule out the possibility revising prices on or after May 1, saying that even if the latter route was taken the government will have to deliberate upon various factors before giving the go-

Speaking to senior journalist Hamid Mir on his Geo News show, Ismail said the public should not worry about any impending price hike in the next three to four days. "If there is a surge in fuel prices, it will be done after consideration of multiple factors including the summary submitted by the Ogra.

Miftah's statement comes a day after he, during his Washington visit, told US think tank Atlantic Council that the government will have to increase the price of petroleum products to get Pakistan's economy back on track and to revive the stalled bailout programme with the IMF.

The IMF in 2019 approved a \$6 billion back.

The IMF, in 2019, approved a \$6 billion loan over three years for Pakistan but disbursement has been slowed by concerns about the pace of reforms

In the interview today, Miftah said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would also question him about measures being taken to insulate the poor when he eventually does got to him recommending a petrol price hike. "Thus, I also have to make that plan, which

"We will have to review subsidies given to the rich segment in



order to ease inflationary pressure on the poor," the minister added.

'No plan to reverse SBP legislation'

When asked whether the legislation on SBP autonomy will be reversed as the PML-N had strongly opposed it while in opposition, Ismail said he still believed there was still much to be reviewed on the matter.

"However, I am not allowed to be distracted at the moment. I am totally focused on the IMF programme. Currently, the government has no plan to make changes to the SBP autonomy that might affect our ties with the IMF."

The SBP Amendment Bill, 2021, was approved by the Senate on

Jan 28 this year amid strong protest from the opposition parties, primarily the PPP and the PML-N.

The bill promises complete autonomy to the central bank and places a complete restriction on the government's borrowing from the central bank. However, the government now can borrow at a market rate from commercial banks, which will benefit private banks owned by business elites, according to the opposition.

The passage of the bill was one of the conditions set by the IMF for the release of \$1 billion to the country.

In response to another question, the minister said the government had no plans to amend any law at least for a year. He vowed the government would take measures for the facilita-tion of the poor in days to come. Web Desk

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

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 lawredges. 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 decentraliza-

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 Adul 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 Quddus 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

Strong school culture guarantees quality edu-cation, which enables students to compete on national and international levels. Teachers, parents, society, and stu-dents' close coordination ensure a strong

school culture. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, commonly known as the Bacha Khan termed educating people as a sacred cause. This was one of the underlying reasons behind K h y b e r Pukhtoonkhwa's improved education indicator as compared to Sindh and Balochistan. Although, Punjab has made considerable progress in improving its key social indicators.

According to the curcomprehensive studies of both educationists and anthropologists revealed that strong school culture is an intensely held and widely shared norms, unwritten rules, assumptions, and unspoken beliefs that shape and narrate how its members think and do their jobs. However, the prime and first member of the school culture is the stu-dent which is the founmodern insights into

Significance of Strong

School Culture

whole with the commu-

teaching and learning in On one hand, the teacher is the second prominent and so-called the school. Subsequently, a positive and robust culture blindly follows the predeter-mined rules and policies backbone of the education system. On the other hand, parents and irrespective of any sort of affiliation. The other feature of culture is that it stands for a decent structure for giving teachers, staff, students a voice in soluting prob community are the assisting aspects in the school culture. Therefore, a strong culture is a fundamental requirement for making a smooth social climate inside the school that is completely intended to a voice in, solving prob-lems and taking and sharing responsibilities and decisions. Last but not the least, an effecprovide a safe and caring environment for high learning and give a environment for tive culture also provides the frame of partmutual sense of owner-ship to all participants as well. The following nership to join the stu-dent with the teacher, a teacher with the teacher, parents with a teacher, culture also demands a significant intellectual and the school as a

nity.

By and large, such progressive culture provides a testimonial sense of identity to all connecting factors. This kind of mutual identity cement the elements of commitment among all participants to look towards high horizons instead of self-interests. Consequently, it regu-larized the moral behavioral standards by avoiding all mental tur-moil and bringing the center of education under vigilant social control to work only for promoting the essence of quality teaching and learning. Keeping in mind all the aforesaid scenarios of the strong education culture, however, Balochistan's education system is entirely working in an obsolete manner. The most prominent aspects of school culture in the form of student, teacher, parents, the community absent from the early front of decent school culture. There is a huge vacuum between a student and the teacher. The teacher does not feel bothered to examine and identify the cog-

nitive abilities of a stu-

Climate

Syed Mansoor Ahmed:

dent. Same as the stu-dent always opts to the path of escapism instead of asking the instructor.

More importantly, the parent's contribution is just equal to zero-sum addition. There is a lack of honest and open communication between a munication between a teacher and parents. They do not come together as a collective body to discuss the values and goals of school culture in education. While school culture is a widely chared place. a widely shared phe-nomenon that directly demands the involvement of all actors in the decision-making process that is school culture. It is a firm belief among all the educationists that the school culture cannot be run by any single indi-vidual. In addition, it always required collec-tive effective measure-ments only to deliver the goal of quality teaching and meaningful learning as a sole out-

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Politics and the Pakistani diaspora

Historically, 'diaspora' had a very specific mean-ing - mostly ascribed to Jews and Armenians' dis-persions around the world – epitomizing the historical oppression and neglect these communi-ties had to face in their lands

These cases were pre-sumed to be the paradig-matic and classical cases of diaspora communities who were presumably 'sojourning' in these new lands they now inhabited, until their homelands became liveable again. But as the dreams of homelands got deferred, either because of the continuous tumult or uncertists, in their bade these tainty in their lands, these communities built their own cultural enclaves in the lands they now inhab-ited, marked by a pre-dominance of continuous homeland orientation, residential segregation, the creation of cultural and vernacular schools for the education of their children, boundary main tenance through religion, prohibition from outmarriage, resistance to assimilation to local cultures and a general aloofness and apolitical atti-tude towards local politics except in the areas which affected them directly.

But over the years, 'diaspora' became an allencompassing term now used to describe labour, migrants, and expatriates living abroad Pakistanis, from Indians, Bangladeshis to Filipino,

Korean, Turkish commu-nities, among others. Moreover, these dias-Moreover, these diasporic communities, contrary to the classical apolitical cases of the diaspora, maintain deep social and economic ties with their homelands and actively participate in the homeland politics. Sometimes this support gets overzealous with instances of these communities supporting ter-

instances of these communities supporting terrorist and even ultranationalist forces back home – owing to which Benedict Anderson defined them as "long-distance nationalists".

In the last decade (especially since the post-2008 financial crisis) as populist and right-wing politicians captured political space around the globe, a huge support for these leaders came from their diasporic communitheir diasporic communi-ties. In 2014, the BJP in India amassed huge financial contributions from Indians living abroad; in fact, according living to some estimations, the biggest fraction of support for party funds, after neoliberal tycoons like Ambani, came from Indians living abroad Moreover, the RSS, the militant and parent wing of the BJP, has a history of galvanizing Indians abroad, in a bid to popu-larise the Hindutva message beyond Indian bor-

Similarly, the Turkish diaspora vouches for Erdogan's authoritarian Ottomanism. Vicktor Orban is another right-wing populist politician who is extremely popular among ethnic Hungarians living abroad. Imran Khan's popularity among the Pakistani diaspora is another example of another example of strongmen and larger-than-life politics finding

than-life politics finding resonance among the diaspora population.

To use this popularity among the overseas Pakistanis for electoral gains, the PTI in its tenure passed a bill allowing overseas Pakistanis to vote in the elections. This is again not an anomaly as multiple other countries have either been considering either been considering or have allowed their diaspora communities to vote. For example, Canada and Greece have allowed their expats to wote, while discussions in the UK, New Zealand, India and Nepal are underway to allow the diaspora vote. The PTI was also heavily reliant to the remitter of t on the remittances of expatriates for 'alleviating' the economic woes of the country and also for its own party funds in the 2018 elections. The most recent example was after the party's exit from power, when Imran Khan in a video message requested expatriates to fund the party for the impending election campaign.But what is it about the Pakistani diaspora's involvement in homeland politics which makes it a corrosive endeavour? It

appeared that after Imran Khan's government was ousted after a successful no-confidence vote, the Pakistani diaspora had a huge meltdown. Expatriates gathered around the world to protest against the move, espousing the PTI's nar-rative of deeming its exit as a conspiracy spear-headed by the US – sup-ported by alleged "trai-tors" who have dissented against the PTI – in collu-sion with "corrupt" and dynastic "monsters", the PML-N and PPP.

PML-N and PPP.
Not surprising, but this
was the most recent
example of diaspora failing to understand the
internal contradictions
which plague Pakistani
politics. The diaspora
instead augmented the
bandwagon of conspiracy bandwagon of conspiracy to make sense of Imran Khan's exit, which far from a conspiracy, was just another episode of a civilian government forming a rift with the emperor. They fail to understand that Imran Khan's ascent to power was favoured by a hybrid compromise, in which a team of electables was assembled for the PTI in the 2018 elections, which helped them marginally have a lead over other parties and form a coalition government. A con-tinued and entrenched control by the unelected in the economy design and foreign affairs of the state was a price paid in return. As the chasm appeared in the hybrid

climate by promoting

By Adil Zahoor model starting from late 2021 – mainly due to disagreement appointments at key positions – the former hand of patronage was pulled back, providing the then opposition the opportunity to mobilize the same electables against him.Imran Khan's governance, just like his populist counter-" brief and rapidly closing window secure a live-able future". That's the sobering assessment made by scientists on the United entists on the United N a t i o n s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which earlier this week published its latest report, on the impacts of the climate crisis. In it, the IPPC 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. like his populist counter-parts in the world, was marked by a predominant reliance on rhetoric and a meagre focus on governance with continuous maligning of the opposition parties, a neoliberal economic vision with no clarity, extra-parliamentarism, threats of authoritarian steps to undo the 18th Amendment misor. 18th Amendment, misogynistic and callous state-ments against women and rape victims and intermit-tent use of the religion card to salvage the declining popularity caused due to skyrocketdecades 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 ing inflation and debilitating economic condi-tions. The inability of the Pakistani diaspora east Africa, south Asia, Central and South America, small island grasp these nuances of Pakistani politics, its controlled democracy, and developing states and the Arctic. These regions -which have some of the the ceaseless predicament of the working classes, and the religious, ethnic and gender minorities, makes it a politically regressive entity. One had hoped that those livlowest per capita carbon emissions in the world -are now suffering the

> natural resources.
>
> Not only are these countries and communities faced with displace-ment, food shortages,

effects of a crisis that has

been driven and exacer-bated by the looting of

their lands for wealth and

reparations more, unless there is con-certed global action, the report also asserts that many losses are already happening now, and are irreversible. This situa-tion is a result of the fail-

tion 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 1' 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 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 prices and some of those crisis (and some of those projects actually increase climate vulnerability). Those communities are

tance.

By Daniel Willis 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

The demand for loss and damage compensa-tion has also been heavily resisted at every previ-ous COP. At COP26, the establishment of a new funding pot was rejected and almost all references were removed in the final were removed in the final agreement, the Glasgow Climate Pact 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 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 ommunities. Sub-Saharan 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 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.

Autonomy on an empty pocket

The writer (she/her) as a PhD in Education.

The dream of free. quality higher education is an ideal only few countries have been able to realize. Among them are Germany, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, France, Austria, Denmark. Luxembourg, and the Czech Republic mostly well-to-do western European countries.

Pakistan is a country of 230 million, much larger than any of the countries on this list. Although the country only has a modest 220-or-so higher education institutions (HEIs), its low GDP means most of them remain perpetually starved for resources. Article 25A of the constitution of Pakistan declares education a right for all citizens, but this right extends only up to age sixteen - which means it does not include higher education.

Question: In a country like ours, where resources are limited, and assigning them to one priority means snatching them away from another, to what degree (if at all) should higher education be subsidized by the state? Should the resources we have be spent in the service of quality raising

improving access? Have we calculated return on investment for different universities and programmes? These challenges

are not unique to Pakistan. The cost of higher education has been rising across the globe. The Great Recession of 2008 was a blow to budgets of HEI across the globe, particularly those supported in whole or part by public funds. The slow-down in the global economy due to Covid-19 in 2020 and 2021 was yet another blow. Universities across the world are grappling with similar

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend a series of meetings with stu-dents, faculty and vice-chancellors universities in a par-ticular province. The questions that were put to attendees were along the same lines: "Tell us, what are your problems?" Students and faculty were able to provide a list of concrete issues broadly supported by attendees. I was particularly impressed by the eloquence of several students and some

reasonable proposals for their resolution. The session with the VCs was more lack-luster. They had only one thing to say: we

are autonomous, and we are capable of solving our problems ourselves, just give us funds. Can a university be truly autonomous if it is fully dependent on public funds for sur-

vival? The shortage of funds that these universities face is not unique to Pakistan - it is a global challenge right now. What is different is how universities globally are meet-ing this challenge versus our universities at

home.

The argument for at least subsidizing or making higher education free is that it is a public good: educated citizens will be more productive and be of greater benefit to their communities and ulti-mately the country. That is a valid argument, but only if universities can demonstrate that the education they impart has that desired effect. How many universi-ties in Pakistan publish any meaningful statistics about their programmes, such as employment rates of graduates after six months / a year?

This can be as simple as a single table see University of Toronto as an example h e r e : https://data.utoronto.c a/graduation-employ-ment-and-govern-

ment-loan-default-rates-2018/). In the S, the Department of Education requires all universities to report the average annual cost of attendance, median earnings after graduation (broken down by pro-grammes), percentage of students who return after their first year, and publishes these statistics (see: https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/).

Simply put, if universities want to lay claim to providing education for the larger public good and (in case of private HEls) justify higher tuition costs, they need to back that up by reporting the rate-of-return on their programmes. In another op-ed in these pages a few weeks ago ('Not weeks ago ('Not Skilled for Work', March 7, 2022) I had dissected the data of 400,000 applicants to 240 (mostly vocational) training pro-grammes made available able under the Kamyab Jawan programme. A standout observation was that 28 percent, or 106,198, applications from people ng BA/BS, were holding MA/MS or PhD including degrees, many from the country's flagship public universities. These

universities. These numbers cast doubt on

universities

claims that they are offering relevant pro-grams that are an equalizing force. It is clear that some

ing in comfortable democracies might have

developed some sense of

democratic plurality and why democratic and con-

stitutional dispensations are important for fragile

universities offer a better rate-of-return on the investment in a college education than others (whether it is made by students in the form of tuition fees or by the state in the form of subsidies). That provides an argument to tie public funding to performance, so money is spent where it does more good. If a pro-gramme offers a good rate-of-return it is not unreasonable to ask students to shoulder a bigger share of the cost. Some subsidies can still be provided on the basis of need and/or merit. If the rate-of-return on a programme is low. higher education market forces will eventually eliminate it.

The argument that universities offer something that techni-cal and vocational programs cannot (the ability to think and learn independently through one's life) is weak in our context. It suggests that even a strong, revamped associate degree or vocational training programmes are somehow inherently incapable of broaden-ing students' horizons and impart life skills.

Naya Pakistan 2.0

change in script was in the offing, especially once the foreign conspiracy agenda was put to rest. As the dust settled on the no-trust move, the PTI's narrative teetered on a three-way pivot – pointing the blame indirectly towards state institutions and blatantly towards foreign powers. for a few days, before finally zeroing in on what Naya Pakistan 2.0 election

comprise. Imran Khan's show of political might since his ouster has been remark-able to say the least, spontaneous calls ushering in waves of supporters to his rallies. What is interesting to note is the carefully crafted script Khan and his PTI are sticking to as they muster up the momentum and continue to mobilize support in the

rhetoric will collectively

run up to the next polls. Khan's tirades in political rallies have been very clear, simple and to the point. Making an obvious connection with his support base - the urban middle class - a naive subset of political youth. While pre-2018 rhetoric centered on anti-corruption, and how accountability will fix the country's prob-lems, the new rhetoric pre-2023 is about how national sovereignty is at stake and how being an independent country will automatically solve all our problems. No strategy, just gimmickry. In both of his public addresses, Khan

has not once mentioned any of the myriad of prob-lems the country faces, let alone offer solutions. He has not talked about development and economic reforms or what his next plan is to bring the country out of the current economic mess that the PTI government left it in.

Instead, he is building on his overarching mantra Pakistan's saviour telling his support base that only a sovereign independent state, free from the clutches and influence of imperial powers, will lead the country to pros-perity. He smartly pivots between calling himself as somebody who is not anti-West, priding himself as having gotten respect from Western leaders because of his stature as a free independent Muslim leader who doesn't bow down to anyone, while also capitalizing on an inherent anti-American

sentiment. Meanwhile, Khan has directed his guns towards the judiciary, attacking the latter by painting himself as the victim, having made sacrifices for the independence of the judi-ciary, and now facing the brunt of their supposed activism. Interestingly, the mounting criticism is to ensure a continuous pres-sure on the judiciary for a number of cases that are to follow - the most impor-tant being the foreign funding case that has been pending for the last several years with the Election Commission of Pakistan. The ploy is simple and

By Rahat Hussain multipronged: continue to ratchet up the narrative that due to foreign interference, the sovereignty of the state is at stake, and compromised leaders have been installed courtesy external powers. He will endure with his brand of division politics to reof divisive politics to cre-ate a wedge in the civil society and in national institutions – all the while targeting the judiciary to mount pressure that the latter's constitutional safeguarding came at the cost of his populist support and the will of the people. This is exactly like the same anticorruption fairy

dust Khan sparkled before 2018. These ideas sell well for the cult that follows him for multiple rea-sons. The youth bulge forms a major chunk of his support base, a demodisconnect from the stark realities of governance and sees his cultivated image as a political cru-sader in the chequered political history of the country. The narrative is also simplistic and res-onates with the naive urban middle-class electorate that is hustling in an age of disinformation, populism, economic misery all in an environment where any narrative, bereft of rational proof and logic, can be conve-

niently acceptable. Irrespective of all this, it is important to note that Khan's brand of politics didn't turn into election victory for him - both in 2013 as well as 2018 without engineered.

Dua Zehra: Karachi police claims 'tracing' missing girl

KARACHI: In what can be termed the biggest breakthrough in Dua Zehra case, Karachi Zehra police on Monday claimed to have traced the 14-year-old girl miss-

ing for about a week.

Dua Zehra, a 14-yearold girl went missing
from her neighbourhold in Karachi's Alfalah Town last week Now, Alfalah police has claimed that the missing girl has been "traced" and is right now in "another progree"

province". Dua Zehra's family had approached police, hours after she went missing from near her house in Alfalah Town, and had appealed through a number of channels including a welfare organization to help them find their daughter. Her father and mother

even said that they will not take any legal action against the abductor if Dua Zehra is returned

Police, however, are yet to reveal in which province the missing girl has been found.

The police had earlier carried out a raid in Sanghar on a tip off but only found another girl who was forcefully kept there. No movement on camera'Since Dua Zehra went missing, her father and mother had talked to a number of media chanous disappearance which kept the whole nation on

edge.
Her parents say she went out to throw away some trash bags at about 12:30 PM from her first floor residence to a place in her alley but never

returned. "The place (where Dua Zehra went to place trash bags) is seconds away from my house and even some labourers were working there but they say they never saw her, a boy in neighbourhood claims he saw her return-ing towards her house but she never did," her father told a web channel INP

Pakistan has huge potential for cherry tomato cultivation: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Cherry tomatoes are becoming more popular as an alternative crop, particularly among small farms that rely on family work and

organic management, WealthPK reported. Cherry tomatoes are Solanaceae fruits that are tiny, round, and cherrysized. They're popular in Brazil because of their versatility and ease of use versatility and ease of use in salads, appetizers, snacks, sauces, and soups, among other things. Cherry tomato seeds were first brought from Canada, while the plantlets were first produced in greenhouses with somewhat regulated climatic conditions in Pakistan in 2010.

Plant tissue culture and cutting procedures were

cutting procedures were used to generate disease-free and healthy plants at a large scale after the initial cultivation of seeds. After that, the newly propagated plants were allowed to mature and

Dr Nadar K, Senior Scientific Officer at the Agricultural Research (NARC), told WealthPK that for high-value horti-cultural crops like cherry tomatoes, protected growing structures such as greenhouses or high tunnels are the ideal

option. Dr Nadar said tomato

Business leader underlines importance of equi-

table distribution of wealth, says money flowing from rich to poor resulting in poverty

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business

Group Pakistan President

Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen

and Intellectuals Forum &

All Karachi Industrial Alliance and Former Provincial Minister Mian

Zahid Hussain has said

that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif should

ensure equitable distribu-

tion of wealth through

comprehensive economic

reforms after the agree-ment with IMF.

Talking to business community on Monday, he said that comprehen-sive reforms are neces-

sary as money is flowing

out of the pockets of the poor into the coffers of

the rich, making the rich richer and richer, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain

said that resources should

flow from rich to poor so

that the masses can get

some relief and the pres-

is an annual plant grown in the warm season and has an average optimum growing temperature of 25°C to 29°C. In 25°C to 29°C. In Pakistan, its two harvests are typically grown in the spring and autumn sea-

sons.
Tomatoes have grown in importance as a fruit wegetable in the country, with a total annual production of around 529,600 tonnes and an average yield of 9.2 tonnes per hectare. As tomatoes generate more tomatoes generate more income than many other crops, they can quickly recoup their original investment and provide recurring income to meet administration costs," he

said. Dr Nadar said cherry tomatoes come in a variety of colors, including orange, yellow, and white. "Growing cherry tomato plants on the lawn would be ideal, but they can also be grown in note." can also be grown in pots or tomato development

bags," he said.
According to Dr Nadar,
Cherry tomatoes may be cultivated in any type of environment. However, it would be preferable if the plantation was completed after the last frost. This is for the purpose of com-mercial cultivation. If seeds in tiny se someone wants to culti-

HYDERABAD: Chamber of commerce and industry President

PM needs to ensure comprehensive

economic reforms: Mian Zahid

ent government can become popular among

shrinking while the num-

ber of poor is increasing in the country due to neg-

ative policies which must

be changed, he added. The veteran business

leader said that former chairman of FBR Shabbar

Zaidi has said that the

country has gone bank-rupt and the present gov-

ernment is facing the

satisfactory therefore the

improve the tax structure

and introduce other reforms to provide relief

to the masses. He said that the gov-

ernment should also con-

sult the experts who have

because of their views as

those who have been test-

ed several times will not be willing to change things. The government

been

The country is facing load-shedding, there is a shortage of diesel and the overall situation is not

should

invited

The middle-class is

Adeel Siddiqui addressing a press conference at HCCI.

the masses

aftershocks.

government

packing containers with potting soil," he said. Dr Nadar said pest con-

trol for cherry tomatoes is necessary to ensure that the crops are pest-free.
This can be accomplished
by planting basil and
marigold closer together
with cherry tomatoes.
Other pest control measures will be implemented in accordance with the recommendations of the local nursery administra-

tion.
"If you take adequate care of your cherry tomato plants, you may expect a good output from the middle of summer through the end of the fall season," said Dr Nadar. He said the significant

price fluctuation during different times of the year and its cyclical tremors are the main factors impeding tomato produc-

impeding tomato produc-tion profitability.

According to Dr Nadar, major production issues mentioned by farmers include high seed costs, poor seed quality, a lack of research for disease and harsh climate-resist-ant hybrid seed varieties, a high incidence of severe a high incidence of severe pest attacks due to lowquality pesticides, a lack of proper training regard-ing production technologies resulting in high pro-duction costs, and labor

should avoid popular

decisions and prefer direct subsidies for the

poor. Import of cars and

luxuries should be stopped, all unnecessary

banned, theft and line losses in the power and gas sector should be stopped and state-run companies should be sold without delay be

without

demanded.

should

delay,

Mian Zahid Hussain

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the current account deficit is now at 14 billion dollars which will be 19 billion dollars by the end of this fiscal. \$18 billion have been arranged in the first

nine months of the current

fiscal year while the gov-ernment will have to arrange 15 to 16 billion

dollars in the next three

months as forex reserves

are depleting at a rapid

pace. He said that circular

debt in the electricity and gas sectors should be con-

trolled which is damaging the fragile economy.INP

decisions, take



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Pakistan Rana Sanauallah addressing to the workers at local hall in City.

PU, PEI join hands for collective efforts to eradicate polio

LAHORE: Punjab University and the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) have entered into a landmark partnership to work together to fight misinformation and dispal misconcentions in the together to fight misinformation and dispel misconceptions in the fight against the crippling disease like polio. The partnership has been signed by the Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad and Ms Syedah Ramallah Ali, the head of the Emergency Operations Centre in Punjab (EOCP).

As part of the partnership, the Punjab University and EOCP will support and strengthen the efforts of the polio eradication initiative and jointly contribute to the national cause. The partnership is aimed at providing

nership is aimed at providing support in carrying out qualita-tive research of different cate-gories to get greater insight and a comprehensive understanding of behaviors that influence the of behaviors that influence the vaccination of a child. The EOCP and PU will jointly develop interventions to enhance the demand of vaccinations in communities in the critical phase of eradication. The partnership envisages collaboration in research. The PU may provide students in relevant communities for research data collection.

The partnership will further pave the way for PU students to act as influencers for the polio programme. In his message, the

programme. In his message, the vice chancellor of the Punjab University Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad hailed the progress achieved in polio eradication and pledged to support all efforts towards the national cause.

"The progress towards the eradication of this crippling disease, which is endemic in only two countries globally, including Pakistan and Afghanistan, is extraordinary. The programment's extraordinary. The government's leadership and efforts towards the cause need support and appreciation from all quarters of the community," the Vice Chancellor stated.

Despite two extremely difficult years, 2019 and 2020, the
Pakistan polio programme has
been able to control polio cases
and circulation. In 2021, only one polio case was reported nationally as compared to 84 the previous year. "A long gap in campaigns, the lockdown and the overall pandemic emergency the overall pandemic emergency affected polio eradication efforts. But owing to government leadership and the hard work of polio teams very fruitful results have been achieved," said Ms Syedah Ramallah Ali, the coordinator of the Emergency Operations Centre Punjab. The EOCP Coordinator emphasized "I am conscious of

emphasized, "I am conscious of the fact that there is long way to go. Rumors and misinformation

have the potential to erode the gains made in polio eradication. In this phase, we need the sup-port of parents and civil society. Therefore.INP

Govt to devise strategy against PTI'S Islamabad long march after Eid

ISLAMABAD: The ruling alliance is mulling over to sit together after Eid to plan a strategy against Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) march towards Islamabad besides also deciding the fate of President Arif Ali and Chairman

According to sources privy to the matter, heads of the ruling alliance and parliamentary leaders would sit together after Eid to consult over strategy to deal with PTI's march towards Islamabad announced by Imran Khan.

"The meeting will also mull over an alternate for President Arif Alvi" they said adding PPP and

Alvi," they said, adding PPP and JUI-F have already proposed their names for the presidency.

Although the government does not have enough number-two third majority of the Parliament- to deseat Arif Alvi, the sources said that the meeting would mull over to work on PTI members who have resigned from National Assembly. "Steps needed to increase pres-

sure on president will also be mulled over," they said, adding that expert opinion on the matter will also be sought from legal fra-ternity.INP

IHC suspends order directing ECP to decide foreign funding case in 30 days

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday suspended verdict of single bench directing Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to decide foreign funding case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in 30 days.

Chief Justice IHC Athar Minallah and Justice Babar Sattar heard the PTI's intra-court

The bench suspending the

The bench suspending the order issued notices to 17 political parties and ECP. The court sought their reply on May 17.

It merits mention that PTI had filed an intra-court appeal against the decision of the single-bench of IHC directing the ECP to decide foreign funding case against the party in 30 days. Asad Umar, the party is secretary general, filed the appeal against the order.

against the order. In its petition, the PTI has accused the commission of targeting only the PTI and has sought the court's directive to the ECP to also decide similar cases against the PML-N, PPP and all other political parties

within a month.

The PTI had made the ECP and 17 political parties respon-dents in the case INP

Govt needs to review decision of industrial amnesty scheme withdrawal: ICCI

ISLAMABAD: President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Muhammad Shakeel Munir has expressed serious concerns over the government intentions to consider withdrawing the tax amnesty scheme for industrial amnesty scheme for industrial sector under the IMF pressure and termed it a disappointing move as it would hurt the indus-trial growth in the country and shake the confidence of investor who wanted to invest in Pakistan under this scheme.

He urged that the government should reconsider its intention and not to withdraw the tax amnesty scheme for the industrial sector as it would have a neg-

Pakistan on 25th of next month.

and unconstitutional.INP

June 14.

ative impact on the economic growth of the country. In a statement issued here on

Monday, Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that ICCI has been constantly stressing upon the government to announce a package for industrial sector on the pattern of construction package and the business community was quite satisfied when an incentives-laden tax amnesty scheme for industrial sector was announced in the first week of March 2022, which encouraged industrial promotion, revival of sick industrial units and foreign

investment in industrial sector. He said that this amnesty scheme was warmly welcomed

by the entrepreneurs and investors as it had created new opportunities for industrial promotion and more investment in the industrial sector. However, there are indications that on the demand of the IMF, the govern-ment was considering withdraw-ing the amnesty scheme, which would create more disappointment in the business community

and the potential investors.
The ICCI President said that Pakistan badly needed industrialization to create jobs for youth, encourage local and foreign investment and improve exports. The amnesty scheme was a good move to achieve these goals.INP





HYDERABAD: A bad view of Ramzan Bachat Bazaar organized

Cigarette smoke increases superbug's antibiotic resistance

persistent, more invasive, and more resistant to certain antibiotics.

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death across the world, with tobacco use, including smoking, being responsible for over 7 million fatalities

each year.
In the United States, over 16 million people have a smoking related condition, and tobacco smoking causes 1 in 5 deaths each year.Researchers and healthcare properson's immune system and the defenses against infections. However, they do not know much about how cigarette smoke affects microbes that live in the nasopharyngeal cavity, in particular.

A new study aims to remedy this gap in research by examining the effect of cigarette smoke on Staphylococcus aureus (S.

Maisem Laabei, from the Department of Biology & Biochemistry at the University of Bath in the United Kingdom, is the lead author of the new research, which appears in the journal Scientific Reports. INP

نوٹس نیلا می حقوق وصولی برائے سیفخ もかし とうびしゃ لېکزين آف مائنز 16 گ 2022ء خدى 16 كى2022، بيال الكروب لوچىتان كنك مرياب Rs.50,00000 مورخ ، في رى ميرا سامل

ب**یلامس کی شواخت**: 1. نیای می مرف محکر فراے دجنو تحکیوادان حدے بچتے ہیں۔2۔ نیائی می حد لینے کے لئے دوفواست فارم"اے" دفرّ فرار . فتری اوقات بی منطق /3000 (تین بزاررو بے ؟ قابل واپسی) نیلای فیس بذر بویشنل میک آف یا کستان کی کمی بی برانج میں محکد بندا کے سرکاری اکاؤنٹ فبسر Balochistan A/C No.1 (Non Food) C03508-Other Receipt اور RCO Code 7410 کی کی کروائے کے اصدار کی کہ یک روز قبل تک حاصل کر کتے ہیں۔ 3۔ نیا می کے لئے ورخواست فارم "اے" تاریخ نیا می ہے ایک روز قبل تک دسول سے جائی گے۔ 4۔ ورخواست فارم "اے کے ساتھ مندریوز مل کانفرات الوازیات منسلک کرنا ضروری ہے۔(1) کمپیٹر ائز شافتی کارڈ کی تقعد ان شد فقل (ب)مقرر کردوز رمضانت اکال ڈیپازٹ بیام چیف سَيْرَ آف مائز بلوچتان ہونا جائے (ج) او بن جيك قابل آبول ٿين ہوگا (و) مجاز جينک خجر سے جاری شده زرزمانت / كال ذيبازت كا با قاعده تقديق شد فوظليت بغير تصدو كال ذيبازت قبول ثين بول مي او توكيدارون ونياى شن حسه لينه كي اجازت نيس بوگي-5- كامياب ويش ش و بندويولي وعنور شده يولي كي فل قم کا 25% حصہ بطور پینگی منظور ہونے کے دس ون کے اندراندر جمع کرنا ہوگا۔6۔کامیاب پیش کش دہندہ ٹھیکیوارکو حکومت کی منظور شدہ شرح کے مطابق آگم فیکس اوا كرة جوگا-7-كامياب يش سن و بعده كومنظور شده يولى كالل رقم كانديد 25% حد بابت سيكور في از دخانت يولى كم منظور بول كرون ون كاعد ومن كرا ہوگا۔8۔کامیاب بیش من وہندہ منظور شدہ یولی کی رقم کا کا 6.25% کے صاب سے جوڈیشل اشام ہیریرا مگر بھنٹ وافل دفتر کرنا ہوگا۔ ان شرائلا کی محیل کے بعد ا يادة كشريك جارى كياجائے كا-9-الريكي يش الى الى ديندومندرج بالاش الكا يحيل دى دن كائد فين كرے كا قو آفير جازكوين ماصل سے كد كوروي ال بندوکا جن شدوکال ڈیپازٹ بخن مرکارہ بنیا کرے دوسر نے بسرے اول دہندہ کوافئی شرائط کی منیاد پر تھیا کے باتھ کا ساگر دوسر نے بسرے اول دہندہ جی مندرجہ بالاشرائط کی بھیل نہیں کرے گاتو آگی بھی جع شدہ کال ڈیپازٹ بھن سر کار منبط کرتے تھیلے کی دوبارہ نیلائی جائے گا۔ 10 _ پہلی جنگی اقساط کی ادا بیگی کے عد *هنک* کی بطاق قم نو (9) لماندا تساط میں وسول کی جائمیں گی۔ جو کر تھنکیدار کو ہر مادی 7 تاریخ تنگ جنع کرنا شروری ہے۔ دوسلسل اقساط تع ندوونے کی صورت میں ا فیسر نجاز کو بین حاصل ہے کہ دہ فیکیوار کی جن شرہ وقع سیکورٹی بخل سرکارہ نیا کرنے کے بار فیکی ارتباع ملاز مین اور چیک رست کی تفصیل فراہم کرنے کا بایند ہوگا۔ 12 ۔ تھیکہ ماصل کرنے کے بعد تھیکہ او ہرتم کے فق انتصاب کا فورز مددار ہوگا۔ 13 ۔ ڈیوٹی ومول کی شرع مکومت باوچتان کے نذ الل ثرت كے مطابق 25% فى زينة اف دائلى دوگ ـ 14 يحكومت بلوچتان كى جانب سے دُيونى كەشرى بزھنے استخفى كىمورت بيس تشيك كى تم شراى تا س ے اضافہ ا کی کردی جائے گی۔ 15۔ شیکہ کی معیاد صرف ایک سال ہوگی جو کہ اجراء درک آرڈ دے شروع ہوگی۔ 16۔ آفیسر مجاز کو پیش حاصل ہے کہ دوایک یا تمام ولي وبينائ بغيرمستر وكروب-17 سركاري واجبات كينا ديندو كان يول من حصرتين لے سكتے -18 سينيز رسل و كالور برخميكيوا دا في يولي بندلقائے ميں ايك كھند پہلے جج کروائے گا تھرسب یونی تھیکیداران یاان کے نمائندوں کے سامنے تل کھوٹی جائے گا۔19۔ سرکاری چھٹی ہونے کی صورت میں انگلے ون نیاای منعقد کی جائے گ منوت: كاير ، كولداور تا بكارى كى مدريات يرد يولى وسول يسى كى بات كى ـ

PRQ NO.3415.25.04.2022

by district administration in Qasimabad.

Islamabad: New research analyzes the effect of cigarette smoke on MRSA strains and finds that it makes the bacteria more

fessionals know that smoking impairs a

👣 www.dpr.gob.pk. 😈 @dpr_gob 👩 dpr.gob 📑 @dgpr.balochistan

Govt orders stern action against diesel hoarders

petition in which he maintained that as per

ECP Schedule the Local Government Amendment Ordinance will expire on June 10

and the official results will be announced on

The petition stated that the notification issued by the Election Commission is illegal

ISLAMABAD: The government Monday took notice of the shortage of diesel in the country and decided to take stern action against those involved in creating its artificial shortage.

According to the official sources, a high-level virtual meeting was chaired by Secretary Petroleum Ali Raza Bhutta during which it was briefed that the country had the required reserves of petroleum products.
The meeting was also told that the required 21-day

stock of diesel and 31-day stock of petrol was available in the country, and, an artificial shortage of diesel was created on the rumours of Rs52 per litre rise in its The meeting decided to take stern action against the

hoarders of diesel, instructing all chief secretaries of the four provinces to carry out raids and cancel licenses of the dealers involved in the hoarding of the diesel The meeting also directed the authorities concerned to ensure the stable supply of the diesel and tighten the

monitoring of diesel stock of authorised dealers The officials of Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) and Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and representatives of oil marketing companies had attended the meeting.INP

Tax relief can help boost Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports: WealthPK imported raw materials

ISLAMABAD: Concession on tariff on raw materials can help increase Pakistan's exports of pharmaceutical products

Pakistan's pharma sec-tor is highly dependent on imports to meet the demand for basic raw materials, with only 5% produced domestically. The APIs, excipients, and packing raw materi-

als are the categories of raw materials.

Syed Anas Mateen, Research Officer at the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), told WealthPK that custom duties on excipients and APIs range from 5 to 25%,

while an additional sales tax is also levied. In addition, 5.5% advanced income tax on import value is also imposed, he added.

Anas said import duties on medicines range from 0 to 10%. Medicines for cancer treatment and heart diseases have no custom duty, but a 5.5% advance income tax on import value is applicable, he added.

Anas said Switzerland is the largest exporter of pharmaceutical products to Pakistan followed by Belgium, Germany, China, France, India, and Italy. He said this signifidependence

raises the innate risk of supply chain disturbance. He said that non-He said that non-reliance on any single country for imported APIs provides some com-

fort against potential dis-ruptions in the supply chain. He further stated that a 11.1% tariff was imposed on the import of raw materials from Switzerland, 11.3% on Belgium, 11.3% on Belgium, 11.3% on Germany, 8.7% on India, and 11.9% on raw materi-als from the US. He said the amount of tariff will increase if a country has more distance from more distance from Pakistan The Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufactures

Association (PPMA) has demanded that the 17% general sale tax imposed on raw material used in medicine production be withdrawn immediately.

According to the PPMA Chairman Qazi Mansoor Dilawar, the cost of pharmaceutical products has increased due to the imposition of a 17% sales tax on import-ed raw materials. The majority of pharmaceuti-cal exports are to South Asian, African, and Central Asian markets. Highly regulated markets such as Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Europe, and the US, have been less penetrated by Pakistan's pharma prod-

ucts due to the fact that they do not meet the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration During the last decade.

the value of the pharmaceutical sector in Pakistan is doubling from \$1.64 billion in 2011 to \$3.2 billion in 2020-21. Pakistan is a net importer of pharmaceutical drugs on the international market. The pharmaceutical sector's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) is 1.17% and has a share of 0.9% in total export in 2021.

According to United Nations COMTRADE database on international

Pak Army helps Al-Shifa in arranging free eye camps in far-flung areas Over 50000 patients treated in Waziristan, Malakand and GB

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army has supported Al-Shifa Trust to set up free eye camps in different remote areas including Waziristan, Malakand, Baluchistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Chitral.

Maj. Gen. (Retired) Rehmat Khan, President of Al-Shifa Trust said this while briefing media persons about the outreach program achievements in 2021-22.

He said that free eye camps were held in the underprivileged areas including Loralai, Chaman, Skardu, Chitral, North and South Waziristan and Malakand.

About 17000 children were screened for different eye diseases in girls' and boys' schools and surgical camps were established conducting 2500 surgeries, he said.

Maj. Gen. (Retired) Rehmat Khan said that Pak Army provided us with foolproof security, transport and other facilities for teams of doctors conducting camps in difficult terrains, he added.

In some areas of South and North Waziristan, Army personnel provided food and accommodation and arranged all other things paying way for treatment and surgeries for the people of remote areas.

arranged all other things paving way for treatment and surgeries for the people of remote areas.

The complicated cases from those areas were referred to Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Rawalpindi, he said, adding that the trust started an outreach program in 1992 and its free eye camps cover the whole of the coun-

Giving details, he said that Al-Shifa Centre for Community Ophthalmology (ACCO) delivers quality eye



Quetta: Brigadier Akhtar Subhan Zafarullah Khilji is being awarded Diamond Certificate for good performance.

Court defers Elahi's plea for registration of FIR till April 29

LAHORE: A sessions court in Lahore on Monday deferred hearing on Punjab Assembly Speaker and PML-Q leader Pervaiz Elahi's petition seeking registration of an FIR regard-ing assembly clashes in which he got injured and the police were reluctant

Additional Sessions Judge Hafiz Rizwan heard the petition filed by Pervaiz Elahi in which he pleaded the court to direct the police to register his FIR regarding ruckus in Punjab Assembly on April 16 during the elec-tion of chief minister of the province and Elahi, who was also a contender

and Elahi, who was also a contender for the slot was attacked and got injured and broke his arm.

During hearing, the police failed to present their report in the court. A police representative told the court that Civil Lines superintendent police would himself present the report during next hearing.

On this, the court adjourned the hearing till April 29.

The Punjab Assembly speaker wants to lodge a case against CM-elect Hamza Sharif, Rana Mashood and others with the police.INP

Pakistan posts another 100 coronavirus infections, no death

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported fresh 100 coronavirus infections and no death during the last 24 hours, showed the numbers released by the National Institute of Health Pakistan

on Monday morning.

As per the latest NIH data, the death toll remained the same as was a day before which was 30,369, whereas the number of total infections now stood at 1,527,956 after adding the fresh 100

During the last 24 hours (Sunday), 18,645 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 0.53 percent. The number of patients in critical care was recorded at 187.

During the last 24 hours (Sunday). as many as 91 patients have recovered from the virus whereas the total recoveries stood at 1,494,141. As of Monday, the total count of active cases in the country was recorded at 3,446. As many as 576,769 coronavirus

As many as 376,769 cotonavirus cases have so far been confirmed in Sindh, 506,018 in Punjab, 219,460 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 135,178 in Islamabad, 35,484 in Balochistan, 43,310 in Azad Kashmir and 11,737 in

43,310 III AZad Kashilli and 11,737 iii Gilgit-Baltistan. As many as 13,560 individuals have lost their lives to the pandemic in Punjab so far, 8,101 in Sindh, 6,324 in KP, 1,023 in Islamabad, 792 in Azad Kashmir, 378 in Balochistan and 191 iii Gilgit Baltistan INP in Gilgit Baltistan. INP

China Window signs MoU with Harbin Engineering University

ISLAMABAD: China Window, a center of Pak-China friendship in Peshawar, and Harbin Engineering University of China have signed a memorandum of understanding (MAU) for conception in various (MoU) for cooperation in various fields besides Student Exchange

Director of China Window Naz Parveen and Dean of Harbin Engineering University of China Zhang Qingbin signed the agreement. Under the agreement, the two institutions will exchange students, faculty, researchers and administrative staff; both institutions will also promote extra-curricular activities, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro

on Monday.

Zhang Qingbin while terming the agreement as a milestone between Peshawar and China said that not only affordable education opportunities will be available but also university scholarships will be given

ty scholarships will be given. He further said that both institutions will play a positive role in strengthening exemplary friendship between the two brotherly countries.

China Window, besides learning mandarin, is devoted to providing all information? including Chinese arts, culture, political history, economic development and geography? on China under one roof.

China Window has played a crucial role in portraying a positive image of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) especially in northwestern Pakistan. INP

Man on death row in Sri Lankan citizen's lynching case moves LHC against his sentence

LAHORE: A man, who had been handed down the death penalty by an anti-terrorism court ATC) in the murder case of a Sri Lankan citizen who had been lynched by a mob in a Sialkot factory on blasphemy charges, on Monday challenged his sentence in the Lahore High Court (LHC).

In his acquittal plea, which Hafiz Muhammad Taimoor filed in the high court through his counsel Hafiz Israrul Haq Advocate, he argued that the prosecution had failed to prove him guilty on the basis of accounts given by two eyewitnesses, including Adnan Malik. He went on to add that there was an allegation against him that he had hit the Sri Lankan him that he had hit the Sri Lankan citizen's head with a brick, "However, the forensic science agency's report negates this allegation," read the petition. It was further stated in the petition that the Sri Lankan citizen's murder was not planned; rather it happened accidentally and the ATC had awarded death penalty to six accused in the case without any solid proofs. Therefore, Hafiz Taimoor, the

Inerefore, Haftz faimoor, the petitioner, prayed to the court to declare the sentence awarded to him null and void.

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) had six days ago, on April 18, 2022, sentenced six accused to death and nine to life imprisonment for the lynching of Priyantha Kumara, a Sri Lankan citizen, in Kumara, a Sri Lankan citizen, in the Sialkot factory last December.

Meanwhile, the court has also verdict two years-long imprison-ments to 72 people each who were also involved in the barbarian act. An accused Ali Asghar is awarded a sentence of imprisonment of five

years while one of the accused Bilal was acquitted in the case.

The court awarded the death sentence to Taimur, Abdur Rehman, Muhammad Arshad, Ali Hussain, Abu Talha and Muhammad Humair while accused Rohail Amiad Amiad Humair while accused Rohail Amjad, Mohammad Shoaib, Ehtisham Zaib, Imran Riaz, Sajid Amin, Zaigham Mehdi, Ali Hamza, Luqman Haider.INP

Disruption of fuel supply triggering prolong power outages

ISLAMABAD: The power crisis across the country has aggravated in the wake of non-supply of LNG and furnace oil to the electricity producing companies trig-gering a 7,468MW shortfall of electricity

According to sources in power division, the closed power genera-tion plants could not be reopened owing to some technical reasons. They disclosed that supply of required LNG and furnace oil could not be made to these plants.

So far, Nandipur Power Plant, Muzaffargarh Atlas, TPS Jamshoro and several other power plants are shut and not producing electricity. Sources said the total electricity production in the country is 18,031MW while its demand is 25,500MW. Hence the shortfall is 7,468MW. Power division sources further informed that our total electricity generation capacity is 36,016MW.

Giving a breakdown, sources revealed the country is producing 3,674MW electricity through

hydro power plants. Government thermal power plants are produc-ing mere 786MW electricity, they

The private power producers are generating 9,526MW electricity. The wind turbines are adding 487MW to the national grid; solar power plants 104MW; bagasse 141MW; and from nuclear power house, 3,312MW electricity is being produced. The 7,468MW shortfall of elec-

tricity is causing long hours of power outages across the country. All major cities are experiencing 8-10 hours long loadshedding. In areas, where electricity losses are high, the duration of power

outages is as long as 18 hours. In Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and other cities, the loadshedding duration is long. In Karachi, 10-hour long loadshed-ding is being observed. Citizens are facing numerous problems in the month of Ramazan as load-shedding is being carried out dur-ing Sehri and Iftar times.INP

Amir Hayat becomes new interim PIA CEO as Arhsad Malik retires

ISLAMABAD: Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Amir Hayat has assumed the charge of an inter-im Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) as Arhsad Malik has completed his

tenure and stands retired today. Air Vice Marshal Amir Hayat was appointed as Adviser to President & CEO PIA Air Marshal (Retired) Arshad Malik

in October 2020.
PIA spokesperson said that the national carrier has already advertised for the recruitment of the new PIA CEO.

Arshad Malik was appointed as vice chief of air staff and on April 25 (today) he was retired from the service on completion of his term Arhsad Malik was appointed in October 2018.Amid the Arshad Malik stint as PIA CEO, six planes became part of the PIA fleet.During his era, PIA staff

eradication.

strength declined significantly from 550 to 260 on average. Arhsad Malik initiated departmental inquiry and action

against 1100 employees and 800 employees were kicked out from the PIA on having fake degrees. The sacking of employees was part of a cost-cutting campaign Arshad Malik was appointed as vice chief of air staff and on April 25 (today) he was retired from the service on completion of his term. Arhsad Malik was appointed

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The trust runs one of the widest spread outreach programmes for the prevention of blindness and more than one million patients have been treated in rural areas so far including 600 surgeries.

On the occasion, Dr Tariq Usman, General Manager of the Al-Shifa Centre for Community Ophthalmology said Al-Shifa Trust will increase the number of free eye camps in the remote areas where the patients lack

said Al-Shifa Trust will increase the number of free eye camps in the remote areas where the patients lack access and resources for quality medical facilities.

He said that out of the box solutions are needed to deal with the menace of blindness. Maj. Gen. (Retired) Rehmat Khan said that Pak Army provided us with foolproof security, transport and other facilities for teams of doctors conducting camps in difficult terrains, he added.

In some areas of South and North Waziristan, Army personnel provided food and accommodation and arranged all other things paving way for treatment and surgeries for the people of remote areas.

The complicated cases from those areas were referred to Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Rawalpindi, he said, adding that the trust started an outreach program in 1992 and its free eye camps cover the whole of the coun-

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Giving details, he said that Al-Shifa Centre for Community Ophthalmology (ACCO) delivers quality eye care at the doorstep of the rural and underserved populations.

The trust runs one of the widest spread outreach programmes for the prevention of blindness and more than one million patients have been treated in rural areas so far including 600 surgeries. INP

Initiatives sought to boost freelancing in Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The government has been asked to provide incentives to freelancers to enable them to earn

provide incentives to freelancers to enable them to earn precious foreign exchange for the country. This was stated by Kaukab Ikram Mughal, honorary secretary of Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), Pakistan, while talking to WealthPK. "The government should organise meetups and expos both locally and internationally to help increase the digital outreach to the customers and build partnerships to boost revenues for the country," said Ikram ships to boost revenues for the country," said Ikram Mughal from CILT, a prestigious body of transport and logistics professionals.

logistics professionals.

"The government should create a digitally-conducive environment and impart trainings to youth on graphic designing, content writing, etc.

Meanwhile, Dr Sahibzada Mehmood Ali, Managing Director of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board, told WealthPK that the provincial government has established the Special Technology Zone Authority (STZA) to support growth of IT services.

exempt from property tax, federal sales tax and all other levies falling under the Income Tax Ordinance 2001," he explained, saying if freelancers import capital goods, they will not be charged any tax.

"The export proceeds generated through freelancing will remain exempt from income tax till 2030," he

will remain exempt from income tax till 2030," he added Mehmood Ali said, "The ministry of information technology is helping the Information Technology Board promote freelancing."

According to Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), steps are being taken to build marketplaces to promote freelancing in the country. Freelancers are being provided with digital banking platforms to enable them to make e-payments.

Ambassador Moin invites GIC to tap Pakistan's potential

BEIJING: Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque invited Global Innovation Center (GIC) to invest and take advantage of friendly policies offered by the Pakistani government to Chinese investors.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the Ambassador highlighted the expanding science and technology cooperation between Pakistan and China.

He also invited the Center to benefit from the initiatives and incentives taken by the Government of Pakistan to facilitate investment in Pakistan in ICT. New Energy Vehicles and emerging technologies, and he also assured of the Embassy's

full support in this regard. Earlier Director General of the Center Mr. Zhao Gang called on Ambassador Moin ul Haque at the Embassy of

Mr. Zhao briefed the Ambassador on GIC and its desire for cooperation with Pakistan in science and technology, focusing on incubation of new businesses, developing electricity storage devices, semi-conductors and New Energy Energy

Vehicles. He informed that GIC was planning to set up an office in Pakistan, and as well as establishing a China-Pakistan Trade, Energy and Investment Center in its Shenzhen office.INP

PIA gets new CEO as Air Marshal Arshad Malik completes tenure

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines
(PIA) Chief Executive
Officer (CEO) Air
Marshal Arshad Malik has completed his tenure after being appointed at the slot in 2018.

the slot in 2018.

He would be replaced by Air Vice Marshal Aamir Hayat.

The PIA through it Twitter handler made the announcement saying that Malik completes his Malik completes his tenure as the CEO and bids farewell with a wish for a great and prosperous future for PIA and Pakistan. A spokesman for PIA said that they had issued advertisement for the appointment of new CEO of the national flag carrier.Air Marshal Arshad Malik retired from Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on July 12, 2020 and was given a go-ahead by the federal cabinet to serve as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).INP

services and credit cards.

The cost of registration for a freelancer is quite low, which is aimed to provide ease-of-doing business. The PSEB is also collaborating with different organisations to provide incentives to freelancers like facilitation desks and technology parks. The board is also providing training to local freelancers to enable them to be competitive and export their services.

According to an international survey the clobal

They will also have access to banking loans, leasing services and credit cards.

According to an international survey, the global average hourly rate paid to freelancers is \$21, demonstrating that freelancing offers a lucrative earning strating that freelancing offers a lucrative earning potential that often exceeds average salaries, particularly in emerging economies. The most popular fields of work for freelancers are web development, graphics designing (30%), computer programming (19%), IT services (10%), multimedia production (8%), content writing (8%), translation (7%), marketing (6%), admin (3%), customer support (2%), project management (2%), sales (2%), quality assurance (2%) and finance (1%). On average, each US freelancer is earning \$21,000 per annum, while a Pakistani freelancer earns \$3,500 per annum. Mehmood Ali said, "The ministry of information technology is helping the Information Technology Board promote freelancing." According to Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), steps are being taken to build marketplaces to promote freelancing in the country. Freelancers are being provided with ing in the country. Freelancers are being provided with digital banking platforms to enable them to make epayments. They will also have access to banking loans, leasing services and credit cards. The cost of registration for a freelancer is quite low, which is aimed to provide ease-of-doing business. The PSEB is also collaborating with different organisations to provide incentives to freelancers like facilitation desks and technology parks. INP

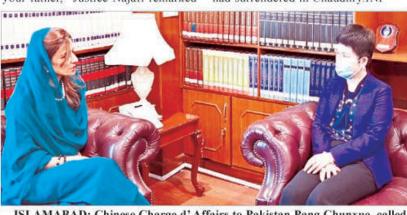
LHC seeks Center's reply on **ECL rules in Maryam** Nawaz's passport cas

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Monday sought from the federal government a reply on the Exit Control List (ECL) Rules.

The court gave the order during the hearing of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz's petition for the return of her passport to her so that she could fly to Saudi Arabia for performing Umrah A two-member bench forming Umrah. A two-member bench of the LHC, consisting of Justice Ali Baqir Najafi and Justice Farooq Haider, is hearing the case. The court also ordered amendments to her "Please write down in your applica-tion that you want to go to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah and to meet your father," Justice Najafi remarked

while addressing Maryam while addressing Maryam.

Issuing a notice to the Center to submit its reply on the ECL Rules on the next date of the hearing, the court then adjourned the hearing of the case until tomorrow (Tuesday, April 26, 2022). In the petition, which the PML-N vice president had filed on April 20 through Ahsan Bhoon Advocate, and in which NAB chairman, the federal government and othman, the federal government and others had been made the respondents, she had stated that she had surrendered her passport on the LHC order. She further said that since she wanted to perform Umrah, she want-ed her passport back, "Please allow me to perform the religious ritual by returning to me the passport which I had surrendered in Chaudhry.INP



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Charge d'Affairs to Pakistan Pang Chunxue, called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Daewoo Gas signs contract with Chinese company for offshore LNG terminal

ISLAMABAD: Daewoo Gas has signed a Procurement Master Engineering Construction and inance (EPCF) contract with China National Chemical Engineering Construction Company (CNCEC) under which CNCEC would design, construct and finance an offshore LNG terminal.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, the terminal would be complete with topside equipment to enable LNG filling into ISO containers for use in Pakistan. The specialized LNG containers will be moved by trucks all over Pakistan where LNG will be re-gasified at client sites. sites.

According to a statement from Daewoo, "At its peak, Daewoo Gas' terminal will handle 10,000 metric tons of LNG per day, improve Pakistan's energy supply, create thou-sands of jobs nationally, and reduce carbon emissions.

The total foreign investment in this

project including the terminal, facili-ties, LNG logistics and supply infra-structure is estimated to be US \$300

Shahid Karim, chief executive offi-cer of Daewoo Gas, remarked: "We plan on operationalizing the terminal within a year, before summer 2023, at Pakistan's LNG zone in the Arabian

Daewoo Gas also plans to use the LNG in its own long-distance bus and truck fleet operated by Daewoo Express as a substitute for more expensive and polluting diesel.

CNCEC Chairman Hu Liufang

states: "We welcome the award of this significant contract by Daewoo Gas and look forward to designing and constructing world largest VLNG terminal for offshore installation.

This large and ambitious project represents the ideals of CPEC industrial cooperation and technology transfer between the brotherly countries of China and Pakistan."INF

Cuban envoy calls out Ahsan Iqbal for 'disrespectful' remarks on his country

ISLAMABAD: Cuba Ambassador to Pakistan Zéner Caro on Monday called out Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal for his "disrespectful" remarks on Cuba, given during a press conference in Lahore on

At a media talk on Sunday, Iqbal had said that Pakistan wanted to become a strong country for which it

needed a strong economy and positioning with the global economy.

He said he did not want Pakistan to turn into Cuba or North Korea.

"We have to set Pakistan on the path of [development, like] Malaysia, Turkey, China and South Korea," the minister had added.

Responding to Ighal's comments.

Responding to Iqbal's comments today, Caro tweeted, "Fortunately, Minister Ahsan Iqbal's disrespectful mention of Cuba in his press conference in Lahore does not represent and has nothing to do with Pakistanis' true respect and deep affection for Cuba."

Earlier, journalists and activists on Twitter had also criticised the minis-ter for his remarks, recalling Cuba's support for Pakistan in tough times.

support for Pakistan in tough times.
Zebunnisa Burki, a journalist, said someone needed to explain basic history to Iqbal. "He seems to think Cuba = North Korea," she added.
Another journalist Murtaza Solangi remarked that Pakistan would always remain "grateful to the heroic people of Cuba".

Meanwhile, activist Ammar Ali Jan demanded an apology from Igbal.

Following the Cuban ambassador's tweet, the federal minister took to Twitter and clarified that his remarks were "only in the context of foreign

"We have deep respect for the peo-ple of Cuba and our deep affection-ate relations with Cuba," Iqbal said, adding that Pakistan couldn't forget how Cuban doctors played a heroic role during the aftermath of 2005 earthquake in Pakistan INP

