

QUETTA VOICE

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Wildfires continue to ravage KP districts for second day

Rana Sanaullah 'welcomes' Imran as PTI leaders confirm return to Bani Gala for core committee meeting

ISLAMABAD: Members of the former PTI government confirmed Imran Khan's plans to return to Islamabad for a core committee meeting. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday 'welcomed' him, saying the police personnel protecting the former prime minister would arrest him "with great enthusiasm" once his pre-arrest bail expires.

Former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed told Dawn.com that the former prime minister was planning to chair the core committee meeting at Bani Gala. Another aide, Shahbaz Gill told reporters outside Bani Gala that Imran was on his way and that the meeting would be held shortly.

Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry, said in a tweet that members of the core committee had begun arriving at Bani Gala.

The PTI chief had remained in Peshawar instead of his Bani Gala residence ever since he began his party's 'Haqeeqi Azadi March' on

May 25, in which police clashed with party workers amid reports of sporadic violence. Imran returned to Peshawar since the march abruptly ended the following day.

The day the marchers disbanded, Imran and other top PTI leaders were booked in a number of cases at multiple police stations across Islamabad over allegations of arson and vandalism. He received pre-arrest bail until June 25 from the Peshawar High Court, which instructed him to appear before the Islamabad sessions court before the expiry of his pre-arrest bail.

Late Saturday night, the Islamabad Police said that in the view of Imran's "expected arrival", security around Bani Gala has been strengthened and placed on high alert. But they said nothing official had been announced with regard to Imran's return.

"However, until now Islamabad Police has not received any confirmed news of return from Imran Khan's team," the Islamabad

police tweeted.

"Security Division has deployed dedicated security in Bani Gala. List of people in Bani Gala not provided yet to Police. Section 144 is imposed in Islamabad and any congregation is not allowed as per orders of District Magistrate," it further stated.

The police added that Imran would be provided complete security as per the law and "reciprocal cooperation is expected from security teams of Imran Khan as well".

Meanwhile, there were media reports that the PTI's core committee meeting would be held at Bani Gala. Former interior minister Sheikh Rashid confirmed to Dawn.com that the former prime minister is planning to chair the meeting. Addressing Imran's possible return, Sanaullah "welcomed" him and said as per the law, he was being provided security. However, he said that "same security" would arrest the PTI chairman with "great enthusiasm" as soon as his pre-arrest bail expires. Web Desk



Rana Sanaullah 'welcomes' Imran as PTI leaders confirm return to Bani Gala for core committee meeting



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing at the inauguration of Indus Hospital.

Balochistan to be given due share in federal budget 2022-23: Ahsan Iqbal

Staff Reporter

Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal has said that Balochistan would be given special attention regarding development projects in the financial budget for the year 2022-23, despite the economic downturn. He expressed these while talking to Jamal Shah Kakar, the Balochistan President of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) on Sunday.

"Balochistan would be given priority in the development budget", the Federal Minister stated. The federal government has already announced to allocate substantial funds

to bring Balochistan at par with other parts of the country.

Ahsan Iqbal stated that Balochistan would be given its due share keeping in view its backwardness. "Development of backward areas is one of the top priorities of the present government", the Federal Minister said.

The development and prosperity of Balochistan need to harness the potential of the youth of Balochistan. The federal government has made the development of backward areas one of the top priorities and special attention will be given to the educational development of the people of Balochistan.

He said that we are



working in different ways to make full use of the talented youth of Balochistan. The CPEC Industrial Project heralds a great era of development and prosperity not only for Gwadar and Balochistan but for the entire country.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project

Efforts on to bring women of Balochistan into national mainstream: IG FC

News Desk

QUETTA: Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) Balochistan, Muhammad Yousaf Majoka has said that efforts were underway to bring the youth of Balochistan including women into the national mainstream. He expressed these views while addressing the passing out parade of women recruits in Balochistan's Sibi city on Sunday. The IG FC north was the Chief Guest of the passing out parade. Most of the women who had joined the FC belonged to various parts of Balochistan. During the training, the women

recruits were given special military training to play their due role in maintaining law and order situation in Balochistan. IG FC North Balochistan, Muhammad Yousaf Majoka during the passing out ceremony in Sibi: Photo provided by ISPR. Addressing the passing out parade and swearing in ceremony of the second

batch of Lady Soldiers, the FC Chief congratulated the passing out Lady Recruits for successfully completing the training and joining the force. He urged the lady recruits to serve the motherland with pride, honor and dignity. He said that FC Balochistan is a well-organized and well-equipped force with all modern capabilities and professionalism.

Earlier, the special guest inspected the parade and also distributed prizes among the recruits who rendered excellent performance during the training. The ceremony was attended by Sector Commander East, FC officials, tribal elders and civil society representatives.



President for sustainable consumption practices to address climate change

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday said that the adverse impacts of climate change needed to be reversed by adopting sustainable consumption practices, protecting natural water resources, ensuring fertile soil and taking collective transformative action on a global scale by developing partnerships with all concerned authorities to save our planet Earth.

The president expressed these views while offering his greetings to all Pakistanis and environment-loving people around the world on the occasion of World Environment Day.

The 2022 World Environment Day campaign '#OnlyOneEarth' calls for 'collective, transformative

action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore the planet Earth.

The president said that Pakistan was among the worst-hit countries in terms of climate change due to fast melting glaciers, unpredictable rain patterns, dry spells and drying up of our water sources which posed serious challenges to the government and to the people of Pakistan.

Highlighting the need for environment-friendly practices, he said that it was achievable by educating our youth about dealing with this challenge and adopting the methods of the green environment today for a better future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The ignorant government is unaware that how climate change will affect the economy and stability of our province. In order to avoid deforestation, the Sui gas supply must be provided at lower costs to Ziarat and Zhob. Dams have to be built to store water, and then the stored water can be used in drought-like situations. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan's program of planting 100 million trees should be supervised. An awareness program is necessary for the province to switch from fossil fuels to solar and wind energy. Installation of tube wells should be banned.

CONCLUSION

Pakistan has signed the Paris agreement on climate change so the international community should help Pakistan as it is the seventh most vulnerable country to climate change but its emissions are 0.7% which is nearly negligible. As a developing country with limited resources and poverty, it is very difficult for Pakistan to fight against Climate change.

The author is a student of software engineering at Balochistan University of Science Engineering and Information Technology (BUISTEMS). He can be reached at @prbrtdfdn on Twitter

Wildfires continue to ravage KP districts for second day

Wildfires continued to ravage five districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for a second day on Sunday, prompting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to deploy two helicopters to aid in firefighting efforts in Swat. According to rescue officials and locals, the wildfires broke out in different areas of districts Shangla, Haripur, Swat, Lower Dir and Mohmand on Saturday, claiming the lives of four members of a family and injuring one other.

On Sunday, as the fires continued to burn, PM Shehbaz said he had passed orders for helicopters to be flown to Swat to help the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) put out the wildfires. The premier said that two choppers were being immediately sent to the area at the NDMA's request. "The full aerial support will boost the efforts of Rescue 1122, district administration and



forest department to extinguish the fire," he said. Sub-divisional forest officer, Zahid Hussain, told Dawn.com that the fire at Chakesar Ali Jaan Kaprai had been extinguished after two days of hectic efforts of forest officials, Rescue 1122 and police teams. Web Desk

A security man martyred, another injured in a blast in Kech district

From Our Correspondent

Security personnel was martyred and another got injured in a blast in Balochistan's Kech district on



Sunday. Security sources said the terrorists targeted the vehicle of security personnel through an improvised explosive device (IED) in Zamran area of the district.

One security personnel was martyred in the attack and another sustained injuries. The injured security personnel was shifted to the hospital for medical treatment.

Security personnel reached the area and started an investigation into the incident.

PM Shehbaz approves allocation of helicopters to douse Swat forest fires

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to provide two helicopters to extinguish the inferno in the forest area of Swat.

At the request of the local administration, Shehbaz Sharif also directed that air support be provided immediately to control the fire in Babuzai area.

It is pertinent to mention here that at least four people including three women were dead as fire erupted in Swat's mountainous forest, Chaksair on Saturday. Rescue teams along with the locals of Chaksair tried to control the fire and carried out relief operations. As per initial reports, four people including three women have been dead in the fire. The locals said initially fire broke out at four spots in Swat's mountainous forest, Brekot, Charbagh Kot, Kabal Segram and Chaksair. According to a local journalist of the area, the fire that erupted a week ago has been almost put under control. INP



LAHORE: A gypsy girl searching food in garbage in the slum area of the Provincial Capital.

PM Shehbaz calls for 'grand dialogue' for nation to progress

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday called for a "grand dialogue" between all stakeholders over vital sectors of the economy for the nation to progress.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Indus Hospital in Lahore, the PM said that a consensus should be developed over the national economy in such a manner that it "should not be disrupted with changes of governments".

He opined that there were certain sectors of the economy like IT and industrialisation through which the country could move ahead.

The prime minister underlined that those stakeholders should think "above themselves and their personal likes and dislikes" and accord top priority to the progress and prosperity of the nation.

He said no one should have permission to do politics on health, agriculture etc. "You need to see the bigger picture, you will have to kill your ego for the nation's prosperity," he added. The "grand dialogue" on economy mirrors the premier's calls for a "charter of economy" he has made in the past, most recently on May 27. INP

Looming threat of climate change and Balochistan

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

Climate change is a long-term change in temperature and seasonal conditions. Many people think that global warming is just a rise in temperature but that is just the start of the story. Climate change can result in droughts, flooding, a rise in sea levels, a threat to biodiversity, and severe storms. Climate change is caused both by nature and by humans. Since the 1800s humans have participated the most in global warming by burning fossil fuels i.e. coal, gas, and oil. These fossils emit greenhouse gases that trap the heat coming from the sun.

BALUCHISTAN MORE PRONE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Pakistan's temperature is increasing by 1 centigrade each year due to global warming. According to the climate change performance index (CCPI), Pakistan is the 7th most vulnerable country in the world and Balochistan especially. Droughts have hit Balochistan in different areas many times. Earlier Quetta had 100 Karezes and Mastung had 250 but now only one or two of them are left in Mastung.

According to an environmental specialist, Quetta city will be completely dry in nearly 5 to 6 years. The ignorance of the government and the poverty of the province make the situation worse in to fight against the climate change as the Daily Average income of more than half of Balochistan's population is 2 dollars. 85% percent of the province's population is dependent on agriculture and the droughts have affected the income of many families.

CAUSES

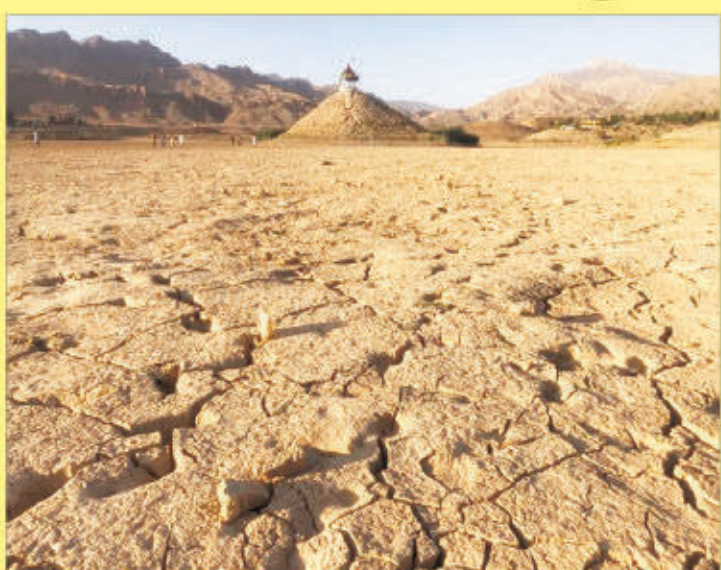
Deforestation:

One of the major causes of climate change in Balochistan is deforestation. Due to less supply of Sui gas, people cut down trees for cooling purposes in many areas. Increasing deforestation is decreasing biodiversity.

Garbage:

Garbage can be seen on each corner of the street, which shows the poor performance of the government. Landfills of garbage are also the main source of methane emissions that cause global warming.

Depleting water level:



The city is overpopulated and many illegal tube wells are installed. According to WASA, there are around 6000 illegal tube wells in Quetta. These tube wells are decreasing the underground water level rapidly. Earlier water was available at 100 to 200 feet but now it is available at more than 800 feet.

Impacts

Droughts:

The most dangerous effect of climate change on Balochistan is Extreme droughts, which the province is facing already. Barkan is in a more dangerous condition as it had a prolonged drought of 22 months from the year

1999 to 2001. Quetta has faced extreme droughts in the years 2000, 2004, and 2008.

Threat to Biodiversity:

Balochistan has a rich biodiversity, famous wild animals and birds found in the province are Markhor, Chakor, etc. The depletion of Karezes and Chashmas (springs) has endangered these species. The migratory birds traveled from Russian Siberia to Hana Lake, Quetta, and then towards Sindh but now they have vanished.

The danger of mass Migration:

There will be mass migration in Balochistan due to droughts which will possess adverse impacts. The province is already distributed by the migration of Afghan refugees which created differences between Pashtun and Baloch ethnic groups. The politicians are the only ones which benefited from the situation as it enhanced their politics.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

People at the mercy of tanker mafia in Quetta

Most of the government-owned water supply schemes/tube wells in Quetta and either dysfunctional or provide water to specific posh areas of the city. This situation has left the people in this provincial capital at the mercy of the tanker mafia, which has been minting money right under the nose of the concerned authorities.

The Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) has totally failed to provide water to the citizens and ensure the functioning of its dysfunctional tube wells. The Authority is a good employer with around 2,000 employees but it is least bothered about the woes of the masses.

Also Read: WASA fails to provide water in Quetta as tankers strike enters 9th day

The tanker mafia is charging from Rs.1,000 to 3,000 per tanker in various parts of the provincial capital. The administration has failed to ensure one fixed price per tanker. The consumers are unaware that the tanker's water is clean or contaminated. It is the decision of the tanker driver and owner to provide clean or contaminated water. The citizens have no forum to challenge the quality and price of the water.

The water scarcity issue continues to intensify with every passing day as underground water continues to deplete in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

Most of the private-owned tube wells have also dried up because of the depleting water table. People are now installing tube wells in valleys to use naturally reserved water for our next generations.

With no strategy, the provincial government has allocated billions of rupees for installing new tube wells in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. In this month of June, one can see installing of tube wells in almost all parts of the city, which houses more than three million people. The primary concern of the government and the masses is to install tube wells while ignoring the depleting water table. Most of the influential people have installed tube wells at their homes with no or zero action from WASA and the Public Health Engineering Department.

As early as possible, Chief Minister Mir Qudus Bizenjo led coalition plus Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) and Balochistan National Party (Mengal) from the so-called opposition are trying hard to ensure maximum use of the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP).

The government has failed to realize the sensitivity and gravity of the situation when it comes to depleting water tables. Most of the green areas in the province have turned into deserts now. The forest fire in Sherani will be having a disastrous impact on the ecosystem in the north of the province.



The technology revolution has achieved a new stage of human development. It has astonishing and tremendous effects on human behavior, thinking and attitude. Unprecedented developments took place in the field of communication due to which, for the first time in human history, the field of information has achieved immense importance, therefore, the 21st Century is also called the century of Information Technology.

With the increase in the sources of information, consequently, research and analysis have become more important. The overflow of information has compelled people to differentiate

between relevant and irrelevant, positive and negative news. In this age of technology, the subject of information has become a science and now Information Literacy is included as a subject in the course of universities of the developed countries.

"We have to equip students, teachers, and officials to handle an overflow of information." Today it is not enough to decorate our educational institutions, offices, homes, and libraries with electronic technology, rather we will have to equip our students, teachers, officials, and others with the capability to appropriately handle this overflow of information.

In comparison with the Information coming from the conventional sources i.e., the teacher, books, etc., today information is flooded in the market by the internet, as a result, it becomes very difficult for students and others to

distinguish between fake and real, wrong and right, good and bad news. It is the time when you need the adequate capabilities to select the news as per your requirements for the purpose. Information literacy is used as a proper method to practice access to information and analyze and organize it.

In this atmosphere of hybrid war, it is necessary for media workers in general while the media managers, in particular, to abundantly equip themselves with information literacy.

An information literate person is supposed to have the capacity and capability to select suitable sources of information, which are beneficial and in accordance with the fixed targets. Information literacy is actually the ability to fully understand the whole system of information. In this atmosphere of hybrid war, it is necessary for media workers in general

while the media managers, in particular, to abundantly equip themselves with information literacy. Workers in the media industry must realize the challenges as well as the opportunities in the ever-changing situation of information.

As media managers of the government, it is our duty to understand the positive and negative aspects of the propaganda / information, so that we can adopt a competitive media plan to achieve our required targets of national interest and importance.

World powers taking a keen interest in Balochistan, especially Gwadar

At the end of the 20th Century, the situation of the world and particularly of this region became reshaped. After the fall of the Soviet Union and the freedom of Central Asian States, the regional scenario was changed and the geographical and strategic importance

By Aurangzaib Kasi

of the coastal belt of Balochistan particularly Gwadar was enhanced by many folds. It is common to say that the power of the 21st Century will go to the country which controls the energy corridor. In this rapidly changing situation, all powers/forces are taking a keen interest in Balochistan and particularly Gwadar. The situation has created challenges and opportunities at the same time. The media has got important responsibilities to differentiate between wrong and right tendencies, help analyze the situation and organize and promote a development-friendly action plan. To attain this purpose, a comprehensive media plan is required to be prepared and implemented.

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Is equality a myth?

By Nabila and Bilal

To vote for your representative is the basic right we all have, but it is not something that women had before. Women could not vote due to the patriarchal belief that women were not fit to be part of the political system.

Women were only fit for household roles as per the 19th and 20th-century beliefs established by the privileged, white men of Europe and North America. The first wave of feminism that emerged in Europe and the US, demanded the right to vote. According to the first wave, women were not some objects to be limited to households, they had their own identities and could be phenomenal leaders such as Margaret Thatcher.

August 26 is celebrated as Women Equality Day.

26 August is celebrated worldwide as Women Equality Day - the day when women in the United States got the right to vote for the first time in history when the nineteenth amendment was adopted in 1920. Ever since then, women's equality has long been debated, and to ensure that there is no disparity in women's representation in every field, Goal 5 of Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) ensures equality for women, but we are far from reaching that point.

75 years later, women are still fighting for equal



representation in Pakistan, and progress towards gender equality has been slow and reversible. Women are more likely to be poor, illiterate, unhealthy, underrepresented, especially in Balochistan.

Women literacy rate in Balochistan is the lowest. Women's literacy rate in Balochistan is the lowest in the whole world, and the status of women's health, here, is in shambles. One cannot forget or ignore the traditional beliefs of a patriarchal system that stops women from equal representation and are the barrier towards women's rights in Balochistan. Women hardly have a say in the matters pertaining to their lives because society believes that

women are only homemakers, which is not the case. She is a whole human being. There is more to her than just homemaking. She has talents and ambitions and goals. She can be a mother, a sister, a daughter, a wife, and can also be a leader, an influencer, a businesswoman, a civil servant, she is as human as a man is.

In such circumstances where women are objectified and there are hurdles between themselves and the lives they want, and where the literacy rate is low, it is the duty of the state to ensure every girl receives an education.

Around 1.8 million children are out of school in Balochistan.

Around 1.8 million

children are out of school in Balochistan. 66 percent of school-age children are out of school and 70 percent of them are girls. It is imperative that women are properly educated, not only because it is their right but also because it is good for our economy.

To address this issue, BRSP is trying to ensure women's representation in Balochistan. BRSP believes that sustainable and effective change can only be brought through the active participation of men and women, boys and girls in all the stages of the change process. BRSP perpetuates this belief during policy development as well as planning and implementation of its programs in communities. Moreover,

BRSP with the financial assistance of the European Union established BRACE Programme in the 8th Districts of Balochistan.

Women are given representation in Community Institutions. 139,482 women are members of Community Institutions while 12,301 women have been given Leadership Trainings. To balance the literacy rate in Balochistan, 7584 women have benefited from Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) course. BRSP focuses on empowering women through social mobilization.

BRSPs focus on empowering women through social mobilization, awareness-raising, access to social sector services such as health, education, sanitation, and livelihood opportunities, so their families and communities can also benefit. BRSP's focus is to address poverty at the household level because we believe that poverty exists at the household level, therefore, an appropriate intervention at the household level can reduce poverty. BRSP's approach towards gender equality is a role model and if applied on a provincial scale, it can bring about change in our society that will not only ensure women's representation in every field of life but also contribute a great deal to our economy.

Only one earth

By Editorial Board

Every year the world observes June 5 as World Environment Day. Exactly 50 years ago in 1972, the UN General Assembly designated this day as such and the first celebration took place in 1974 under the slogan 'Only One Earth'.

In 2022, once again the theme is the same and reminds the world that in half a century the issues of environmental degradation have only intensified. For South Asia, this day should serve as a stark reminder of what the people of this region have been doing to their own environment and as a result also suffering the consequences of their own and other's mistreatment of nature. The consumption patterns in countries such as India and Pakistan need drastic changes otherwise it will be too late to make any meaningful difference to environmental degradation. And spending one day a year holding seminars and hearing government officials pontificate about their duty is not going to do anything to heal our warming planet by itself. The world is at a precipice and simply 'raising awareness', as important as that may be, is not sufficient at this perilous time. By any measure, the planet is threatened like never before. Extreme weather

events like floods and droughts have become more common and the world is getting warmer every year. Already, many communities are being displaced by climate change and as climate migration increases so will wars over resources like food, water and land.

Rather than being able to offer a cleaner and greener present and future to our generations, sustainable living has been compromised. This day reminds us that we need to live in harmony with nature. In Pakistan, from rural to urban areas, rather than striving to provide a greener lifestyle through governmental policies and individual choices, we have seen a remarkable increase in deforestation. Urban centres have spawned asphalt and concrete jungles; whereas rural areas have seen cultivable land being used for housing societies and residential settlements. It is pertinent to mention here that the previous government of the PTI in Pakistan did make some efforts in planting trees that must continue.

Hope is something that should be in short supply in Pakistan, which has finite resources in terms of clean water and green pastures. The country cannot afford to squander these resources the way we have been

doing for decades now. We are to be one of the countries that is worst hit by climate change. And, while we may be reliant on action from the international community for tackling climate change, we can be better stewards of our environment at home. Our reclamation of coastal land and deforestation has done untold damage to our environment. Pakistan needs to ensure a more sustainable society for our current and coming generations. This is why the environment needs to be at the forefront of ever decision we make - be it political, social or economic. This is too important to just be relegated to one day of the year.

Rather than being able to offer a cleaner and greener present and future to our generations, sustainable living has been compromised. This day reminds us that we need to live in harmony with nature. In Pakistan, from rural to urban areas, rather than striving to provide a greener lifestyle through governmental policies and individual choices, we have seen a remarkable increase in deforestation. Urban centres have spawned asphalt and concrete jungles; whereas rural areas have seen cultivable land being used for housing societies and residential settlements.

The gathering storm

Zamir Akram

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

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

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

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

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

A more sinister aspect of such Indo-

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

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

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

transition.

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

Mess at the Tokyo Olympics

Kamal Siddiqi

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

Granted that despite the poor performances in Tokyo, there were some moments to cheer. For example, Arshad Nadeem made history as the first-ever Pakistani athlete to qualify for the final of any track and field event in the Olympics. Khanewal-born Nadeem made it to the final of the men's javelin throw with a throw of 85.16m, well beyond the qualification mark of 83.50m. He eventually finished fifth in the competition but won much praise for his efforts. Similarly weightlifter Talha Talib missed out on a medal for Pakistan but turned plenty of heads as Pakistan finally took notice of him. The 21-year-old lifter from Gujranwala, making his Olympics debut, took part in the 67kg category and held the gold medal spot until the final round before eventually being bumped down and denied a podium finish.

But the fact is that among the 10 athletes who took part in the Olympics, only Nadeem and Talib came close to winning a medal. Both finished fifth in their respective disciplines. What about the others?

Pakistan's shooters disappointed. National champion Gulam Mustafa Bashir qualified for the medal round at the end of stage one of the 25m rapid fire pistol shooting competition but was eliminated after failing in two stages of qualifiers. Another Pakistani shooter, Khalil Akhtar, could not give a significant performance in Stage I and was eliminated from the medal round.

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

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

The POA for its part claims that Hasan was elected through a fair process in 2019, with representatives from the IOC and the Olympic Council of Asia also in attendance. It also reiterated that interference in its matters will lead to intervention by the IOC. Is it not ironic that in a country where a top sportsman is the prime minister, the state of sports is in such a shambles? When he was captain of the cricket team, Imran Khan insisted on merit as the sole criteria. Who can forget the number of fights he got into over his insistence of merit? Today he looks the other way.

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

China's Shaanxi Hydro Power Group to build WWTP in Sialkot

ISLAMABAD: The foundation of Sialkot's first Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) has been laid which is to be built by China's Shaanxi Water Resources & Hydro Power Engineering Group Company Ltd (SWEG), according to Gwadar Pro.

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif laid the foundation of WWTP which is to be built in the northern part of the city. The plant will be

completed with an amount of Rs. 1,830,017,429, covering an area of 239 acres.

On average, 68.23 cusecs of contaminated water will be treated and used for farming as per WHO guidelines.

Past year, Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Program (PCIP) awarded the contract of the project to Shaanxi Water Resources & Hydro Power Engineering

Group Company Ltd (SWEG), China.

As per the official document, the completion date for the whole of the work is 730 days.

SWEG has executed several mega projects in China. From Shaanxi, the company extended its business to different provinces of China, followed by its expansion from China to Pakistan, Kenya, Bangladesh and other countries. INP



ISLAMABAD: A view of smoke rising from a fire in the Margalla Hills during hot weather in the Federal Capital.

Wife turns out to be murderer of her husband in Jhelum

JEHLUM: Police have solved the mystery of a murder case in Jhelum and arrested wife of the man who was killed mercilessly a couple of days ago, police said on Sunday.

A woman with the help of her paramour, a former police official, and another accomplice murdered her husband. After killing him, the accused threw his dead body in a deserted place and left.

Police said that they had arrested accused Bushra and her paramour ex-cop Nadeem. However, they were yet to arrest their third accomplice and were conducting raids to apprehend him.

Accused Bushra was a beautician by profession and she was not having cordial relations with her husband.

Police said that Bushra after planning murder with her paramour and another accomplice put her husband to death.

Bushra's lover ex-police official Nadeem had already been removed from police duty on the charges of selling drugs.

Meanwhile, a big development was made in the gang-rape case of a pregnant woman in Jhelum.

Police on Sunday claimed to have arrested all five rapists including main accused Ali Haider. They

said that the accused had confessed to their crime.

The medical report of the victim woman confirmed that she was gang-raped.

The IG Police took prompt notice on the incident and ordered for the arrest of the accused at the earliest. Meanwhile, a big development was made in the gang-rape case of a pregnant woman in Jhelum.

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said that the accused had confessed to their crime.

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Certified seeds must for development of Pakistan's agriculture sector: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Experts have stressed the need to provide certified seeds to farmers and simplify the process of certifying varieties for the development of the agriculture sector in Pakistan.

They told WealthPK that 62 percent of farmers' needs for seeds were met by the informal sector in the country. In the absence of governmental control, most of the seeds provided to farmers informally are of poor quality. Resultantly, the farmers find it hard to increase the yield of their crops.

Sources said that informality in the sector was a result of the outdated legal and administrative structure. Most breeders choose to commercialise their new varieties in the informal sector, rather than submitting them to Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department. They said that serious players with a strong market presence, as well as fly-by-night enterprises looking to make quick cash, were focusing on the informal sector. The new types of seeds are easily identified by their breeder and are frequently marketed under company labels.

Dr Shakira, a senior

scientific officer at the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council, said that private seed providers were pushing against the outdated regulatory system in Pakistan. She said that seed producer licensing, a variety of release procedures, access to public germplasm, quality control, intellectual property rights and import and export were governed by laws and regulations enacted decades ago for a system dominated by public sector businesses.

"With 3,513 full-time researchers, Pakistan has one of the largest agricultural research systems among developing countries," she said. Most of them work for government-funded research agencies, which are responsible for maintaining germplasm, importing exotic material from other countries for local adoption, producing cultivars and training personnel. Dr Shakira said that federal institutions, provincial institutes and agricultural universities were the three main public sector entities in Pakistan. She said that 782 seed firms including five multinational and four state-owned enter-

prises were operating in Pakistan. Punjab has 644 seed firms, the highest number in the country, followed by Sindh with 96, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 25, Balochistan with five, and Gilgit-Baltistan with three companies.

She said that National Seed Council recently issued "Rules for Certification of Fruit Plants" to improve the quality of nursery plants. She said that regulations would be amended to provide legal assistance to people in the development of the infrastructure required for the production and distribution of high-quality fruit trees free of diseases.

Dr Shakira said that 13 interdisciplinary and 14 mono-commodity research institutes, as well as four agricultural universities, in Pakistan were conducting considerable research in the field. Agricultural research institutes have been set up in all provinces of the country, with several sub-stations and satellite stations covering practically all economic crops and allied fields. The research institutes have a specific duty to generate regionally appropriate cultivars. INP

3 of family die after falling in 'sewerage pond' in Rahimyar Khan

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Negligence on the part of the administration in Rahimyar Khan claimed the lives of three of a family on Sunday.

Rescue authorities in Rahimyar Khan pulled out bodies of 35-year-old Muhammad Kaleem and his two minor daughters from a 'sewerage pond' in which they fell and could not find a way out.

Muhammad Kaleem was going on his motorbike along with his three kids when his bike fell into the sewerage hole dug for laying the sewerage pipelines. Two of his daughters including four-year-old Zainab and two-year-old Umm-e-Hani

lost their lives in the unfortunate incident while 10-year-old Momin was taken out alive and shifted to a hospital in critical condition. The incident occurred at the Sui Gas Chowk. The victim's family was resident of Latifabad area. The family members of the deceased urged the Punjab authorities to take action against the negligence of the concerned officers and department and why the hole was left open and unattended. The precious lives and a whole family was perished due to the negligence of the departments concerned.

Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif has taken notice of the tragic incident in

Rahimyar Khan and sought a report from Bahawalpur Division Commissioner. Two of his daughters including four-year-old Zainab and two-year-old Umm-e-Hani lost their lives in the unfortunate incident while 10-year-old Momin was taken out alive and shifted to a hospital in critical condition.

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Police kill 'abductor' demanding Rs100mn ransom, rescue child

LAHORE: Police on Sunday recovered a child and killed an alleged abductor demanding Rs100 million for his release during a raid in the Bata Pur area of Lahore.

DSP Ali Butt while sharing details of the police action said that the police reached the Bhaseen village in Bata Pur area on a tip-off regarding the suspect and after surrounding the place asked the suspect to surrender himself before the police.

The suspect, he said, instead of surrendering opened fire on the police team which also retaliated to it, resulting in his death.

The police further shared that the step maternal grandmother of the child was also arrested for being an accomplice of the abductor. The body of the suspected kidnapper has been shifted to a hospital for medico-legal formalities while the child was handed over to the family.

He said that five-year-old Areez was abducted some days ago and the kidnappers were demanding a ransom of Rs100 million for his release. INP

Fire breaks out in Margalla Hills again

ISLAMABAD: A fire has broken out in the Margalla Hills again on Sunday.

It is reported that thick fumes of smoke are rising in the air from the Margalla Hills.

The fire broke out on Trail 5 in the Margalla Hills, and it is spreading fast in the forest.

The locals fear to be affected by the fire in the Margalla Hills.

It is to be noted here that a fire had erupted in the forests of Margalla Hills a few days back, and it had been overcome with hectic efforts.

It also merits a mention here that the incidents of fire eruption in the forests of the country are increasing apparently due to intense heat of the summer. INP

Tourists desert Ayubia after chairlift closure

AYUBIA: Tourists now avoid visiting Ayubia, the most famous tourist place in Galyat, for the chairlift there has been lying closed for around last 10 months.

It is learnt that the incompetence of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Government and Galyat Development Authority (GDA) has caused Ayubia, the most famous tourist spot of Galyat, to be deserted by tourists. There are no people to be found in Ayubia Bazaar, for the people visiting the northern areas of Pakistan have stopped staying in the beautiful area. INP



QUETTA: Leader of Musa Khail Welfare Society Delawar addressing a press conference at press club in Provincial Capital.

Growers advised to focus on vermicomposting for organic farming

ISLAMABAD: Local growers have been advised to use organic waste for their farms by turning it into fertiliser through vermicomposting.

Dr Saddar Siddiqui of the National Agriculture Research Centre told WealthPK during an interview that the easily available huge quantity of organic waste in Pakistan such as municipal solid waste, cattle manure and chicken manure could be made a substitute for chemical fertiliser through vermicomposting.

In the bio-oxidative process of vermicomposting, earthworms engage extensively with bacteria and other fauna in the decomposer community, speeding up the stability of organic matter and changing its physical and biochemical properties.

The action of earthworms can be both physical and mechanical. Physical involvement in the degradation of organic substrates causes fragmentation, which increases the

surface area of action, turnover and aeration. Microorganisms, on the other hand, bring biochemical changes in the decomposition of organic matter by enzymatic digestion, nitrogen excretion and transport of inorganic and organic materials.

Dr Saddar said that animal excrement was a valuable resource for supplementing organic matter and improving soil conditions. The cattle of average size produce four to six tonnes of fresh manure every year. After producing bricks, a considerable portion of cattle dung is utilised as cooking and heating fuel in Pakistan and other developing countries.

He said that the burning of dung cakes put negative impacts on human health and the environment. "Indoor concentrations of particles rise when animal dung is burned for cooking. Smoke from animal dung-baked, cooking stoves contains high levels

of carbon monoxide, fine particles, nitrogen dioxide and hydrocarbons, which are dangerous. Acute respiratory infections, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cancer have all been linked to long-term exposure to airborne particulate matter," he added.

The expert said that selection of appropriate earthworm species for vermicomposting was a crucial part of the process. Only a few, out of millions of earthworm species, are suited for vermicomposting organic wastes. Earthworms of the epigeic species are commonly used for the vermicomposting of various organic wastes.

Due to its well-established capacity for vermicomposting biodegradable organic resources such as agricultural wastes and animal manures, Eisenia fetida is the most extensively employed earthworm species for vermicomposting. "This procedure takes six to nine months. INP

Pre-monsoon rains expected to start in third week of June: PMD

ISLAMABAD: The Met Office has forecast above normal rainfall in most parts of the country in June as pre-monsoon rains expected to start in third week of the month.

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) in its monthly outlook predicted more rainfall in Pakistan in the second half of June than the first half of the month.

"Northeastern Punjab, Kashmir and the adjoining areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as Sindh are expected to receive above normal rainfall during the forecast period," according to the Met Office report. Most parts of Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan may receive nearly normal rainfall during the ongoing month. Day time temperature is likely to remain above normal all over the country, especially during first half of June. Above normal temperatures in high altitudes likely to increase rate of snow-melt in the Northern areas subsequently increasing the chances of water flow in the Upper Indus basin. The Met Office on Saturday forecast that the day temperatures will likely to remain unusually high in most parts of the country during next 04 to 05 days. Day temperatures in Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Sindh and eastern Balochistan are expected to rise significantly above normal. Occasional dust storm or dusty winds may blow in afternoon or evening during INP

Sahiwal: Two dacoits shot dead in alleged police encounter

SAHIWAL: Police on Sunday claimed to have shot dead two dacoits in Sahiwal during an alleged police encounter.

The alleged police encounter took place in Sahiwal's Housing Scheme 87 Nine L, in which two dacoits were shot dead, while their two other accomplices fled the scene.

Giving details about the encounter, the DSP said that four dacoits robbed valuables from a house and upon getting information, the police party reached the spot and cordoned off the area.

Daunting to flee the scene, the dacoits opened fire at the police party and in retaliatory fire, two of them were shot dead, while two others fled.

Separately, two wanted terrorists were injured and arrested in an alleged police encounter in Lyari.

"Two wanted terrorists were arrested after getting injured in a shootout with police in Chakiwara area," SSP City Shabbir Sethar said.

"Police also recovered a hand grenade, MP-V rifle and a pistol from their possession," district police chief said. "Arrested criminals Sharif and Noshad alias Nanu have been members of the Baba Ladla gang of Lyari gang war," SSP Sethar said. INP



QUETTA: Activists of Anjuman Tajran Baluchistan shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands at Bacha Khan Chowk in Provincial Capital.

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crucial part of the process. Only a few, out of millions of earthworm species, are suited for vermicomposting organic wastes. Earthworms of the epigeic species are commonly used for the vermicomposting of various organic wastes. Due to its well-established capacity for vermicomposting biodegradable organic resources such as agricultural wastes and animal manures, Eisenia fetida is the most extensively employed earthworm species for vermicomposting. "This procedure takes six to nine months. The dung is still unstable, attracting termites to the crops after it is applied. In rural areas, this practice is a major cause of odor and insect problems. Vermicomposting merely regulates the environment so that things disintegrate more quickly. INP

Certified seeds must for development of Pakistan's agriculture sector: Experts

ISLAMABAD: Experts have stressed the need to provide certified seeds to farmers and simplify the process of certifying varieties for the development of the agriculture sector in Pakistan.

They told WealthPK that 62 percent of farmers' needs for seeds were met by the informal sector in the country. In the absence of governmental control, most of the seeds provided to farmers informally are of poor quality. Resultantly, the farmers find it hard to increase the yield of their crops.

Sources said that informality in the sector was a

result of the outdated legal and administrative structure. Most breeders choose to commercialise their new varieties in the informal sector, rather than submitting them to Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department.

They said that serious players with a strong market presence, as well as fly-by-night enterprises looking to make quick cash, were focusing on the informal sector. The new types of seeds are easily identified by their breeder and are frequently marketed under company labels.

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scientific officer at the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council, said that private seed providers were pushing against the outdated regulatory system in Pakistan. She said that seed producer licensing, a variety of release procedures, access to public germplasm, quality control, intellectual property rights and import and export were governed by laws and regulations enacted decades ago for a system dominated by public sector businesses.

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Pakistan. Punjab has 644 seed firms, the highest number in the country, followed by Sindh with 96, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 25, Balochistan with five, and Gilgit-Baltistan with three companies.

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CANCELLATION OF TENDER

Tender called by Special Technology Zones Authority with T # 22/21-22 advertised on PPR, National newspapers (Exp. Tribune (C), Dunya (C), Ilhaq - Pesh, Quetta Voice - Qta) as well as STZA website on dated 6 Feb 2022 for "RFP for Enterprise Resource Planning for STZA" has been cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Mehwish Iqbal
Manager Procurement
mehwish.iqbal@stza.gov.pk Special
Technology Zones Authority

16th Floor, New State Life Tower,
Plot # 61, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad

PID (I) No. 8509/21

Energy remains the core focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

ISLAMABAD: Energy has remained the core focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and helped to reduce power shortage in Pakistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif paid an important visit to the Karot Hydropower project, which is currently progressing in full swing.

The visit came in the backdrop of rising energy shortage across Pakistan and Pakistan's seeking updates on the early completion of essential projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The project is the first hydropower project under CPEC with a 729 MW energy production capacity, being developed by the consortium of China's most extensive renewable energy companies.

Once completed, the project would help Pakistan produce cheap electricity and help promote a green, clean and sustainable future.

With its completion, the project will generate 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, meeting the power needs of 5 million people in the country. This will eventually reduce power shortage and increase economic growth for the country.

The project will reduce 3.5 million metric tons of carbon emissions annually and save around 1.4 million tons of standard coal equivalent each year.

Energy has remained the core focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) since its beginning as China and Pakistan mutually decided to overcome the acute energy shortfall for Pakistan.

CPEC is making ways for Pakistan to achieve its sustainable energy needs, especially to build its renewable energy power generation capacity from the current 4 percent to 30 percent in 2030.

The energy cooperation on CPEC is ongoing between China and Pakistan. Overall, there are 21 energy projects under this fate-changing project initiative between both countries. Among these, 11 have been completed, and the rest are in the process of completion and are at different stages of development progress.

When the initial development commenced on CPEC's energy project, the power production capacity of Pakistan was no more than 20,000 MW, with two-thirds contribution from oil and hydro-based plants.

The sources of power production had to be diversified through quick interventions such as coal and gas, to begin with, adding 6900 MW to the national grid.

CPEC has contributed immensely to the power production in Pakistan and enabled the industrialization and manufacturing in Pakistan. The next round of power generation 2019-2022 was planned to inject a high amount of energy, 20,380 MW, into the system, including hydro energy of 9000 MW.

Another phase of power generation in the pipeline expected to end by 2023 projected the production potential up to 53504 MW.

Respecting the mutual vision of clean energy, China and Pakistan are also planning to cooperate on small clean energy projects such as wind, solar, and hydropower plants covering 400 MW, 100 MW, and 3400 MW, respectively, by 2027.

China has always been very conscious of Pakistani energy requirements and has always supported Pakistan in offering clean and cheap energy projects. With solid cooperation under CPEC, the day is not far when Pakistan's energy crisis will be resolved the report added. INP



QUETTA: Provincial Minister of the Balochistan for Public Health Engineering Noor Muhammad Dumar addressing a press conference at press club in Provincial Capital.

PAKISTAN NAVY OBSERVES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Islamabad: Pakistan Navy celebrated World Environment Day to create awareness and significance of environment particularly focusing on marine environment.

World Environment Day is observed globally on 5 June to raise awareness on significance of healthy and green environment. It aims to promote healthy measures for improving quality of life. This year's theme of World Environment Day is 'Only One Earth', which calls for transformative changes to policies and choices to enable cleaner, greener and sustainable living in harmony with nature.

To show firm resolve and create awareness various lectures were organised highlighting importance of environment. Additionally, PN launched various initiatives, such as Trees & Mangroves Plantation, campaign to ban use of polythene bags, collection of solid waste in harbours, Reed Bed Reverse Osmosis Plants for Sewerage Water Treatment and Three Bin System; to segregate trash for landfills, recyclables for reuse, and compost the organic material to enrich soil was introduced.

Pakistan Navy always endeavors to secure marine environment for safer and cleaner oceans. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in his message on World Environment Day reaffirmed PN resolve and commitment to make every effort for betterment of our environment. He urged all to come together and embrace best practices and principles for the protection and preservation of our shared asset, The Environment PR

Bani Gala security up ahead of Imran Khan's expected arrival today

ISLAMABAD: The administration put the security around Bani Gala on high alert in the anticipation of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's arrival today (Sunday) from Peshawar after 10 days.

The administration has sprung into action with the PTI chief's expected arrival to his residence in Bani Gala as security has been increased all around the area. The spokesperson said that the district magistrate had imposed Section 144 in Islamabad and all kinds of gatherings were banned. He, however, said that police officials were ready to deal with any kind of illegal activity. Sources revealed that strict checking was being carried out of all the vehicles entering Bani Gala. INP

Ghee, sugar worth Rs150m seized from Okara market

OKARA: Okara Assistant Commissioner Rashid Naimat on Sunday raided the city's food market and seized a huge quantity of ghee and sugar worth Rs150 million.

The district administration seized all the ghee and sugar taking into government control.

Okara AC Rashid also imposed a fine of Rs50,000 on the hoarders.

He vowed that nobody will be allowed to hoard the sugar and ghee.

The hoarders usually hide their stock waiting for the prices to go up and then release it on the inflated prices. INP

Chinese industrial relocation possible only with completion of SEZs

ISLAMABAD: Chinese industrial relocation possible only with completion of nine CPEC Special Economic Zones, Gwadar Pro reported quoting Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal.

The Minister regretted that work on the CPEC SEZs was slow and they could not be completed on time. "There has been little work on the projects of CPEC in recent years. The work on 9 SEZs of CPEC was to be completed by 2020 but not a single SEZ has been completed," he contended.

He stressed that the Chinese industrial relocation was possible only with the completion of these 9 CPEC SEZs, "which did not happen." INP

Pak-Iran railway service restored after 22-hour suspension

CHAGAI: Pakistan Iran railway service restored after 22 hours on Sunday.

Five bogies of a freight train from Iran's Zahedan were derailed while on its way to Quetta Saturday.

The railway officials have said that the goods train was sent to Quetta after railway track damaged in the mishap, was repaired and restored.

The railway service between Pakistan and Iran owing to dilapidated tracks and lack of maintenance results in railway accidents and mishaps.

Last month the freight train service between Pakistan and Iran also remained suspended for 72 hours after a goods train coming from Zahedan was derailed in the Dalbandin area of Chagai district. According to official sources, five bogies were derailed, leaving the routine train operation suspended for 72 hours. It is to be mentioned here that operations of a freight train between Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey was expected to resume in early 2021 but the service yet to be started owing to various unresolved issues.

The rail service will connect Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI), minimizing the time period of cargo travel to these countries. The total length of the ITI project is 6500 km which covers 2600 km distance in Iran, 1950 km in Turkey, and 1990 km in Pakistan. Last month the freight train service between Pakistan and Iran also remained suspended for 72 hours after a goods train coming from Zahedan was derailed in the Dalbandin area of Chagai district. According to official sources, five bogies were derailed, leaving the routine train operation suspended for 72 hours. It is to be mentioned here that operations of a freight train between Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey was expected to resume in early 2021 but the service yet to be started owing to various unresolved issues. INP

De-seated PTI MPA gets PML-N ticket for Lahore by-poll

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has awarded the party ticket to a former PTI MPA Nazir Chohan, who was de-seated by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for voting in favour of Hamza Shahbaz during the election for chief minister Punjab.

The PML-N awarded ticket to Nazir Chohan for PP-167 and PML-N leaders including Shaista Pervaiz Malik accompanied him to submit his nomination papers.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has faced backlash from within the party over the plan to award party tickets to disident PTI MPAs in Punjab Assembly who were de-seated for voting in favour of Hamza Shahbaz during the election for chief minister Punjab.

According to sources within PML-N, the local PTI leadership in the constituencies are not ready to accept disident PTI lawmakers as their candidates. "PML-N has faced a severe backlash from local party leaders and therefore, some of them will be contesting elections as independent candidates," they said.

The sources further shared that the PML-N will not field its candidate against the disident lawmakers. "If PML-N awards party tickets to disident MPAs then it might result in divisions with the ranks besides also chances of defeat for the candidate," they said.

Asad Khokhar, Noman Langrial, Ghulam Rasool, Ajmal Cheema, Lala Tahir Randhawa, Salman Naeem, and Nazir Chohan will contest by-polls scheduled in July as independent candidates.

The PML-N sources said that the party would award tickets to any candidate who wanted it and will not leave those who supported them in a difficult time. INP

Karachi man stealing cars' batteries caught red handed

KARACHI: Citizens on Sunday arrested a man for allegedly stealing batteries from cars in Karachi's Shadman Town.

According to reports, the thief was caught red-handed when he came to steal the battery of a vehicle. The thief was caught red-handed by the residents of area.

The furious residents of Shadman Town after subjecting the thief to vicious torture handed him over to the police. It has been learnt that the batteries of the vehicles were being stolen from the area since a long and finally the thief was caught red-handed.

Earlier, citizens arrested a man for stealing batteries from parked motorbikes at II Chundrigar Road.

As soon as he came to steal another battery in a day, people nabbed him. He was handed over to the police after torture. INP



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Peoples Party hold a protest n favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

Mink farming can benefit Pakistan's economy: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's environment is ideally suited to untraditional animal farming for production of furs and fats to earn handsome foreign exchange, however, no experimentation in this regard has been done at the government level, reports WealthPK.

Raising mink — a dark coloured, semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal internationally famous for its soft, durable fur of varying hues farmed around the world — is one such area where Pakistan needs to invest to earn handsome foreign exchange and help shore up its economy.

Around 50 percent of mink farms are in Europe and the rest are spread across the world. Denmark, China, the Netherlands, the United States, Spain are the leading names in mink farming and its fur production. In Poland and China, extensive mink farming is done, while in Canada, mink waste is transformed to produce methane to get bio energy.

Mink's natural hues of pearl, lavender, sapphire, pastel grey, white, mahogany and jet black etc have been a favourite of all times. In mink farming, all body parts of the mammal are used and nothing is wasted. Mink fat is used in the cosmetic industry, to water-proof leather and to produce bio fuels. In cosmetics industry, mink oil is considered a magic remedy to care for skin and hair.

WealthPK discussed about the possibility of mink farming with an enthusiastic farmer Chaudhary Basharat Ali from Chowk Azam of Layyah. Basharat dared to farm snails imported from Kenya.

"I am very fond of untraditional farming experiments for socio-economic benefits. I successfully experimented with the farming of ginger and saffron. Mink farming will be a new chapter in my

Road To Makkah: First hajj flight from Islamabad tonight

KARACHI: The first flight of the Hajj operation under the 'Road to Makkah' initiative will begin from the Islamabad airport in the wee hours of June 06.

The first flight of the Hajj operation will depart at 03:30 in the morning on June 06. The second flight will also fly from Islamabad airport at 08:30 AM. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is also expected to arrive on the occasion.

The first Hajj flight from Multan will leave at 4:30 in the evening on June 06, while from Lahore at 1:55 AM in the night.

All special and government Hajj flights from Peshawar, have been re-route through the Islamabad airport. The Saudi Arabia has launched the 'Road to Makkah' initiative in five countries including Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Morocco and Bangladesh. The procedures also include coding and sorting pilgrims' luggage to send to their place of residency. Upon their arrival, they move directly to buses to take them to their places of residence in Makkah and Madinah with designated paths while the service authorities deliver their luggage to their place of residency. INP

China Soong Ching Ling Foundation launches 2022 "Junior Cultural Ambassadors"

ISLAMABAD: China Soong Ching Ling Foundation has launched the 2022 "Junior Cultural Ambassadors" Event to promote cultural exchanges and mutual learning, and tighten people-to-people bonds between different countries. The event is expected to build a platform for young people all over the world to make the acquaintance of each other both online and offline, and bring out more junior cultural ambassadors who would make their own share of contribution to people-to-people exchanges. The 2022 event, under the theme of "Get Connected Through Art: My Favorite Chinese Arts", encourages young people to exchange ideas and tell stories about Chinese culture through videos. With the support of the Bureau of International



QUETTA: Workers of Pakistan Peoples Party hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

Karachi police recover Dua Zehra in Bahawalnagar raid

BAHAWALNAGAR: Karachi police on Sunday recovered "missing girl" Dua Zehra in a police action in Bahawalnagar.

Police also arrested Dua Zehra's husband and took the couple in their protective custody.

According to SSP Zubair Sheikh, the husband and wife were recovered from Chishtian in Bahawalnagar after conducting several raids. He further said that the police also arrested a 'facilitator' during the raid and handed him over to the Lahore police. The anti-violent crime cell of Karachi police with the help of Punjab police conducted the raid. Mr Sheikh informed that police launched raids in all provinces of Pakistan including Kashmir and collected data of hundreds of people and recovered the girl after short-listing these people. Dua and her husband Zaheer would be presented before the court in Karachi on Monday, the SSP said adding that the couple was not using their mobile phones in order to hide their location. Mr Sheikh said that the couple would possibly be shifted to Karachi later today. He said the court would decide with whom Dua would stay.

While hearing the case on Friday, the Sindh High Court ordered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to trace the whereabouts of Dua Zehra, the girl from Karachi who had married the boy of her choice in Punjab.

The court also ordered the FIA to take measures to prevent the girl from going abroad, besides ordering the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to block the national identity cards (NICs) of all suspects in the case thus freezing their bank accounts.

The SHC directed the FIA Director General (DG) to conduct surveillance of the country's borders.

On May 31, the Lahore High Court (LHC) too rejected the application filed by the mother and brother of the husband of Dua Zehra against police harassment and ordered the police to produce the girl in the court.

The judge inquired from the petitioner's counsel as to why his clients did not produce the girl before the court. INP

Imran Khan's criticism of national institutions reprehensible: Sharjeel Memon

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon said that Imran Khan's criticism of national institutions is reprehensible. An incompetent person is using inappropriate conduct over losing power. Nothing that harms the country's reputation will be tolerated.

Addressing a press conference the Sindh Information Minister said that the People's Bus Service was launched on a trial basis, yesterday. Bus service will start in Larkana. Sindh government will run BRT bus projects under the name of Red Line and Yellow Line. It has also been decided to start BRT bus project in Hyderabad.

International financial institutions have expressed interest in the Yellow Line BRT project, he added.

The provincial minister further said that Imran Khan and PTI are trying to spread anarchy in the country. A campaign is being launched on social media against national institutions and their leaders.

Speaking about the sacrifices made by the leadership of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sharjeel Memon added that when Benazir Bhutto was martyred everyone has the idea of the country's situation at that time. The PPP Co-Chairman Asif Zardari did not speak against the country even then, but raised the slogan of 'Pakistan Khappa' [Pakistan comes first].

At that time, Asif Ali Zardari took martyred Benazir Bhutto's body to Larkana by helicopter instead of road so that chaos would not spread in the country. He further said that the incident of martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto was a great tragedy. The PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari raised the slogan that democracy is the best revenge. INP