

QUETTA VOICE

Email address:
quettavoic@gmail.com

Tuesday 27
September, 2022

https:// www.quettavoic.com/

ABC Certified

Quettavoic



PM leads condolences for six martyrs in helicopter crash



Pakistani Rupee recovers by Rs2.6 against US Dollar in Interbank

PML-N leader Ishaq Dar returns to Pakistan after five years in self-exile

After a self-exile of nearly five years and several speculations, senior PML-N leader and 'finance wizard' Ishaq Dar returned to Pakistan on Monday night. The former minister landed at the Nur Khan Airbase in Chaklala, Rawalpindi. He accompanied Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his trip back to the country from London. Talking to reporters at the airbase, Dar said that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and the premier had tasked him with the finance portfolio. "I will try my best to fulfill all the responsibilities. We will try to take out the country from the economic swamp it is stuck in [...] the way we did in 1998-1999 and 2013-2014."



Dar expressed hope that "we will now head in a positive direction". Dar's return had been under speculation for months with certain top members of the PML-N — like Maryam Nawaz and Javed Latif — on several occasions publicly attacking and disowning former finance minister Miftah Ismail's policies, in particular, the inevitable reversal of the costly fuel subsidy introduced by the previous PTI government. Dar had also overtly challenged Ismail and undermined his decision-making over the past months. Last week, an accountability court had suspended an outstanding arrest warrant against Dar, paving the way for the former finance minister's return from

London. Accountability Court Judge Mohammad Bashir issued a suspension order for a perpetual warrant of arrest against Dar, which was issued on December 11, 2017, after he absconded from an assets-beyond-means case. The warrants were suspended until October 7, giving the senator-elect a fortnight to surrender to the law. The court's decision gave credence to speculation that Dar was returning to the country to take over as finance minister from the beleaguered Miftah Ismail. However, the confirmation came earlier today when Miftah tendered his resignation to senior party leaders in London. Subsequently, a statement was released by PML-N Web Desk.

6 martyred as Pak Army helicopter crashed in Harnai Balochistan

News Desk

At least six Pak Army officials were martyred when a military helicopter crashed in Balochistan's Harnai district. The helicopter crashed in the Khost area of the Harnai district, the military's media wing said on Monday.

All six Pak Army officials including the pilot of the helicopter embraced shahadat, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The martyred officials were identified as:



39-year-old Major Khurram Shahzad (pilot), a resident of Attock. He was married with one daughter.

30-year-old Major Muhammad Muneeb Afzal (pilot), a resident of Rawalpindi. He was married with two sons.

44-year-old Subedar Abdul Wahid, a resident of Sabirabad village in Karak. He was married with four children, including three sons and a daughter.

27-year-old Sepoy Muhammad Imran, a resident of Makhdoompur in Khanewal. He was married with two daughters and a son.

30-year-old Naik Jalil, a resident of village Bhutta, Lohara, Teh Kharan in Gujrat district. He was married with two sons.

35-year-old Sepoy Shoaib, a resident of village Khatarpatti PO Syceda Teh Jhand in Attock district. He was married with one son.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif while reacting to the sad news said he was deeply shocked by the incident. The premier took to social media network Twitter and expressed sympathies with the bereaved family members of the martyred Pak Army officials.

Deadlock persists between CM Bizenjo and JUI over portfolios

Syed Ali Shah

Deadlock persists between Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo and the Jamiat ul Ulama e Islam (JUI) over important portfolios in the cabinet. The religious party has decided to join the Bizenjo-led coalition government in the province. CM Bizenjo and JUI F Balochistan Chief and federal minister, Maulana Abdul Wasey have held three meetings in this regard. "Deadlock persists as the JUI wants to get a category portfolios", a well-placed source within the Balochistan government told Daily Quetta Voice. He requested anonymity to avoid

further controversy. Bizenjo held three meetings with Maulana Wasey. Mr. Bizenjo visited the residence of Maulana Wasey and the two held a one-on-one meeting to pave the way for the joining of the religious party. However, no breakthrough was made as the religious party sticks to the implementation of the charter of demand. "The CM sent a letter to the JUI F provincial chief to review the party's charter of demand", a lawmaker from the party told this scribe. He however mentioned that his party returned the letter and made it clear that it will not accept any amendment in this respect.



"Portfolios would not be snatched from ministers". This further jeopardized the ongoing talks between the Bizenjo government and JUI.

The religious party has already put out the Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf (PTI) ministers as a key condition for joining the government. The party has 12

lawmakers in the house of 65 and wants important portfolios in the coalition government.

Mr. Bizenjo is in troubled waters as all ministers have announced to resist any move with regard to the withdrawal of portfolios from them. Bizenjo has left for Islamabad to have a consultation with key BAP leaders including Chairman Senate Mir Sadiq Sanjrani in this regard, the Balochistan government source said.

It may be mentioned here that the JUI F and B NP Mengal had played a key role in the success of the no-confidence motion against the former CM Jam Kamal Khan in October 2021.

PM leads condolences for six martyrs in helicopter crash

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed his deep grief over the martyrdom of six army officials.

Prime Minister condoled with the families of martyrs Major Khurram Shahzad, Major Muhammad Muneeb Afzal, Subidar Abdul Wahid, Sepoy Muhammad Imran, Naik Jalil, and Sepoy Shoaib.

Expressing his deep regret over the unfortunate incident, he said that Pakistan forces have made unprecedented sacrifices for the protection, security and defense of the motherland and nation is proud of their martyrs and will never forget these sacrifices.

He also prayed for the elevation of high ranks of the martyred and patience to their families.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also offered his condolences to the martyrs and said:

"Be it war or peace, the sacrifices of the officers and men of the armed forces for the sake of the motherland are unforgettable."

On the other hand, PDM and JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has also expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom and said that his heart is saddened by the martyrdom of the soldiers of the Pakistan Army.

"I pray that Allah accepts the martyrdoms of the martyrs and gives them high status. This is not only the grief of the families of the martyrs, it is the grief of the entire nation," he said.

Similarly, the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehmood Khan expressed regret over the martyrdom of six personnel including two pilots in the accident.

In a different message he expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families. INP

Senate chairman refers proposed amendments in transgender rights' act to standing committee for debate

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday referred the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) (Amendment) Bill, 2022, to the relevant standing committee for debate in order to reach a consensual decision on the matter.

The amendment bill was presented by PTI Senator Fauzia Arshad. The National Assembly had enacted the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act in 2018 to provide legal recognition to transgender persons and ensure that discrimination against transgender persons in various

walks of life shall be punishable.

The law was made after the Supreme Court held on Sept 25, 2012, that eunuchs were entitled to all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and enjoyed by other members of society.

Some religious parties, however, have since been of the opinion that the law gives legal protection to homosexuality. Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) recently became a party to a case assailing the law in the Federal Shariat Court (FSC), while Maulana Fazlur Rahman of the

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (Fazl), a key ally of the federal government, has termed the law as "against the teachings of Islam".

During the Senate session today, Senator Mohsin Aziz voiced his reservations with the legislation, saying he was now regretting not opposing the bill when it was introduced and approved in 2018.

"There is a difference between transgender and intersex ... we should beg pardon from Allah," the senator said, adding that transgender persons are not eunuchs (khwaja sira).

Aziz said the amendment should be made

to the law "as soon as possible", warning "the more the delay, the greater the wrath of Allah".

Responding to the senator, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that it must not be forgotten that the law was enacted four years ago.

"This is a sensitive matter," the minister said, adding "they [transgender persons] are the creations of Allah and they deserve respect."

He also stressed that the matter should not be politicised, and instead should be emphasised during discussions in the committee. Web Desk

Funeral prayer of martyred Pak Army officials offered in Quetta

News Desk

A funeral prayer of six martyred Pakistan Army officials was offered in Quetta on Monday. Corps Commander Balochistan, Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor, acting Governor Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili, inspector general of police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, ministers, political and tribal figures, and high-level civil and military officers participated in the funeral prayer of the martyred military officials.

Six Pak Army officials including two majors were martyred when their helicopter crashed in the Harnai district of Balochistan. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the incident happened in the Khost area of the district.

The dead bodies of the martyred army officials were sent to their native places after the funeral prayer.



WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with US Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Dilawar Syed in Washington.

Pakistani Rupee recovers by Rs2.6 against US Dollar in Interbank

Business Desk

The Pakistani Rupee has recovered upto Rs: 2.63 against US Dollar in Interbank today. The surge in PKR has been seen after Miftah Ismail resigned as Finance minister and Ishaq Dar to continue as the country's new Finance Minister.

According to a report by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) today the Rupee closed at 237.02 per dollar. This closure of PKR against USD equates an appreciation of 1.11 percent as compared the last Friday.

The PKR has been on lowest level against USD for the past few years mainly due to the ongoing political crisis in the country. Saad bin Naseer, director of financial data and analytics portal Mettis Global, said the rupee's recovery was a "sentimental reaction" to the news that PML-N leader Ishaq Dar was returning to Pakistan to take over as finance minister after Miftah Ismail's resignation.

He noted that the FAP had worked alongside Dar to improve the rupee's value against the dollar in the past, adding that the association could collaborate with him to form a policy to "rapidly bring down the dollar rates".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will return to Pakistan today, accompanied by Dar who is set to take charge as finance minister.

On Sunday, senior party leaders met Miftah Ismail, who handed in his resignation. A statement released after the meeting confirmed that Nawaz Sharif and PM Shehbaz had nominated Dar as the finance minister.

Balochistan reports 3389 dengue cases during last 4 months

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

QUETTA: Balochistan reported 3389 dengue cases during the last four months. Most of the cases were reported from Balochistan's Mekran division, health sources told Daily Quetta Voice. The preferred not to be named.

During the last two days, 64 cases were reported from Gwadar and Panjgur districts of Balochistan, they mentioned. The cases are increasing because the stagnant flood water provides a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Dengue, Malaria, and Gastro are killing more people than floods

Dengue, malaria, and gastro are killing more people than the floods did, Dr. Shireen Khan, a well-known medical professional said. The government needs to restore the damaged BHUs on an emergency basis to treat the patients, Dr. Khan stated. Demand for medicines and testing kits is increasing so the incumbent government must ensure the timely supply of these items, he suggested.

According to the statistics shared by the Health Department of Balochistan 49 cases were reported from Panjgur and 15 cases were reported from Gwadar. After these cases, 191 people were found Dengue positive in the province in only one week.

After the floods, many pandemic diseases have been born in different



areas of the province. These diseases include malaria, dengue, gastro, etc. The diseases are spreading all over Balochistan, particularly in the high-temperature regions at a high rate.

Balochistan Received Historically Worst rainfall

Balochistan received heavy rainfall due to climate change. Most of the areas of Balochistan were flooded which provided a large surface area for the mosquitoes to breed which gave birth to the diseases like malaria and dengue.

Over 700 hundred Basic Health Units (BHUs) are damaged by the floods, due to which the medical staff and patients are faced with problems. The patients are referred to Quetta and other provinces as there is a lack of beds and medicines in the hospitals of the affected areas.

"Dengue and malaria seem to have replaced covid-19 in Balochistan and Sindh", a health specialist told Daily Quetta Voice. Deaths are reported from different parts of Balochistan and most of them are children and aged men and women.

Although dengue is common in Balochistan and Sindh after the monsoon rains the government seems to be unprepared and unprepared each year. "They are never prepared and turn to fire-fighting when things get out of control," said Qaisar Sajjad, secretary-general of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA).

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Education of 386000 students at risk in Balochistan

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

The damage to schools across Balochistan has affected the schooling of 3,86,000 students. This figure is as per the data shared by the Balochistan Secondary Education Department. Although, the independent sources put the number of students and damaged 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 indicators.

Reconstruction of schools a major challenge for the government. The recent monsoon has further 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 challenge for the provincial government, which appears to be least bothered about the state of education 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 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.

The reconstruction of schools and ensuring the availability 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 government, UNICEF and other non-governmental 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 continue their stalled studies.

Drinking Water Quality Status And Its Sources Of Contamination

By Aryal khan panizai



Due to intimidating increase in population and rapid-fire industrialization, drinking water quality is being deteriorated day by day in Pakistan. This review sums up the issues of colorful exploration studies conducted for drinking water quality status of different areas of Pakistan by taking into account the physicochemical parcels of drinking water as well as the presence of colorful pathogenic microorganisms. About 20 of the whole population of Pakistan has access to safe drinking water.

The remaining 80 of population is forced to use unsafe drinking water due to the failure of safe and healthy drinking water sources. The primary source of impurity is sewerage (fecal) which is considerably discharged into drinking water system inventories. Secondary source of pollution is the disposal of poisonous chemicals from artificial backwaters, fungicides, and diseases from husbandry sources into the water bodies.

Anthropogenic conditioning beset waterborne conditions that constitute about 80 of all conditions and are responsible for 33 of deaths. This review highlights the drinking water quality, impurity sources, sanitation situation, and goods of unsafe drinking water on humans. There's immediate need to

take defensive measures and treatment technologies to overcome hygienic condition of drinking water inventories in different areas of Pakistan.

Drinking water is mainly taken from surface and underground aquifers near rivers and canals. Surface water quality is rapidly declining due to the addition of raw municipal and industrial wastewater as well as agricultural runoff to the water source. When river water flow is at its maximum, it contains a highly concentrated suspension. Most rivers are long and thin and do not support aquatic species.

It is clear that these waters are contaminated with faeces and need to be treated appropriately to remove the contaminants for human consumption. In Pakistan, four major cities use surface water; these are Islamabad, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Hyderabad.

The main cause of

microbiological contamination is the mixing of the common sewer with the domestic water supply. In most rural areas of Pakistan, surface water is used for drinking after slow sand filtration, and chlorination is not performed at filtration stations. In most rural areas, there is no pre-treatment facility for water purification. All this deficiency is due to microbial contamination and poor water quality.

Sources of Contamination: Microbiological Contaminants:

In Pakistan, microbial pollution has been discovered as one of the serious problems in rural as well as urban areas. This is due to the leakage of pipe, pollution from sewage lines intrusion into drinking water supplies, and so forth.

Chemical Contaminants: Chemical pollutants that come from industries, soil sediments and agricultural

runoff, i.e. pesticides and fertilizers, enter water sources. In Pakistan, the use of fertilizers and pesticides is around 5.6 million tons and 70,000 tons respectively according to gross profit (GOP) figures.

These chemicals, usually insecticides, leach into groundwater by mixing with irrigation water and rainwater. Between 1988 and 2000, about 107 samples were taken from groundwater, and 31 samples showed clear pesticide contamination above the limits set by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO. Another significant problem for groundwater in Pakistan is higher salt concentration, which is mainly caused by irrigation activities, salt dissolution in soil, seawater intrusion and chemical industries. Salinity affects major areas of Balochistan, PK and Punjab.

Wastewater from industries and households has high levels of arsenic, becoming a serious problem. In the major cities of Sindh and Punjab, about 16% of people were exposed to more than 50 ppm of arsenic. Fluoride concentrations above the permissible limit cause problems in the main regions of Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh. Dental fluorosis is common in Sindh, Punjab and KPK.

Floods Cause Major Damage to Drainage System: In Pakistan, floods have created serious environmental problems. They damage pipes and eventually cause sewage to overflow into water bodies. Severe flooding destroyed buildings and crops. All these substances can cause toxic chemicals and oils to be discharged into rivers, streams, lakes... and can lead to the death of aquatic organisms. Many chemical pollutants enter floodwaters in their path. Current severe floods (2010) and heavy rains have damaged 80% of Nowshera, destroying 40% of infrastructure. The total number of houses destroyed and damaged

Human Health Impact: Due to the poor sanitation system, treatment, and monitoring, drinking water quality deteriorates. The presence of toxic chemicals and bacteria in drinking water causes adverse effect on human health. Due to the fecal contamination, people have been suffering from waterborne diseases.

Transgender rights are human rights

Nauman Ahmad Bhatti

Fiddling with the words of Virginia Woolf, I take the liberty to reiterate that the history of people's resistance to trans people's emancipation is more interesting than the story of emancipation itself.

Our lawmaking bodies have failed to uphold the rights of the people. The most tragic part of our human rights history is that most of the activism that has taken place in the country has been to demand basic rights. Even in the 21st century, the people of Pakistan ask their representatives to make laws for the protection of women, children, trans people and religious minorities; this is nothing more than a fundamental right as enshrined in the constitution.

At the moment, religious parties in the country have reinvigorated an old debate to resist the law related to the rights of trans people. The Transgender Person Protection of Rights Act of 2018 is a progressive law and is one of the few laws that has been accepted unanimously by the government and the opposition. It aims at giving right to identity, dignity, education, health and employment to the transgender community; which is, in essence, only a right to exist. The act exclusively defines the word 'transgender', which shall mitigate the derogatory terms associated with people from this community.

Most people are misinterpreting the law, leading to baseless allegations against the commu-

nity. Many of them have perceived the law as advocating for and normalizing same-sex relationships. Some see it as a 'cultural invasion' by the West, while others are confusing 'gender dysphoria' with 'gender identity'. Some have irrationally associated the act with the collapse of the marital system in the country.

Our people's ability to build a rationale while linking an issue to a conspiracy is oddly enjoyable. These concerns are largely illusory. The words - or words synonymous to - 'marriage' or 'same-sex' are not even mentioned in the act. Little do people know that the prevalent transphobia in South Asia is a manifestation of an actual foreign conspiracy by the imperialist Great Britain. Gender dysphoria is being wrongly called a 'disease' when it is in reality a phase of uneasiness in a person's life whose biological sex and gender do not get along.

Another problem here is that right-wing politicians are adamant to enforce their definition of the word 'transgender'. This is condescending and an attempt to further patronize an already repressed faction of Pakistani society. It remains unclear why they wish to uphold the status-quo. Either their perception is blurred due to lack of knowledge or their resistance to the community is aimed as a populist tactic. In both cases, the will to reform the general perception towards the transgender community is

nowhere to be found.

To make sense of the law and other purposefully obscured realities, it is important to shed some light on the crux of the matter. Almost all the people speaking against the rights bill are unable to tell the difference between the terms used in the act. The education system of our country is equally culpable.

Biology is messy. Biological sex, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation are complex terms. Despite being distinct from one another, they are often interchanged. Biological sex is announced at birth. Biologically, people are either male or female. That is all there is to biological sex. Gender comes next in line. It is defined as the collective set of roles in a society associated with either men or women. Usually, the family of a newborn baby decides to nurture their baby with masculine characteristics if the baby is male or with feminine characteristics if the baby is female. People whose gender aligns with their biological sex are cis-gendered.

However, a person's gender does not necessarily align with their biological sex. The preferred term is 'transgender'. This is in no way a disease or disorder. Transgender persons are also biologically either male or female - i.e. they have naturally either male or female body parts. It is their assigned gender that diverges from their biological sex. This means that people who were biologically identi-

fied as male can have feminine characteristics, or people who were biologically identified as female can have masculine characteristics.

Choosing to identify oneself based on one's choice of masculine or feminine genders is what this law is all about. In a first, a transgender person is being enabled to legally identify their natural self. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018 are two different documents. By reading the former, any misconception regarding the latter can be cleared. Had the people read the two documents they would know the backlash is unfounded.

Having said this, every law, including this one, must be protected from being abused. Various additions are still required to make it comprehensive. Those criticizing the law by citing their concerns must realize that just like any other act, this law will evolve as well. More gender experts must be consulted to make a vivid sense of the law. The definitions of several other misunderstood terms, like transsexual and pronouns, are missing. Nonetheless, the bill is a good start. If things go well, it will pave the way for transgender inclusion in the legislative process. After all, transgender representation is necessary for the evolution of the laws pertaining to the community.

Climate affairs

By Chloe Atkinson

Scientists have long clamored that human activity on Earth has led to the calamitous weather changes we are witnessing today. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that climate change makes heatwaves hotter and more frequent. According to the research, greenhouse gas emissions have heated the planet by an estimated 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.16 degrees Fahrenheit) over the last two centuries.

The Nature journal published an article this month detailing what its authors say is proof that heatwaves in Europe have increased three-to-four times faster than in other northern mid-latitude areas such as the United States. The reason for this, according to the article, is due to the fast west-to-east air stream, or atmospheric circulation, which is carrying hot air across the northern atmosphere.

Most scientists appear to agree that temperatures will continue to rise unless humans cease adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Without a drastic change in the way mankind conducts its business, heatwaves are predicted to worsen. Tackling climate change should be a top priority for every country today. Heatwaves that occurred once every decade are now happen-

ing at three times that rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement and last year's Glasgow climate conference were intended to bring the issue to global attention and generate movement on the ground. But current climate policies are not sufficient to avoid the dangerous effects of global warming. More must be done.

Today, wildfires are raging in Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Morocco and Italy. Over one thousand people have died so far and many thousands more have been evacuated from their homes out of concern for their safety. Climate change plays a significant role in the cause of wildfires since it increases the hot and dry tinderbox conditions that help fires start and then spread quickly. Less precipitation means dry land and vegetation. This means that when a fire starts, it burns faster and more intensely. Hot and dry conditions are a perfect recipe for a massive inferno.

However, it is important to note that not every fire is caused by climate change. Forest management programs, which deal with how forests are maintained specifically to prevent massive infernos, are often insufficient. In addition, it is often careless people who ignite fires through arson or simply by barbecuing. Human fire starters aside, they don't cause the actual heatwave. Individuals are not responsible necessarily but since mankind is col-

lectively composed of individuals, it does fall on each and every one of us to take steps to minimize our carbon footprint. There is a reason why famed reality star Kylie Jenner was slammed on social media for posting a photo of her private jet parked next to boyfriend Travis Scott's plane, asking "You wanna take mine or yours?" And she was slammed again for taking her jet in the end for what turned out to be a paltry 12-minute flight.

Heatwaves that occurred once every decade are now happening at three times that rate. The 2015 Paris Agreement and last year's Glasgow climate conference were intended to bring the issue to global attention and generate movement on the ground. But current climate policies are not sufficient to avoid the dangerous effects of global warming. More must be done.

Today, wildfires are raging in Spain, France, Greece, Portugal, Morocco and Italy. Over one thousand people have died so far and many thousands more have been evacuated from their homes out of concern for their safety. Climate change plays a significant role in the cause of wildfires since it increases the hot and dry tinderbox conditions that help fires start and then spread quickly. Less precipitation means dry land and vegetation. This means that when a fire starts, it burns faster and more intensely.

Thinking about a charter of economy

Dr Shahnaz Khan

The economy is a way of creating and distributing wealth and opportunities and is closely linked with the wellbeing of the people. The system of how the economy is organized determines whether the outcome will be wealth concentration or a more egalitarian or inclusive system. The state's responsibility to prevent wealth concentration is enshrined in the constitution. This should be the starting point of any charter of economy.

History tells that religious leaders, thinkers and philosophers have always promoted the concept of equality/ 'masawat'. Technological advancement has increased the productive capacity of the world to such an extent that it is inexcusable to have poverty and hunger anywhere in the world. On December 12, 1974, the UNGA adopted resolution 3281, containing the 'charter of economic rights and duties of states'. But, it was more like a wish list. So, let's focus on Pakistan.

If Pakistan's vision is to create an egalitarian society, its goals should be to decrease income and wealth inequality, end poverty, uplift living standard, promote human development, end oppression and exploitation of people, and empower citizens.

Let's have a look at the main drivers of this agenda:

Industry: Pakistan is much behind in the race to industrialize. In the past, wherever industrialization happened, it was initially due to the state's direct involvement. The private sector also rose with the support of the state. In Pakistan, the private sector has neither the will nor the resources to take any initiatives. The state has to facilitate this sector and control the commanding heights of the economy. The textile sector accounts for 60 per cent of our exports, mainly to the US and the UK. The country needs to broaden its product range for exports and diversify export destinations. Only the state has the resources, capacity and ability to get involved in riskier ventures.

Agriculture: it is the second largest sector in Pakistan and contributes 21 per cent to GDP, employing 45 per cent of the total labour force in the country. By improving this sector, we can uplift a large section of the population.

According to the Pakistan Business Council, due to outdated methods, the yield of five basic crops is 50 per cent of the global best. Livestock and dairy is largely on a subsistence basis with poor yield. Horticulture needs more attention.

Water scarcity and climate changes are looming challenges. Food insecurity is a big issue, which can also lead to

social unrest. There is an urgent need to invest in technology, upgrade techniques, water infrastructure and new seeds, and strengthen research in this sector whose optimal performance will not only reduce the need for imports but also increase exports.

Land: it is a strategic asset for any country. In Pakistan, however, it is not only a source of food, shelter or various public use but also a source of oppression, exploitation and wealth and power inequality, leading to economic, social and political superiority of the landowners. Land ownership has created a class with a feudal mindset which claims a much larger share in the country's wealth, power and decision-making. It is a remnant of colonial times and it is time to abolish it.

Land speculation has driven land prices to a level where home ownership has become a dream for even the middle class, let alone the working class. Private investors prefer investing in land instead of technology and industry. The land mafia, which is willing to take lives over land disputes, is a result of this. There is an urgent need to develop a comprehensive land policy, keeping in mind future needs as well.

Human development: over two-thirds of Pakistan's population is under the age of 30 -

mostly uneducated, unskilled and unemployed. Even those with higher degrees are finding it difficult to get appropriate jobs; this could be due to poor-quality education. Most of Pakistan's overseas labour force is unskilled. The educational system needs a complete overhaul with a focus on critical thinking, open-mindedness and ability to question existing dogmas. With two million young people entering the workforce annually, job creation has to be made a priority. Without gender parity in education and jobs, any charter of economy will have little value. Directionless, frustrated and angry youth is a threat to national security and a cause for social unrest rather than a promise for progress.

Environment: in 2018, the Global Climate Risk Index ranked Pakistan as the fifth most vulnerable country to long-term climate change effects. The recent floods are proof of this. Climate change is a global problem, but Pakistan faces two existential dangers: water scarcity and deforestation. The most important area that is being neglected is public education to create awareness about citizens' role in conserving water. We need to pay attention to reducing water losses due to unlined canals and wastage, conserve rainwater by building small

dams and water reservoirs and make large water filtration plants to provide clean drinking water. Deforestation is a result of poverty as 69 per cent of the population is dependent on wood for daily energy source; this has been made worse by the population explosion. The timber mafia has been cutting trees illegally with impunity and needs to be controlled.

Labor policy: one fundamental reason for poverty is the below-subsistence minimum wage. The concept of a living wage has replaced the minimum wage worldwide. This along with state-sponsored education, healthcare and other basic facilities is the starting point towards a more level playing field. Strengthening trade unions will help workers negotiate better wages and other rights for themselves. Taxation system: Pakistan's regressive tax system is perhaps one of the most complex systems in the world. The ratio of indirect taxes has to be reduced to ease the burden on people. The issue of tax on agricultural income has to be addressed. Many experts including Dr Ikramul Haq have presented proposals to improve this, but due to lack of political will, nothing has changed.

Banking sector: it is perhaps the most exploitative system at the national and international levels.

Inequality and hunger

By Chuck Collins

Beginning on May 24, the World Economic Forum is gathering in Davos, Switzerland for an in-person meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion.

Thanks to protests and new research, however, participants will not be able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth during the pandemic.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods.

A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billionaires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers.

In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those

with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billionaires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world, and deliver universal healthcare and social protections for all the citizens of low- and lower-middle-income countries.

A group of over 150 millionaires released a strong statement calling on Davos attendees to face the dangers of runaway wealth inequality and speak out in favor of national efforts to levy progressive income and wealth taxes on the ultra-wealthy. "The truth is that 'Davos' doesn't deserve the world's trust right now," the statement reads. "For all the countless hours spent talking about making the world a better place, the conference has produced little tangible value amidst a torrent of self-congratulations."

"Until participants acknowledge the simple, effective solution staring them in the face - taxing the rich - the people of the world will continue to see their so-called dedication to fixing the world's problems as little more than a performance."

The letter is signed by actor and activist Mark Ruffalo, as well as supporters of the In Tax We Trust movement including Abigail Disney, Morris Pearl, and Nick Hanauer. These millionaires delivered the In Tax We Trust

letter directly to the World Economic Forum offices in New York and Geneva, and attended pro-taxation demonstrations at the outskirts of the elite compound in Davos itself.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods.

A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billionaires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers.

In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billionaires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world.

Indus at Kotri Barrage in low flood, normal at other barrages

LAHORE: Indus River has been in low flood at Kotri Barrage, according to the water record shared by the Flood Forecasting Division on Monday.

flood in the river. People evacuated from the area have returned to their homes as the water level dropped in the river.

Indus River going down, the rainwater standing in the submerged area getting passage to discharge into the river.



LAHORE: Commuters facing difficulties due to Activists of Awami Rickshaw Union blocks Metro Bus track during a protest at Kalma Chowk.

Pyrite exploration needs govt's attention: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is rich in pyrite aka fool's gold - one of the most common natural sulphides found in a wide variety of geological formations.

importer, sulphur worth US\$ 8.03 million was the 500th most imported product in Pakistan.

In many industries, sulfur is an important part of non-ferrous metals, pigments, fibres, pharmaceuticals, hydrofluoric acid, carbon disulfide, cosmetics, personal care products, agri-pesticides, water treatment, steel pickling, synthetic rubber vulcanization, etc.

China, Pakistan and others propose initiative of international cooperation on resilient: Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, China, Chile, Cuba, Indonesia, Serbia jointly proposed the Initiative of International Cooperation on Resilient and Stable Industrial and Supply Chains, with support by the Republic of Argentina.

predictable market environment for global specialization and cooperation.

strive to accelerate the digitalization, network and intelligence of industries, and reform the mode of production.

Sheikh Rashid thinks economy too far gone for Dar to fix

ISLAMABAD: On Monday, opposition leader and Awami Muslim League (AML) President Sheikh Rashid slammed the impending return of former federal finance minister Ishaq Dar, noting that the economy was too far gone even for the famed financial wizard to fix.

dating itself ahead of elections next year.

(IMF) did not bring the promised benefits, which was concerning.

According to the sources, build resilient and stable global industrial and supply chains

Encourage green production and lifestyle, promote green technologies, processes and products to be applied across the board, and endeavour to jointly build green and low-carbon industrial and supply chains, to address a range of challenges confronting humanity, such as climate change, environmental pollution and resource scarcity.

Promote logistics infrastructure, endeavour to increase energy efficiency of ports around the world, strive to enhance cross-border rail connectivity and to improve international air freight and delivery logistics, promote capacity expansion and upgrading at borders and ports of entry, and make an effort to address choke points in current logistics and transportation, to ensure logistics and transportation throughout supply chains unimpeded.

In a message posted on the social media site Twitter on Monday, Rashid had some choice words about the impending return of Dar to the country after a lapse of nearly five years and his expected takeover of the federal finance ministry as the government seeks to take the gloves off in tackling runaway inflation and other poor economic indicators while consolidating itself ahead of elections next year.

He claimed that a man who has been declared an absconder first fled the country in the prime minister's official plane is now returning to Pakistan in the official plane of another prime minister.

He warned that if the country's political deadlock extends further, the poor will suffer.



QUETTA: Chairman Right Way Drug Treatment center Commander Fazal Muhammad Noorzai addressing a press conference.

Manchar Lake's water drops five feet below capacity level

JAMSHORO: The water level in Manchar Lake has dropped to RL 118, though floodwater still exerting pressure in several union councils on Monday.

run boats are conspicuous for their absence.

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to take notice of the relief items unavailability to flood affected people.

Karachi: Unidentified men throw woman's body on Surjani's Bhutto Chowk

KARACHI: Unidentified men threw body of a woman from a moving car in Karachi and fled safely police said on Monday.

According to the local police, the body of the woman was thrown by two unidentified men from a moving vehicle at Surjani's Bhutto Chowk, last night.

After being informed by the Edhi volunteer, a police party reached the spot and moved the body to the hospital for identification.

The water has dropped to five feet below the lake's capacity level of RL 123, according to sources.

"Not a single district administration-run boat being seen in the area", flood affected persons claim.

The water of flash floods from Kheerthar Range has drowned the area and changed it into a huge lake, as it could not found way out to enter into the Indus, owing to flooding in the river.INP

Separately, last week, a newborn baby girl died after she was thrown by unidentified suspects, riding speeding motorcycle in Gulberg area of ??Lahore.

The inhuman incident took place near Gurumangat Road in Gulberg area of ??Lahore. In a CCTV footage a man and two women can be seen travelling on the bike.

Getting the information, the police reached the spot and moved the infant to the hospital, where she breathed her last during few hours of treatment.INP

Integration of development, social spending must for economic prosperity: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The integration of development and social spending is a must for the sustainable economic prosperity of any country and improvement of the living standard of its people, WealthPK reports.

Karachi, told WealthPK that developed countries have a "functioning system of welfare."

He said that historical data showed that countries, which were first to develop on modern lines, had to switch towards a shared form of development.

communication infrastructure and energy projects.

The visual sense of society is important because it helps people to imagine where they want to go.

He that shared development is basically an aggregating policy. It helps in bringing as many people as possible in the middle. It raises those, who are below the aggregate level.INP

Robbers loot, kidnap girl at gunpoint during Sara-i-Mughal break in

SARA I MUGHAL: Some armed robbers who broke into a house in Basti Atari Bhop, Sara-i-Mughal on Monday with the intention to commit robbery also kidnapped a teenage girl present in the house at gunpoint.

Reportedly, accused Iqbal, Mudassar and three other unknown armed persons entered the house of Iambardar Asghar Ali in Basti Atari Bhop after breaking locks of the house.

They looted cash worth Rs30,000 and six tola gold. While fleeing, they also took Iambardar's 15-year-old daughter Aqsa with them who was alone at home by that time. They bundled her in their white van parked outside and sped away.

Police have registered a case against the accused on the complaint of Iambardar.INP

Three die due to snake bites in Khairpur

KHAIRPUR: Three people died due to snake bites in different flood affected areas of Khairpur on Monday.

In several flood affected areas of Khairpur, the poisonous snakes added to the worry of already grief-stricken people as three people died due to snake bites.

Those who died include 40-year-old Mumtaz Kalhoro in the Sadiq Kalhoro area of Pir Goth Tehsil of Khairpur.

Another 12-year-old Faizan Awan who belonged to Goth Abdul Rahim Awan near Akri died of snake bite whereas 20-year-old Ali of Shadi Shaheed was bitten by the snake and immediately took to the hospital but died on the way.

The vaccine for snake bites also became rare in the healthcare department of Khairpur hospital.INP

Two dead, many injured after van hit motorcycle in Swat

SWAT: A pickup van slammed into a motorcycle in Swat causing the deaths of two minors and leaving several injured on Monday.

According to details, the accident occurred in Charbagh Tehsil of Swat where a pickup van crushed a motorcycle to death leaving two minors dead on the spot and several including women injured.

Rescue officials, however, rushed the injured to the Saidu Sharif hospital for medical treatment.INP

Senate body on Industries and Production meets

Islamabad: The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production was held at Parliament House on Monday. Chaired by Senator Khalida Ateebe the meeting was attended by Senator Dr. Asif Kirmani, Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir and senior officers from the Ministry of Industries and Production and National Fertilizer and Marketing Limited (NFML) along with all concerned. The Committee reviewed matters related to regularization of services and increase in salaries of the employees of NFML, regional office Lodhran and regularization of 72 NFML sacked employees. INP

MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICES TENDER NOTICE. Applications are invited by the Commander MES (Army) Quetta, Zarghoon Road Quetta Cantt upto 14 Oct 2022 for issue of the tender for the following works:-

درخواستیں مطلوب ہیں. محمد ذراکزی چیف سولائزر کے زیر اہتمام ہر روز 9 بجے تا 1 بجے کے درمیان کون کون سے کاموں کے لیے درخواستیں قبول کیے جاتے ہیں۔ 20 اکتوبر 2022 تک اپنی پانچس تار ماہانہ کی درخواستیں جمع کروانے ہیں۔

ECP reserves verdict on Dar's empty Senate seat case

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has reserved its verdict on a case seeking to declare Ishaq Dar's Senate seat empty as the latter has not taken oath to his office. A bench of Election Commission heard the case on Monday.

Lawyer Salman Aslam Butt appeared before the commission on behalf of Dar.

During hearing, ECP Balochistan member observed that the government had issued an ordinance that stipulated that if a member did not take oath to his Senate seat within 60 days, his seat would be deemed empty.

Lawyer Butt said that Dar's notification regarding winning of Senate seat was issued on March 9 and it was suspended on 29th March, 2018. However, the success notification was restored again after the Supreme Court rejected the petition against the notification.

The lawyer argued that the ordinance did not apply on Ishaq Dar as he could not take oath to his seat when his success notification was already suspended.

The ECP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa member said the question before the bench was: whether Dar had been disqualified or not?

The lawyer contended that under Article 63-P, no one could be disqualified under a law introduced through an ordinance. He further told the bench that the ordinance had already expired.

He petitioned the Election Commission to withdraw the notification regarding declaring Dar's Senate seat empty. He argued that if a Senate member did not take oath for five years, even then he could not be disqualified.

The KP member questioned if Dar was disqualified even before the election amendment act, how he could

become qualified now! He said the ECP could not interpret the law.

Salman Butt contended that the ordinance enacted by the PTI government was illegal.

However, after hearing arguments, the ECP reserved the judgement on the case.

It is pertinent to mention here that Ishaq Dar who has been living in self-exile in England is coming to Pakistan with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and he is expected to take oath as Senator on Tuesday (tomorrow).

Dar will also take oath of the post of Finance Minister on the same day replacing Miftah Ismail who has resigned from his post in London on Sunday. Lawyer Salman Aslam Butt appeared before the commission on behalf of Dar.

During hearing, ECP Balochistan member observed that the government had issued an ordinance that stipulated that if a member did not take oath to his Senate seat within 60 days, his seat would be deemed empty.

Lawyer Butt said that Dar's notification regarding winning of Senate seat was issued on March 9 and it was suspended on 29th March, 2018. However, the success notification was restored again after the Supreme Court rejected the petition against the notification.

The lawyer argued that the ordinance did not apply on Ishaq Dar as he could not take oath to his seat when his success notification was already suspended.

The ECP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa member said the question before the bench was: whether Dar had been disqualified or not? The lawyer contended that under Article 63-P, no one could be disqualified under a law introduced through an ordinance. He further told the bench that the ordinance had already expired. INP



KARACHI: A view of tent city establish by Sindh Government near National Highway Malir link road.

Imran Khan dubs Ishaq Dar biggest conman of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Former premier Imran Khan Monday dubbed former finance minister Ishaq Dar the biggest conman of Pakistan and said that he fled abroad because he had no answer to the questions of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) about his assets.

While addressing an event at the Government College University (GCU), Lahore, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman said that Ishaq Dar fled the country on the pretext of treatment.

"He fled the country on the pretext of treatment. It has now elapsed three and a half years, and we do not know what treatment he is seeking abroad," Imran Khan deplored.

Imran Khan said that Ishaq Dar was then coming back under a deal. "Here, deals are made with thieves. They are given NRO. Therefore, theft does not end. Therefore, the country does not go forward. Therefore, money laundering does not stop."

He added: "I want to ask a question from the entire nation. Are you to watch this theatre like sheep and goats, or you will become a man and rise before oppression and injustice."

He also stated: "The story began with Wikileaks. Then came Dawn leaks, and now have come audio leaks. These audio leaks have made one thing very clear that the current chief election commissioner is the house servant of the Sharif family."

He claimed: "Nawaz Sharif tells him who should be disqualified. I struggled for three years for introducing electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the country for free and fair elections. But, the chief election commissioner did not allow EVMs at the behest of Nawaz and Asif Zardari. If he has a fraction of shame, he should resign today. And if he

does not do so, we will have to make him resign." He also lambasted Maryam Nawaz for "lying blatantly".

Earlier, while addressing the event, Imran Khan quoted Aristotle and said: "About 2,500 years ago Aristotle said that if there is oppression and injustice in a society, all the sections of society will come forward to counter them except two: the cowards and the selfish."

He added: "The people of Kufa knew that Imram Hussain (RA) was on the right path, but they did not side with him out of fear of Yazeed. In their cowardice, they let the most tragic incident of the Islamic history take place."

He also stated: "The selfish people too do not come forward to counter the injustice and the oppression, and this is the biggest problem of Pakistan because the elite class here does want to stand before the injustice and oppression." He remarked: "This is how a society becomes a slave. This how a society becomes a slave of oppression and fear. The idol of fear is the greatest. Before this fear when a person bows down, in my eyes he commits a shirk. Because he does not raise his voice before oppression." He also pointed out: "This is why Allah has made Jihad for us obligatory. Jihad is to fight against the oppression. Jihad is to fight against the oppression. When you wage Jihad against oppression, you eliminate it." He continued: "Now, what happens here in Pakistan. A United States assistant secretary of state, Donald Lu, held a meeting with the ambassador of Pakistan and told him that if Imran Khan is not removed from his post, the consequences will be grave for Pakistan. But, if he is, Pakistan will be forgiven." INP

Indian hackers active in stealing personal information of Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD: The Indian hackers have become active in stealing sensitive information of Pakistanis, it emerged on Monday.

Reportedly, Indian hackers are trying to get access to the personal data of Pakistanis through employment advertisements.

The government has sent a circular regarding the matter to all federal ministries and provincial chief secretaries in which they were sensitized about the discovery of an Indian domain Applyform.Pk. The Indian hackers are fraudulently operating this website.

The government circular has warned the citizens to take care before applying on this website. It suggested to them to not share personal or financial information on the site. It further sensitized the citizens to check the security before providing an online sensitive information. INP

Peshawar High Court issues arrest warrants for former DG NAB

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court Monday issued arrest warrants for former Director General (DG) of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Saleem Shahzad for torturing his fellow officer Khattab Gul in 2015.

According to the petitioner's lawyer, the case was filed in Peshawar High Court against former DG NAB Saleem Shahzad for torturing his official Khattab Gul in 2015 after a session court acquitted him from the case in September 2015 while ignoring the Khattab Gul's medical test report in the decision.

Petitioner's lawyer Ehsan-Ullah Jawad requested High Court to annul the decision of the Session Court.

In the series of events, the Peshawar High Court issued a bailable arrest warrant against former DG NAB and summoned him for the next month hearing. INP

Govt to form JIT for probe into pm house audio leaks

ISLAMABAD: Federal government on Monday has decided to constitute a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to inquire into the audio leaks from the Prime Minister House.

The JIT will be also included officials of secret agencies to probe into the audio leaks from the Prime Minister House.

The probe body will inquire about whether the data has been hacked or stolen and sold? The investigation team will also look into the question that the PM House was bugged with the devices, or it is mobile recording?

On the other hand, the PTI has announced to submit the audio leaks of the prime minister and federal ministers in the Supreme Court. INP

Ayaz Amir's wife files plea for pre-arrest bail

ISLAMABAD: The wife of senior journalist Ayaz Amir has filed a petition in a local court of Islamabad seeking pre-arrest bail in the Sara Inam murder case in which her son Shahnawaz Amir is the prime suspect.

Accused Samina Shah filed her bail petition in the local court of the federal capital through barrister Hasnat Gul on Monday.

In her petition, she beseeched the court to accept her pre-arrest bail plea as she was facing health issues. She said that her slain daughter-in-law's uncle and aunt nominated her in Sara's murder case.

She said she had been living in the farmhouse for past several years. She got information regarding Sara's murder in a phone call which she received at 9:12am. INP

Sindh CM directs for rapid drainage of water from flood-hit areas

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Monday in a session directed for rapid drainage of floodwater to send flood-hit people back to homes.

Murad Ali Shah chaired a meeting of officials for drainage of water from Khairpur, Naushahro Feroz, Nawabshah, Sanghar, Mirpur Khas, Umakot Badin and Sujawal districts of the province.

"We have to speed up drainage of water to facilitate people to return their homes and the life returns to normal," Shah stated.

Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro briefed the session that the water flow in river has become normal, the water level at Manchar Lake has dropped from 123.3 RL to 118.85 RL.

"The water level has dropped from 11 to eight feet in Rice Canal Division from FP Bund to Saifullah," according to the briefing.

"The water level in South Dadu irrigation division has dropped by four to seven feet, while at Supro Bund five to six feet," according to the briefing.

"The water has dropped by three feet at RD-194 of Main Nara Valley (MNV) Drain and three feet at RD-10," the session briefed.

Jam Khan Shoro said that the water level has dropped by one to two feet at Shahdadkot Main Drain and Meero Khan Drain. The water has also dropped by 5.5 feet at Johi Branch RD-67 on Khairpur Nathan Shah to Dadu Road, irrigation minister said.

"The water at Bhan Syedabad Ring Bund has mostly dropped and now the Bund being removed," Shoro stated. "A breach in Flood Protective Bund at Chakhi has also been plugged," the minister added.

The meeting was also attended by the provincial chief secretary and the secretary Sindh Irrigation Department. INP

Punjab Governor takes action against GCU VC on Maryam Nawaz's tweet

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Governor on Monday took an action against Government College University (GCU), Vice Chancellor, after Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif's tweet.

Punjab Governor Baligh Ur Rehman took a notice of conducting a political program of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in the GCU.

The Punjab governor taking notice of the act, said it is sad to make the famous educational institution of the country a political arena. There is no

room for such political activities in universities, he added.

Governor Baligh said as chancellor, he has taken notice of the political program on the GCU Lahore campus. He also said children are the future of a nation so, there is no room to push them into politics.

Earlier today, PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz tweeted against the political meeting of Imran Khan in the GCU and urged strict action against the vice-chancellor.

Maryam said in the tweet that using his post to spread political hatred is a crime and this crime should be punished. INP

IHC adjourns petition for Imran's disqualification for two weeks

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday adjourned for two weeks the hearing on a petition for the disqualification of former premier Imran Khan for concealing the name of his alleged daughter Tyrian Khan in his nomination papers.

Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition filed by a citizen named Muhammad Sajid. "A separate petition has been filed to make the federal government a respondent in the case," said the counsel for the petitioner.

"What is the need to make the federal government a respondent in the case? You will have to satisfy us on the admissibility of this petition. Imran Khan is no longer a public office holder. You must consider this point too," Justice Aamer Farooq said to the petitioner's counsel.

"Imran Khan's resignation has not been accepted yet," the petitioner's lawyer argued before the court.

"Why should we not send this case to the election commission? Imran Khan gave his affidavit to the election commission. Faisal Vawda's case was also of the same nature, and it had been sent to the election commission," Justice Aamer Farooq said.

"You have to satisfy the court on all these points," he added and adjourned the hearing on the petition for two weeks. Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition filed by a citizen named Muhammad Sajid. "A separate petition has been filed to make the federal government a respondent in the case," said the counsel for the petitioner. INP

Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab resigns

KARACHI: Karachi Administrator and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Murtaza Wahab announced his resignation from the post and said may be someone doesn't like the progress of the port city.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday and complained that when the government works, it is stopped.

The PPP leader said he believes in the rule of law and has no personal interests in the post of administrator of Karachi city.

He said if he had a personal interest, he would have allowed the previous system to continue when the national exchequer went into the pockets of people. INP

IHC hears Rashid's plea challenging 'oversized' federal cabinet Today

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court will hear former interior minister and Awami Muslim League Founder Sheikh Rashid Ahmad's petition challenging the current strength of the federal cabinet tomorrow (Tuesday).

IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah will hear the former interior minister's petition.

In his petition, Sh Rashid pleaded with the court to declare 69 appointments of ministers and aides null and void stating that only 11 percent could become ministers out of the total strength of the National Assembly members.

He said under Article 92/1 of the Constitution, the current strength of the federal cabinet is illegal. He beseeched the court to void extra appointments of ministers and assistances, besides requesting it to stop the cabinet ministers and aides from working till the final decision of the court in this case.

The petition made federation and Prime Minister respondents through his secretary and law ministry. Currently, the size of federal cabinet has swelled to 70 members as it consists of 34 federal ministers, including one without portfolio, seven ministers of state, four advisers to the PM and 25 SAPMs. On Sept 13, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appointed eight special assistants for himself apparently in an attempt to keep the allies in good humour. INP

Dengue's onslaught on public health continues as 411 new cases reported

ISLAMABAD: Dengue continues taking its toll on public health as Islamabad and Karachi have reported 68 and 343 new cases respectively during the last 24 hours on Monday.

According to the health authorities, with 68 new cases in the last 24 hours, the number of dengue patients in the federal capital has reached 1,991.

Of the new dengue cases, 56 were reported in rural areas and 12 in urban areas. With new cases reported, the number of total cases has reached 1,206 in rural areas and 785 in urban centres.

During the last 24 hours, seven patients suffering from dengue fever were admitted to the Federal General Hospital, three to the Polyclinic Hospital and four to the Capital Hospital of Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad administration launched a fumigation campaign for the eradication of dengue. The campaign was going on vigorously in different areas of Islamabad to control the spread of the dengue virus.

On the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad, fumigation was carried out the last evening in different sectors of the federal capital. Also, different suburbs and rural areas underwent anti-dengue fumigation.

In Karachi, 343 more patients were diagnosed with dengue virus during the last 24 hours, according to the provincial health authorities.

The number of people affected by dengue in Karachi during the ongoing month has reached 4,661. Whereas, the number of people affected by dengue in Karachi during the ongoing year has reached 6,868. INP



ISLAMABAD: Senior officers of ILO briefs Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistan and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi on impact of flood on Labours.

Chinese People's Association donates relief assistance worth RMB 125 million to Pakistan

BEIJING: A special ceremony was held here at the Headquarters of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) to donate relief and rehabilitation assistance worth RMB 125 million for the flood victims of Pakistan. Lin Songtian, the President of CPAFFC, Ambassador Sha Zukang, President of China-Pakistan Friendship Association and Mr. Li Xikui, Chairman of China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD) attended the ceremony. According to China Economic Net (CEN), the event was also attended by the leaders of prominent enterprises and charity organizations, media representatives and senior officials of Embassy of Pakistan. Senior government officials of many provinces and cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Tianjin, Hubei, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang etc. also sent special messages of support and sympathy for Pakistan. Sharing his grief and

condolences with the bereaved families, President Lin Songtian said that in the wake of devastating floods, the government and people of China have made a substantive contribution to Pakistan's relief and rehabilitation efforts. He said that Chinese assistance to Pakistan was demonstrative of its unique friendship with Pakistan and strong people-to-people ties between our two countries. President Lin highlighted that besides ongoing assistance, China would also play its role for post-flood rehabilitation and infrastructure development in the affected areas. Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Mojin lauded timely assistance by the CPAFFC and China's local governments and enterprises for reinforcing Pakistan's ongoing relief efforts for the flood victims. Recalling that the two countries have always stood together in difficult times, he said that today's ceremony is yet another demonstration of China's solidarity and sympathy with the people of Pakistan. INP

KP govt invites foreign investors for construction of Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government is looking for foreign investors for the construction of the 360-kilometre long Peshawar-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway.

"The proposed motorway will pass through seven districts of KP province, benefiting over 6 million residents of these districts as well as millions of others," Shahab Ali Shah, KP Additional Chief Secretary, told WealthPK.

Shahab informed that the total cost of the project is estimated as \$1.562 billion, while construction period would be four years.

"The provincial government will provide 30% of the total cost, while investors will have to bear the remaining 70%," the official said.

Shahab said that Chinese and South Korean companies already have experience of building motorways and roads in Pakistan.

"Investors and companies from China and South Korea will be our priority for executing the proposed project," he maintained.

The project is proposed to be implemented in Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) structure, Shahab said, adding that the KP government is offering a 25 years concession period for investors.

"Toll collection rights and maintenance of the project during the concession period will come under the responsibility of investors," the official explained.

Shahab said the provincial government would facilitate the investors for acquisition of land for roads and right of way. A detailed technical, financial and commercial feasibility report has already been completed, the official informed.

"The report covers detailed motorway alignment, pavement design, geo-technical investigations, hydrological studies, preliminary design of tunnels, and environmental impact assessment," Shahab added.

A detailed traffic study has also been completed to conduct travel demand forecasts for the proposed motorway, he said. INP



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister Awn Chaudhary and Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana are seen in a meeting during exhibition in connection with World Tourism Day held on 27th Sep at Pakistan National Council of Art, in Federal Capital.