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Foreign aid for flood victims to help stabilize rupee: Ahsan Iqbal



Editor: Asim Khan

ABC Certified

Facilities to be improved at Quetta Airport: Civil **Aviation Minister**

Education of 386000 students at risk in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah Analysis

The education of 3,86,000 students is at risk in flood-affected areas of Balochistan. Floods and heavy rainfall dam-aged around 3,000 govern-ment-run primary, middle and high schools across the

province.
The damage to schools across Balochistan has affected the schooling of 3,86,000 stu-dents. This figure is as per the data shared by the Balochistan Secondary Education Department Although, the independent sources put the number of students and dam-aged schools higher than what is being quoted by the officials.

Floods damaged this school in interior **Balochistan: Photo** provided by UNICEF

The out-of-school children ratio in Balochistan is already higher than in the rest of the country. The education department admits that still, over 1 million children are out of school in the province, lagging behind other provinces of Pakistan in all key social indi-

Reconstruction of schools a major challenge for the government

The recent monsoon has fur-ther compounded the problems of students. The number of government-run primary, middle and high schools in Balochistan is over 15,000. The reconstruction of 3,000 damaged schools is a major chal-lenge for the provincial govern-ment, which appears to be least





Noshki: Police arrest 3 kidnappers one person recovered

NEWS DESK

Noshki: Police arrested three accused involved in demanding ransom and recovered one person. Three suspects involved in the kidnapping for ransom of a young boy were arrested, police sources said.



"The kidnappers were demanding Rs 6 Million for the release of our son", the parents of the young boy told in a press conference at Police Station Noshki.

Superintendent of Police (SP), Ghulam Hussain Bajoi and SHO Sanaullah Mengal said that the complainant Shakeel Ahmed Barich filed an application that unknown people had kidnapped his cousin and they were demanding a ransom of Rs 60 lakh.

On the instructions of DIG Rukhshan Mr. Nazir Ahmed Kurd, the police started an investigation. During the investigation, the police along with the ATF raided a house located in the area of ??Tariz, where three kidnappers involved in kidnapping for ransom were pres-

The police recovered an X Corolla, a 125 motorcycle, and a pistol used in the crime of kidnapping for ransom. The police also detained four suspicious persons who are being investigated.

A cash reward of one lakh rupees was given to the SP and the police team for the successful

bothered about the state of edu-

cation in the province.
So far, the data is only shared at the departmental level. The government has not spoken about the reconstruction of damaged schools and resuming admaged schools and resulting educational activities there. UNICEF has only established 22 temporary learning centers (TLCs) with over 2,000 enrollments. This is simply nothing as compared to the number of students deprived of education

Govt, opposition solely focusing on **PSDP**

The provincial coalition government and the 'friendly' opposition have solely focused on their schemes in the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2022-23. They want to get the schemes completed and implemented by hook and crook and uttered not a single word about the reconstruction of damaged schools.

reconstruction schools and ensuring the avail-ability of basic facilities would require billions of rupees. The lives of students should not be put at peril to study in damaged classrooms as anytime the damaged rooms and walls can collapse. So no risk should be taken in this regard. The Balochistan govern-

ment, UNICEF and other nongovernmental organizations on national and international levels working for the promotion of education should take notice of the situation and ensure the reconstruction of damaged schools. Then, the students should be allowed to keep con-

CM Bizenjo in trouble after JUI demands attractive portfolios: Achakzai

Sardar Muhammad Khondai

CHAMAN: Parliamentary leader Awami National Party (ANP), Asghar Khan Achakzai on Sunday said the Chief Minister Mir Quddus Bizenjo was in trouble after the Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) demanded attractive portfolios. "JUI F demands attractive ministries", Mr. Achakzai told reporters. He noted that it was very difficult for the Chief Minister to withdraw



portfolios from his own party members. His remarks have come after the mainstream opposition party i.e. JUI F lawmakers gathered in Islamabad to meet Maulana Fazal ur Rehman to seek his consent about their participation in the coalition government. coalition government.

The religious party is yet to make a formal announcement in this regard. However, sources said the party has been seriously considering the option of becoming an ally in the Mir Quddus Bizenjo-led government in Balochistan.

"There is no opposition in Balochistan Assembly", Asghar Achakzai said. He said JUI F and Balochistan National Party (Mengal) had already extended their full support to the CM

Balochistan in the no-confidence motion.

Asghar Achakzai said that the religious party was least bothered about the miseries of the people of Balochistan rather they were striving to get attractive ministries. "We would raise our voice against every justice", he stated.

A miner dies in Dukki coal mine incident

Hussain Zarkoon

A miner died in a coal mine incident in Balochistan's Dukki district on Saturday morning. Levies sources said the miner was working deep inside the mine when a landslide hit him. The coal miner was dead on the spot.
The victim was identified as

Shahid Akbar, a resident of Swat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rescue workers reached the spot and retrieved the dead body of the miner from the Rescue workers shifted the

dead body to district headquar-ters hospital Dukki. The hospital administration handed over the dead body to the victim's heirs after the completion of necessary official procedures.

Hazardous working conditions inside the coal mines of Balochistan have claimed thousands of precious human lives.



Such incidents inside coal mines of Dukki, Harnai, Mach, Bolan, Chamalang and other areas of Balochistan are the order of the day.

Despite repeated appeals, the Balochistan government has failed to improve working conditions for the coal miners. "No safety arrangements for the

poor coal miners, rii Muhammad Kakar, the central coal leader of All Pakistan Mines and Minerals Association said. Mr. Kakar demanded of the provincial government to improve working conditions for the poor coal miners in coal mines located in various parts of the province.

Facilities to be improved at Quetta **Airport: Civil Aviation Minister**

Staff Reporter

Civil Aviation Minister, Khwaja Saad Rafique visited the Quetta Airport on Friday. The Civil Aviation Minister reviewed passenger facilities at the Quetta Airport and directed the Airport authorities to bring more improvements.

The authorities of Civil Aviation and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) briefed the minister. National Airline PIA is operating airline services from Quetta to the 3 main cities of the country i.e. Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi. A private airline is also running weekly 3 airline services from

The other private airlines of the country should

also start their airline services with Quetta Airport", Minister Civil Aviation Stated

Khwaja Saad Rafique told that It is our national duty to connect the far-flung areas of the country

with each other through aerial connection. The minister also visited the Hirak area of Bolan where an ancient British-built bridge collapsed due to the flash floods. The railway track was damaged in 104 locations, and even in some areas, the railway track was completely flooded. In this situation, it was not possible for the railway authorities to functionalize their train services.

However, the Minister assured that the railway track with Iran at Taftan will be restored by the 30th of September, and railway services will be functional as soon as possible.

women among the most vulnerable due to food shortage INP Ahsan Iqbal, who also heads Pakistan mulls importing Russia oil on deferred payment

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can import oil from Russia on deferred payment as both countries are in talks to discuss the possibility, a senior government functionary revealed on Sunday after the recent meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Samarkand. The official, who was part of the prime minister's delegation, told The Express Tribune that PM Shehbaz at least held three meetings with President Putin. "One was formal and the rest were informal," the official, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, added. The official, when asked, rejected claims of the previous government if there was any proposal on the table for importing oil from Russia on discounted rate.

QUETTA: A gypsy family is setting up tents for accom-

Foreign aid for flood

victims to help stabilize

rupee: Ahsan Iqbal

National

National Flood Response Coordination Center, inquired about the difficulties being faced

by the local administration, civil

society and the people residing in

the camp.

He said the climate change issues had brought disaster in the country but the spirit of Pakistani

nation was indomitable to over-come this disaster with unity and

solidarity. He said even a developed

country could not cope with such a huge destruction, but the people of

Pakistan, the federal and provincial

governments, civil society and the friendly countries were all working

together to get out of this calamity. Ahsan said humanity was reeling from this calamity as the problems

of the people affected by the floods were huge."It is duty of every Pakistani who is spared from the

ravages of floods to contribute to the rehabilitation of the victims", he said adding that children and

modation on the roadside of Samungli Raod.

KHAIRPUR NATHAN SHAH: linister for Planning,

Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Sunday said that the foreign aid being received for the flood victims in the country could help stabilize the Pakistani

He said although the country had faced more than \$30 billion in losses due to the recent floods and tor-

rential rains across the country, but Pakistan's economy was able to come out of the crisis.

He was talking to media persons during his visit to the flood-hit areas of Tehsil Khairpur Nathan

Shah, Sindh.

He said at this time, everybody should participate in the relief activities rather than engaging in

The minister also reviewed the

relief camp in the area established by the Pakistan Navy. He was briefed on the navy's rescue mis-

sion and relief activities.

"What we have discussed during the recent interaction with the Russian side is the possibility of importing oil on deferred payment," the official

Russia has shown inclination to consider the proposal, the official said. If the proposal is meterlised it will be a landmark development given that Pakistan imports oil from Gulf countries and in the past Saudi Arabia and UAE supplied Pakistan oil on deferred payment.

It is not clear if the government can pursue the option given the likely opposition from the United States.

A source in the foreign office disclosed that the US has never explicitly asked Pakistan not to import oil from Russia but "advised us that it is better if we don't enter into such venture with Russia".

Former prime minister Imran Khan has repeatedly accused the US for being behind his ouster in April. Imran said he was punished for pursuing

an 'independent foreign policy' particularly for his efforts to deepen ties with Russia. The US has always denied meddling in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

The recent meeting between Shehbaz and Putin, according to observers,

dispelled such conspiracy theories.

The transcript released by the Russia side after the meeting between Shehbaz and Putin did not drop any hint if Moscow was not willing to work with the new government often labelled as the US "puppet" by Imran

and his supporters.

Putin while stressing that Russia viewed Pakistan as priority in Southeast Asia and Asia overall had invited Prime Minister Shehbaz to

The Russian strongman sought progress on Pakistan Steam Gas Pipeline as well as making offer to supply Pakistan gas through pipeline. The steam gas pipeline project, in limbo since 2015, will supply LNG from Port Qasim in Karachi to Punjab. The pipeline will be laid by Russian company but the work on the project is yet to kick off because of likely US sanctures.

Defense Minister Khawja Asif told a news conference on Saturday that Russia also offered supply of wheat to Pakistan in view of the potential shortage of food grain due to the devastating floods that have caused massive damage to the crops.

Initial estimates suggest that agriculture growth in Pakistan may contract for the first time in more than two decades. The standing waters in Sindh may delay the sowing of wheat this season triggering the shortage. Russia is one of the largest exporters of wheat. Web Desk

QUETTA VOICE Editor Asim Khan Balochistan needs

inclusive development

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

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

Opposition's constituencies were ignored

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

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

Development deficit of Balochistan is likely to be Rs. 100b

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

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

Pakistan to Climate Change According to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), Pakistan is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change. Pakistan will face a \$26 billion annu-

> The floods swept away dams and destroyed the buildings, houses, roads, and bridges in Balochistan,

KPK, and Sindh. The communication links were destroyed by the merciless waves of the flash floods. This resulted in the break-MARANA

down of physical communibetween The provinces faced food shortages, as all of the roads were broken and the bridges collapsed. Train service was also suspended due to the collapse

of a bridge in Bolan, a dis-

Balochistan totally paralyzed due to floods:

Vulnerability of Balochistan

trict of Balochistan. Punjab

is also facing smog and heatwave as a result of cli-

mate change. Sometimes

becomes such high as the

remains suspended even for

system

the density

transportation

The flood waves destroyed the infrastructure in Balochistan. The primary source of income for Balochistan's 85 percent population is agricultural Floods destroyed crops on



large scale, and people faced economic issues. Life in the province was totally paralyzed as it faced a prolonged Sui gas suspension, no electricity, a shortage of food items, and no mobile network. The government announced 7 days holiday for all educational institutions in the province, due to the continuous floods.

The floods claimed many precious human lives. Most of them were children, women, and aged men. The provincial government and Federal government seemed very weak to cope with the situation. Balochistan's government called for the Pakistan Military to be stationed in the different floodaffected areas of the province in order to handle the unwanted incidents. The National Disaster

Management Authority(NDMA) and Provincial Disaster M a n a g e m e n t Authority(PDMA) need to make disaster management plans to handle such situations. It should highly train its employees so that human lives can be saved.

Dams must be built on emergency bases to prevent floods and store water for drought-like situations. The construction work should be strictly supervised to increase the construction quality of the dams. The provincial government must ensure zero encroachment in the waterways.

Syed Muhammad Oaseem country needs the coopera-tion of the International

community: Pakistan's economy mainly based on agriculture and climate change is adversely affecting its crops. Climate change is having an impact on the sea-sonal conditions of Pakistan in which summers will get longer and winters will be shorter. Pakistan is economically weak and it is difficult for the country to fight cli-mate change. As a developing country, it has limited resources and poverty is spread all over the country. The average daily income of more than half of the population is around 2 dollars.

Bridge collapsed in khuz-dar district of Balochistan The highest emitters of

greenhouse gases are developed countries. Interestingly only 10 councountries. tries emit 68 percent of the greenhouse gases. Pakistan being a signatory of the Paris agreement on climate change and being the least emitter of greenhouse gas needs the cooperation of the international community to help it to fight against climate change.
The author is a student of

Software Engineering at the Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering Management Sciences (BUITEMS). He frequently writes about looming threat Sciences of climate change and global warming in Balochistan and Pakistan

Not by elections alone

These are times that, Thomas Paine's words, "try men's souls". And: "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now will deserves the love and thanks of men and women"

Yes, a state of crisis remains endemic in Pakistan We can constantly hear the muffled sounds of things falling apart. The centre has almost never held. At this time, however, the sense of alarm has peaked. To now invoke Yeats: "The best lack all conviction while the worst / Are full of pas-sionate intensity". In his apocalyptic premonition, the poet could see that "surely, some revelation is at hand"

I am sorry for these metaphorical reflections on a situation that is so hard to comprehend and so unbearable in its stark reality. ine the misery of such a large chunk of our population that is directly affected by the floods and its lethal consequences. In addition, the entire country is confronted with challenges that boggle the mind. A sensitive and sensible Pakistani would rightly be in a state of depression and acute emotional distress.

I confess to being very upset and distraught in the face of a rising wave

of economic, political and social disruptions. Unfortunately, the tragedy of the floods and the magnitude of the human misery that they have caused have not brought the nation together. On the other hand, confrontation in the political arena is becoming more antago-nistic and this animosity is beginning to cast its shadows on the working of our national institu-

Striding on the politi-cal stage is Imran Khan, energizing his large following in a manner that has distracted attention from the floods and the urgent need for relief and rehabilitation. There have been a few somewhat cosmetic visits to affected areas but the fury of the former prime minister is exclusively against the directed 'imported' present,

Meanwhile, suspense is building up about how the PTI leader would encounters in the courts of law and if he would be disqualified in this process. There are dire threats of agitation and popular revolt if Imran Khan were to be awarded with a disqualification verdict. This means that a spell of chaos and disorder is very much ensured because Imran Khan also keeps promising a long march on Islamabad if his demand for fresh national elections is not accepted.

I am desisting from taking note of or interpreting many statements and moves made by the PTI leader this week to add to the tally of his Uturns and reversals in his political stance, such as involving the those choice of the next chief of army staff and a dalliance with Americans, who were supposed to have facilitated his ouster from power in April.

But there is consistency in Imran Khan's demand for fresh national elections. Unprecedented floods and other national emergencies have failed to deflect his attention from this campaign. On Thursday, he reiterated this demand in a video address. He argued that only fresh elections would save Pakistan from its present quag-mire and foster economic and political stability.

Though the present coalition government is not willing to go for snap polls and has decided to stay in office until the national elections are due almost a year from now, there is no harm in considering the pros and cons of this proposal in the existing circumstances.

As for Imran Khan, he views himself to be riding a wave and in no need for the hidden hand of the neutrals that helped him in 2018. But he himself is creating conditions in which political peace and stability have become elusive. An election campaign is sure to raise the temperature and subvert any attempt to bring the nation together to build for the future. Even without any distractions, national elections turn country upside down. If elections are meant

al loss. The greenhouse gas emissions of Pakistan are

0.7% which is nearly negli-

gible. Greenhouse gases are resulting in the increase in temperature of the planet

Pakistan received heavy

rainfall in this monsoon

The rainfall was followed

by extreme flash floods in

many parts of the country. The 3 provinces Khyber

Pakhtun khwa(KPK), Sindh, and Balochistan par-

ticularly received heavy rainfall and floods. Till now

most damages are recorded in the Balochistan province.

vulnerable to

Balochistan is the most

Balochistan is the most

vulnerable province of Pakistan to climate change.

Many times this province has faced different types of natural disasters due to cli-

mate change. Drought is the major threat to Balochistan

Balochistan faced a pro-longed drought of 22 months from 1999 to 2002,

and Quetta experienced severe droughts in 2000, 2004, and 2008. During this

Balochistan faced extreme

floods in almost every part of the province.
Houses damaged in

Barkan the district of

Pakhtun

to strengthen the democratic foundation of our polity, the outcome would hardly be propitious without the induction of democratic val-ues of tolerance, rule of law and respect for the fundamental rights of the citizens. It is widely acknowledged that elections alone do not a democracy make. Apparently, survival of democracy in Pakistan is becoming more and more tenuous even when any other option would be suicidal

In a statement issued Thursday, which marked International Day of Democracy, Senator Raza Rabbani are notable. He said that democracy is tottering in Pakistan and the struggle and sufferings of hundreds of thousands of political workers are being sacrificed at the altar of personal ambitions, ego and compro-

'There аге Pakistans", he remarked "One is drowned Pakistan and the other is the elite's Pakistan. This apathy towards the sufferings of millions is a

By Ghazi Salahuddin threat to democracy". In

his view, the politiciza-tion of the army chief's appointment was also a threat to democracy. But if democracy is

under siege, what else is in the offing? PTI leaders, particularly Fawad Chaudhry, have often frightened their adversaries with a mass revolt. Imran Khan has repeatedly said that if elections announced, he would give a "call to the nation". A call to the nation to do what? Is the PTI a revolutionary party stronger than the might of the state?

Obviously, the PTI cannot masquerade as a party of the poor and the underprivileged whose immortal longings for freedom and social justice have remained unrequited. When the Taliban took over Afghanistan in August last year, Imran Khan was prime minister and proclaimed that Afghanistan had broken

Is he pleased with the reports that members of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were again surfacing in Sadly, Imran Khan's followers do not care about what he says and believes in. His lack of fidelity to any specific values does not matter. And this, in addition to other burdens we carry, puts Pakistan in a very dangerous posi-

Future directions

sweep across much Pakistan, have highlight-ed the need for

proper water management. It was in the 60s when President Ayub Khan built the Warsak, Mangla and Tarbela dams. Little work on new dam construction has been done in the subsequent 50 years. In contrast China has

constructed 80,000 large dams, and India has built over 5000 large dams while Pakistan has only two big dams. If Pakistan too had built about a thousand large dams, much of the water that is causing national devastation could have been stored and used both for agriculture as well as for electricity generation. The country's river sys-

tems are dependent on melting of glaciers in the snow-covered Himalayas and with global warming, increased flooding is to be expected both in terms of overflowing rivers as well as flash flooding due to unusually heavy rains, as has happened now. The water storage capacity Pakistan in the Indus Basin is hardly 30 days whereas India has a storage capacity of about 200 days while in Australia and US this capacity is about 900 days. It is imperative that a wellthought-out water management strategy is urgently implemented as the present floods are likely to be a regular feature with further intensification over the next few decades, on account of global warming.

But dam construction is only one of the major prob-lems facing Pakistan. The

country has dismally failed to tap into its real wealth, our children, by neglecting education. Our planning ministry needs to drastically change the overall direc-tions of the country to a technology driven knowl-edge economy. Innovation leading to creation of dis-ruptive businesses must become the national priority. For this it is important to promote the venture

start-up eco system. Pakistan's main problem is that its exports are at a miserable level of about \$30 billion since we are exporting only low value textiles, agricultural prod-ucts etc. We need to emerge from this low value trap and start manufacturing and exporting high value products such as electronics, engineering goods, automobiles, new solar energy technologies, pharmaceuticals as well as Al products such as those based on Artificial Intelligence, Internet of

To achieve this, a num-ber of steps need to be taken. Our universities and research centers must integrate innovation and entrepreneurship into their programmes. Universities today are harbingers of change. They can act as the platforms from which thousands of successful start-ups can sprout up. Technology Parks need to be made an integral part of all universities, and govemment support to univer-sity budgets linked to their success in promoting new businesses and enhancing national exports.

One excellent model is that of the University of Cambridge. I know the uni-

kids and two teachers in Uvalde - maintained that

the blame must be assigned to the individ-

ual 'murderers'. In Daniel's view, "these murders are local prob-

lems that have to be

solved locally".

For her part, Maloney took the opportunity at

the hearing to express her "hope [that] the

American people are paying attention today", noting "it is clear that gun makers are not going

Congress forces them to

change

versity well as I spent over eight years there first for my PhD and later as Fellow of Kings College Cambridge. This associa-tion has continued over the last 50 years. A large Science Park is associated with Cambridge University which has been the home to thousands of new startup companies in high tech fields. Established in 1970 by Trinity College, Cambridge Science Park is

today Europe's largest centre for commercial research development. Cambridge city is now home to some of the fastest-growing tech com-panies in the UK such as Darktrace, GeoSpock and more. These companies have been estimated to have an annual turnover of GBP2.4 billion.

There are huge opportu-nities in Pakistan in many sectors that remain unexploited including waste recycling, mineral extrac-tion and processing, advanced agriculture and energy storage systems. Our universities need to be upgraded with high quality faculty, and technology parks established within them to foster new start-up companies. They should be given liberal research grants in both applied and basic areas of science, for technology development and for social sciences. The private sector has a pivotal role to play in these efforts by investing in Research and Development -- this is almost absent in Pakistan. The government can help jumpstart the private sector R&D efforts by giving tax breaks to industry invest-

Where stands the National Assembly?

The National Assembly of Pakistan is the only of Pakistan is the only popularly elected federal house where 272 seats are allocated to each province and the federal capital on the basis of the National Assembly are elected every five years on these 272 seats across the country and across the country and represent the over 220 million citizens Pakistan alongside MNAs on reserved seats for women and non-Muslim minorities.

The core functions of a legislative assembly in any democracy are to represent citizens, legislate and to oversee the elected government. Effective exercise of these powers has not only built functional, established and mature democracies, but fulfilling these responsibilities is also crucial in democracies where conduct of assemblies helps establish democratic norms alongside instituting effective dem-

ocratic governance.
Like other global democracies, these functions are elaborately laid down in our constitution. From qualifications on who can contest election to assembly tenure and from procedure of introducing and passing laws to details on the most crucial power of the assem-bly on scrutinizing and passing the federal budget, a long chapter on parliament in our constitution covers it all.

How does the legisla-tive assembly exercise these constitutional responsibilities? PILDAT has been analyzing this question periodically by

looking at the assembly's performance in law-making, assembly debates and questions raised, oversight of government by committees and other key performance indica-

While PILDAT looks at a whole host of per-formance indicators, let us discuss just a few basic ones. For instance, how consistently are assembly sessions held in a year? Even though we have completed five-year completed five-year tenures of three successive national assemblies since 2002 and the cur-rent and 15th National Assembly has completed four years out of its fiveyear tenure, there is no set calendar of assembly sessions which is a standard practice of parliamentary systems. In the British House of

Commons, for instance, there is a set parliamen-tary calendar that is followed year after year with pre-determined recess periods when the House is not in session. That way, the general public is always aware when the Commons or Lords would and wouldn't be in session during a

Similarly, the Indian Lok Sabha has three pre-determined annual sessions - Budget, Monsoon and Winter - and its recess period is also preset. In the case of our National Assembly, when a session starts and ends remains a public mystery and at the discretion of a sitting government. Even now there is a practice of announcing a provisional calendar of sessions at the start of

each parliamentary year, it is seldom followed. Our constitution has set

a minimum requirement of 130 days for which the assembly must be in ses-sion. However, there is a built-in provision also that in counting required yearly working days, up to two (2) days of adjournment between assembly sittings and joint sitting of parliament can be included in the count of 130 minimum

working days.

Instead of convening sittings of the assembly for exactly 130 days or more during a year, successive assemblies have used this provision clev-erly and almost as a loophole. The current assembly, for instance, has only met for 87 days in the just-concluded fourth parliamentary year in August. The average days of sittings of our succes-sive National Assembly are far fewer than other legislatures. The UK par-liament meets for an average of 150 days a year, the Indian parliament for 120 days a year and the US Congress for and the US Congress for upwards of 100 days Instead focusing on increasing working days each year, it appears that our National Assembly is convened by successive governments only to meet the minimum constitutional requirement of sit-

When a sitting takes place, what is its usual duration? Just three hours or under. This average has been almost consis-tently maintained by suc-cessive assemblies since 2002. Sittings in the UK

House of Commons last eight hours a day on average and sittings in the Indian Lok Sabha are of

six hours on average. Another strange phe-nomenon in our National Assembly is that sittings are often adjourned with-out completing the set agenda for the day. Just during the fourth parlia-mentary year, 59 per cent agenda items on orders of agenta nems on orders of the day could not be dis-posed of. In at least PILDAT's research, most other parliaments find it strange that a sitting could be adjourned with-out completing the agen-da of the day. da of the day.

We have a constitutional provision by which at least one-fourth of the total membership of the Assembly has to be present during a sitting of the Assembly or the sitting has to be suspended or adjourned due to lack of quorum. This provision became the reason for adjourning 23 out of 88 or nearly 27 per cent sittings during the fourth year even though over 60 per cent MNAs were marked as present in assembly sittings. This points out issues in the attendance mechanism of assembly MNAs do not remain present in a sitting after recording attendance. Requirement of quorum is not a common practice in established democracies where sessions con-tinue even if lone legislator is presenting a legislative business as members can watch proceedings from their individual offices or are engaged in

committee meetings and

join proceedings when

required to vote.

is the forte of elected

governments, the National Assembly's role

is critical in democratic

governance as elected representatives speak for

citizens' concerns and

issues, scrutinize and

pass necessary laws and

are the only.

Successive prime ministers too have not treated the National Assembly more than an electorate for the office of PM. As prime minister and as MNA, Mr Imran Khan attended only 34 or 11 per cent sittings of the current assembly so far. Before him, Mr Nawaz Sharif attended only 52 or 14 per cent sittings in the similar period 14th National Assembly, Since taking oath in April to the end of the fourth parliamentary year, the current PM has attended only eight out of 43 or 19 per cent sittings of the assem-Successive premiers

disregard for the national Assembly can also be gauged by the fact that they rarely announced major policy decisions on As the Guardian noted, this "marked the first time in nearly two decades that the CEOs of leading gun manufactur-ers testified before the floor of the House. On the major challenges fac-ing the country in econo-Congress" The CEO of Smith and Wesson ing the country in economy and public gover-nance, there is little role played by the National Assembly in policy advice, review and over-sight. It is also not sur-prising that the National Assembly is not utilized for resolving political crises despite represent-Smith and Wesson Brands - which according to the committee earned at least \$125m in 2021 alone from the sale of assault-style rifles, a frequent prop in mass shootings - had declined to participate in the attempt at 'oversight'. But the two willing crises despite represent-ing major parties while major conflicts spill out invitees presumably spoke for the US gun on the streets or are negotiated by non-democratic industry as a whole when they shot down the forces. Even though dem-ocratic decision-making notion that their products

> thing to do with rampant killing. Killoy insisted that a firearm is an "inanimate object" that cannot responsibility, accrue while Daniel - whose

and aggressive market-

ing practices have any-

US gun violence firm manufactured the inanimate object that slaughtered 19 school

n July 27, two top execu-tives from prominent US gun companies Marty Daniel of Daniel Defense and Christopher Killoy of Sturm, Ruger and Co - appeared before the United States House Committee on Oversight and Reform chaired by New York Democrat Carolyn Maloney. The hearing Carolyn came on the heels of the latest succession of massacres - the Buffalo supermarket, the Uvalde elementary school, the Highland Park July 4 parade - that have come to define life in America.

finally put people over profits". But were Americans really paying attention, we would have noticed long ago that our country is entirely predicated on putting profits over people – from the corporate destruction of the environment to the manic incarceration of poor minorities to healthcare system that is decidedly ill. This is not to mention US behaviour abroad, where the "war on terror" and other forms of military slaugh-ter with US-made weapons have also pro-duced many, um, "local problems".

In her initial invitation to the three arms execu-tives to testify before the House committee, inci-dentally, Maloney dentally, Maloney encouraged them to "explain to Congress and the American people why they continue to sell products to civilians that

are meant to be used in the battlefield". Which brings us to the

ing in research and devel-

following question: When the US converts the world into a battlefield, how do Americans know where to draw the line? More precisely put, it is not immensely shocking that a country that inculcates its citi-zenry with a macho, shoot-'em-up attitude vis-a-vis other human populations might end up with some, well, "murderers" on its hands particularly when the domestic panorama is one of dystopian capitalism and acute alienation. As for the culpability of US gun manufacturers

in scenes of armed sociopathy from Buffalo to Uvalde, there is no denying that the industry itself is morally deprayed – and yet it is merely fulfilling a nefariously lucrative function made possible by general systemic depravity. The fundamental blame for mass shootings does not lie with the CEOs of Daniel Defense and Sturm Ruger – just as the blame for US-bound migrant deaths does not lie with oft-scapegoated human whose reprehensible business is only made possible by America's brand of deadly capitalism and profit-driven border militarisation schemes On July 29, two days after the House Committee on Oversight hearing, the US House voted to ban assault

UNICEF says 3.4mn Pakistani children need immediate support amid floods

ISLAMABAD: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has issued an alert that three issued an alert that three point four million children in Pakistan need 'immediate, lifesaving support in the wake of devastating floods in the country. According to UNICEF, floods have affected over 16 million children in Pakistan. The situation on the ground in Sindh was "beyond bleak" with many malnourished children bat-

tling diseases like diarrhoea, malaria and dengue fever, as well as

painful skin conditions, a UNICEF official said. Earlier on September 11, UNICEF decided to increase the number of mobile clinics in flood-hit areas of Pakistan Accor areas of Pakistan.According to sources privy to the matter, UNICEF announced to increase in the mobile health clinics in northern areas of the Sindh province with the cooperation of the provincial government.

"The number of UNICEF-run clinics in flood-hit areas has now increased to 66," they said, adding that currently, 18 clinics each are operational in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 15 in Balochistan The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 15 in Balochistan. The UN watchdog reported that at least 16 million children, among 34 million total, have been affected by floods in the country. The floods have damaged over 1.1 million homes, and 18,000 schools.INP

Land possession underway for Katlang Economic Zone: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The upcoming Katlang Economic Zone located in Mardan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province will help boost economic activity, cre-ate job opportunities and reduce poverty, reports WealthPK.

Talking to WealthPK, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development Management Company (KPEZDMC) official Muhammad Qureshi said the process for the possession of 3,770 Kanal land in Sarobi for the development of Katlang Economic Zone

Katlang Economic Zone is still underway.

Katlang will be a great opportunity for investors for grading, and packaging fresh fruits as well as other agro-based products. The official said the area will offer a unique opportunity for industrialization in the district.

It is one of the most economically developed areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Agriculture, horticulture, and manufacturing including laborations. (including large businesses like the sugar industry and other

industrial concerns like cigarettes, textiles, drinks, ceramics, edible oil/ghee, soaps/sham-poo, etc.) are the industries on which the dis-trict is based, Qureshi

explained.
The area has the potential to develop into a multifaceted hub of mining, heavy manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism. Katlang is especially famous for Topaz and Quartz, Quresh said.

Qureshi said.

Pink topaz, which is very rare and soughtafter, is found in abundance in a mine close to the settlement of Katlang tehsil. The majority of crystals here are in loose form but of good grade. This speci-men is a remarkable matrix piece with a solitary topaz crystal and a tary topaz crystal and a colourless quartz crystal that is around the same size, the KPEZDMC official added. According to WealthPK research, by developing modern eco-

nomic zones, the KPEZDMC plans to facilitate industrial growth for creation of jobs, enhancement of skills, and increased productivity which will

ultimately help reduce poverty and stabilize the economy of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

KPEZDMC intends to build 17 economic zones around the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in order to promote industrialization. In addition to the development of new economic zones and management of the existing industrial estates, the KPEZDMC also provides marketing, management, financial and technical assistance to industrial-ists throughout the province.

According to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa investment Pitch Book 2021 the province is offering investment opportunities for major mineral resources, which include world renowned Swat Emerald, Pink Topaz of Katlang, Peridot Ruby, and Sapphire in Kaghan-Naran Valley Other resources include cement grade limestone, coal, phosphate, silica sand, rock salt and gypsum, soapstone magnesite and barite, chromite and other industrial minerals INP



HYDERABAD: Pakistani army members load medicine onto trucks to be distributed among flood-affected people, in Dadu.

Gastro claims six lives in Khairpur flood relief camps in 24 hrs

KHAIRPUR: At least six persons in flood relief camps in Khairpur district, including five children, died by gas-troenteritis in 24 hours on

Sindh Health Department in an alarming report, earlier said that over one million people in flood-affected areas of Sindh have been infected by various diseases including gastroen-

Two children Asifa 8, and Wakeela 2 died by gastro in Kotdiji taluka of Khairpur. An unnamed three-year girl died in Thari Mirwah, while two children and a woman died

flood camps in Faiz Ganj and Nara talukas of the district.

Recently a patient of gas-troenteritis dies in Garhi Khairo here in the flood-affected area.The number of dead by contagious diseases at Taluka Hospital Garhi Khairo has reached to seven, hospital sources said According to the statistics issued by Sindh Health Department, as many as 1,079,000 people were suf-fering from infectious diseases after heavy rains and subsequent floods wreaked havoc in the province. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah in a visit to flood affected areas said that the government providing medicines required for preven-tion of dengue fever. People also facing diarrhea, gastroenteritis and other diseases apart of dengue in flood affected areas", he added 'The number of dead by contagious diseases at Taluka Hospital Garhi Khairo has reached to seven,

hospital sources said.

According to the statistics issued by Sindh Health Department, as many as 1,079,000 people were suffering from infectious diseases after heavy rains and subse-quent floods wreaked havoc in the province.INP

Pakistan condemns arbitrary arrest, illegal detention of Islamic scholars in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned the arbitrary arrests and illegal detention of prominent Islamic scholars, including Maulana Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi, Maulana Including Maulana Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi, Maulana Mushtaq Ahmed Veeri and five members of Jamat-e-Islami. in Indian illegally occupied jammu and kashmir (IIOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, Foreign Office Spokesperson in a statement issued in Islamabad said these arrests have marked a new low in the Indian forces' blatant and continued onslaught on the human rights of the innocent Kashmiris.

The illegal detention of the Kashmiri Islamic scholars while

flood victims

the true representatives of the Kashmiri people are already under Indian custody under fictitious cases and on fallacious grounds, is yet another Indian attempt to rob the Kashmiri people of their distinct religious and cultural identity, he added. The spokesperson said the rep-

rehensible arrests of the Kashmiri Islamic scholars under the dra-conian Public Safety Act (PSA) that defies all international humanitarian laws, is a deplorable step by the Indian authorities.

He said these scholars have not only been unjustifiably arrested but shifted from Kashmir to a prison in the Hindu majority

Jammu. These politically moti-vated arrests are clearly meant to stifle the voice of the Muslims of IIOJK and further marginalize them, he lamented.

"Pakistan calls for the immediate release of these religious scholars and all other Kashmiri prisoners illegally detained by India. We also urge the international community to take note of the dangerously growing trajecto-ry of Islamophobia in India, instigated at the behest of the BJP-RSS nexus, that is aimed at sup-pressing the Muslims of India, denying them space to freely practice their faith and attacking their places of worship", the statement added INP

Imran Khan to launch vertical development projects on Oct 22

LAHORE: Former prime minis-ter and PTI Chairman Imran Khan ter and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has announced that the ground-work for 100+ vertical develop-ments under the first Central Business District Punjab (CBDP) will be launched in Lahore on Oct 22 as this project will convert the dead capital into viable transac-tions channeling wealth generation for the country, besides reshaping entire infrastructure of the vicinity. On his Twitter handle on

or the country, besides reshaping entire infrastructure of the vicinity.

On his Twitter handle on Sunday, Imran wrote: "Pak's 1st central business district, @CBDPunjab, will accommodate 100+ vertical developments adding 600b+ to country's economy. To compliment futuristic vertical development, groundwork will commence Oct '22 on Lhr's Main Blvd reshaping entire infrastructure of the vicinity. On his Twitter handle on Sunday, Imran wrote: "Pak's 1st central business district, @CBDPunjab, will accommodate 100+ vertical developments adding 600b+ to country's economy. To compliment futuristic vertical development, groundwork will commence Oct '22 on Lhr's Main Blvd reshaping entire infrastructure of the vicinity.

"CBD Punjab tasked with converting dead capital into viable transactions channeling wealth generation for the country. Similar projects with immense potential will be launched across Punjab

projects with immense potential will be launched across Punjab leading to econ growth & prosper-ity by providing multiple opportu-nities for domestic & FDL "INP

Motorway Police shuts down M2, issues fresh advisory for commuters

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway and Motorway Police (NH&MP) issued a fresh advisory for commuters that the M2 motorway has been shut down near Thokar Niaz Baig for construction

NH&MP said that traffic has been diverted at the M-2 motor-way near Thokar Niaz Baig Loop, NHA Office towards the north.

In a tweet, motorway police said that the M2 motorway has been diverted at Thokhar Niaz Baig, Lahore city entrance from M2 and GT Road, due to repair and construction work on the road INP



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed posing for a group photograph along with Honorary Council General Republic Of Lithuania Masood M.Khan, Newly Arrived Ambassador of E.U Dr,Riina Kionka Danish Ambassador Jakob Linulf and others during a reception at Masood M.Khan residence, in Federal Capital.

Pakistan posts 90 more coronavirus infections, single fatality

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has diagnosed another 90 people with coronavirus infections while one fatality was reported during the last 24 hours, showed the statis-tics released by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on Sunday

morning.

According to NIH data, the death toll in the country now rose to 30,606 while the number of total infections now stood at 1,571,822 after adding the fresh 90 cases.

During the last 24 hours (Saturday), 14,663 tests were conducted through-out Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 0.61 percent. The number of patients in critical care was recorded at 89.

Meanwhile, the NIH has issued further guidelines for vaccination of young children against Covid-19. In a tweet uploaded on Saturday, the NIH said in the first phase children between the age of five

and 12 are now eligible for coronavirus vaccination. Dose I will be administered at the start of vaccination while the Dose 2 will be administered after 21 days of the first dose (not more than 56 days).

The NIH further said that the vaccination is absolutely free and is available at all the vaccination centres. With 5,664 new coron-

avirus infections being reported in a day, India's total tally of Covid-19 cases rose to 4,45,34,188, while the active cases increased to 47,922, according to the Health Ministry data updated on Sunday. The death count climbed to 5,28,337 with 35 fatalities which includes 21 deaths recon-ciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. The active cases comprise 0.11 percent of the total infeccovid-19 recovery rate increased to 98.71 percent, the ministry said A study recently showed that hav-ing a high body mass index (BMI) is associated with an increased risk of Covid-19 infection and prolonged Covid than having high pressure.The ing high blood pressure. The findings were done by Dr Anika Knuppel from the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London, UK, and colleges It was being college London, UK, and colleagues. It was being presented at this year's European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Annual Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden (19-23 Sept). "Early in the pandemic research identified diabetes and obesity as risk factors for becomas risk factors for becom ing severely ill with COVID-19. And we know that many people living with type 2 diabetes are also carrying excess weight. Our early findings support the idea that obesi-ty-related mechanisms may be responsible for the excess risks of COVID-19 associated INP

The relief items include tents, food packages and blankets needed urgently in Pakistan. The decision to this effect was conveyed through a letter addressed to Ambassador Moin ul Haque by Li Hongzhong, the Party Secretary of Tianjin, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. Sharing his grief and condolences with the bereaved families, Mr. Li Hongzhong said that as All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partner and Iron Brother, China stands with the people of Pakistan in this difficult time. Expressing his good wishes for the early rehabilita-Expressing his good wishes for the early rehabilita-tion of the flood victims, Li reaffirmed the resolve of Tianjin Municipality to continue to deepen ties with the friendship cities and provinces of Pakistan. A formal launch ceremony of the relief goods was held through a video link.INP PMD predicts Rabi ul

China's Tianjin

pledges RMB 10 million relief for

Pak-flood victims BEIJING: To support the relief and rehabilitation efforts of the Government of Pakistan, the People's Government of Tianjin Municipality has announced a relief assistance package of RMB 10 million for the

The relief items include tents, food packages and

Awwal moon on Sept 27, Eid Milad on Oct 09

KARACHI: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted that there is 'no chance' of sight-ing the new moon of Rabi ul Awwal, 1444 AH on the

rhus, the first day of, Rabi ul Awwal, 1444 AH on the evening of Sep. 26 i.e., 29th of Safar.

Thus, the first day of, Rabi ul Awwal will likely fall on Wednesday September 28. The new moon of Rabi ul Awwal, 1444 AH will be born on crossing conjunction point at 02:54 Pakistan Standard Time (PST) on Sept. 26, 2022 (Monday), weather department said in a state-

According to astronomical parameters, there is 'no chance' of sighting the new moon of Rabi ul Awwal, 1444 AH on the evening of Monday Sep. 26 i.e. 29th of Safar. The weather is expected to be fair or partly cloudy in most parts of the country on the evening of Monday Sep. 26 to execution to the property of the croudy in most parts of the country on the evening of Monday Sep. 26, according to the climate record. The Eid Milad-un-Nabi (12th day of Rabi ul Awwal), is projected to be fall on Sunday (October 09). A meeting of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee is expected to be held on the evening of September 26 for sighting the new moon of Rabi ul Awwal 1444 AH.

The meeting of Zonal and District Ruet-e-Hilal committees also expected to be held for collecting evidence.

mittees also expected to be held for collecting evidence in respect of sighting of the new moon at their respec-tive offices.INP

HYDERABAD: Workers of Faizan Global Relief Foundation (FGRF)are busy in packing food bags for displaced people in various areas of Sindh, at Markaz Dawat-e-Islami Faizan-e-Madina.

Slow import LC processing hinders manufacturing units' performance: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Delay in approval for import of essential items for manufacturing different products is seriously affecting the productivity of many industries in Pakistan.

Despite lifting the import ban on HS (Harmonized System) codes 84 and 85 in which many industrial and daily use products are included, delay in processing the Import Letter of Credit (LC) is depriving the businessmen of handsome

Slow documentation delays manufac-turing making it difficult for the indus-tries to meet the export or local orders. Some units have stopped production due to the lack of essential parts. The small scale (SMEs) and large scale (LSMs) manufacturers are suffering a lot due to this situation. The non-operational units have suspended the operations leading to unemployment, with labourers suffer-

ing the worst.
Discussing this situation in detail with WealthPK, media coordinator and pub-lic relations officer (PRO) for Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Zulfiqar Ahmad said, "This slowdown in the processing of Import LCs has made it worse for industrialists - at both small and large scale -to meet the expenses. The unavailability of manufacturing parts has made the sit-uation worse. If the situation persists a

little longer, it can deprive many people of sustainable living. The key products falling under the HS codes 84 and 85 are mostly related to the IT products, home appliances, chilling units, power generators, telecom, steel, and automobile industries, etc.

"The cost of production has already increased manifold due to a lot of taxes and slow banking process is another irritant. The operational expenses are also increasing due to this situation. When the imports will be received after a hec-tic process, obviously the production cost will mount. In this case, who will be responsible to recoup the loss of manufacturers?" Already, a large part of manufacturing in Pakistan depends upon imported raw material, machine parts, Both the trade and business communities are worried a lot. This situation must be properly addressed to keep the economic activities going," Zulfiqar added.He said although it was a serious situation, it could be covered by show-ing a little more devotion and efficiency on the banks end. "To cope with this sit-uation and prevent it from recurring, the State Bank must launch one-window operation for quick processing of such requirements. It is not only important for the business community, but also worth it for a smooth socio-economic cycle in the country," he said.INP

50 women completes six months courses at Pak-China Vocational Institute and qualified manforce.

ISLAMABAD: As many as 50 female students received 15 days free of cost hands-on training after completing their six months courses in Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute, Gwadar Gwadar

The course is a part of China's efforts for women empowerment, offering them an excellent chance to become an integral component of the "high-tech man force" direly needed for Gwadar free zones as well as national and internationally competitive markets

According to Gwadar Pro on Sunday, these female trainees received on-site skilled and professional training in five trades including Cargo Handling, Office Handling, Office Management, Chinese Language, Crane Operation and Financial

Accounting
They belonged to the first batch of 6-month course conducted by PCT & VI in collaboration with National Vocational and Technical Commission (NAVIAC) of Pakistan under Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development program.

Development program.
PCT & VI Principal
Muhammad Hanif told
Gwadar Pro that all
female students of
impoverished local communities of Gwadar seem munities of Gwadar seem to be naturally talented

They needed an opportunity to show their mettle and once chance came, they seized it and capitalized in profession-al way. Among them few are likely to get job letters from banks and compa-nies working in Gwadar port, he disclosed. "There was total 130 trainees in first batch. Out

of them, 90 were male students and 50 were female students," he replied a query.

These trainees are sup-posed to be technically and professionally trained and prepared for Gwadar Free Zones, he said, because companies in the Zone will direly seek such kind of skilled

The development has unleashed employment for Gwadar youth espe-cially females in the busicially females in the busi-ness activities. With technical and profession-al education, and other allied facilities awarded to them free of cost, Gwadar Youth will prove to be an agent of change, transforming a small fish-ing town to a modern smart city, said Sohail Asghar, project director of PCT & VI. Another PCT & VI

Another PCT & VI official revealed that after the six-month course, a three-year course is planned. Students will spend one year in PCT & VI Gwadar and one and half years will be in the Shandong Institute of Commercial Technology

(SICT) in China. Later, students will learn practical experience as an internee in courses' related industry in China, he added

SICT has also agreed to design curriculum in line with requirements of industries. They also con-sented to bear operational cost of the institute for 3 years for Chinese faculty members' boarding and lodging expenses.

The contact agreement with SICT has been submitted to the Ministry of Maritime Affairs for approval," he added. Online



RAWALPINDI: Dengue patients getting medical treatment in the dengue isolation ward at DHQ Hospital, in the city.

Russia has offered Pakistan wheat in addition to gas: Asif

ISLAMABAD:Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered Pakistan wheat in addition to gas supplies keeping in view the damage to the country's breadbasket following catastrophic floods, said Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Saturday.

Asif further said the Russian president has also invited the prime minister and the visit will take place.

"They have said that they can give us gas. Russia said that they have gas pipelines in Central Asian countries and the pipelines could be extended to Pakistan via Afghanistan. These talks have taken place."

The defence minister also said that Russia has appreciated Pakistan's stance on the ongoing conflict in

Ukraine.

He further said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will undertake his maiden visit to China at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping during the first week of November.

The defence minister said President Xi extended the invitation during a meeting between the two leaders in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. Asif added that the prime minister's meeting with the Chinese president was extremely successful. He said President Xi expressed his commitment to take forward the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and also described Pakistan as an "all-weather strategic friend".

Asif concluded by saying that all SCO members have expressed willingness to support Pakistan as it suffers from devastating floods.

Shehbaz to appoint new COAS in November

Shehbaz to appoint new COAS in November
The defence minister reiterated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will appoint the country's new army chief in November in accordance with the Constitution



HYDERABAD: Young girls displaced from floods queue to receive donated food in Sehwan.

Flour crisis persists in Balochistan

QUETTA: Flour crisis continues in Balochistan for past three weeks, with the mill owners blaming the provincial

government for failing to procure the required wheat this year.

According to details, the prices of flour have skyrocketed in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan while the commodity was not available in most shops across the province. Meanwhile, a 20-kg bag of flour was being sold from Rs2,380 to Rs2,500.

Earlier on September 13, flour mill owners have blamed the provincial government for the ongoing flour crisis in the province, alleging that the food department failed to procure wheat according to the requirement

for this year.

Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) Balochistan chapter representatives said there was a huge gap between the demand and supply which created the crisis.

created the crisis.

They said flour mill owners were being blamed for the crisis, while in reality, the provincial government has imposed an inter-provincial and inter-district ban on the transportation of wheat during the harvesting season.

Read More: Floods, rainfall affected 2.84 million acres of crops in Sindh—report

It is pertinent to mention here that the death toll from flash floods trig-gered by heavy rains has reached 299 in the province. The spokesperson of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) confirmed that the death toll in Balochistan floods reached 299 including 136 men, 73 women and 90 children.

At least 181 persons including 92 men, 40 women and 49 children were injured in rain-related incidents across Balochistan while more than 65,000 houses were partially or fully damaged.INP

Punjab CM approves provision of gas to villages, industries

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has approved a project, in collaboration with private sector, for gas supply to

with private sector, for gas supply to villages and industries on Sunday.

According to details, the decision was taken during a high-level meeting chaired by the Punjab chief minister. The project will be completed in the collaboration with private sector.

Speaking on the occasion, CM Pervaiz Elahi noted that the provision of environmentally-friendly green fuel would end environmental pollution.

Punjab CM further said the provincial government was committed to fulfill the long-standing demands of the

fill the long-standing demands of the villagers and industrial sector.

Earlier in June, the OGDCL notified the discovery of gas reserves found in 4 wells in Rajanpur Punjab. The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited notified the discovery of oil reserves in four different well in Rajanpur city of Punjab

The notification issued by OGDCL said that the gas reserves discovered amount to 2.081 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSC/D).INP

India continuously violating international laws, conventions in HOJK

ISLAMABAD India is continuously violating all international laws and conventions in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and is using black laws like Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prancism) Act (IJAPA) to Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) to arrest innocent Kashmiris

The Modi-led fascist Indian government revoked Kashmir's special status in flagrant violation of international laws in August 2019 and is settling non-Kashmiris in the territory against United Nations resolutions, said a report released by the KMS, today.

It said as part of snatching the Kashmiris' identity, India is granting domicile status to non-locals on a fasttrack basis, adding the RSS-backed BJP regime is plotting to deprive Kashmiris of their identity. People are even deprived of basic human rights in IIOJK, it added The report said India is preventing the Kashmiris from exercising their universally recognized right to self-determination INP

Sheikh Rashid says it's 'game over' for PDM

RAWALPINDI: Muslim League (AML) Chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Sunday said that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has reached it's end. The nation has been plunged into a sea of inflation, all records have been broken.

In a statement on Twitter, Sheikh Rashid criticized the government over 'record breaking'

ernment over 'record breaking' inflation in the country he said due to severe inflation and economic crisis, ministers cannot go

to their constituencies.

Turning his aim at the Pakistan
Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman
Bilawal Bhutto Zardari he said
the Foreign Minister comes to

Pakistan acting as a guest and does not even go to his office.

The former federal interior minister said that the petrol mafia is not allowing the government to reduce the price for three days, conciliation or conflict is to be decided soon

be decided soon. He further said that there are 21 ministers without department in the government, the number of 70 ministers is against the consti-tution and he will move to the

High Court against it AML Chief said he is hopeful that the Supreme Court (SC) will restore the return of 150 corruption references of the rulers, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendments will be repealed and one crore overseas Pakistanis will get the right to vote The forwill get the right to vote. The for-mer federal interior minister said that the petrol mafia is not allowing the government to reduce the price for three days, conciliation or conflict is to be decided soon. He further said that there are 21 ministers without department in the government, the number of 70 ministers is against the constitution and he will move to the High Court against it. The former federal interior minister said that the petrol mafia is not allowing the government to reduce the price for three days, conciliation or conflict is to be decided soon. He further said that there are 21 ministers without department in the government, the number of 70 ministers is against the constitution and he will move to the High Court against it. INP

PM Shehbaz Sharif to highlight climate catastrophe at UNGA session

Shehbaz Sharif will highlight the climate-induced catastrophic floods in the country at 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York from 19th-23rd

September.

In a statement on Sunday,
Foreign Office (FO)
Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said
the Prime Minister will be accompanied by the Foreign Minister
Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, other
members of the Cabinet and senior officials. ior officials.

PM Shehbaz Sharif will address the UN General Assembly on 23rd September in which he will focus on the challenge faced by Pakistan in wake of the recent climateinduced catastrophic floods in the

The Prime Minister will outline concrete proposals for collectively tackling the existential threat

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister posed by climate change. He will also share Pakistan's position and perspective on regional and global issues of concern including Jammu and Kashmir, which is one

of the long-standing unresolved disputes on the UN agenda.
On the sidelines of the UNGA session, the Prime Minister will participate in the Global Food Security Summit jointly organised by the African Union European by the African Union, European Union and the United States, and a Closed-door Leaders Gathering on COP-27 bringing together select world leaders to discuss cli-

mate change.

PM Shehbaz Sharif will hold a number of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from various countries, President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General as well as heads of International Organisations, IFIs and philanthropic organisations.INP

Saleem Mandviwalla says there never was a corruption reference against him

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party leader Saleem Mandviwalla, refuting news about the return of a corruption reference against him, said that the reference filed against him was regarding wrongful allot-ment, not corruption. The PPP leader said that news

about the return of a corruption reference against him is false. How can court return a corruption reference that NAB never filed?' the PPP senator questioned.

Saleem said that NAB had filed the 'Kidney Hills reference' against him for political engineering. 'Kidney Hills reference' was about the wrongful allotment, not corruption, he

He added that he faced the law after NAB's baseless allegations where the accountability watchdog could not prove

anything.
Accountability courts
returned 50 NAB references declaring them out of the court's jurisdiction after the

recent amends to the Accountability Act of 1999.

The accountability court returned the Ramzan sugar mill reference against Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shahbaz, NAB's reference against former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani for corruption in USF funds, and six rental power corruption ref-erences filed against former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz

Ashraf.
Moreover, courts returned references against PPP's Saleem Mandviwalla, Aijaz Haroon, former CM KP Sardar Mehtab Abbasi and PPP senator Rubeena Khalid after the recent amends.INP

"No matter what Imran Khan says, the appointment of the army chief is a constitutional duty which the prime minister will fulfil in November," said Asif while addressing the media in Islamabad.

While saying that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif never made the appointment of army chief a subject of discussion he added, "Nawaz Sharif has also fulfilled this constitutional duty four times".

The defence minister also criticized former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan and added that Imran is trying to make the issue of the army chief's appointment "controversial". He further said that Imran is "saying things that should not be said".

Asif maintained that the PTI chief is harming the country and its interests in his attempts to regain power and also accused him of trying to prevent Pakistan from getting aid for flood victims.

The PML-N leader also said that Pakistan's national security is linked to its economic security and Imran is ieopardizing it with his constant attacks. jeopardizing it with his constant attacks.
"Imran Khan repeatedly attacked national and economic security of Pakistan," he alleged.
The development comes at a time when efforts are underway to reset the troubled relationship between Pakistan and the US.

A senior adviser of the US secretary of state recently visited Islamabad, while the US President Joe Biden Administration approved \$450 million sale of the F-16 equipment in a sign that Washington wants to maintain a working relationship with Islamabad.

In the middle of all this, Shehbaz's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday are significant and show that Pakistan is trying to maintain a delicate balance in its ties with big powers INP

Indus river water level drops to low flood at Kotri Barrage

LAHORE: The water level in Indus River has dropped to low flood at Kotri Barrage, according to the water data shared by the Flood Forecasting Division at its website on Sunday.

The water level in the river in upstream at Sukkur and Guddu barrages has dropped to normal flow.

flow.

The water inflow in the river at Kotri Barrage has been 2.94,500 cusecs and outflow in the downstream has been 2,68,500 cusecs.

It is to be mentioned here that the water level drop in the river, will facilitate easier discharge of the water standing in vast areas of Sindh into the river. The water of flash floods in Sindh's districts on the western bank of the river, still standing as a

huge lake.

Thousands of people have evacuated from katcha area in Thatta district as the flood stream from Kotri moving towards Indus delta to enter in the

Several flood-affected people have taken refuge at river dykes after their villages submerged in the water. The flooding in the river has badly hit the areas in the route of the river to the sea.

Floodwater has damaged crops and thousands of mud houses in the area.

Dengue epidemic: Islamabad reports 96, Karachi 324, Punjab 191 new cases in 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: country is in midst of a dengue epidemic as Islamabad reported 96, Karachi 324 and Punjab reported 191 new cases in the last 24 hours.

the last 24 hours.

According to the District Health Officer Islamabad Zaeem Zia, 96 new dengue cases were reported in Islamabad in the last 34 hours. At least four people have lost their lives to dengue in lives to dengue in Islamabad in the current

Meanwhile, the Health Department Sindh told that 324 new cases were reported in Karachi in the last 24 hours while two people were reported dead. The total tally of dengue cases in Karachi this month has gone above 2500 while the death tally is 11

death tally is 11.
As many as 403 people were diagnosed with dengue in Karachi yester-day, almost double the 202 cases reported 202 cases reported the day before, data released by the Sindh health department showed on Saturday.

Punjab Moreover eported 191 new cases in the last 24 hours Rawalpindi reported 84, Lahore 60 and Gujranwala reported 10 cases, told the secretary of

health Punjab. statement Secretary Health Punjab said that 80 cases of dengue virus were reported from Rawalpindi and 62 cases of the mosquitoborne disease during the past 24 hours.INP

Main objective behind conspiracy achieved with end to NAB cases: Fawad

I S L A M A B A D : Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday said that the main objective of the conspiracy has been achieved as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) cases worth bil-lions of rupees have ended.

In a statement on Twitter, The PTI leader while lashing out at the incumbent rulers said that they have achieved the main objective behind the conspiracy of overthrow-ing the PTI government, and that he explained to be the NAB cases against the ruling political lead-ers. He said they have successfully ended the NAB cases worth billions of rupees against them.INP

The water inflow in the river at Taunsa Barrage has been 1,31,400 cusecs, while outflow has been 1,14,400 cusecs, according to the water record. Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej rivers are flowing below the low flood level INP Shazia Sarwar appointed first DPO in Punjab from Balochistan

51,200 cusecs.

LAHORE Inspector General of Police (IG) Punjab has appointed Shazia Sarwar as the first female district police officer (DPO) hailing from Balochistan

IG Punjab Faisal Shahkar has appointed Shazia Sarwar, who hails from district Bolan of the Baochistan

from district Bolan of the Baochistan province, as DPO Layyah.

Shazia Sarwar is part of 40th Common and has remained posted in multiple districts of the province.

Speaking on her appointment IG Faisal Shahkar said that they are encouraging women deployment in police and multiple famula cope are being posted at

multiple female cops are being posted at better positions in the field. On July 22, the Punjab government

appointed Faisal Shahkar as new provin-cial Inspector General (IG) shortly after Rao Sardar refused to continue serving ahead of Punjab chief minister (CM)

The water in the river at Guddu Barrage has dropped with inflow 1,55,000 cusecs and outflow of water 1,40,000 cusecs.

The water inflow in river at Sukkur Barrage has been measured 1,53,400 cusecs and outflow 1,51,200 cusecs.

The water in the river at Guddu Barrage has been measured with inflow 1,47,400 cusecs and outflow of water 1,35,900 cusecs.

The water inflow in river at Sukkur Barrage has been measured 1,50,700 cusecs and outflow 1,47,000 cusecs.

1,47,000 cusecs.
Indus River has been normal at Tarbela reservoir with water inflow 1,02,000 cusecs, while outflow has been 94,200 cusecs.
The water inflow in river at Jinnah Barrage in Kalabagh has been 1,20,200 cusecs and discharge measured 1,12,200 cusecs.
The water inflow in Indus at Chashma has been 1,47,800 cusecs and discharge measured 1,29,100 cusecs.

According to the notifications issued by Establishment Division, Rao Sardar Ali Khan was replaced with Faisal Shahkar. Rao Sardar was appointed as Pakistan Railways inspector general with immediate effect.

with immediate effect.

The appointment came after top-ranking government officials — IG Punjab and Chief Secretary Kamran Afzal — refused to continue serving on their post. AD Khawaja, Faisal Shahkar and Inam Ghani were strong contenders for the IG Punjab post.INP



RAWALPINDI: People are busy is buying flour from a traditional flour mill shop at Jamia Masjid Road due to increase price of flour bags.

Karachi: Banned outfit commander arrested after shootout

KARACHI: The city police have arrested a banned outfit commander following a shootout in Karachi's Ittehad Town on Karachi's Sunday.

According to details, the arrest was made after an exchange of fire between police and the banned outfit commander during a raid at a hideout at Ittehad Town locality

of Baldia Town. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kemari, Fida Hussain, said that the terrorist commander was wounded during the exchange of fire. Meanwhile, the raiding team also recovered weapons and hand grenades from the suspect's possession.

The local commander was associated with banned outfit of Swat chapter. "The arrested suspect was leading a ten-member gang and he was involved in street crimes and robberies in different areas of Karachi including district west, district central and district east," said Fida Hussain.

Earlier this month, the city police arrested as many as 26 illegal Afghans immigrants in Karachi's Al-Asif Square for illegally crossing the border.

According to details, the Sohrab Goth Police Station carried out an operation near the service road at Al-Asif Square and arrested 26 illegal immigrants.

A police spokesperson said that the raid was conducted was by a patrolling officer. The Afghan nationals failed to show their Pakistani citizenship and relevant travel documents, they added INP

PAF rescue, rehabilitation operations in full swing in flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations are in full swing in flood affected areas of KP, Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab.

The PAF personnel had been working round the clock for the well-being and timely provision of basic necessities of food, shelter, drinking water and medical assistance to the flood victims, said a PAF news release.

In the last 24 hours, relief goods including 20,060 packs of cooked food, 8,851 water bottles, and 2,520 food, 8,851 water bottles, and 2,520 ration packs were distributed amongst the needy families of Rajanpur, Mitiari, Talhar, Machi, Bolani, Lashari, Norwah, Machka, Gharo, Jati, Kodario, Hajipur, Chuhar Jamali, Mirpur Khas, Saindad Village, Village Balu, Jhaal Magsi, Basti Sher Muhammad, Lakhra, Matyari, Saeedabad Shahdadkot, Sohbatpur, Basti Jageer Gabool, Fazilpur, and Allah Waraio Jamali. The PAF emergency response teams also provided assistance to the

teams also provided assistance to the flood affectees of Nasserabad, Jhal Maghsi, Jacobabad, Khyarvi, Sindhri,

Sanghar, Goth Ismail, Kumhar, Sargal, Pholari, Dadu, Pagadar Shah, Mian Pota, Pashin, Qila Abdullah, Qilla Saifullaha, Thul, Sehwan, Nawab Shah, Sakrand, Esabhatti, Sukkur, Pir Patho, Uthal, Hyderabad, Mirpur Khas, Talhar, Nawakilli, Gulistan Killi Saleh and Killi Habib-

Moreover, free medical camps established by PAF were constantly providing free medical facilities to the locals, 489 patients were attended by medical teams of PAF deployed in

by medical teams of PAF deployed in field hospitals in the last 24 hours. In the last 24 hours, relief goods including 20,060 packs of cooked food, 8,851 water bottles, and 2,520 ration packs were distributed amongst the needy families of Rajanpur, Mitiari, Talhar, Machi, Bolani, Lashari, Norwah, Machka, Gharo, Jati, Kodario, Hajipur, Chuhar Jamali, Mirpur Khas, Saindad Village, Village Balu, Jhaal Magsi, Basti Sher Muhammad, Lakhra, Mat yari, Saeedabad Shahdadkot, Sohb atpur, Basti Jageer Gabool, Fazilpur, and Allah Waraio Jamali, INP



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters are enjoying Sunday Holiday at Shah Allah Ditta cave, in Federal Capital.