

QUETTA VOICE

Email address:
quettavoic@gmail.com

Saturday 15
October, 2022

[https:// www.quettavoic.com/](https://www.quettavoic.com/)

ABC Certified

Quettavoic



Khawaja Asif slams Imran Khan's rhetoric on army chief's appointment



FO says it 'takes notice' of heckling incidents involving Pakistani ministers abroad

Former CJ BHC Muhammad Noor Maskanzai succumbs to injuries in Kharan

**Manan Mandokhail
Syed Muhammad Yaseen:**

QUETTA: The former Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court (BHC), Muhammad Noor Maskanzai succumbed to injuries on his way to the hospital. Mr. Maskanzai was critically injured in a firing incident in Kharan. The Former Chief Justice was offering prayer and unknown miscreants opened fire on him before the mosque.

Justice (R) Muhammad Noor and two others got seriously injured in the attack. The police and levies forces reached the spot as an investigation went underway into the incident. The assailants escaped unhurt from the spot.

"We are investigating the incident", Nazeer Ahmed Kurd, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Police Rakshan Division told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. He said the terrorists involved in the attack would be brought to justice. Senior levies and police officers reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident.

CJ BHC Naeem Akhtar Afghan condemn the terrorist act



Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and other judges expressed grief and sorrow over the incident. "BHC judges strongly condemn this terrorist act", a statement issued by the Balochistan High Court (BHC) said after the incident. Justice (R) Maskanzai had played role in the promotion of the judiciary in Balochistan, they said.

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qadoos Bizenjo has strongly condemned the incident and considered it a great loss to

Balochistan province. "We will not spare those who create trouble in Balochistan and the miscreants shall be dealt with according to the law", Mir Abdul Qaddus Bizenjo stated.

Justice Maskanzai was attacked outside the Masjid: DIG Police
"Mr. Maskanzai was offering

prayer as he came out unknown people opened fire at him", DIG Police Nazeer Ahmed Kurd told Quetta Voice. The miscreants would be brought to justice and a police investigation underway in this regard, he added.

Mr. Maskanzai's condition was critical and he was brought to a nearby hospital for first aid than on way to Quetta Civil Hospital the former CJ BHC succumbed to

injuries. Till now law enforcement agencies including Police and Levies have not given any official statement regarding the cause of the incident. Kharan is thought to be one of the danger zones in Balochistan for government and security officials in Balochistan. As this time a firing incident has claimed the life of a former Chief Justice of the province.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas led by its President Zhang Guoliang calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

FO says it 'takes notice' of heckling incidents involving Pakistani ministers abroad

The Foreign Office on Friday spoke about the recent heckling of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, saying "the FO takes notice of such incidents involving Pakistani ministers [during foreign visits]".

The statement from FO Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmed comes a day after Finance Minister Ishaq Dar was heckled by unidentified people at the Dulles International Airport in Washington DC after he landed in the US capital ahead of important meetings with global lending institutions.

Responding to a question at a weekly press briefing today, Iftikhar said US officials had also taken notice of the misbehaviour with the finance minister at the US airport.

He recalled that Saudi authorities had also taken notice when the government delegation was targeted by certain individuals during the visit.

To another question, the FO spokesperson appreciated the statement from Germany's foreign minister regarding the Kashmir dispute.

At a press conference, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock had said: "Germany also has a role and responsibility with regard to the situation in Kashmir. Therefore, we support intensively the engagement of the United Nations, to find peaceful resolutions in the region."

The spokesperson said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had also raised the Kashmir issue at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, however, "India is not responding properly to settle the dispute."

Earlier, the spokesperson also talked about the custodial death of Hurriyat leader Altaf Ahmed Shah and demanded that the Indian government must immediately investigate the incident and hold accountable to those who were responsible. "Pakistan strongly condemns the extra-judicial killing of two more Kashmiris in fresh acts of state-sponsored terrorism by Indian occupation forces in IIOJK. Web Desk

3 killed 4 injured in a blast in Mastung Balochistan

From Our Correspondent

At least three people were killed and four injured in a powerful blast in the Mastung district of Balochistan. Deputy Commissioner Mastung, Sultan Bugti said the bomb exploded in the Qabu area of the district. He said the vehicle of Mir Shah Nawaz Bangulzai was targeted in the attack. Levies sources mentioned that two vehicles were destroyed in the attack.

Levies sources said the blast targeted a vehicle, which was carrying a dead body of a man killed near a tube well. A tube well operator identified as Imran was killed in the Qabu area of Mastung the other day.

The injured were rushed to the hospital for medical treatment in Mastung. An emergency was declared in the hospital to provide medical treatment to the injured by the blast.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qaddus Bizenjo strongly condemned the attack. In a statement issued



after the attack, Mr. Bizenjo directed the administration to submit a report in this regard. He said the perpetrators of the attack would be brought to justice. Home Minister Balochistan, Ziaullah Langove condemned the attack and termed it a conspiracy against the peace of the province. The Home Minister directed the levies and police to make sure the arrest of the elements behind the attack.

Khawaja Asif slams Imran Khan's rhetoric on army chief's appointment

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif Friday criticised PTI Chairman Imran Khan for his incessant whining on the matter of the army chief's appointment.

"Imran Khan has been using [abusive] language since his ouster. Before, Khan would say that he and the [establishment] are on the same page. During his time in power, his hugs would not end with them and now, he is abusing them," Asif said.

Addressing a joint press conference with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik and Special Assistants to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi and Attaullah Tarar, the defence minister added that the PTI chief's only problem is regaining power. He added that Pakistan's state cannot function at the behest of Khan's personal wishes.

"Pakistan's state is not subject to anyone's wish; it [functions] under the law and Constitution," Asif remarked. The minister added that Imran Khan only "begs for, abuses, and holds meetings" for power.

"We (PML-N) do not believe in political victimisation," the minister said, adding that his party believes in rule of law.

He criticised Khan's indifference to being accountable in multiple cases and recalled how Nawaz Sharif would appear in courts himself when summoned.

"Nawaz Sharif would himself appear in courts and [in front of] joint investigation team," he said.

The minister slammed Khan for shutting down the accountability commission, along with cases pertaining to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Malam Jabba, and Billion Tree Tsunami. "They are annoyed that the courts are providing relief to the PML-N," the minister said, adding that Khan's wishes have been ruined. Khawaja said that Imran Khan would have completed five years in power had he not been "incompetent, corrupt, and arrogant". "Imran Khan loves money, but he will get tired after continuously crying," he said. Highlighting the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army during the press conference, Khawaja Asif said that 53 soldiers including officers have been martyred in the last three months. Web Desk

Alvi approves Presidential Iqbal Awards for three authors

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday approved Presidential Iqbal Awards of the year 2015-20 in recognition of the literary and research work of three authors on National Poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Muhammad Ikram Chughtai has been given presidential award on his book 'Iqbal Aur Germany' (Iqbal and Germany), authored in Urdu language.

Dr Abdul Khaliq has been awarded for his English language book 'Allama Iqbal, Concept of Ego and Related Perspectives', and Ghous Bakhsh Sabir for his book Balochi language on Iqbalia.

The president approved the awards in line with Article 48-1 of the Constitution and Iqbal Academy Ordinance 1962.

President Alvi is the patron-in-chief of Iqbal Academy Pakistan. INP

Weekly inflation decreases slightly to 28.44pc

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation in Pakistan, measured by the Sensitive Price Index (SPI), slightly decreased by 0.57 percent for the period ended on October 13 compared to the previous week. ARY News reported on Friday, quoting Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

According to the data issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the weekly inflation slightly decreased to 28.44 percent after a reduction of 0.57pc on a week-to-week (WoW) basis that ended on October 13.

The PBS, in its weekly inflation report, stated that the prices of 18 essential commodities have increased and the prices of 17 commodities have decreased, while the prices of 16 commodities have remained stable. INP

NSC takes stock of security situation after Swat terror attack

ISLAMABAD: The National Security Committee (NSC) Friday took stock of the security situation in the country after terrorists attacked a school van in Swat, leaving the driver dead and a student injured.

The NSC met at the Prime Minister's Office under the chairmanship of PM Shehbaz Sharif, with federal ministers, lawmakers, services chiefs, and heads of intelligence agencies in attendance.

In the meeting, according to a statement from the PM's Office, officials of the country's security apparatus gave a briefing on the security situation — in light of the recent terrorist activities.

The meeting made it clear that the blood of every citizen is precious and noted that the law will strictly deal with those involved in the bloodshed of innocents.

"Our citizens rendered unprecedented sacrifices along with the armed forces and played a historic role in the war against terrorism," read a statement.

The nation and state institutions are on the same page for the protection of the lives and properties of the people, the geographical integrity of Pakistan and for the rule of law.

The forum decided to constitute an apex committee headed by PM Shehbaz and revive the National Counter-terrorism Authority (Nacta), which will work in collaboration with the provincial-level counter-terrorism departments to prevent any resurgence of terrorism in the country.

The meeting also approved more effective steps to ensure the security of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, the statement mentioned.



It added that Nacta would coordinate with the provinces to ensure the security of the projects.

The anti-terrorism system will be upgraded and equipped with the latest technology, the meeting decided and vowed to ensure provisions of resources in this regard.

The meeting praised the armed forces, rangers, police officers, and personnel from other law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for sacrificing their lives in the line of duty.

In a press conference earlier, Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman, briefed the media about the meeting chaired by PPP Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

The PPP meeting, Rehman said, condemned the attack in Swat. "PPP's policy is to fight and raise voice against terrorism. Benazir Bhutto shaheed was a victim of terrorism. She believed the only flag that will rise in Swat will be that of Pakistan," Rehman said.

The PPP leader termed the terror attack in Swat as barbaric and said that her party extends solidarity to the victims, and stands with them.

As the party strongly and consistently condemns any sort of extremism and militancy, Rehman stressed that PPP does not want to see terrorism rising again in this country.

"We are alert about this, and we have raised this issue at the cabinet level. Attacking schools and children is something our religion doesn't allow, not even humanity allows it," Rehman said. The federal minister said that Pakistanis have paid the price and the nation has won a war, for which it never received any recognition. Web Desk

QUETTA VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

Power outages in Balochistan

More than 20 hours of load shedding in rural Balochistan is a stark reminder of poor governance and incompetent officers at the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO). Despite repeated assurances, the Company is yet to ensure power supply to remote areas of the province, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

Growers action committee has staged a series of protest demonstrations to mount pressure on the QESCO for acceptance of its demands. The farmers across the complain about huge financial losses because of power outages. Prolonged and unannounced load shedding has become a common practice in every summer. The farmers complain that low or no power supply has severely affected standing crops in various parts of Balochistan. Majority of the people in this part of the country are financially dependent on agriculture sector, which has also been severely affected by drought hit like situation. QESCO Chief Engineer Karim Jamali while speaking to this daily revealed about a shortfall of 1000 megawatts in Balochistan. He also blamed the growers and domestic consumers for not paying their bills. He revealed that there are more than 4 trillion rupees outstanding in Balochistan against growers, government departments and domestic consumers.

However, the growers disagree and link the payment of bills with availability of power supply.

Indeed, power theft is on the rise. Corrupt elements within the QESCO have cemented good ties with growers and other influential people. This has actually caused a loss of billions of rupees to the company. It is common saying that grease the palm of QESCO officials and then get uninterrupted power supply. The issue is from both sides. The growers also pay a nominal amount of Rs.10000 at per tube well and then pump the under ground water non stop. The Balochistan government must take up the power shortfall issue with the federal government to address this issue once and for all.

QESCO should first launch a crack down against its own corrupt elements to ensure the recovery of outstanding amounts. Only then, the elements involved in massive power theft can be brought to book.

Multivariate Aspects of Climate Change in Pakistan

Syed Mansoor Ahmed

Climate change steams unbeatable challenges in the future. According to the World Bank report, Pakistan stands 6th in affectee of climate change. The awful and deadly floods of 2010, and 2011, extremely dry weather in a rainy area, and fluctuation in actual climate pattern is alarming and despairing signs among all the dwellers of the town.

Climate Change and Agriculture in Pakistan

In addition, Pakistan is a semi-arid country. The focal and dependent source of water is from the snow-covered Himalayan and the Karakorum in the Northern Areas. Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and the Sutlej rivers flow through this area. Within the water calculus, the country's entire agriculture is dependant on water flow from the Indus river.

Glacial flood out-

burst also poses a serious threat to the country's climate in the Karakorum range. The sole aim was reaching and understanding the possible nodes of surge-type glaciers, which are characterized by unsteady movements and frequent frontal advances of glaciers. As result, it causes natural hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, which will ultimately cause GLOFs and pose threats downstream of the water. After meaningful analysis, it revealed that a surge between 1998 and 2002 generated 6 GLOFs.

Damages by Climate Change:

Meanwhile, rigorous critical exploration of the Attabad Lake of Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan is the distinctive event to justify the future threats of climate change in the center of freshwater. The lake flooding displaced more than

6,000 people from upstream villages and inundated over 19 kilometers of the Karakorum Highway.

Recently, global warming and subsequent climate change have increased the constant state of fear and the risk of massive outburst flooding in the respective mountainous region. The comprehensive field evidence, local testimonies by the natives, modern applications of remote sensing, and cross-correlation feature-tracking techniques provides the improved understanding of glacier surges and ice-dam formation disclosed the scale future threat.

Glaciers in Pakistan:

It is also noted, historically, in the Karakorum Range 39 glaciers are responsible for ice-dam formation. On the other hand, 36 glaciers build ice barriers in the running rivers due to frontal

advance, near to the densely populated areas of the Karakorum region. By constant observation of the prevailing and growing threat of climate change, it is airing the endless future threat only due to the GLOFs. For instance, the Indus River System (IRS) is the jugular vein of irrigation in Pakistan. It is providing water for almost 90% of the food product in Pakistan. The ice-dam formation due to the GLOFs will slow down the water flowing pace downstream. And could raise a deep impasse among the units for water distribution formula. In the end, it will ultimately surface the challenge of food insecurity in Pakistan.

The Karakorum Range, more importantly, is the home of the anticipating One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) by giving with a potential corridor through the Karakorum

Highway from Khunjerab to the seaport at Gawadar in Balochistan (CPEC) on the Indian Ocean. Therefore, the smooth running of the traffic on the roads is the keynote for progressive economic development. While the ice barriers in rivers due to frontal advance could inundate the black-tops of the Karakorum Highway. The dislocation and dissolution of roads will give birth to never-ending challenges due to the factor of GLOFs.

In the same run, these lakes and GLOFs attracted media, political, and scientific attention because of the repeated outburst of floods. So, it needs the heart blood as well as collective effective efforts to bring down the scale of the future threat without causing infinite miseries.

The writer is a Public Policy Analyst and Lecturer at BUET, Khuzdar.

In choppy waters

Pakistan is wobbling in choppy waters, literally as well as figuratively. A natural disaster has overlapped a political crisis. There is a growing sense of foreboding about what may happen during the next few days. Dark clouds are hovering on the horizon. Again, politically and meteorologically.

Because of how popular imagination is hooked on politics, not enough attention is paid by the media to the rain emergency that has deepened during the past few weeks. There have been reports in the main news bulletins but almost no mention is made of the misery of millions of citizens across vast terrains in talk shows and other regular features.

And just when the magnitude of the calamity was beginning to break into the consciousness of our opinion makers, the Shahbaz Gill episode has suddenly become the nation's foremost preoccupation. For once, this would be a legitimate distraction, considering its possible political fallout. The dramatic developments that were played out on Friday are likely to become a catalyst in the ongoing power struggle.

In many ways, the initiative rests with Imran Khan to take decisive political action. He has certainly been building up the tempo with large

public rallies and the show staged in Lahore on the eve of the Independence Day must have boosted the confidence of his supporters. It was a well-designed political extravaganza.

But what happened on Friday could not have been a part of any planned strategy. After Shahbaz Gill's arrest for allegedly inciting mutiny among armed forces in a statement telecast live by ARY, Imran Khan himself and other PTI leaders were cautiously distancing themselves from the remarks made by the party's most strident spokesperson. In the Senate, PTI leader Faisal Javed was categorical in repudiating the stance that had been adopted by Shahbaz Gill. All this changed on Friday after video recordings of how Imran Khan's chief of staff was brought to court became viral.

There he was visibly in pain and crying out for his respiratory mask. A clip was shared by the PTI's official Twitter account, describing the scene as "heartbreaking". Irrespective of a contradictory statement of the Islamabad police and partisan assertions that Shahbaz Gill had been certified as healthy in a medical report, the visuals and allegations made by PTI leaders seriously raised the issue of torture. It is something the federal

government would have to deal with against the backdrop of rising tensions.

Imran Khan took the charge of torture to another level and said in a tweet: "All the pictures & videos show clearly Gill was tortured both mentally & physically incl sexual abuse - most too gruesome to relate". He immediately went into action and drove to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) to see Shahbaz Gill, where the PTI leader was sent by the sessions court.

Not allowed to meet his chief of staff, he announced protest rallies in support of Shahbaz Gill across the country, with he himself leading one in Islamabad on Saturday evening. Hence the threat of public disorder has become real. That Punjab is now governed by the PTI, care of Parvez Elahi, may strengthen Imran Khan's hand to some extent. Yet, there is considerable ambiguity about how the powers that be will deal with the unfolding scenario.

Already, proceedings against Imran Khan have been initiated with reference to the Election Commission of Pakistan's verdict on foreign funding and the Toshakhana case. On Friday, the ECP issued notices of Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar for making

"intemperate and contemptuous remarks" against the electoral watchdog.

With a renewed focus on this fateful political conflict, the rain disaster and massive disruption in the lives of a large number of people will remain somewhat in the background. But there is one incident that intertwines the rain disaster with the current political upheaval. Something seems mysterious about this connection and how it is evolving. I am referring to that tragic helicopter crash in which we lost six army personnel, including Lt-Gen Sarfraz Ali. This crash took place in Lasbela, a district of Balochistan on the first day of this month. Now, this was a flood relief operation and bad weather was said to be a reason for the accident.

Strangely, this helicopter crash prompted a negative campaign in the social media of such a nature that the military authorities had to take cognisance. In a press conference this week, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif blamed Imran Khan for "patronising" his Chief of Staff Shahbaz Gill and others for launching this campaign. In any case, an extensive investigation is in progress and some arrests have been made.

Meanwhile, the full extent of the devastation caused by the rains, in

By Ghazi Salahuddin

terms of lives lost and property destroyed, has not been adequately explored by the national media. And more floods have been predicted in the coming days. Not many human stories of suffering have been reported to underline the gravity of this disaster.

It is not surprising that the foreign media has demonstrated the right editorial judgment by giving more attention to Pakistan's rain havoc than to its political crisis. On Wednesday, The Guardian had a detailed report with this headline: "Pakistan floods kill 580 and bring misery to millions". The sub-heading said: "Government accused of inaction as downpours leave schools destroyed, homes ruined, crops failing, and cholera on the rise". On July 24, The New York Times had a story: "Pakistan's deadly flood season worsened by climate change and bad infrastructure".

Yes, we do have our daily clips of the flood situation, mainly of ferocious currents cutting across roads and bridges and poor settlements. On Thursday, a car was swept away by the flood waters of Malir River in Karachi, with its seven passengers all drowned. But it was not a lead story and lacked personal details about the lives that were lost.

Sanitation System in Quetta

By: Iqra Shaheen and Rabail Urooj

Quetta is the capital city of Balochistan, the largest province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It is located at an altitude of 1,680 m between the strategically important Bolan and Khojak passes on the route to Afghanistan. The town and suburbs have grown tremendously in the last 20 years, and hold now an estimated population of 1.2 million. Inadequate wastewater and solid waste disposal, storm water drainage and flood control seriously affect the existing water resources as well as the urban environment. Sanitation refers to public health conditions related to clean drinking water and excreta treatment and disposal of human excreta and sewage. Preventing human contact with feces is part of sanitation, as is hand washing with soap. Sanitation systems aim to protect human health by providing a clean

environment that will stop the transmission of disease, especially through the fecal oral route. For example, diarrhea, a main cause of malnutrition and stunted growth in children, can be reduced through adequate sanitation. The unpleasant smell of the sewage water dismayed over prevailing unhygienic sanitary conditions in Quetta. The garbage dumped into the drains daily has fully choked the

already ineffective sewerage system. Sariab Road, Sabzal Road, Brewery Road, Spiny Road, Kasi Road, Mizan Chowk, Prince Road, Musa Colony, Wahdat Colony and Nawan Killi were among the areas where sewage water had accumulated due to choking of the drainage system. Only a few areas like Satellite Town, Shahbaz Town, Jinnah Town and Model Town were established with some planning.

There are 315 slums and underserved areas located in 44% of the 50 Union Councils of Quetta city. 57% slums are not found in any of the government records. Quetta city has 2 Million population out of which 35% lives in slums and

underserved areas. 13% residents of these disadvantaged areas are temporarily displaced either in the province or are of other nationalities (mostly Afghans). The provincial capital of Balochistan generates over 700 tons of solid waste every day, but the administration is only capable of disposing of around 300 tons of it. The rest of the sewage meanders in the area, while some of it is used to grow vegetables. As the sewerage system is clogged, dirty water accumulated on the streets. People found it

difficult to walk in most areas like Mikangi Road, Imdad Chowk, Mission Chowk, Korai Road, Gawalmandi Chowk, Browni and

Qarani where the water is accumulated. On one side the tall claims of cleaning the drainage system, while on the other the dirty water on the roads had made the life of shop owners and residents miserable. People have demanded of the Metropolitan officials to get the sewerage system cleaned. The dirty water accumulated on the roads has laid bare the Metropolitan team's and

authorities' tall claims about cleanliness. The garbage lying by the roadside also caused immense difficulties for the people. So the suggested solution is to stop dumping chemicals and waste into the environment, develop sanitation and raise awareness on best hygiene practices. Reducing the number of people practicing open defecation. Increasing the number of people with access to basic sanitation facilities and the amount of fecal waste effectively captured and treated on-site, or collected, transported, and treated off-site. Improving the ability of educational and health systems to

manage sanitation and hygiene facilities in institutions and affordability and availability of sanitation products and services. Increasing the number of people with safely managed sanitation services, handwashing with soap at critical times and the rate of safe management of household drinking water.

Demographic engineering

By Malik Muhammad Ashraf

Indian authorities have recently permitted temporary residents in Indian illegally. Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) to register as voters. This is yet another attempt by the Indian government to change the demographic features of Kashmir.

This move follows the promulgation of a new domicile law after the repeal of Article 370 of the Indian constitution, revoking the special status of the state and its bifurcation into two territories. The announced measure is likely to add 2.5 million more voters, which the local population fears would allow the BJP government to alter the demographics of the region.

It is a sinister move to convert the Muslim majority into a minority in due course of time and has rightly been rejected and condemned by Pakistan. The action constitutes the blatant violation of the Geneva Convention and the UN resolutions on the Kashmir dispute. After the end of World War II, as a consequence of the initiative taken by the International Committee of Red Cross, the Diplomatic Conference for the Establishment of International Convention for Protection of Victims of War was held in Geneva, which adopted the fourth Geneva Convention on 12 August 1949. It is one of the four treaties of the Geneva Conventions.

While the first three

conventions dealt with combatants, the fourth Geneva Convention was the first to deal with humanitarian protections for civilians in a war zone. Currently, 196 countries are party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

In 1993, the UN Security Council adopted a report from the secretary general and a commission of experts which concluded that the Geneva Conventions had passed into the body of customary international law, thus making them binding even on non-signatories to the conventions whenever they engage in armed conflicts.

Article 27 of the Geneva IV states: "Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs. They shall at all times be humanely treated, and shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof and against insults and public curiosity."

Article 49 of the Geneva IV says: "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Article 32 of the convention adds: "The High Contracting Parties specifically agree that each of them is prohibited from taking any measure

of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons in their hands. This prohibition applies not only to murder, torture, corporal punishment, but also to any other measures of brutality by civilian or military agents."

Giving voting rights to non-residents and allowing people from the Indian mainland to buy property in IOJK is in breach of Article 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention.

Indian security forces in IOJK are the occupying power by all definitions since Kashmir's fate, as per UN resolutions, is to be decided through a plebiscite held under the auspices of the world body, a position which the UNSC has reiterated in its three informal meetings after the Modi regime revoked the state's special status.

After the scrapping of Article 370 of the Indian constitution, the entire population of Kashmir is under siege, and they have been denied contact with the outside world; there is a complete lockdown in the valley, and people are not even given access to mosques. International media, human rights organizations like Amnesty International and even UN Human Rights Commission in its reports has corroborated blatant violations of human rights in IOJK. The discovery of mass graves at 38 sites also lends currency to the inhuman treatment of

the local population by Indian security forces.

Through the foregoing actions India has not only torn asunder the fourth Geneva Convention but also pummeled the UN resolutions with regard to the plebiscite and breached international law with impunity.

It is indeed regrettable that neither the UN nor the big powers have shown real interest in stopping India in its tracks and resolving the Kashmir conflict as per the UN resolutions. Their indifference to the developments taking place in the valley and the fallout of those provocative measures is encouraging Indian hegemonic designs in the region.

India is being ruled by a diehard follower of the supremacist RSS ideology of Hindutva, which takes inspiration from Nazism. It has already started showing its ugly face in the form of enhanced Indian hostility towards Pakistan. Indian leaders have repeatedly threatened Pakistan of dire consequence, and on February 2019, India made its intentions clear when it sent planes to bomb imagined terrorist camps in Balakot, ostensibly in retaliation for the Pulwama incident. It is interesting to note that an Indian journalist close to the BJP regime later revealed that the Pulwama incident was stage-managed by the Modi government to win elections and find an excuse to take action against Pakistan.

Animal cruelty in Pakistan

Syed Mohammad Ali

The indifference, callousness, and contempt that so many people exhibit toward animals is evil first because it results in great suffering in animals, and second because it results in an incalculably great impoverishment of the human spirit. I did not pen these words. Albert Einstein did. Islam also forbids treating animals cruelly or killing them except for food. Zabiha rules stipulate how an animal to be slaughtered must not be mistreated or caused undue pain. Yet, animal cruelty is rampant and exists in varied forms in countries like ours.

We live in a country where political leaders have been known to hold political rallies with caged and chained lions, and where animals like turtles given away as party favours at children's birthdays. Many well-to-do people pay a lot of money to purchase expensive cats, dogs, or birds but treat them callously. Cruelty towards animals is not the reserve of rich people only. Cruelty to animals especially donkeys, horses and mules is also widespread. These animals are overworked, under-fed, and harshly beaten by their owners.

Some recent attempts at humane dog population management and mass vaccinations in Karachi have dissipated. Instead,

the recent uproar following the negligence of animal owners and attacks by guard dogs on pedestrians in Karachi unleashed another unwarranted attacks on dogs all over the country. Several neighbourhoods started instigating municipal organisations to shoot stray dogs on sight. Use of strychnine poison was once again allowed to poison dogs.

There is a general absence of adequate laws related to animal welfare and animal slaughter, and the existing laws that exist are not adequately implemented. Pakistan's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1890) aims to protect many animals, including draught animals. This law is however outdated and does not reflect the prevalent scientific, cultural, or commercial compulsions pertaining to animal welfare.

It is time to update this law to protect both pet and wild animals, to institute mechanisms for their care, and define consequences for those who are neglectful towards animals.

It is encouraging that the Halal Authority Act (2015) has not only mandated humane treatment of animals throughout the slaughter process, but also prohibited animals from seeing one another being slaughtered. However, there has been little implementation of this law.

While animal abandon-

ment is illegal in Pakistan, there is scant regulation on how animal owners should care for their animals. Moreover, zoos across Pakistan are notorious for their poor conditions. Prompted by international criticism over the Islamabad zoo's maltreatment of the elephant, Kaavan, the Islamabad High Court issued an unprecedented ruling last year. It ordered that the entire zoo of over four hundred animals to be closed and all the animals within it to be transferred to appropriate wildlife sanctuaries in the short period of two months. The rush to empty the zoo caused the death of a pair of lions, which passed away, two days apart, during their transfer from the zoo to a farmhouse in Kasur city instead of a sanctuary as had been directly by the court.

Pakistan also urgently needs to enact legislation detailing specific welfare requirements for the rearing of farm animals during distinct phases of rearing, transport, and slaughter. Such requirements must be legally binding and species-specific and aligned with international animal welfare standards. Regular inspections of farms and slaughter establishments would have to be carried out with a special focus on animal welfare or the situation on the ground will not change for the better.

Kashmir dispute has become focus of world's attention after Modi regime's Aug 2019 move: Ali Raza Syed

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of Kashmir Council European Union, Ali Raza Syed, has said the Kashmir dispute has become a special focus of attention at the global level after Narendra Modi-led Indian fascist government's illegal actions of August 05, 2019. According to Kashmir Media Service, Ali Raza Syed was addressing a seminar at National University of Modern Languages (NUML) in Islamabad. "Although Kashmir has been an internationally recognized dispute for the

past over seven decades, but after August 2019, this conflict has once again become the focus of the world's special attention," he said. He said along with revoking Kashmir's special status, India has changed the domicile law of IIOJK to bring people from Indian states to settle them in the territory. Work on this conspiracy has already started, he added. Ali Raza Syed maintained that many political leaders of occupied Kashmir, human rights activists and journalists are

imprisoned in jails of India and the territory and their lives are in danger. He said that the Pakistan should formulate an effective strategy to stop India's illegal actions in the occupied territory and expose India's terrible face to the world. Political analyst and university professor Tahir Nayeem Malik, international relations teacher and researcher Dr Syed Sibtain Shah, management sciences professor Dr Abdul Wahid and student leaders Ubaid Khan and Mansoor Qaisrani also addressed the seminar. INP



LAHORE: Doctors and nurses hold placards during Breast Cancer Awareness Walk at Shaikh Zayed Hospital on the eve of World Breast Cancer Day, in Provincial Capital.

Govt urged to help reviving women businesses in flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Friday urged the federal and provincial governments to come forward to provide support to businesswomen of flood hit rural areas for reviving their businesses. It said that a large number of businesswomen have been destroyed in flood-hit areas due to which women entrepreneurs are facing great hardships. While addressing the 15th Annual Rural Women Leadership Conference 2022 organized by ICCI in collaboration with National Commission on the Status of Women and Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI

said ICCI is ready to connect the women entrepreneurs of rural areas with online platforms like Amazon. He said so that they could get easy access to international markets to improve exports and earn more foreign exchange for the country. He assured that ICCI can organize exhibitions of the products of rural businesswomen to showcase their potential for trade export. The women from four provinces of Pakistan, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir attended the event. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson, National Status of Women, said that economic empowerment and

inclusion of women was the best option to reduce poverty and promote prosperity in the country. She shared the initiatives of her organization to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. She thanked ICCI for hosting the women conference and hoped that such conferences would help change the role of rural women from vulnerability to change makers by building linkages and partnerships with others. Sameena Nazir, Founding President, PODA said that women entrepreneurs in rural areas were exporting their products to many countries, but the destruction of their businesses due to recent floods had created financial problems for them. INP

Pakistanis overwhelmingly laud China's support: Survey

ISLAMABAD: Almost all Pakistanis have a very positive view of Iron Brother China and its consistent support to Pakistan and they consider China as their trusted friend, a survey revealed, according to Gwadar Pro on Friday. As part of the Sinophone Borderlands public opinion survey in Pakistan in June 2022, over 1,200 Pakistani respondents were asked two open-ended questions about their perception of China. Respondents are drawn from all regions of Pakistan and included a representative sample of age groups and genders. The same questions have also been asked in many other countries but Pakistanis gave the most positive answers. The first survey question asks what first comes to people's minds when thinking of China. The most common answers, as the word cloud reveals, were "friend," "best friend," "good friend," and "trusted friend."

country itself is seen as being strong, and developed, with many respondents labeling it a superpower. Also, China is seen as helpful and supportive of Pakistan. The connection between the two countries is described as a "brotherhood" and many people celebrate it by saying "long live Pakistan-China friendship." The second question asks whether people's general view of China get better or worse during the previous three years and why. An overwhelming majority of the Pakistani respondents (85 percent) gave a positive answer. An overwhelming majority focused mostly on China's support to Pakistan in the form of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Chinese investment, or China's COVID-19 support. The results prompt an important question: Why are the attitudes of Pakistanis so overwhelmingly positive toward China, and why so much more so than in other countries? The answer is

that their positive attitudes are linked to China's long-term support for Pakistan, especially through CPEC, and Pakistan's otherwise rather isolated position in South Asia, where it lacks other firm allies. In particular, the positive attitude correlates with Chinese investments flowing into the country under the label of CPEC, which was frequently mentioned by the respondents. Transport and energy infrastructure, so badly needed in Pakistan, have been built. New power plants have added energy to Pakistan's power grid. Roads and railways are being constructed. Nevertheless, what drives China's popularity among the citizens of Pakistan is that China is really Pakistan's stalwart ally. It is the only country that is currently willing to invest massively in Pakistan. It is certainly encouraging for the growth of China-Pakistan relations that people in Pakistan are so positive about their close friend. INP

Teachers can become real change agents in our society: Chairman HEC

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed on Friday emphasized the significance of teachers' contribution for a holistic development of Pakistani society and urged the teaching community to become proactive in bringing the much-needed behavioral change for country's real progress. Addressing the closing ceremony of the National Faculty Development Programme (NFDP) for participants of Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs Programme (IPFP) held at HEC

Islamabad, he highlighted how the Western world transformed in the preceding centuries due to the effective role played by their teachers and the educational institutions. As many as 21 PhD Fellows from all over Pakistan attended the Cohort-II of NFDP 2022. The programme has been designed in 10 core modules related to teaching, academic research and professional practices. Successful fellows are placed in public sector higher education institutions for a period of one year. The Chairman said, "It is unfortunate that we, as

Muslims, have forgotten the message of our Prophet (SAW) about the importance of knowledge and learning. I have a firm belief that the positive and constructive role of our teachers and religious scholars can change the fate of our nation. Highlighting the critical role of higher education institutions to integrate with the society, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed told the participants that they are the chosen ones for a very noble cause. "I request you to become the real change agents and set the direction of our youth for a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan. INP



ISLAMABAD: Dr Shahzad Waseem, 'Leader of the Opposition' in Senate along with other PTI senator came out after boycott of Senate session.

Nepra approves reduction of Rs4.89 per unit in FCA for KE consumers

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) approved on Friday a reduction of Rs4.89 per unit for K-Electric (KE) consumers on account of fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for electricity consumed in August. Meanwhile, the power regulator raised the price by Rs0.19 per unit for the consumers of ex-Wapda Distribution Companies (Discos), also on account of FCA for the month of August. Changes in both rates will be reflected in the bills for October. In its notification for adjustment in electricity rates of KE, Nepra said the negative FCA would be applicable to all consumer categories except lifeline consumers,

domestic consumers using up to 300 units, agriculture consumers and electric vehicle charging stations. "It is hereby clarified that the negative adjustment on account of monthly FCA is also applicable to domestic consumers having Time of Use meters irrespective of their consumption level," it added. In a separate notification for change in Disco rates, the power regulator said that the rise in electricity price was applicable to all consumer categories except electric vehicle charging stations and lifeline consumers. "While effecting the fuel adjustment charges, the discos concerned shall keep in view and strictly comply with the orders of

the court notwithstanding this order," Nepra said. Now you can follow Dawn Business on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook for insights on business, finance and tech from Pakistan and across the world. "It is hereby clarified that the negative adjustment on account of monthly FCA is also applicable to domestic consumers having Time of Use meters irrespective of their consumption level," it added. In a separate notification for change in Disco rates, the power regulator said that the rise in electricity price was applicable to all consumer categories except electric vehicle charging stations and lifeline consumers. INP

Cell phones' prices go skyrocketing in Lahore markets

LAHORE: Due to a partial ban on the import of parts of cell phones, the prices of mobile phone sets of different companies have increased enormously by Rs15,000 to Rs40,000 in the mobile phone markets of Lahore on Friday. Sardar Azhar Sultan, senior vice president of the traders' association of Hall Road, said that the cell phones' prices increased due to difficulties in the import of mobile phones. "Due to the lack of foreign exchange, the government has made the import process very difficult," he added. "Due to the increase in the prices of mobile phones, the sale of cell phones has decreased significantly. It has made very difficult for the traders to pay the rent of shops, taxes and salaries of employees and meet other expenses," he complained. It is to be noted here that a cell phone of Rs35,000 is being sold at Rs52,000, the cell phone of Rs50,000 at 66,000 and the cell phone of Rs66,000 is being sold at Rs80,000. INP

School teacher tortures student, breaks arm in Chinot

CHINIOT: In yet another incident of corporal punishment at the educational institutions, a school teacher broke the arm of a girl student as she failed to memorize the lesson. The incident occurred at the Girls Elementary School, located in the limits of PS Rajua in Chinot, where a school teacher tortured the student and broke her arm as she failed to memorize the lesson. A student named Muskan said she was tortured by the teacher with an iron rod as she failed to memorize the lesson. The student has been moved to the hospital after her arm was dislocated in corporal punishment. It may be noted that the National Assembly has passed a bill prohibiting all kinds of corporal punishment at educational institutions. Earlier, police arrested a school teacher in Jhelum after a video went viral showing him torturing two girls. The video of the teacher's corporal punishments to the students went viral on social media which was also shared by Federal Minister for Water Resources, Faisal Vawda. The teacher named Abu Bakar was taken into custody and the case against him was also registered. INP



KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Consul General of China Li Bijian at CM House in Provincial Capital.

Electricity transmission restored across country: Power Division

ISLAMABAD: After an almost day-long outage, the Power Division on Friday said that electricity transmission and generation have been restored across the country adding that only routine power load-shedding is being carried. "Electricity transmission and generation have been restored across Pakistan including restoration of full supply from national grid to Karachi," the division said in a statement. Earlier today, sources within the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) had said that the countrywide power crisis, caused due to an "accidental fault" in the national grid, had not been controlled yet. Sources in the NTDC said that it was a major breakdown and could not be controlled even after 24 hours as the authorities have yet to identify the fault. The sources added that cities have been facing four hours of loadshedding while rural areas are suffering from a 12-hour-long power outage. Meanwhile, power plants have not been fully energised and the country still faces a 4,500MW power shortfall while the frequency fluctuation is making things more complex. The electricity is being restored from the power plants slowly to the system, said the sources. They added that this is the 16th breakdown in the last 10 years. Large parts of the country were in dark for more than 12 hours on Thursday after a fault was detected in the national grid's southern transmission system. Energy Minister Khurram Dastagir said that an "accidental fault" triggered the breakdown and announced the establishment of a committee to probe the matter and submit a report within four days. INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The procurement of works listed below for which Notice Inviting Tender on sealed percentage rates based on CSR 2018 Govt. of Balochistan are invited from interested contractors/Firms with detail terms & conditions given below. The tender fee will be deposited through green challan in National Bank of Pakistan Ziarat Branch under the head of account C-02716 (Communication Receipt) at the rate shown against each work as mentioned below. - Earnest money 4% of Bid cost in shape of call deposit/Date of completion Up to 30th June 2024 from the date of start for each work.

S. #	Name of work.	Estimated cost	Tender fee
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOP ROADS IN 16 UNION COUNCILS DISTRICT ZIARAT. PSDP-NO. 1382/22822-3482	Rs. 42.75 Million	Rs.3000/-
2	CONSTRUCTION / BLACK TOPPING OF KILLI SAYEED ULLAH DOWTANI ROAD DISTRICT ZIARAT. TSE NO 222310131523	Rs. 8.603 Million	Rs.1000/-
3	CONSTRUCTION / BLACK TOPPING OF KILLI SARDAR HIDAYAT ULLAH CHOTAIR ROAD SIJAWI. TSE NO 222310131553	Rs.28.093 Million	Rs.2000/-

Procurement shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014. Eligibility of bidders:- a) Registrations with relevant taxation department i.e. (NTN), Income Tax / Sales Tax Department, Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) updated. b) Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Relevant Category C6 and above for Sr. No 2 & 3, C5 and above for Sr. No 1. Above Category and Discipline Code valid for the FY 2021-2022. c) Rate analysis of offered rates. d) CDR in case of rate offered below 10% of the total cost. e) JV is Not Allowed. Method of procurement: Single stage, two envelope procedure. Bid Security: The bid must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit of amount specified above in the name of undersigned from a schedule bank from Contractor title account. If any Fake Call Deposit provided by the firm, the firm will be recommended for blacklisting / Tender Documents Issuance: Bidding documents will be issued on submission of request by the contractor on his original letter head from the date of publication of advertisement in Newspapers on presentation of requisite documents as required in basic eligibility criteria i.e. Tender Fee (Non-refundable in shape of green challan under head C-02716, Bid Security / Earnest Money (in the shape of call deposit from the account of firm, the call deposit amount must be deposited by contractor's Firm / Title account), valid Pakistan Engineering Council Certificate, Income Tax Certificate (NTN), registration from BRA etc. (In original). The tender form will not be issued to any attorney holders of the contractors in any case. However, the partners and representatives of firm by producing their legal documents i.e. partnership deed or firm certificates that he is the office bearer and is on the pay role of firm (duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate only) can participate. The power of attorney shall be acceptable for specific work only. Submission:- Last date of submission of bids (Technical / Financial) will be 2nd November, 2022 at 12:00 PM. Opening:- The Tender (Technical Bids) will be opened on 2nd November, 2022 at 1:00 PM before procurement committee in the presence of Contractors or their authorized representatives in the office of the Executive Engineer, Communication District Ziarat and for (Financial Bids) opening date will be announced at that time. The bid security (CDR) of technically non-responsive bidders shall be returned within 30 days of declaration of the bid as non-responsive. - Bid Validity Period: Ninety Days (90 days). In case downloading of bidding documents from BPPRA website, the bidder / firm must provide required document separately to this office before submission of bids. Place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be addressed:- Executive Engineer (Road) Communication Works PP&H District Ziarat. An affidavit shall be provided on non-Judicial Stamp Paper of Rs.100/- that the applicant has never been black listed. The applicant shall also provide an undertaking to the effect that all documents / particulars / information given with its bidding document are true / correct. All documents / proof provided by the Contractors / Firms will be verified from concerned authorities / department.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROAD)
Communication Works PP&H District Ziarat.
PRQ No.07014-10-2022 @dpr_gob @dpr_gob f @dprgobalochistan

Pakistan asks India to investigate custodial death of Kashmiri leader Altaf Shah

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Friday asked the Indian government to immediately investigate the custodial death of Kashmiri leader Altaf Ahmed Shah and hold to account all those responsible for the tragedy. Speaking at the weekly press briefing here, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "We are deeply saddened at the inhuman custodial death of Hurriyat leader Altaf Ahmed Shah, who remained imprisoned in the infamous Tihar Jail for the last five years." The Indian Charge d'

Affaires in Islamabad was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and conveyed Pakistan's strong protest over the death of Mr. Shah caused by Indian government's willful and deliberate negligence, and utter disregard for human rights, which was part of India's systematic campaign to suppress and brutalize the Hurriyat leaders and the Kashmiris, he added. He said, "Pakistan strongly condemns the extra-judicial killing of two more Kashmiris in fresh acts of state-spon-

sored terrorism by Indian occupation forces in IIOJK." The latest incidents of violence and hostility perpetrated by Hindutva extremists against Muslims in India, during the recent Hindu festivals were a matter of grave concern, the spokesperson noted. "This is yet another manifestation of the growing 'safron terror' that has deeply permeated the Indian society." He said, "We call upon the international community to hold India accountable for its crimes against

humanity in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to take cognizance of the rapidly deteriorating situation of Islamophobia in India and the resultant threat to the safety and security and well being of its Muslim citizens and other minorities." He said the Pakistan government rejected the Indian Prime Minister's remarks about IIOJK during a public rally in Gujarat. "The Indian Prime Minister's farcical contention that he has, somehow, 'resolved the Kashmir issue', is not only false

and misleading but also reflects how oblivious the Indian leadership has become of the ground realities in IIOJK." He pointed out that Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognized dispute that had been on the agenda of the United Nations for over seven decades awaiting a just and peaceful resolution in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. He told that Pakistan-China Spokespersons' Dialogue was held virtually. Online

Third power plant on Thar coal to help Pakistan generate cheap electricity: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The successful launching of a third power plant with a capacity of 330 megawatts on the indigenous Thar coal will help Pakistan to generate cheap electricity and reduce import bill to save foreign exchange reserves, WealthPK reports.

After the installation of the third plant, the total capacity of the plants on indigenous Thar coal has reached 990 megawatts.

According to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), the per unit cost of electricity generated through Thar coal was Rs14.41 per unit in August 2022. The per unit cost of electricity generated from furnace oil is Rs35, imported coal Rs23.6 and high-speed diesel Rs27.8 per unit while the cost of per unit electricity imported from Iran is Rs20.94.

The earlier installed 660 megawatts power plant on Thar coal had created 3,000 jobs during construction and 4,300 jobs after it was made operational. The recently-approved projects will also generate a lot of jobs.

Dr Athar Mansoor, an energy expert said in a podcast that presently Pakistan was not ready to make the transition to a sustainable energy system. It is evident that a transition is needed in Pakistan, but the country first requires to improve its economy as a huge amount of funds will be required to make the transition successful.

He said that Thar coal could be also converted into gas and liquid to utilise by other industries like cement

and fertiliser. Pakistan has 175 billion tonnes of coal reserves in Tharparkar alone, equivalent to 50 billion tonnes of oil equivalent, which is more than Saudi Arabian and Iranian oil reserves. The coal reserves are equal to 2,000 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas, 68 times higher than Pakistan's total gas reserves.

Pakistan should rely on local coal resources for the generation of power to ensure sustainable economic growth in the future. Due to the heavy reliance on imported fuel, power losses are increasing day by day because the cost of imported fuel has increased significantly during the past few years.

The government is often compelled to announce a subsidy on electricity to curb the massive hike in power tariffs and reduce the burden on consumers. However, owing to a lack of funding, the government is unable to pay the amount of subsidy to the relevant authorities. It contributes to the circular debt, which has reached Rs1.5 trillion.

The government should utilise Thar coal resources for power generation to reduce circular debt as well as import bills. The generation of cheap electricity in the country will enable industries to get access to a reliable source of energy at a reasonable rate.

The cost of energy is one of the most significant factors in the manufacturing of industrial products. The generation of cheap electricity will reduce the cost of production as well as boost the export of different goods from Pakistan, according to information gathered by WealthPK.

UK to provide additional £10 million aid for flood relief supplies

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom (UK) will provide an additional £10 million of life-saving humanitarian support for Pakistan's flood relief efforts.

The additional humanitarian aid was announced by Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK Minister of State for South Asia (FCDO), during his visit to Pakistan.

In addition to the UK's £26.5 million donation in humanitarian funding, a UK Royal Air Force flight recently delivered eight boats and ten portable generators for flood relief operations.

The extra support will be spent on urgent life-saving needs such as providing shelter, water, and sanitation to prevent waterborne diseases. It will focus on supporting people who are still displaced and those returning to their land by helping re-establish communal water supplies, according to a statement issued by the British High Commission Islamabad on Friday.

In his statement, the UK Minister of State for South Asia, FCDO, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon said, "The UK continues to help the people of Pakistan recover from the recent devastating floods. Our support will help to tackle the spread of waterborne diseases and to improve access to clean water, sanitation, medical care, and shelter across the country".

He added, "We are working night and day with Pakistan and our international partners to ensure that UK aid reaches the hardest hit areas. As well as helping with urgent life-saving needs, the UK is supporting

ing Pakistan's economic recovery and resilience against future climate disasters.

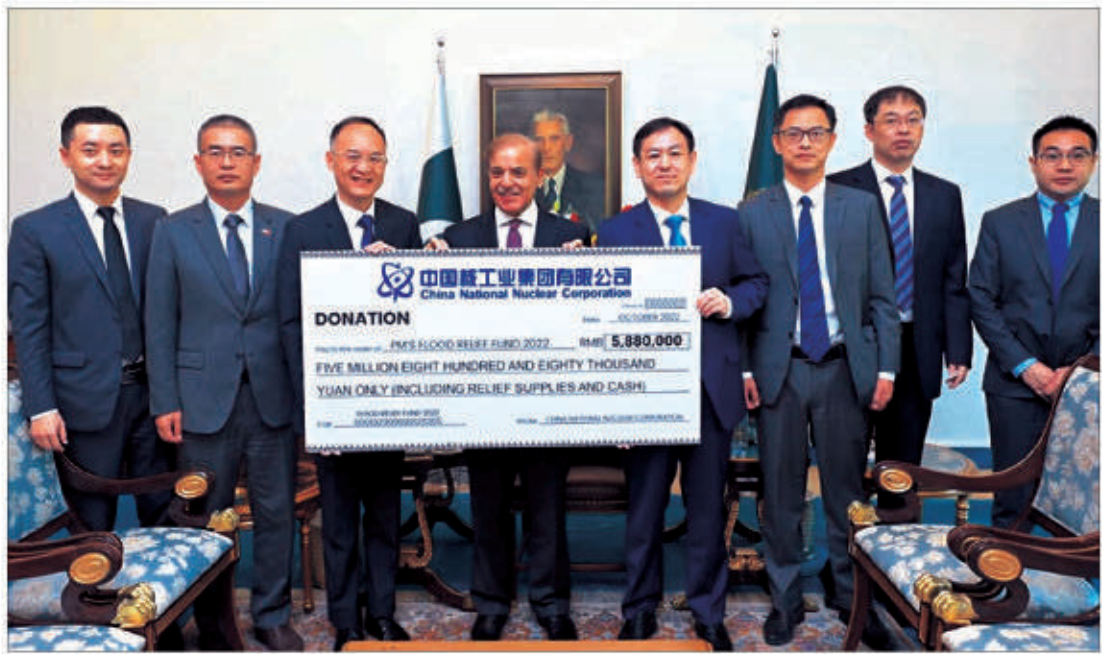
He said the UK's new Developing Countries Trading Scheme would help grow trade by giving duty-free access to 94% of goods exported from Pakistan to the UK.

During his visit to Pakistan, Lord Ahmad will meet the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and other government counterparts to discuss the impact of the floods, visit the areas most affected and speak with key UK-funded aid agencies on the ground in Sindh.

The Minister will also meet with key Government counterparts, community leaders, and aid agencies to discuss the response to the humanitarian crisis and long-term recovery for the country.

He added, "We are working night and day with Pakistan and our international partners to ensure that UK aid reaches the hardest hit areas. As well as helping with urgent life-saving needs, the UK is supporting Pakistan's economic recovery and resilience against future climate disasters.

He said the UK's new Developing Countries Trading Scheme would help grow trade by giving duty-free access to 94% of goods exported from Pakistan to the UK. During his visit to Pakistan, Lord Ahmad will meet the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and other government counterparts to discuss the impact of the floods, visit the areas most affected and speak with key UK-funded aid agencies on the ground in Sindh. INP



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas presents a cheque for PM's Flood Relief Fund, 2022, to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Narowal gets sixth deputy commissioner in just five months

NAROWAL: People in Narowal district have appealed to the chief justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) to take notice of frequent transfers of deputy commissioners (DCs) in the district as the tenure of Captain (r) Shoaib Ali as the deputy commissioner (DC) could last only 15 days and Muhammad Shah Rukh was notified as the new deputy commissioner of the district on Friday.

Interestingly this is for the sixth time in the last five months that Narowal has got a new DC.

It is pertinent to mention here that not a single deputy commissioner could stay in the district for more than 20 days during the aforementioned period, which points out either lack of trust of the Punjab government in its bureaucracy or political pressure. INP

No case hearing at IHC CJ's court today

ISLAMABAD: There will be no hearing of any case in the court of Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice (CJ) Justice Athar Minallah Friday following cancellation of the cause list.

As per the cause list, CJ Minallah had to hear 12 petitions today, including the one filed against the decision given by the Ministry of Law's Information Commission and the one filed by the OGDCL employees.

Following the cancellation of the cause list, the registrar's office will issue a new one for the next week. INP

SHC orders removal of Sharjeel Memon's name from ECL in yet another case

KARACHI: PPP leader and Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon got yet another relief, and this time in the assets beyond sources of income case when the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday accepted his petition, seeking deletion of his name from the Exit Control List (ECL).

Today's relief for Sharjeel Memon comes 10 days after the SHC order of October 4, 2022 in which it had ordered permanent removal of his name from the Exit Control List (ECL) in a corruption case of Rs6 billion.

A two-member bench of the SHC, headed by Justice KK Agha, gave the decision on the review petition filed by the PPP leader. During the hearing of Memon's petition for the removal of his name from the no-fly list, Raj Ali Wahid Advocate, counsel for the PPP leader, said that the court had ordered putting his client's name on the ECL at the time of approval of his bail. "Now the situation is that Memon has to seek permission from the authorities every time he goes abroad," he said, adding that his client had been regularly attending hearings at a trial court.

"Therefore, it is my request to the court to delete Memon's name from the ECL for good," he added. INP

Chaman truck drivers protest against India

CHAMAN: Traffic came to a standstill on the road connecting Chaman to Quetta in Balochistan on Friday as the truck drivers transporting goods from the Pak-Afghan border at Chaman to different destinations in Pakistan and then onwards to India via Wagah border held a protest demonstration against the arrest of one of the truck drivers by India.

Demanding immediate release of Abdul Wasey, the protesters urged the government of Pakistan to take steps to ensure the safety of Pakistani drivers on the border with India. INP

PM Shehbaz Sharif lauds china for helping Pakistan in tough times

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said China has always stood by Pakistan in difficult times and extended support both at the internal and external fronts for Islamabad.

He was talking to a delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas headed by its President Zhang Guoliang, reported Radio Pakistan.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said China has helped Pakistan a lot to cope with the disaster caused by recent floods and to rehabilitate the flood victims.

He said Pakistan-China friendship is unparalleled. The delegation also discussed the issues related to the mutual interest.

On the occasion, the Chinese delegation presented a cheque of 5.8 million yuan for the rehab-

ilitation of flood-affected people.

He was talking to a delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas headed by its President Zhang Guoliang, reported Radio Pakistan.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said China has helped Pakistan a lot to cope with the disaster caused by recent floods and to rehabilitate the flood victims.

He said Pakistan-China friendship is unparalleled. The delegation also discussed the issues related to the mutual interest.

On the occasion, the Chinese delegation presented a cheque of 5.8 million yuan for the rehabilitation of flood-affected people.

He was talking to a delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas headed by its President Zhang Guoliang, reported Radio Pakistan. INP

UK to provide additional £10m aid for Pakistan flood relief efforts

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom (UK) will provide an additional £10 million of life-saving humanitarian support for Pakistan's flood relief efforts.

According to details, the additional humanitarian aid was announced by Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, UK Minister of State for South Asia (FCDO), during his visit to Pakistan. In addition to the UK's £26.5 million donation in humanitarian funding, a UK Royal Air Force flight recently delivered eight boats and ten portable generators for flood relief operations. The extra support will be spent on urgent life-saving needs such as providing shelter, water, and sanitation to prevent waterborne diseases,

according to a statement issued by the British High Commission Islamabad.

It will focus on supporting people who are still displaced and those returning to their land by helping re-establish communal water supplies, the statement added. In addition to the UK's £26.5 million donation in humanitarian funding, a UK Royal Air Force flight recently delivered eight boats and ten portable generators for flood relief operations. The extra support will be spent on urgent life-saving needs such as providing shelter, water, and sanitation to prevent waterborne diseases, according to a statement issued by the British High Commission Islamabad. INP

Smog: LHC summons DCS of four districts over stubble burning incidents

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday summoned district commissioners (DCs) of four districts over stubble burning incidents amid the worsening smog situation in the city. According to details, Justice Shahid Karim issued the directives while hearing a set of petitions on the provincial government's failure to appropriately deal with environmental issues, including smog. During the hearing, the representatives of Environment Protection Department (EPD) told the court that the incidents of crops stubble burning were increasing in four districts, including Kasur and Hafizabad. Meanwhile, Justice Shahid Karim stated that all institutions have to work collectively to prevent smog in the city. After hearing the arguments, the court summoned district commissioners (DCs) of four districts and

adjourned the hearing till October 18.

In the last hearing, the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered the authorities concerned to impose a smog emergency in Punjab ahead of the winter season.

The court remarked that the measures to eradicate smog should be finalised and a team should immediately be constituted to take action against those responsible. The judge ordered the authorities to provide vehicles to the constituted team. The LHC also the officials to purchase air quality sensors within two weeks. "The planning department should release funds in one week for the purchase of air quality sensors," it added. The court also ordered to immediately close down the smoke-emitting factories. "Immediate action should be taken against people involved in burning the crop. INP

Armed robbers loot cash, valuables from shop in Karachi

KARACHI: Five armed robbers looted a sweet shop at gunpoint in the Mosmiyat area of Karachi and thrashed the security guard on Friday.

In the CCTV footage five robbers can be seen looting a sweet shop in Karachi's Mosmiyat area.

The armed robbers stormed into the sweet shop after thrashing the security guard and stealing his rifle. They later held the staff and customers hostage at gunpoint.

The robbers looted Rs0.2 million cash, mobile phones and other valuables from the shop. Meanwhile, a police spokesperson said that the police have launched a search operation to arrest the suspects.

In the CCTV footage, the suspects can be seen gathering cash from the locker of the shop. There were two employees present at the time of the incident and the suspects deprived them of mobile phones, cash and other valuables. INP

Four more deaths reported as dengue fever cases keep growing

LAHORE: Pakistan continues to face a growth in the number of dengue fever cases as four more deaths were reported. Three patients died in Karachi while one died in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

After three deaths in Karachi, total deaths by dengue in Sindh reached up to 49. While 381 cases were reported in the province in last 24 hours.

On the other hand, after one more death in KP, the death toll from the disease reached up to 13 in the province. While 398 cases were reported in the province in last 24 hours with which the total number of cases in the province have reached up to 13,221.

Total number of cases in Peshawar have reached up to 5,415. Mardan reported 2,947 cases, 910 in Khyber and 748 case were reported in Nowshera.

Meanwhile, 302 cases of dengue fever have been reported in Punjab. INP

PTI approaches PEMRA over Interior Minister's remarks against Imran

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has approached Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to lodge a complaint against Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah over his objectionable remarks against Imran Khan.

PTI central leader Iftikhar Durrani wrote a letter to PEMRA in which he stated that Rana Sanaullah delivered objectionable remarks against Imran Khan during a TV show aired by a private news channel on October 13.

Iftikhar Durrani said in his letter that Sanaullah used abusive and condemnable language from the beginning of the TV show. He said that PEMRA regulations do not tolerate

the use of shameful words in the national media.

He added that the TV show host has neither stopped Sanaullah from delivering abusive remarks nor his comments were censured. The objectionable statement was issued on broadcast and social media without any changes. Durrani asked the PEMRA chairman to take notice of the objectionable content of the TV show and the private news channel besides ordering the private channel's administration to remove the content from broadcast and social media. He also demanded action against the TV show's producer, director, editor and other concerned staffers. INP



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with a Chinese senior expert group of consisting disaster management and flood control at Foreign Office in Federal Capital.

Dengue: Rawalpindi reports 76 new cases – health ministry

RAWALPINDI: Dengue onslaught continues in Rawalpindi as 76 new cases have been registered in the last 24 hours, the provincial health ministry announces on Friday.

According to the data provided by the health ministry Punjab, 76 new dengue cases were reported in multiple hospitals. At least 102 new cases are under treatment in Benazir Bhutto hospital, 75 in DHQ, and 42 in the Holy Family hospital.

Dengue epidemic grips multiple regions of the country after devastating floods wreaked havoc in the majority of the country.

In the last 24 hours, Balochistan reports another 75 new dengue cases, while the provincial capital Quetta did not report any new cases.

According to the statistics issued by the Health Department, 75 new dengue cases were reported in Balochistan in the last 24 hours.

Lasbela reported 30 new cases, Kech 28, and Gawadar reported 17 new cases. The total number of the viral disease cases in the country has gone up to 4,228, 3091 out of the total cases reported in the Kech district.

This year, the mosquito-borne virus has claimed 84 deaths, most of them reported from flood-hit Sindh province. This year 12,947 dengue cases have been reported in Sindh with 43 deaths, according to sources.

Dengue epidemic grips multiple regions of the country after devastating floods wreaked havoc in the majority of the country. In the last 24 hours, Balochistan reports another 75 new dengue cases, while the provincial capital Quetta did not report any new cases. According to the statistics issued by the Health Department, 75 new dengue cases were reported in Balochistan in the last 24 hours. INP

SC issues written order on Article 63-A's interpretation

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday issued a written order regarding the interpretation of Article 63-A of the Constitution with regard to the counting of the vote of a dissident member against the party policy in the House of Parliament.

A 95-page majority judgment issued by the top court said a dissident member's vote cast against his party guidelines would not be counted, however, the period of disqualification of a dissident member should be determined by the Parliament.

It further said the Constitution had mentioned the parliamentary party for the instructions, not the party head. "The members of Parliament have complete freedom of expression but this could not be demonstrated at the time of exercising the vote in the light of Article 63-A. The majority judgment rejected the objections raised on the admissibility of the presidential reference, saying the court had already given answers to the objections in another case. The decision said that if the prime minister or chief minister lost confidence in the parlia-

mentary party then he had to face a vote of no-confidence. A member voting against party directives was destructive to the parliamentary democratic system, the apex court added. The right of assembly members to express their opinion had also been protected in the lawyers' front case, the verdict said. Members of the Assembly could discuss, agree or disagree within the party on the issue of vote, however, when "it comes to the voting, the situation would be different". The judgment said the parliamentary party's instructions had to be followed while voting under Article 63A. It was argued that not counting the dissident member's vote would give rise to authoritarianism in the parliamentary party but "we didn't agree with the argument". Counting votes cast against party policy was a threat to the democratic system, it added. Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar had decided not to count the vote of the defiant member, while Justice Mazhar Alam Miankhel. INP



WASHINGTON DC: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Martin Raiser, World Bank's Vice President for the South Asia Region and his team today in Washington DC.