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18th Amendment has strengthened federation: Zardari



Gen Bajwa discusses 'national security' in maiden meeting with PM Shehbaz

Educationists, academicians to recommend VCs appointment in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah, News Desk

QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly adopted the universities model act 2022 on Tuesday. Under the newly passed act, educationists, academicians, and officers will recommend the appointment of Vice-Chancellors and Pro VCs in Balochistan. As per the 18th amendment, the Constitution has empowered the Chief Minister instead of the Governor to make appoint-ments of VCs and Pro VCs in

the province.

"Search committees would be formed to recommend VCs", Zahoor Buledi, the former senior minister and higher education minister said. Mr. Buledi said the search commit-



tees would conduct appoint-ments of VCs and Pro VCs on the basis of merit.

As per the newly adopted

act, the Chairman of the Search Committee should be an eminent educationist with 25 years of research experience, and 20

years experience of in international publications. The provincial government would appoint the Chairman of the Search Committee. The provincial government was already providing Rs. 2.5 billion per annum through universities finance commission to all universities of Balochistan,

Mr. Buledi informed.
Principal Secretary to
Governor, Secretary Higher
Education, others to be mem-

Principal Secretary to the Governor, Secretary Higher Education, an academician of eminence not employed by the same university, one member of the Senate of any university to be nominated by the Chancellor would be members of the

search committee.

The new act has empowered Chief Minister Balochistan to appoint the VCs and Pro VCs.

Earlier, Governor/ Chancellor had the power to appoint VCs and Pro VCs in the province. However, the passage of the 18th amendment had empowered the Chief Minister to make appointments in this make appointments in this

regard. Nasrullah Zarai, Mitha Khan Kakar had expressed reservations over the act

Balochistan education minis-Balochistan education minister, Mir Naseebullah Marri tabled the universities model act 2022, which was adopted by the house. However, Nasrullah Zarai of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) and Mitha Khan Kakar of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) had opposed the legislation and expressed reservations the expressed reservations the other day.

Asif Ali Zardari calls on Sardar Akhtar Mengal

News Desk

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Asif Ali Zardari called on Chief of Balochistan National Party (Mengal) Sardar Akhtar Mengal at his residence. PPP leader Nayar Bukhari, BNP leaders Waja Jehanzaih Baloch Jehanzaib Baloch Sanaullah Baloch and oth-Baloch ers were also present on the

The two leaders discussed unfolding political events in the country. They also discussed untoward incidents in Balochistan's Chaghi district. The two leaders agreed to work together for the country and nation. Sardar Mengal had earlier said that his party would not become part of the federal cabinet in the aftermath of untoward incidents in Balochistan's Chaghi district. BNP lawmakers had also staged a walk-out from the national assembly session.



Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Gen Bajwa discusses 'national security' in maiden meeting with PM Shehbaz

Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Tuesday met newly-elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the latter's official residence in Islamabad, a statement from the PM House

It was the maiden visit of the army chief to Shehbaz after the latter's election as the prime minister.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, professional matters pertaining to national security were discussed

during the meeting.

Shehbaz was elected the 23rd prime minister of Pakistan on April 11 after 174 lawmakers voted in his favour following the

ouster of Imran Khan as the premier on April 9 According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director

General (DG) Major General Babar Iftikhar, the COAS didn't attend Shehbaz's oath-taking ceremony because he was ill.It was the maiden visit of the army chief to Shehbaz after the latter's election as the prime minister.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, professional matters pertaining to national security were discussed

during the meeting.

Shehbaz was elected the 23rd prime minister of Pakistan on April 11 after 174 lawmakers voted in his favour following the ouster of Imran Khan as the premier on April 9.Web Desk

Frontier Corps Balochistan supports needy, deserving people

News Desk

SIBI: Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) distributed solar panels and fans among the disabled and needy people during the sacred month of Ramazan ul Mubarak on Tuesday.

Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) Sibi Scouts is maintaining law and order as well as takes care of

law and order as well as takes care of the disabled, poor, and needy people in and around Sibi. Through regular interactions with tribal elders and locals, the Sibi Scouts reached out to



the most deserving and needy people in the local population, and during the holy month of Ramadan, the Sibi Scouts headquarters provided solar to the poor and needy in Sibi.
Distributed 45 sets of panels and
pedestal wings. The people of Sibi
appreciated the welfare measures of
FC Balochistan North and thanked the FC officials.

Akhtar Mengal declines ministry in protest against Chaghi incident

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Akhtar Mengal, an ally of the federal gov-ernment and head of Balochistan National Party-Mengal, did not attend the oath-taking ceremony of the federal cabinet on Tuesday in protest against Chaghi incident

Sources privy to the develop-ment revealed that the BNP-Mengal chief refused to become part of the federal cabinet as he did not attend the oath-taking ceremo-

not attend the oath-taking ceremo-ny despite being invited.

All efforts of the government to persuade Sardar Akhtar Mengal were in vain, the sources added.

He demanded formation of a probe commission on Chaghi fir-ing incident.INP

Drug smuggling case: SC stops Czech model from flying abroad

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday stopped Czech model Tereza Hluskova from travelling abroad in drug smuggling case. Tereza Hluskova was sentenced

to eight years and eight months in jail by a sessions court in April 2019. She was arrested at Lahore airport for attempting to smuggle heroin from Pakistan to Abu Dhabi on January 10, 2018. The court acquitted her last year in November and was released from prison the same month. At the outset of the hearing, the apex court issued notice to Czech model and stopped her from leaving the country on Pakistan customs petition.Customs counsel stated before the court that Tereza Hluskova was sentenced. INPs

Sadiq Sanjrani takes oath from 37-member federal cabinet

Dawood Ahmed

Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani administered the oath to the 37-member federal cabinet on Tuesday in the federal capital. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also present during the oath-taking ceremony.

The oath-taking ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran at the President's House. Thirty-one federal ministers and three ministers of state and as many advisers to the

prime minister took the oath.
According to details, Maryam
Aurangzai has been appointed as the
federal minister for information and
broadcasting. Azam Nazeer Tarar has
been appointed as the federal minister for law.

Ahsan Iqbal has been appointed as the federal minister for planning.

Rana Sanaullah was appointed as the federal minister for interior and Hina Rabbani Khar as the federal state minister for foreign affairs. Federal ministers

Khawaja Muhammad Asif (PML-N),Ahsan Iqbal (PML-N) Rana Sanaullah (PML-N) Sardar Ayaz Sadiq (PML-N) Rana Tanveer Hussain (PML-N) Khurram Dastgir Khan (PML-N) Marriyum Aurangzeb (PML-N) Khawaja Saad Rafique (PML-N) Miftah Ismail (PML-N) Javed Latif (PML-N) Riaz Hussain Pirzada (PML-N) Murtaza Javed Abbasi (PML-N) Azam Nazeer Tarar (PML-N) Syed Khursheed Shah (PPP) Syed Naveed Qamar (PPP) Sherry Rehman (PPP) Abdul Qadir Patel (PPP) Shazia Marri (PPP)

Syed Murtaza Mahmud (PPP)
Sajid Hussain Turi (PPP)
Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari (PPP)
Abid Hussain (PPP)
Asad Mahmood (MMA)
Abdul Wasay (MMA)
Abdul Shakoor (MMA)
Muhammad Talha Mahmood
(JUI),Aminul Haque (MQM-P)
Faisal Sabzwari (MQM-P)
Muhammad Israr Tarcen (BAP)
Shahzain Bugti (JWP)

Shahzain Bugti (JWP) Tariq Bashir Cheema (PML-Q) Ministers of state Aisha Ghaus Pasha (PML-N) Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju

(PML-N)
Hina Rabbani Khar (PPP)
Advisers to the PM
Qamar Zaman Kaira (PPP)
Amir Muqam (PML-N)
Awn Chaudhry (PTI's Tareen

Tribunal of inquiry formed

to probe into

Chaghi incident

Chaghi:Balochistan government

to probe into Chaghi incident on Tuesday. Arshad Majeed, the

Senior Member Board of Revenue

(MBR) would lead the tribunal, an official handout issued on Tuesday

night said. The tribunal would file its report within 15 days. In Chaghi, the killing of driver Hameedullah had sparked violent protest in Chaghi and Nokundi. Events prompted the Balochistan government to form tribunal of

government to form tribunal of

'Shehbaz Sharif

"BAP doesn't own this Govt", Jam reacts to Khawaja Asif statement

18th Amendment

has strengthened

federation: Zardari

News Desk

hief Minister Kamal Khan has Former Chief said that Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) doesn't own this government and the chief minister. In his reaction to the federal minister, Khawaja Asif's statement, Jam Kamal took to the social media network Twitter and expressed his

A conspiracy by the then few federal ministers, few senate mem-bers, contractors, and BNP Mengal who own the sawaab and gunnah narrative", Jam Kamal said in his

Federal Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif had lashed out at the present Balochistan govern-ment. He said, "can you call this a government, which was made in Balochistan during his speech in

ISLAMABAD: Calling the 18th

'covenant' between the Center and the federating units, former presi-dent and PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali

Zardari on Tuesday said that by giving 'autonomy' to the provinces under the amendment, the federa-

Constitutional Amendment



the national assembly Khetran Sardar condemns

Khawaja Asif's statement BAP lawmaker and provincial minister, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has strongly condemned the statement of the federal minister Khwaja Muhammad Asif about the Balochistan government. "Khwaja Asif has no right to interfere and undermine the government of Balochistan", Sardar Khetran told the Balochistan Assembly session on Tuesday. "What they did in Punish" Sardar Khetran totad Punjab", Sardar Khetran stated.

tution eliminated him, but they did

not succeed in obliterating the con-

stitution drafted under his supervision. Calling the 18th Constitutional Amendment a 'covenant' between the Center and the federating units, former president and PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday said that by giving 'auton.

wants to revive economy as soon as possible'

inquiry.News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr Shahid Rasheed Butt on Tuesday said Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is concerned about the economy and wants to

revive it as soon as possible.

Masses, as well as the business community, have full faith in the abilities of the Prime Minister and they are expecting

an economic turnaround. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the new government should focus on increasing exports, solve the problems of the export sector, provide cheap energy, fix electricity and gas tariffs, and pay the stuck refunds.

He said that system of refunds should be made fully automated to relieve exporters of the capital shortage. INP

Tuesday said that by giving 'auton-omy' to the provinces under the amendment, the federation had tion had strengthened. In his statement on the eve of passage of the 18th Amendment, he said that it had now started bearing strengthened In his statement on the eve of passage of the 18th Amendment, he He further said it was a matter of great satisfaction that all democratic-minded political parties had trust in the constitution of 1973. said that it had now started bearing

fruits

He further said it was a matter of great satisfaction that all dem-ocratic-minded political parties had trust in the constitution of 1973. Online

Referring to the hanging of for-mer prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (ZAB), Zardari said although the violators of the consti-WFP hands over emergency storage facilities to PDMA Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) handed over newly constructed emergency Storage Facilities, Prefabricated temperature-controlled storage units, and IT Equipment

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan and District Disaster Management
Authorities (DDMAs) of Chaman and Chagai districts in a ceremo-

ny organized at a local hotel in Quetta on Tuesday

The contribution was part of the WFP's efforts to support and strengthen the Government of Balochistan for effective emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction in Balochistan. WFP has also recently deployed the Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index (EPCI) – a corporate tool that helps identify the needed capacities for effective response. The exercise was conducted by WFP for PDMA Balochistan and six selected districts, aiming to enhance the preparedness capability of DDMAs and PDMA Balochistan.

Country Director WFP Chris Kaye attends the ceremony

The handover ceremony was attended by Chris Kaye, Country Director WFP, Naseer Ahmed Nassar, Director General, PDMA



Balochistan, government officials from PDMA and DDMAs, other government line departments, representatives from the UN, and aca-

The two Emergency Storage Facilities along with the two tempera-

ture-controlled storage units and IT Equipment will enhance the emergency storage, coordination, com-

munication, and reporting capacity of

the district disaster management authorities in the Chaman and Chagai districts.

Balochistan to better manage and coordinate responses to disasters in the region

Chris Kaye, Country Director, WFP Pakistan, while handing over

the emergency facilities and equipment to the Director General PDMA, Government of Balochistan, said that

WFP was pleased to provide the support and the additional capacity that would help the Government of

Balochistan better manage and coordinate

responses to disasters in the region. 'Capacity to store and manage critical relief items at local levels can save lives as well as reduce the impact on communities caused by sudden-onset disasters," he added. Balochistan has witnessed an increase in natural and human-induced disasters resulting in the loss of lives, property, and livelihoods.

deserves a motorway Mr. Prime Minister

Pakistan Muslim League (N) is known for improving the communication system of the country by laying a net of motorways and highways. The newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is famous for his tireless efforts to make sure timely and quality completion of development projects. Undoubtedly, massive development in the past in the country's populous province of Punjab proves this.

Now when Shehbaz Sharif has taken over as the Chief Executive of the country. The people of Balochistan have pinned high hopes on the Prime Minister especially regarding improving the road network in the province, which covers almost half of the country in terms of area.

Former PM Nawaz Sharif linked Islamabad with Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, D I Khan, and Sukkur with motorways. Unfortunately, Balochistan was not on his radar to link it with the rest of the country through the construction of motorways. Despite the fact that the former PM had key nationalist allies in Balochistan. Even then, not a single motorway

The outgoing Premier Imran Khan's era also ended without the construction of a single-kilometer motorway.

Road accidents have claimed thousands of precious human lives on all highways of Balochistan linking it with the rest of the country. Repeated announcements have been made regarding the construction of the Quetta-Karachi highway. Nevertheless, words are yet to match action in this

Long distances, narrow roads and reckless driving are the underlying reasons behind increasing incidents of road accidents across Balochistan.

The newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif should go beyond words and meet one of the long-standing demands of the people of Balochistan. The province is faced with a host of issues. The ratio of unemployment and poverty is high in Balochistan as compared to other provinces

Improvement in the communication system/ construction of the motorway and linking Balochistan with the rest of the country via road network can help improve socio-economic conditions and bring an end to increasing traffic accidents in the province.

not just about reverting

to the IMF. It is more

about doing its own homework on identify-

ing a set of policies that

should form part of the

Memorandum of Economic and Financial

Policies to be agreed with the Fund – that's

Programme continuity can certainly help in managing the rising external financing

needs and building the

declining reserves of the State Bank of

Pakistan (SBP). Focus should be on building the Net International

Reserves, which signal

the quality and usability

programme resumption will be a positive signal

to markets and can cre-

ate a semblance of con-

fidence. A lot is said about

consistency of policy. However, that alone is

not enough. It is more

about calibration of

monetary, fiscal, indus-trial and trade policies,

which is of significance.

In this of significance.

In this regard, Budget
2023 needs to be prepared considering a
large reform effort.

Whereas revenue
reforms get the bulk of
the attention, it is the
expenditure side that
needs serious consider-

needs serious consider-ation. Public Sector D e v e l o p m e n t Programmes (PSDP)

need a focus towards

the software of the

economy and a morato-

rium on new projects funded by PSDP. There

should be a clear signal

SBP reserves. IMF

what really counts.

Government is a very

demanding business.

much more difficult than commentators and

critics recognize. It's a

process

multifaceted process that requires balancing a range of competing and demanding priori-ties. The future of

Pakistan, and of all its citizens, depends more on the quality of what is

achieved rather than on

how much is achieved

Three-pronged agen-da: Today's economic calling is both about

managing the short-term challenges, and

also about giving a sense that we have an

understanding of the

issues hampering sus-tainable development.

Let us consider a three-

pronged approach. First, making hard but

necessary choices in the immediate; second,

improving implementa-tion of the work-in-pipeline; and third, pre-

senting a sound eco-nomic framework for

growth, which can per-

manently overcome the

periodic balance of pay-

build on the short-term

decisions partly high-lighted in our last arti-

cle on April 4, 2022

('The economy chal-

lenge'). There is a con-

sensus that the country

should try to complete

the on-going pro-gramme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However,

it is not that straightfor-

ward. For Pakistan, it's

Immediate: Let us

ment crisis

in the coming months.

multifaceted

A consensus on the economy

Endorsing the previous government's relief package by turning down the summary of the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) for an increase in prices, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has decided to keep oil prices unchanged till May 1. It was an easy decision for him, as the formal engagement formal engagement between his government and the IMF for the resumption of the ongo-ing programme is yet to

EDITORIAL

start.

Political uncertainty is one of the reasons that led to an impasse with the IMF. The unpleasant events in Punjab last week have added to that uncertainty, which seems far from being over and will likely impact talks with the IMF.

with the IMF.

No one knows whether
the alliance government
will complete its remaining tenure till August
2023 or call (or be compelled to call) early elections. Clarity on its
remaining term would
determine the keenness
of Shehbaz Sharif's govermment on the resumpof Shehbaz Sharif's government on the resumption of the IMF programme. If the government wants to stay in power for the next 15 months, it will aim to keep the IMF's support on its side However if it on its side. However, if it is planning for (or is compelled to call) early elections, the focus would be on increasing popularity through populist measures, leaving the tough decisions to be

taken after the next elections. In any case, who-ever forms the government after the next elec-tions should be ready for

tions should be ready for tough negotiations with international creditors, including the IMF.

In a highly polarized political environment where the polity is divided across all possible fissures, political parties must be careful not to politicize the economy. What goes around comes around. Once in government, the ruling parties end up taking the same measures (on almost every front, but especially on the economic front) that they have been

ly on the economic front) that they have been opposing vehemently while sitting on the opposition benches.

Pakistan's three major political parties went to the IMF while in power and availed the last three IMF packages – the PPP (2008-prematurely concluded in 2010), the PML-N (Sep 2013 to Sep 2016), and the PTI (ongoing since 2019).

A glance at the loan requests and corrective measures agreed upon (letter of intent) for the last three programmes written by PTI finance adviser Hafeez Sheikh and Governor State Bank (GSR) Regg. Ragir in

adviser Hafeez Sheikh and Governor State Bank (GSB) Reza Baqir in June 2019, the PML-N's finance minister Ishaq Dar and GSB Yasin Answer in 2013, and the PPP's finance adviser Shaukat Tarin and GSB Shamshad Akhtar in 2008 respectively have a

lot in common.

Their diagnosis of Pakistan's economic ailment remained almost the same - lack of implementation of much-need-ed structural reforms, not trying new avenues for domestic resource mobi-

domestic resource mobilization, non-resolution of the inefficiencies and losses in state-owned enterprises (SOEs), fiscal operations by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), and the issue of energy circular debt.

The prior actions taken by them to show their seriousness about reforms are also quite similar. The PPP government increased the discount rate by two percent, the electricity tariffs by 18 percent, and agreed to issue only a pre-negoby 18 percent, and agreed to issue only a pre-negotiated volume of treasury bills. The PML-N government gave a plan for phasing out Tariff Differential Subsidies (TDS), purchased \$125 million in the foreign exchange spot market, undertook fiscal adjustment measures in the 2013 federal budget, and issued 10,000 notices to issued 10,000 notices to

potential tax evaders. Likewise, the PTI govcriment's prior actions included quarterly automatic tariff adjustment in the electricity sector and prompt adoption of the fiscal year 2020 gas tariffs; switching to a flexible, market-determined exchange rate; and exchange rate; and undertaking fiscal meas-ures in the 2020 federal budget. To get the last

tranche released, it with-drew GST exemptions through a mini-budget and gave the SBP autono-my by amending the con-cerned law.

To address the com-

mon root causes of eco-nomic challenges, the end goals (structural benchmarks) agreed

benchmarks) agreed upon in the three programmes are similar.

To achieve macroeconomic stability, the PPP government had committed to bringing tax reforms and general sales tax harmonization. It tax harmonization. It agreed to manage intercorporate circular debt, increase electricity tariffs to eliminate TDS, and end the SBP provision for busing format and the special sp buying furnace oil. For fiscal discipline, it agreed fiscal discipline, it agreed to move to a single treasury account. And to insulate the public from the inflationary impacts of structural reforms, it had committed to strengthening the social safety nets.

The PPP government could neither fulfill its commitments nor complete the IMF programme—partly due to strong resistance from the PMLN, especially on GST harmonization and hike in electricity tariff,

dike in electricity tariff, and partly due to the devastating floods of 2010-2011. The PMLN, despite its opposition to the PP-led structural reforms, committed to similar reforms under its IMF programme. It pledged to enhance revenue administration, introduce a rationalization plan for

By Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri gas prices, give autonomy to the SBP, reduce SOEs losses, sort out the energy circular debt after a technical and financial audit, eliminate exemp-tions and concessions granted through SROs, chase tax evaders, and initiate revenue-based loadshedding in the remaining electricity distribution companies

tribution companies.
The PML-N had to face strong resistance from the PPP and the PTI from the PPP and the P11 for its structural reforms. However, it successfully concluded its IMF programme in September 2016, albeit with a dozen waivers. The waivers waivers. The waivers were exemptions it had to seek from the IMF for not fulfilling its commitments. In the run-up to the 2018 general elections, the PML-N government resorted to populist measures and a spending spree. It was clear that the winner of the polls had to go to the IMF once again.

The PTI government wasted its first year avoiding going to the IMF and tried to tackle the current account deficit with the help of friendly countries. However, one-off denocities from friends are

However, one-off deposits from friends are not a substitute for the structural reforms necesstructural reforms necessary to stop economic hemorrhage. The economic woes became worse and the PTI government had to go to the IMF in 2019 with the commitment of not giving further.

Taking on the economy

amnesties and take tough decisions on tax-

ing agriculture income,

capital gains and retail sides. The Budget 2023

document has to demon-strate that it can wind

back the budget deficit

without stifling eco-nomic growth. This requires true hard work and calibration.

Energy pricing poli-cies are bleeding the

exchequer and are thus unsustainable. The poli-cy needs revision and

Higher prices driven by

the global commodity super cycle and the effect of rupee adjust-

ment are hard to pass to

the consumers already reeling under inflation-

ary pressures. But, as

tough as it may be, the

need is about showing

prudence over pop-

breadth and quantum of

adequately targeted sub-sidy has become possi-

ble due to newly devel-

oped databases such as

the National Socio-

Economic Registry, which covers about 33

million households through a combined

door-to-door survey and desk-based self-regis-tration mechanism.

Other direct options like

fuel cards for motorcy-

clists and agriculturists

are also possible. Such

moves will give cre-dence to eliminating

general subsidies in the economy. This requires a lot of effort but must

be accomplished.

Increasing

ulism.

management.

beyond

move

By Dr Khaqan Hassan Najeeb In the immediate,

credible signalling is a necessary condition for economic stability. All

the above actions are geared in this direction. The goal is to indicate a move to build minimum new foreign debt by minimizing current account deficit, sub-stantively eliminating fiscal deficit and focus spending on the deserv-ing to alleviate the impact of price rises. Implementation: The

second part of the agenda is about implementation of the work-in-pipeline, which may have lost momentum. This needs strong economic governance and a professional team. The key areas needing a push are quite obvious. The second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPeC), nine underutilized SEZs, new LNG terminals, the northsouth gas pipeline, divestment and pension reforms - all need a

Other areas also attention. Facilitating a shift of the industrial units from the Far East to Pakistan can give a big push to exports. Creation of an market energy Pakistan is something that an energy czar must devote time to on an urgent basis. The federgovernment should coordinate policies to degasify gas networks, primarily through electrification. It should support the develop-

ment and deployment of gas replacement tech-

nologies.
Lastly, put in motion the digitalization of the Federal Board of Revenue to improve transparency, reduce administrative burden and make it easier for taxpayers to comply. A successful digital jour-ney requires a strategic transformation which can be developed in collaboration with more technologically advanced tax administrations to incorporate international experi-

Growth framework

The nation must learn from recent history. In the last five years, two growth episodes have had an identical result balance of payment difficulties and conse-quently the urgency to put in motion contractionary policies. Pakistan must put forward an economic framework beyond the tools amnesties, concessional financing for large businesses, subsidized energy, and incentives for non-tradable sectors This should be the third part of the agenda for the country.A growth framework based on principles of productivity growth, competitive-ness, marketization and privatization. A key element of the framework must be eliminating inefficiency in key areas that underpin a competitive economy

Zamir Akram

including energy.

Tests for PM Shehbaz By Abdul Sattar

he ouster of Imran Khan may have created a ripple of excitement among the workers of the PMNL-N but if the party fails to deliver, this euphoappointment, prompting people to look for an alternative. The new government faces a myriad of challenges which need meticulous planning and efficient execution of such plans. A few cosmetic steps will not resolve the inveterate problems the country has been facing

for decades. As Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif himself said, the economy is in a terrible shape, and the government needs to make hectic efforts to improve it. With over \$100 billion in debt, Pakistan faces deficits on all fronts - fiscal and current account. To tide over this, the country needs over \$14 billion a debt could hit a whopping \$350 or 400 billion mark in the next two decades. Trade deficits are also affecting an economy that is grappling with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic which has not only wreaked havoc with millions of Pakistanis but poor people all over the world.

Amidst this mountain of challenges, it is positive that the government has taken a few steps to extend help and succor to people belonging to low-income groups. The raise in salaries and pensions will go some way in mitigating people's economic hard-ships. The increase in the minimum wage is also very encouraging. Further, the decision to plan in con-sultation with the provincial governments to address the skyrocketing inflation has created a ray of hope that this govern-ment will come up with a package to alleviate economic hardships — but such a plan should be made as early as possible because the people want immediate relief so that they can be at some ease during Fid

during Eid. But it is not only challenges on the economic front that this government faces; a number of other challenges could also affect the performance of the Shehbaz-led dispensation. The most pressing is the legitimacy of the new government. The PTI has strictly followed, then it will leave more than 100 seats vacant in the National Assembly. If the party also decides to resign from the upper house and provincial assemblies then it could plunge the country into a new crisis, scupper-ing all chances of reforms that the chief of the PML-

N hopes for.
Therefore, it is important to politically settle this issue. One of the ways to cool down political tem-perature lies in avoiding the politics of vindictive-

Blissfully

ness. Reportedly, the names of a few former ministers, advisers or spe-cial assistants have been placed on the Exit Control ist, fueling speculations that the new government has a dogged determina-tion to take on PTI sup-porters and leaders. This could create intense acrimony between the PTI and the incumbent govern-ment, forcing Khan loyalto launch street protests and agitation. Such a situation would create political uncertainty, prompting investors to withhold their invest-ments. The business class has lost billions of rupees over the last few weeks because of the uncertain situation created by the vote of no-confidence and the unpredictability of Imran Khan. If such a condition is allowed to persist, it could deal a severe blow

One of the ways to deal with the situation lies in reaching out to the opposition. There must be elements within the PTI that are not comfortable with the recalcitrance of Khan. Such elements should be engaged and a political dialogue be launched aimed at understanding the grievances of the opposition. The government has already announced that it would hold an in-camera briefing with military offi-cials and the former Pakistani envoy to the US regarding the 'letter'.

By Alfred De Zayas

low-up. Whereas some

to an economy that needs a

modicum of certainty and

The gathering storm transition. While the Ghani

War clouds have once again gathered over Afghanistan. Even as American's longest war in its his-tory has ended, the Afghan people are unlikely to enjoy the dividends of peace. In fact, a renewed civil war has already startbetween 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 tol-erant and responsible image in order to increase their domes-tic and international acceptability.

Rejecting claims, the Afghan government 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.

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, a b a n d o n i n g Afghanistan to its fate. American "over the horizon" military operations in support of the Ghani government, such as recent ment, 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 govern-ment. The Indian objective was clearly spelt out recently by former Indian Foreign Secretary Sham Seran that an Afghan civil war would be prefer-able to a Taliban gov-

ernment. A more sinister aspect of such Indo-

US cooperation, underscored by the meeting between meeting 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 Minister 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 circum-stances, Afghanistan will not only face fur-

ther devastation but will also be denied the benefits of its poten-tial 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

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 these countries, stressed their willingness to accept a political solution, sought international recognition and promised to ensure that the Afghan 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 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', there-fore, hold the most promising option to secure peace in A f g h a n i s t a n. Intensified collective initiatives by them can still prevent a full scale civil war and

lead to a peaceful

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 riews 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 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-owned Afghan-owned peace process is laud-able. 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.

unaware 'ake news' and 'posttruth' are popular neolo-gisms - but

gisms - but they have actually been part of the political landscape for a very long time. We have learned to live with fake news, fake history and bogus law. We swim in an ocean of lies and dis-informabut somehow manage to survive the economic and political sharks all around us.

What is far more worrisome is the phenomenon that there are 'real facts' that cry out for our attention, that demand urgent action, and that our politicians and media treat as nonexistent or marginal, eg exorbitant expenses, skewed national budgets, xenophobic war-mongering, structural violence, aggression, coercive financial unilateral measures, blockades, the homolo-gation of the media, manifestly unjust laws, the corruption of the 'rule of law' through legal scams and 'lawfare', the penetration of public institutions by intelligence services, the 'weaponization' of human rights, the imprisonment

whistleblowers

Julian Assange, unjust

taxation, tax havens, tax evasion, corporate exploitation, ecocide, extreme poverty, man-made famine, social exclusion, etc.

Now pause, take a breath and ask yourself why these facts are largely ignored or trivi-alized by politicians and media alike. Why are these 'inconvenient' facts shoved aside, as if they were only of marginal importance or as if they did not exist? Without a doubt these facts engender shortterm, medium-term and long-term conse-quences, create or per-petuate imbalances and spread a vague, desta-bilizing sense of inco-herence and cognitive dissonance.

Facts without consequences' constitute a sui generis category of reality. These facts may be present and available in the internet and generally acknowl-edged - but only under the tacit condition that no genuine debate will be conducted and no concrete action will be taken thereon. It is worse than a conspira-cy of silence. It is a conspiracy of irrespon-

There are also 'books without consequences', books without the urgent, imperative fol-

trash books like Francis Fukuyama's The End of History and the Last Man are given enor-mous attention, hugely relevant and challenging books by Noam Chomsky, John
Mearsheimer, Stephen
Kinzer, William Blum,
Jeffrey Sachs, Nils
Melzer, President
Jimmy Carter are publighted by notable house lished by notable houses, but there is no fol-low-up. One would have expected that after the publication of C h o m s k y 's Manufacturing Consent', Kinzer's 'Overthrow', Sachs' 'The End of Poverty', Melzer's 'The Trial of Assange', Carter's Endangered Values', or The Mearsheimer's 'The Great Delusion' not only polite academic debate and scholarly conferences would follow, but genuine democratic discussion would be conducted in townhalls, in the daily press, in the internet, throughout the spectrum of the media. Politically these and other necessary books were met by silence. They had the potential to advance international law and human rights, and that is precisely why they have been victims of

benign neglect'.

Two CAA

directors removed

from service

KARACHI: The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Tuesday showed the door to two of

its directors for committing irregu-

Director Air Transport Irfan Sabir was removed from his employment with immediate effect

for committing irregularities while permitting additional flights to the

foreign airlines.

Irfan Sabir was fired though the term of his contract was yet to be

expired.

According to the sources, the charge of Director Air Transport was now handed to Additional Director Air Transport.

Director Security Air Commodore (retd) Salman Aziz's contract was also not extended while Additional Director Security Colonel Rehan's job was extended

Four children burnt to death, over 125 houses gutted in Khairpur fire

DADU: At least four children were burnt to death, several people scorched and more than 10 dozen houses gutted with households due to fire here Monday-

with households due to fire here Monday-Tuesday night. According to details, fire initiated in a house located in tehsil Khairpur Nathan Shah area of District. The fire spread rapidly due to wind and dust storm and engulfed dust storm and engulfed

over 100 houses. Four children including Abdul Rasool, Mour, Tehmina and Sakina aged between four to eight years were burnt alive while several others were scorched. The fire brigade could not reach the scene and fire was doused by local people on self-help bases.

self-help bases.

The bodies and injured were shifted to local hospital. Meanwhile, a massive fire gutted all the homes in village Faiz Muhammad in Tehsil Mehar while 25 homes in paerby village. Salah village Saleh Machi were also destroyed. At least four children were burnt to death, several people scorched and more than

10 dozen houses gutted with households due to fire here Mondayfire here Tuesday night.

According to details, fire initiated in a house located in tehsil Khairpur Nathan Shah area of District. The fire spread rapidly due to wind and dust storm and engulfed over 100 houses.

Four children including Abdul Rasool, Mour, Tehmina and Sakina aged between four to eight years were burnt alive while several others were scorched. The fire brigade.INP

CPEC to remain top priority of the new govt: Report

ISLAMABAD: CPEC will remain top priority of the new government and change of regime in Pakistan makes no effect in carrying forward the long-standing Sino-Pak friendship, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. The report mentioned

the recent speech of the new Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif delivered in the parliament, in which he declared that his government would speed up the high-quality con-struction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, making it a symbol of China-Pakistan

friendship.

CPEC lives in the heart of the people of Pakistan where no matter who rules the country, CPEC will remain at the top pri-

ority, he remarked.

According to the report, due to this fate-changing China-Pakistan cooperation on CPEC, the life of Pakistani people, especially at grassroots level, has been not only improved but transformed towards a better direction. The entire political spectrum includ-ing the leading political parties has a strong con-sensus for standing together on CPEC. While reacting on the new appointment, China appreciates the new Prime Minister's remarks and is ready to work with Pakistan to continue to

further advance the high-quality development of CPEC.

There is an urge to practically expand the bilateral cooperation and build CPEC together for shared benefits. There is also a desire from both sides to accelerate the building of closer China-Pakistan ties to create a community of shared future in this new era and work together to promote the well-being of the two

At the advent of CPEC in 2015, Pakistan Muslim League (N) was ruling in Islamabad with the vast majority. During the reign of Nawaz Sharif, many long-term communica-tions and energy projects under CPEC made huge progress.
It is also important to

note that when Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif was Chief Minister of Punjab, a province with a solid industrial and agri-culture base, he worked on CPEC projects at phenomenal speed. There is an expectation that this time he will deliver at the national level with the same enthusiasm and

speed. CPEC has been so entrenched in the national roots of Pakistan that no government can change It is a state-to-state strong partnership. Government and people's representation may

level, and there may be slight changes in the ways of implementation; however, the basic nor-mative model and structures will remain the

same. CPEC holds a strong ground for the essential between cooperation bet Pakistan and China.

Over all these years the defining moments in the history of relations helped both sides thwart the test of times with grounded support through prudence and foresight-edness shared by Beijing and Islamabad.

Our ancestors' seeds of friendship sowed more than decades ago have evolved into a perfectly developed tree with many branches of benevolence and fruits growing all around. The roots are vivid in our hearts and on our lands. Pakistan-China rela-

tions are based on the strength of the shared belief in peace and prosperity and beyond any politics or change of gov-ernments. The level of relationship that both Pakistan and China enjoy is beyond time and space having the strength and resilience to face and bat-

tle any storm together. CPEC is the epitome of the China-Pakistan relations and is considered as a model for the other countries to follow. With the change of government in Pakistan INP



ISLAMABAD: Newly appointed Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmud being briefed by Federal Secretary Jawwad Rafique Malik about role of Ministry.

Distt Admn. Rwp seized 32 trucks, recovered 831 mt wheat in one week

RAWALPINDI: District Administration Rawalpindi seized 32 trucks and recov-ered 831 metric tonnes of wheat in collaboration with Motorway Police and Food Department, during last one week. This was informed during

the meeting of price control committee held here on Tuesday with Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Noorul Amin Mengal in chair.

Mengal in chair.

The Commissioner Rawalpindi Division directed the official concerned to ensure availability of 10 kg flour bag for Rs480 during month of Ramadan.Noorul Amin Mengal further said that the possibility of smuggling has increased due to decrease in the price of flour and therefore more

ISLAMABAD: NAB has challenged in Islamabad High Court (IHC) the decision of

Accountability Court (AC) on

acquittal of 6 persons including two prime minister Yousuf Raza

Gillani and Pervez Ashraf in appointment of chairman OGRA case.

The acquittal of Sikandar Hayat Mekin, Javed Nazir, Shaukat Durrani and former chairman OGRA Tauqir Sadiq

and more strict monitoring is required. Also procure-ment and release of wheat will be going side by side so we need to remain more

so we need to remain more vigilant.

He said that a total of 14 check posts have been set up in Rawalpindi division including Sang Jani Toll Plaza, Brahma Bahtar Interchange and M1 Interchange in Rawalpindi district. In District Attock check-posts are established at Attock Khurd (Malan Mansoor). Jhari Kas, Khushal Garh and Jamshed Ghazi Road. Mangla Dina in Jhelum District and In Chakwal Blaksar Interchange, Neela Dehla

Chakwal Blaksar Interchange, Neela Dehla and Kalar Kahar. The Commissioner said that Rawalpindi district administration, in collabo-ration with the Motorway

NAB challenges acquittal of yousuf

Raza Gillani, Raja Pervez Ashraf in chairman

OGRA appointment case

NAB filed reference in this

The accountability court while accepting the acquittal

pleas of the accused persons on March 17 acquitted them from

the reference. The acquittal pleas of the accused persons were accepted under NAB amendment ordinance. This ref-

erence was filed before promul-gation and application of NAB

He further argued that NAB amendment ordinance does not

apply to references filed ahead

amendment ordinance 2021

regard. The

Police and the Food Department, seized 32 trucks and recovered 831

trucks and recovered 831 metric tonnes of wheat during the last one week. He further said that the purpose of government subsidy is to provide relief to the people. Therefore, all concerned officers should ensure that the wheat and flour given on subsidy is within the reach of common man mon man.

Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Commissioner (Genéral)
Qasim Ijaz, Deputy
Director Food Zaman Khan
and other concerned officers attended meeting in
personal whereas Deputy
Commissioners of Attock,
Jhelum and Chakwal
District attended via video
link.INP

NAB requested the court to

nullify the accountability court decision besides ordering to move ahead the proceedings of

the case.OThe court was informed through appeal plea former chairman OGRA Taugir

Sadiq was appointed against the rules. NAB filed reference in

The accountability court while accepting the acquittal pleas of the accused persons on March 17 acquitted them from the reference. The acquittal pleas of the accused persons were accepted under NAB

were accepted under NAB amendment ordinance. This ref-

erence was filed before promul-

gation and application of NAB amendment ordinance 2021.INP

this regard.

Colonel Rehan's job was extended for six months, the sources added.INP SC seeks details from KP

govt about foreign aid for quake-hit people ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court Tuesday sought from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) gov-ernment the details of foreign

funds that came as aid for the quake-hit people. A three-member bench headed by Justice Ijazul Ahsan heard the case and questioned about the

expenditure of funds.
"How much funds came from abroad for the rehabilitation of quake-hit areas?" questioned Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi.
"Tell us which were the projects the forcer funds had been seen force."

the foreign funds had been spent on? How much money was spent on education and health projects?" he questioned further.
"Explain how much money the

"Explain how much money the provincial government has been left with in terms of funds? Who is supervising which plan? Tell us how much money came and how much was spent?" he continued.

The KP government asked for time to submit a reply which the

time to submit a reply which the court granted.

The hearing of the case was then adjourned for one month.INP

Rs3.15 per unit hike in power tariff sought

ISLAMABAD: Increase in electricity prices by Rs3.15 per unit is sought as the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) filed an application in the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday.

If increased this would put an additional burden of Rs30 billion on the consumers.In its application, the CPPA informed that 10 billion units of electricity was produced in the country in March, 2022 at the cost of Rs94.INP



QUETTA: A view of Ramzaan sasta bazaar in provincial capital, needs attention of concern authorities'.

Pakistan's fish meal exports to China topped 13,866 tons

BEIJING: Pakistan's fish meal export to China topped 13,866 tons with a value of over US\$15.68 million, witnessing a yearon-year increase of 250.59% in the January-February period, Chinese customs data showed. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral trade between Pakistan and between Pakistan and China has increased sigexports to China stood at US\$ 670.72 million in January- February of FY22, up 22.77 per cent from US\$ 546.30 million in the same period of the previous year

According General Administration of Customs of the People's (GACC), flours & meals of fish, used in animal feeding commodity code (23012010) from Pakistan, crossed US\$ 15.68 million with a total volume of 13,866 tons, while last year it was US\$ 4.47 million with a total volume

4,917 tons in the January-February period.

Data showed that in

2021, the total fish meals used in animal feeding, imported from Pakistan was 40,654.92 tons, worth US\$40.53 million.

Khurram Naseeb, A-One Fish Meal in Karachi, told Gwadar Pro that there are several reasons for the growth, including a short supply from other coun-tries: almost all suppliers including Vietnam, including Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, the USA, Ecuador, Mauritania and Morocco limited fishmeal export, whereas only Pakistan, India and Peru

are exporting to China.
"At the beginning of this year, prices for other agricultural commodities increase a lot, such as soybean meal, corn, rapeseed meal, due to the pandemic and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Therefore, many ani-mals feed relies heavily on fishmeal, which comes from juvenile fish usual-ly", Khurram added. He mentioned

Pakistan's fishery process-ing industry needs improvto enhance exports although due to the 2nd China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement in which more than 313 items are now enjoying duty-free access to China including fish-eries; there is still a need build jetties for local fishermen.

"We can increase our export and prices by improving our boats, loading time from boats to trucks and transportation of raw fish from port to factories because Pakistan has more potential than what they are achieving now, roughly 85,000 tons per year", Khurram stated.Khurram Naseeb, A-One Fish Meal in Karachi, told Gwadar Pro that there are several reasons for the growth, including a short supply from other counalmost all suppliers ding Vietnam, including Vietnam Malaysia, Thailand, the USA, Ecuador, Mauritania and Morocco limited fish-

was also challenged. The prosecutor general NAB has filed appeal plea in IHC with the approval of chairman NAB. The court was informed through appeal plea former chairman OGRA Tauqir Sadiq was appointed against the rules. of promulgation of this ordi-nance. The trial court announced the decision of acquitting the accused persons in haste and without solid reason. PM Shehbaz

summons his first

cabinet meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday summoned the first meeting of his fed-eral cabinet shortly after the members were sworn in in the first phase at an oath-taking ceremony at

The newly formed cabinet will meet at PM House tomorrow (Wednesday) at 10am, Geo News report-

All the newly appointed cabinet members and advisers will attend the meeting, where the current political and economic situation of the country will

It has been almost two months since the last federal cabinet meeting was held under an agenda. However, special meetings of the cabinet were summoned during this period but only for approval on specific matters, such as the much-talked-about "threat latter"

PM Shehbaz Sharif's cabinet was finally formed after much anticipation and delays.

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjarani administered the oath to the members of the federal cabinet. So far, the cabinet has 31 federal ministers, three ministers of state and three advisers. INP

President's impeachment: Zardari meets Mengal, Fazal to remove Alvi

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari met Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman and Sardar Akhtar Mengal from the ruling coalition to discuss the removal of President Arif Alv through impeachment.

The former president met the chiefs of Jamiat Jlema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F) and the Baloch National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) here in Islamabad to discuss resident Alvi's impeachment.

The JUI-F chief, in the meeting, told Asif Ali Zardari that his party is bringing their candidate for the next

Asif Ali Zardari is looking to get the BNP-M chief in the cabinet. Sardar Akhtar Mengal, as a condition, asked for the formation of an inquiry commission for the Chaghi incident.

Sardar Akhtar Mengal, in the meeting, advised Asif Ali Zardari to check the numbers before making their decision. He also said the cabinet should be made in different stages. Mengal also said the coalition should stay united when making decisions. The former president met the chiefs of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F) and the Baloch National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) here in Islamabad to discuss President Alvi's impeachment.INP

before the commission. Anwar Mansoor the

counsel for PTI argued before the commission that I feel sorrow over the language used in court's decision.

non completion of elec-tion commission (EC) he said that the EC compris es 4 members and a chief election commissioner. Now its two members are not present. All the powers of the election commission have been explained under article 218 of the constitution.

He further argued the interesting thing is this if any difference of opinion arises in the decision of 3-member bench then the matter will be put up



ISLAMABAD: Pangchunxue, Charge de Affaires of the Embassy of People's Republic of China called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail here at the Finance Division.

EC directs PTI counsel to complete his arguments in foreign funding case

Anwar Mansoor said "

DEPERTMENT (BRICK MASONRY

DBQ-KALAT TSE-21220454363

I am ready to give arguments. Any party can col-

ISLAMABAD: Electio n Commission (EC) has directed the counsel for PTI to complete his arguments on next hearing in foreign funding case. The case came up for

hearing before a 3-mem-ber bench headed by Election Commissioner (CEC) here Tuesday.

The counsel for petitioner Akbar S Babar read out the Islamabad High (IHC) decision

Raising question over

lect funding from foreign countries. However this before 5 members bench. remarked have noted your objection but as per court's orders it funding should not be prohibited funding. is must to decide the case within 30 days.

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer Building CWPP&H Department District Kalat invites sealed

bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mention in the bidding documents for the works mentioned below. The estimated cost and

other information of works are as under: percentage tender based on Composite

Raising objection over scrutiny committee report he said scrutiny committee has overstepped the TORS given INP

09 May

2022

Schedule of Rates 2018, Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules. & Tender complete details please visit http://www.bppra.gob.pk . Bid Security @ 3% for the Name of Work Tender C02716 opening Date CONSTRUCTION OF RADIALOGY

Bid submission/ Tender opening Date 09 May 2022.DEADLINE OF SUMBISSION. Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed in two separates envelopes clearly marked with Work title & type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on before before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. The Second sealed envelope containing "financial bids" of technically responsive / qualified bidders will be opened on the same date. Bids Validity: Ninty (90) days. Place: The place of issuance,

submission, inquiries and opening will be - The office of the Executive Engineer Building CWPP&H Department District Kalat.

Building CWPP&H Department Kalat. PRQ NO.3316.19-04-2022 😽 www.dpr.gob.pk. 📝 @dpr_gob 🧝 dpr.gob 🛨 @dgpr.balo



KARACHI:Activists of Civil Society holds placards during protest for demanding justice for the family of murdered Nazim Jokhio, outside Press Club in Provincial Capital.

US policies damaging world, reserve currency ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday said the United States, after failing to subdue Russia, is making the world a liv-ing hell through flawed policies and weak sanc-

Russia's concerns and a viable solution to the war is being ignored by the west, which is further exacerbating the situa-

Sanctions on Russia are not working, its economy is showing signs of resilience while the US economics are being affected, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal,

President PEW.

He said that the renewed Cold War by the United States and its

allies has led to rising inflation, unemployment, and interest rates in these countries and reduced production which has

resulted in heavy losses. People around the world are being influ-enced, as the US and allies have mistaken Russia for a weak coun-try, which is costing it dearly.
The US economy is

now heading towards a recession, which will have repercussions for the rest of the world, he

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that US sanctions on Russia are meaningless they have failed to break the resolve of

Putin. European countries

are still paying Russia \$1.5billion a day for oil

meal export, whereas only Pakistan.INP

and gas because they have no other option.

Dr. Mughal said that the United States had imposed sanctions on a small country like Cuba sixty years ago, but so far it could not create public unrest there, nor has it been able to bring in cooperative government.

North Korea has been under sanctions since the fifties, which have been tightened over time but have not forced leaders of the country to change their style. Forty-three years ago, Iran was sanc-tioned, but to no avail.

He said that Pakistan has remained neutral in the dispute, which was a sensible move. A former

ing national security for cheap fame, which should be noted, he demanded. He said that the renewed Cold War by the United States and its of Putin. are still paying Russia \$1.5billion a day for oil and gas because they have no other option. allies has led to rising inflation, unemployment, and interest rates in these

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cooperative government. North Korea has been under sanctions since the fifties, which have been tightened over time but have not forced leaders of the country to change their style.INP

US looks forward to 'working closely' with Shehbaz govt across regional, international issues

US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price on Tuesday said that the United States looked forward to "working closely" with newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his government across regional and international issues and described the US-Pakistan relationship as a "vital one".

The senior official made the statement during a press briefing today in response to a question from a jour-

"For almost 75 years our relationship with Pakistan has been a vital one," he said. "We look forward to continuing that work with the new government in Pakistan across regional and international issues. This is work that has the potential to promote peace and prosperity in Pakistan and throughout the region.

"We have already congratulated the new Pakistani prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, on his election, and we look — we work — excuse me — we look forward to working closely with his government."

In the press briefing on Tuesday, Price was responding to a question about reports of alleged Pakistani air strikes in Afghanistan. "We are aware of the reports of Pakistani air strikes in Afghanistan, but we'd refer you to the Pakistani government for comment," the US official said.

The State Department spokesperson's statement follows a flurry of allegations from PM Shehbaz's predecessor, Imran Khan, who claims that Washington was behind a conspiracy to oust his government.

He based his allegation on a diplomatic cable in which it was reportedly said that a State Department offi-

E USA The Horticulture

OUETTA: FAO representative in Pakistan Florence Rolle sign on document during a signing ceremony of the Thaza High velue grant agreement establishment of cold storage.

Pakistan reports 85 COVID-19 cases, no deaths in 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported no deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has risen to 1,527,411. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 30,364 on Tuesday.

According to the latest figures by the National Institute of Health (NIH) 85 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms of deaths followed

by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
Till now 13,559 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Punjab, 8,098 in Sindh, 6,323 in KP, 1,023 in Islamabad, 792 in Azad Kashmir, 378 in Balochistan and 191 in GB.

Furthermore 576,618 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 505,720 in Punjab, 219,389 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 135,159 in Islamabad, 43,306 in Azad Kashmir, 35,483 in Balochistan and 11,736 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Pakistan has so far conducted 27,944,584 coronavirus tests and 18,563 in the last 24 hours. 1,493,707 patients have recovered in the country whereas 209 patients are in critical

The COVID-19 positivity ratio was recorded at 0.45 percent. So far, 133,916,484 people have received their first dose of coronavirus vaccine including 57,649 in last 24 hours. 120,721,865 citizens have been fully vaccinated while 132,494 received their second dose in last 24 hours.

The number of total administered doses has reached to 244,568,232 with 214,100 in the last 24 hours.INP

Influential persons rape 18-year-old girl in Gujrat

GUJRAT: Some influential persons raped an 18-year-old girl in Khawajgan locality of Gujrat so much

so that she became pregnant. According to reports on Tuesday, the rapists barged into the girl's house, drugged her as well as her father and

raped her at gunpoint.

The medical report of Mehak showed that she had conceived a child. Although locals later handed over the rapists to the police, the latter set them free even after registration of a case against them.INP

3 labourers die in Orakzai mine accident

ORAKZAI: Three labourers died after water filled a coalmine they were working in at Orakzai District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday. According to police sources, the mishap occurred after the water stock

collapsed inside the mine.
All the dead labourers belonged to
Shangla, said the police sources.INP

Punjab CM-elect Hamza moves LHC for early oath-taking by governor

LAHORE: A petition was filed in the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday seeking early administration of oath to Chief Minister-elect Hamza

Shehbaz by the Punjab governor. The petition of Hamza Shehbaz was filed in the court through his lawyer Azam Nazir Tarar Advocate in which the Punjab governor and chief secre-

tary were made respondents.
It was stated in the petition that the resignation of former chief minister Usman Buzdar had been accepted on April 1, and the Chief Minister's office has been lying vacant since

"It is a constitutional convention for the governor to call the elected chief minister and administer oath to him.

Violation of constitutional conventions is in fact a deviation from the Constitution itself," read the petition. A constitutional crisis is being cre-

"A constitutional crisis is being created which is against the parliamentary democracy and the spirit of the Constitution. The governor's office is a symbol of federation and unity, and the governor's job is to protect the Constitution," it added.

"In the written Constitution, the governor does not have the powers of a king. The governor's refusal to take

a king. The governor's refusal to take oath from the petitioner is a political ploy and bad intention.INP

US provides \$48m aid for Afghan refugees in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The US Embassy in Islamabad has said that it is pleased to note that more than \$48 million of the newly announced US humanitarian assistance is for Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan.

The embassy in

The embassy in a tweet on Tuesday said, "We are deeply grateful to Pakistan's generosity

grateful to Pakistan's generosity hosting Afghan refugees, and proud to support."

President Joe Biden had announced nearly \$204 million in additional humanitarian assistance to Afghans. "We continue to stand by the Afghan people"

The US embassy also shared the tweet of Spokesperson of State Department Ned Price about announcing financial aid to Afrikans to Afghans

During High-Level Pledging Event on Supporting the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan, the United States announced they are providing nearly \$204 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help the people of Afghanistan,

bringing the total amount to more than \$720 million since August 2021.

August 2021.
This new funding includes nearly \$134 million from the Department of State and more than \$70 million from the US.
This funding will provide emergency cash, shelter, trauma care and essential health services, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance, protection and gender-based violence services, multisectoral assistance, and reintegration assistance to and reintegration assistance to internally displaced and internally returnee populations in Afghanistan and refugee populations in neighboring countries. The US embassy also shared the tweet of Spokesperson of State Department Ned Price about announcing financial aid to

Afghans.
During High-Level Pledging
Event on Supporting the
Humanitarian Response in Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan, the United States announced they are providing nearly \$204 million in addition-al humanitarian.INP

Zahid Akram Durrani submits nomination papers for NA deputy speaker

ISLAMABAD: Member National (MNA) Zahid Akram Durrani on Tuesday submitted nomination papers for election to the office of Deputy Speaker National Assembly.

No other candidate filed the nomination papers. Election to the office of the deputy speaker will be held Wednesday (today).

The National Assembly Secretariat earlier issued a sched-ule for the election of the deputy speaker of the House and nomination papers could be submitted for the slot till April 19 (Tuesday) at

12 pm with Secretary National Assembly.

According to NA Secretariat, no other candidate except Zahid Akram Durrani submitted the nomination papers. The election for the vacant seat of deputy speaker will take place on April 20.

The seat fell vacant after Qasim

JUI-F's Suri resigned from the post fol-lowing the no-confidence motion submitted against him by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). It is pertinent to mention here

that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) lawmaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on April 16 was elected 22nd Speaker of the National Assembly unopposed as no other candidate submitted nomination papers against him.The National Assembly Secretariat earlier issued a schedule for the election of the deputy speaker of the House and nomination papers could be submitted for the slot till April 19 (Tuesday) at 12 pm with Secretary National Assembly According to NA Secretariat, no other candidate except Zahid Akram Durrani sub-mitted the nomination papers. The election for the vacant seat of deputy speaker will take place on April 20. The seat fell vacant after Qasim Suri resigned from the post following.INP

Kashmiri will stage protest on Modi visit on occupied land

MUZAFFARABAD: The Chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Uzair Ahmad Ghazali appealed the masses to join resistance movement against Indian illegal military occupation.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that Protests will be held in the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir against the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in occupied state.

occupied state.

He termed the forthcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Occupied Jammu and Kashmir on April 24 as a heinous conspiracy

impose imperialist agenda against the Kashmiri people. He said that Narendra Modi usurped the basic rights of Kashmiri people on August 5, 2019, adding that he is once again visiting the state to show normalcy

Ghazali maintained that Modi is openly engaged in conspira-cies against the Muslims' systematic genocide in India particularly in occupied Kashmir.

"The ruthless rulers of the Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party, Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Ajit Doval, have snatched the rights of 15 million people of the globally recognized disputed state", he said.

While talking about Modi's upcoming visit to occupied state, he said that the Kashmiri people have no interest in the

people have no interest in the visits of Indian rulers including Modi as Jammu and Kashmir

has never been part of India. Uzair said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are still demanding free, fair and impar-tial referendum in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Ghazali appealed the incumbent Azad Kashmir government and people to protest on the occasion of Narendra Modi's controversial visit to the state and make it clear to the world that we reject India's military rule.INP

Mubarak, as a tradition, a memorial meeting for Mirwaiz Yousuf Shah (RA) used to be held at the historic Aali Masjid, Eidgah in Srinagar under the supervision of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq but due to nearly three years of illegal and arbitrary house detention of the Mirwaiz, the event could not take place. However, it said, under the auspices of the Awami Action

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani khar met Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and other senior officers, after assuming charge of her

cial had warned of "consequences" for bilateral ties if the no-confidence motion against Khan failed

Washington has denied the claims.

In his press briefing Tuesday, the State Department spokesperson underlined that the US viewed Pakistan as an "important stakeholder and partner" with whom the country was engaging to bring about a stable and secure

Afghanistan.

"And importantly an Afghanistan that respects the basic and fundamental rights of its people, all of its people, including its minorities, its women, its girls," Price added.

Reuters had on Saturday reported that Afghanistan's foreign affairs ministry had summoned Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul over the recent alleged attacks in the eastern Afghan provinces of Khost and Kunar and had given him a diplomatic demarche to deliver to Islamabad.

Subsequently, the Foreign Office had said that the government was looking into the situation and "will give its position accordingly". On Sunday, the Foreign Office issued a statement in which it "strongly condemned" the use of Afghan soil by terrorists to carry out activities in Pakistan and urged the Afghan government to take stern action against such elements, while reaffirming respect for Kabul's "independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity" "Pakistan will continue to work closely with the Afghan government to strengthen bilateral relations in all fields," it had said in its statement web Desk

No one be it Imran Khan will be spared if charges are proved: Interior minister

ISLAMABAD: New interior minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan has said no one will be subjected to victimization but if corruption charges are proved against any one during investigation then he will

not be spared be it Imran Khan.
"we will not arrest any one without any reason nor will any revengeful action be taken against any one. All the proceedings will be initiated within ambit of law. If any charge is proved against Imran Khan during the investigation then he will too be arrested. Law is equal for all be it Imran Khan or any one else", he said this while talking to media men after oath taking ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadr

"The case of recovery of 15 kilogram heroin was registered against me. I want to come to know this 15 kilogram heroin had come from where. Therefore, I will get investigate this matter. The then DG ANF has retired. Otherwise I would have some to kis home and asked him shout it.

gone to his home and asked him about it.

Responding to a question he said Imran Khan himself had given three options to establishment which were not accepted by the opposition and the matter was finished. Now Imran Khan is shifting the responsibility of three options to establishment to sell his parrative. to sell his narrative.

He went on to say the facts are known to every

one. Now his false narrative can not be sold There are information of receiving money ranging between Rs 300 million to Rs 500 million from housing society in ring road Rawalpindi project, he indicated. This will be investigated who

Three shot dead

over land rivalry in

Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Three persons were killed in a horrific clash between two groups of different villages located at Sargodha Road in Faisalahad over a dispute

Sargodha Road in Faisalabad over a dispute, land contracting system and termination of contract prematurely.

The relatives of the deceased persons staged a sit-in at the Sargodha Road to protest against the injustice and seek justice from the authorities.

rice from the authorities.
Police teams reached the spot and started investigation.INP

AAC pays tributes

to late Mirwaiz

Yousuf Shah in

Srinagar

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Awami Action Committee

(AAC), has paid rich trib-

utes to the eminent reli-gious and political leader,

Mirwaiz Maulana Muhammad Yousuf Shah (RA) on his 55th death anniversary for his his-toric, selfless and invalu-

able services to the people

of the territory.
According to Kashmir

Media Service, the AAC, while reiterating its commitment to take forward the mission of the revered

late leader, termed Mirwaiz Mirwaiz Yousuf Shah (RA) as a great asset for the people of Kashmir and said he devoted his

life towards spreading the message of Islam and continued to strive for a

better life for the Kashmiri people with sin-cerity and honesty. The late Mirwaiz (RA),

along with his religious, alowah, social and politi-cal efforts, performed an unforgettable service of conveying the message of

God to the common peo-ple by writing the first translation and commen-tary of the holy Qur'an in his mother tongue which

will be remembered till the Day of Resurrection, the AAC said.

The AAC lamented that on 17th Ramadan-ul-

supervision

the Awami Action Committee, a prayer meeting was organised at

the historic Jamia Masjid Srinagar before the Zuhr

prayers, today, in which Qur'an recitation.INP

Mufasir-e-Quran Muhajir-e-Millat

them. No one has right to interfere in the private life of any one but the social media can not be left to avail unrestrained freedom. Under the directives of Imran Khan cases with death penalty were framed. To a question he said Nawaz Sharif has remained Prime Minister of this country and chief minister of Punjab province. Online

High BMI linked to COVID-19

unrestrained freedom.

severity in African Americans ISLAMABAD: New research has identified some common factors associated with severe cases of COVID-19 in African American people, including a high body mass index

While all people have a risk of contracting the infection and developing the disease, this risk is not equally distributed.

"Long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put many people from racial and ethnic minori-

ty groups at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19." Various studies and reviews have demonstrated this disproportionate impact. The articles consistently point to an association between ethnicity and race and COVID-19 severity, highlighting that the disease and our approach to it must be understood in concentrations. in socioeconomic, as well as biologi-

received this money because some big names are

Inquiry into several matters about Farah Khan will be conducted as multiple charges have allegedly been leveled against her, he pointed out. He underlined that social media will be regulated but no one's freedom will be stifled.

Campaign against the state institutions is not acceptable, he said adding the elements found involved in such campaign will be brought to dock. No one has right to interfere in the private life of any one but the social media can not be left to avail unrestrained freedom.

unrestrained freedom.

Under the directives of Imran Khan cases with death penalty were framed.

To a question he said Nawaz Sharif has remained Prime Minister of this country and chief minister of Punjab province. Bid was made to abolish his citizenship. Passport is right of Nawaz Sharif which will soon be issued. He underlined that all the departments of interior ministry will formulate short term and long term policies. The reforms will be introduced. He announced operation against the

be introduced. He announced operation against the terrorism will continue. Forces have rendered unprecedented sacrifices. People are standing with

Inquiry into several matters about Farah Khan

Racism, segregation, and inequality, which have been for decades invisibly and pervasively embedded in dominant cultures and social insti-

tutions, now emerge as a monumental COVID-19 challenge."

The analysis included African American patients with confirmed COVID-19 who presented to an academic beautiful between Moreh 12 and 12 and 12 and 13 and 13 and 14 and 15 and 1 demic hospital between March 12 and April 9, 2020. In total, the study included 158 participants, 61% of whom were women. The participants' average age was 57.

The study recorded whether the participants had recorded whether the

recorded whether the patients had required treatment in an intensive care unit (ICU), using this to define whether they had experienced severe COVID-19. The participants' general health was identified retrospectively, by looking at their medical records.INP



ISLAMABAD:Inspector General of Police Ahsin Younas and senior Superintendent Police (SP) Tahir Khan dispatching the stars to Shams gill for promoting to the rank of Inspector at IG Office in Federal Capital.

Rehmani denounces India for letting loose oppression in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJ&K has con-demned the forced recitation of India's national anthem in mosques, shrines, Imambarghas of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, prosecution of Kashmiri students, scholars and journalists and mass campaign of lynching Indian Muslims by RSS goons in India under Narendra Modi.

In a statement in Islamabad, he

appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to observe black day on next Friday against sacrilegious acts. He appealed to UNHRC and Amnesty International to take cognizance of the dark laws of the Modi regime to suffocate voices of the Kashmiris.

He warned that strangulation under anti-human rights laws was total and revengeful in the occupied region and the people were not allowed to express their ideas without risking their life, honour and property.

"All the political leaders not toeing the Delhi line had been put behind bars and charged with fabricated sto-ries of crimes against them." He stat-ed that Indian establishment was hell-

bent upon killing the Kashmiri intel-lectuals and leaders in jails. He said some human rights defenders, writers and journalists and political leaders were already charge sheeted. He narrated that Modi regime of

Hindutva fascist ideology was ruth-lessly following draconian rules and regulations to sentence the accused leaders and writers and rob students of their rights to accomplish their studies in universities. He feared there was actual danger to their lives while properties of Kashmiri Muslims already ran the risk of being confiscated by the Modi regime under some black rules and regulations.

Farooq Rehmani stated that the latest such example was arrest of Dr. Abdul Aala Fazili of the Kashmir University, whose house was raided by 26 police personnel last Saturday,

by 26 police personnel last Saturday, searched from dawn to dusk, harassed the family and the university scholar was taken into custody.

He called upon the UN to immediately take notice of the worsening human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir and direct Indian government to stop suffocating people. INP

IHC dismisses intra-court treason plea against former PM, others

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday dis-missed an intra-court appeal seeking

reason proceedings against former prime minister and others.

A two-member bench of the high court comprised of Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan announced the reserved verdict unbelding the single member bench upholding the single member bench of the court.

The bench declared the petition as on-maintainable and dismissed it.
Earlier, a petition was filed at the Islamabad High Court to seek the inclusion of the names of Imran Khan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry, Qasim Suri and others on the exit control list (ECL) and an investigation into an alleged

threatening letter.
Chief Justice Athar Minallah in reserved verdict on the plea, also slapped a Rs100,000 fine on the peti-

Imran Khan had claimed on March 27 that the opposition's no-trust move is part of an alleged "foreign-funded conspiracy" hatched against his government over his refusal to have

Pakistan's foreign policy be influ-

enced from abroad.

He had made the revelations at his party's power show at Parade Ground in Islamabad. The prime minister had claimed

that foreign funds are being used in ongoing attempts to topple the PTI government. He had said that his govt was threatened via a letter which he kept as evidence with him. "I am ready to show the letter off the record

if someone is suspicious about it." Later, Imran Khan had openly held the US responsible for the "foreign conspiracy" to overthrow his govern-ment.Imran Khan had claimed on March 27 that the opposition's no-trust move is part of an alleged "for-eign-funded conspiracy" hatched against his government over his refusal to have Pakistan's foreign policy be influenced from abroad.

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