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> Thursday 20 October, 2022

PM Shehbaz stresses need for Pak-China agreement on disaster management



Corps Commander visits Quetta airport and railway station

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'It is terrorism': NA echoes with concern on situation in Swat

Lawmakers raised concerns over the

Lawmakers raised concerns over the worsening situation in Swat — where citizens have poured onto streets against growing violence in recent days — during a National Asssembly session on Wednesday.

"What is happening in Pakistan is not an insurgency. It is terrorism," said Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman as she compared the situation in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa district with that in neighbouring Afghanistan prior to the end of a 20-year-long war.

The PPP senator lashed out at violent elements for "hiding their nefarious designs behind religion.

"Sorry, it is only a fight for power. It is not a fight for religion, and have the guts to say it."

Recalling that the PPP became a "soft target" for denouncing terrorism earlier, she added, "We have not come here to mince words on this [issue]. Neither are we here for terrorism to rear its head again-and rear its head again in Swat. This is our country and we have to

save it. She demanded that "everyone should be taken into confidence on the progress of operations" launched again terrorism and the direction in which they are head-

"Pakistan has paid a big price [for fighting terrorism] in the past and there have been several successful operations that were acknowledged by the entire world.

"And now, the TTP (Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan) is on the rise. But in what capacity, and as what? Citizens of Pakistan? Have they demilitarised?" she questioned, adding that if such was the

questioned, adding that if such was the case, "show us the evidence".

Earlier in her address, she said there could no "protracted, result-oriented engagement with terrorism.

"A terrorist is a terrorist and he remains one because he took up weapons. And when he agrees to talk to you, he has pre-conditions."

She said wherever such elements were engaged in talks, it was after they laid down arms.

down arms.
The PPP senator recalled multiple



incidents of terrorism and said it was beyond her understanding how a com-promise could be reached with terrorists.

"We have been in favour of dialogue with anyone who lays down arms and says that he will operate within the ambit of the Constitution of Pakistan," she said, adding that a joint session of the house was called during the PPP's tenure to chalk up a strategy against those who continued terrorism

continued terrorism.
"Call a joint house again," she demanded.

Earlier, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif called for sitting together on the sit-uation in Swat, among other issues of

grave importance.

He recalled that a similar situation in
Swat was seen 11 to 12 years ago
whssen concerns were raised that

"those in Swat may not be too far away from Islamabad".

Today, after a gap of 12 to 13 years, a similar scenario is being witnessed in Swat, he regretted, although adding that presently, it was not of the same "velocity and gravity" as more than a decade

At the same time, he warned that "whatever is happening in Swat and elsewhere, those flames can reach us as well"

'Fake encounters in Balochistan' Earlier in the session, Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) chief

incidents in which, he alleged, innocent people were killed and presented as ter-

rorists.

He particularly referred to the killing of three missing persons allegedly in fake encounter by the Balochistan Counter Terrorism Department in Kharan on Monday.

The BNP-M said the issue had plagued Balochistan for long, warning that most of the youth in Balochistan had reached "a point of no return.

"You may be able to end who you call terrorists through such tactics, but the seeds of hatred that you are sowing cannot be perished by any atomic power of the world."

the world."

He called for constituting a high-level judicial inquiry commission, headed by a sitting Supreme Court judge, to probe

the "fake encounters" in Balochistan, particularly referring to three incidents in Ziarat, Mastung and Kharan.

Responding to Mengal, Asif described that issue as "wounds of the state that have been bleeding for years". And ignoring them or staying in denial would be harmful for any nation, he warned.

He called for measures to address and

He called for measures to address and resolve the issues and acknowledged that the problem had existed for years.

"When will we remove this baggage from our shoulders? It is becoming heavier by the day," he regretted. "A low-intensity insurrection has been ongoing in Balochistan for many years and a in Balochistan for many years and a solution to it can be found. We need dia-logue," he added.

The minister also criticised the provincial government on the matter, saying any government — provincial or federal — had no right to rule if it failed to address the grievances of its people.

The issue, he said, could not be "wished away" and the house, too, needed to show some seriousness on the matter

He called for the "political community" to take the initiative to resolve the
issue and prioritise it.

Asif said he believed that security
issues should not be dealt with in a
"transactional manner" and a permanent
solution should be devised.

He said the federation needed to take

He said the federation needed to take steps in this regard and the concerns raised by Mengal. "If not today's, then the future generations will have to face these issues. They are already staring at

It was the institutions' responsibility

to find solutions to the state's problem, he added.

"A solution to this problem should be devised at a high-level," Asif concluded. For her part, Sherry called for constituting a "truth and reconciliation commission" to address the issue in Balochistan.

Balochistan.
"We should listen to the province's leaders ... and we may even have to hear some bitter truths," she added, stressing the need for Parliament to address and find a solution to the issue Web Desk

Corps Commander visits Quetta airport and railway station

News Desk

Corps Commander Balochistan and Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor visited Quetta international airport and the railway station on Wednesday. Airport Manager Quetta, Malik Mazhar Hussain briefed the commander



about the expansion work in the airport.

The airport security force officials briefed the commander about the ongoing development projects and security arrangements at Quetta airport. Speaking on the occasion, the commander directed the concerned quarters to make sure timely completion of the ongoing projects and bring the air-port to par with other airports in the country. Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor also assured all possible support in this

Later on, the commander also visited the Quetta Railway Station and visited various ongoing projects. Fareed Ahmed, the Divisional Superintendent of Pakistan Railways briefed the commander about the new projects at the station. Commissioner Quetta Division, Sohail ur Rehman was also present on the occasion. Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor visited the sites established for passen-

Students protest in Loralai against killing of Israr Khan

Students from various schools staged a otest demonstration a Khan, a student in the Loralai district of Balochistan. The students marched through var-ious roads of Loralai and demanded the arrest of

the culprits behind the killing of the student. Armed men opened fire and killed Israr Khan and injured another three students in the Kohar Dam near Loralai University. "We want the arrest of the killers", Sami Khan, one of the protesting students demanded.

The students had carried placards and ban-ners inscribed with slogans condemning the killing of Israr Khan in the area. They chanted



for what they claimed was its failure to arrest the culprits behind the attack. "Government must arrest the culprits behind the attack", Noor Uddin, another protesting student said. Students from various schools and colleges joined the protest demonstration to mount pressure on the government to arrest the killers of Israr Khan.

A shutter-down strike was observed in Loralai against the killing of the student. Political parties had given a call for a strike against the brutal murder of Israr Khan. "We are conducting raids to apprehend the culprits behind the attack", Jameel Baloch, Assistant Commissioner Loralai said.

He said some suspects have been detained in

He said some suspects have been detained in connection with the killing of the student.

Dr. Rubaba lauds establishment of UNICEF makeshift hospitals for flood affectees

Sheikh Razzao

QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary of Science and IT, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi on Wednesday lauded the decision of UNICEF for establishing the makeshift hospitals in the floodstricken areas of Balochistan. "The setting up of makeshift hospitals in the calamity-ravaged areas of the province will help minimize the issues faced by the flood-hit masses to great extent," she said while talking to the Head of UNICEF Balochistan Child Protection Department Dr. Muhammad Humayun Amiri and Nutrition Specialist Muhammad Imran Jatoi who met her here Matter pertaining to the ongoing flood relief and rehabilitation activities by international organizations and the measures taken regarding the restoration of underwater educational institutions and

alternative sources of education were discussed during the meeting.

The representatives of UNICEF Balochistan said "temporary learning centers have been established for the continuation of education of the children of flood-rayaged areas so that the education of the children under

"UNICEF has also decided to establish temporary hospitals for the flood victims including pregnant and lactating women in the calamity-hit areas," they maintained. They also sought government cooperation in ongoing relief and rehabilitation activities in the affected areas.

While expressing her satisfaction on the relief activities of UNICEF in

the affected areas and the measures taken regarding health and education, she assured them all-out support.



She said that the liaison between the government and other humanitarian organizations in public interest projects including nutrition, education

and health in the flood-affected areas is indispensable.

"Close coordination between government and non-governmental organizations will facilitate relief and rehabilitation operation and maximize the available resources for the welfare of the victims,"

Terming the decision of makeshift hospitals a commendable measure she hoped that this move will resolve health related issues in the areas facing the brunt of the flood. She assured the delegation all-out support of the provincial government to all the international organizations working in the flood affected areas including UNICEF.

Afghan horsemen compete over goat carcass in Buzkashi match in Quetta

Syed Ali Shah, Manan Mandokhail

Thousands turned out to witness the historic and traditional Afghan and Central Asian game Buzkashi in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province on Friday evening. Buzkashi match was held at Hockey ground located in the heart of the city on Friday

"Interesting, interesting, this game is", Saifullah Khan, a spectator inside the ground tells Quetta Voice. Like Khan, thousands of spectators from Quetta and other parts of Balochistan witnessed the Buzkashi match. Buzkashi is a dangerous game played with a goat carcass. The game involves dragging the dead goat to a specific place by players on horseback. "This game needs strength and bravery", Mehboob Shah, one of the players sitting on horseback said.

players sitting on horseback said.

No senior officer of the sports department or minister was

Balochistan Sports Department had organized the match wit-



nessed by a large number of people. Although, no senior officer or the provincial minister for Sports failed to participate in the function to encourage the players.

"We want to spread this game to other parts of Pakistan". Sahibzada Rafiuddin, the Joint Secretary of Buzkashi Association Balochistan said.

Despite dangers, the players succeeded in dragging the goat carcass and dropping it in a specific place. "For this, you have to be bold and energetic", Rafiuddin said. He said sometimes players suffer injuries and fall from horses during the battle for picking up the dead goat. Buzkashi player has to be energetic and healthy

The player has to be healthy and energetic to pick up the goat carcass. "This is not the work of a weak person", Mr. Rafiuddin stated. In the Buzkashi match, 10 players can participate from

The players are mostly from Afghanistan and the Central Asian States. In Quetta, the players belong to the Afghan Uzbek community living in Ghousabad and surrounding areas.

EDITORIAL Thursday, October, 20, 2022 | Quetta Voice

QUETTA VOICE

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

Floods damaged this school in interior Balochistan: Photo provided by

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 facili-ties 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 organ-

izations 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

Character building and education

Ali Hassan Bangwar

Character building is a cognitive and behavioural process of learning, adapting and assimilating the core ethical norms and civic values. It is the enculturation of the masses within the established social values and personality traits that ultimately lead to sustainably inclusive development. The individ-ual and collective sense of responsibility, honesty, civic sense, accountability, dilidiscipline, resilience, punctuality, truthfulness, justice, integrity, transparency and rational judgment are universal values central to character

building. Though family, peer groups, society and media as the agencies of socialisation play a considerable role in enculturation, educational institutes shoulder the greatest responsibility in the nation's character building. An educa-tional system has two

major functions: one, equipping the aspirants with the knowledge of the specific field through pragmatic through pragmatic pedagogical practices and reading culture; and two, infusing ethi-cal codes and established beliefs which lead to a better understanding of self and surrounding. Though all education systems across the world essentially work in the former, the holistic productivity of a country's education system is judged by how far it

bodes well in the latter. This is because crude knowledge without character is a tool for exploitation and persecution. The education system that hardly emphasises character building ends up producing symbolic literates who are not only incapable of contributing to development but also prove, in most cases, national liabilities. An enlightened education cultivates mutually beneficial individuals and collective social traits. It equips students with cognitive, cultural, social and physical skills necessary for a promising career; refines their personality; enables them to meet the demanding dynam-Unfortunately, education system lags far behind on both

It is almost incom-

fronts.

patible with dynamics demands of the age. The national education system built on colonial legacy, outdated curriculum, distorted historical accounts, excessive religiosity elite-centric approaches cannot equip students with the state-of-the-art knowledge base necessary in contemporary times. This is clear from the fact that though the world might do wonders in quantum mechanics, AI, virtual reality, the internet of things, we are entan-gled in the classical notions of Newtonian physics and internet connectivity issues. Our education system

promotes a herd mentality designed around falsified historical accounts, mythical propositions and conservative approaches to life. It is fraught with the colonial legacy and myopically framed rhetoric. The national curriculum, content and moral aspects have so carefully been designed that nurture ill-founded narratives dear to the power elite — a remnant of colonial

Meanwhile, character development is a secondarily important element in most of the educational institutes in Pakistan. The traits that build national character are barely practised and pro-fessed. Though Islamiat and ethics are taught in some educational institutes, they are more theoretical than applied. The civic apathy, incompetency, procrastination and fractured kinship testify to flaws in educa-tion. Moreover, the disturbing trends of intolerance, racism, xenophobia, political, ethnic and religious allegiance, political engineering, rampant corruption, terrorism and sectarianism are mainly manifestations of education without character. You need to rethink your existence if you believe only illiterates harm Pakistani society.

Had it been so, the national stakeholders and leadership with socalled elite educational backgrounds would not have brought the country to this sorry far. Against the backdrop of the moral crisis facing the country, the need for character education is overwhelmingly high. We must not lose sight of a bitter reality that our existing education system won't navigate the needs and test of the modern Assimilating morals and core character-building values into the national curricula, padagogical practices pedagogical practices and academic culture would go a long way in producing an upright population.

The climate IDP

Many internally dis-

displaced Internally persons (IDPs) remain among the most vulnera-ble people in the world. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement define IDPs as "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in par-ticular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situa-tions of generalized vio-lence, violations of lence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recog-nized border."

IDPs are often referred to as refugees. However, they do not fall within the legal definitions of a refugee. Pakistan's diverse geography and climate expose the coun-try to a wide range of cli-mate-induced disasters such as floods and landslides. Although Pakistan has contributed the least to the climate crisis (it is responsible for less than one per cent of the world's planet-warming gases), it is the eighth most vulnerable nation to the climate crisis, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 16.6 million IDPs and 94 disaster events were recorded in Pakistan from 2008 to 2021. During this period, floods triggered most of the displacements (15.4 million), followed by earthquakes (1.1 million). Other climate-induced

disasters which triggered internal displacements in Pakistan included chronic droughts, extreme tem-peratures, and frequent

occurring storms. In 2021 alone, 70,000 displacements internal were recorded in Pakistan, all of them triggered by climate-induced disasters. The recent erratic monsoon rains of 2022 have caused cata-strophic floods and affected an estimated 33 million across Pakistan. The climate change-driv-en disaster has claimed the lives of over 1,400 people and displaced mil-lions, including women, children, older people, and people with disabili-

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has revealed that flood water has washed away more than 1.7 million homes, displacing millions of people within Pakistan, who require shelter, food, healthcare and other

essentials.
Additionally, it has been revealed by the UNFPA that an estimated 75,000 pregnant women are affected by the recent floods, and 40,000 are expected to deliver their babies in September babies in September 2022. Women and girls are particularly exposed to the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during disaster events. The UN Women has revealed that more than 70 percent of women suffer various forms of gender-based discrimina-tion in humanitarian

placed children in Pakistan have lost access to education as their schools have been washed away. Many chil-dren would be forced to quit school and engage in child labour to earn a livelihood to help their families. Pakistan already has the world's second-highest number of out-ofschool children with an estimated 22.8 million children aged 5-16 not attending school, as per Unicef. It will be extremely challenging for Pakistan, which is still recovering from school closures due to Covid-19,

Additionally, the WHO has revealed that about 900 health facilities have been damaged across Pakistan. This places IDPs at risk of aggravated disease outbreaks such as dengue fever, malaria, polio, and Covid-19.

to send internally dis-

placed children back to

Despite a high number of recorded IDPs in Pakistan over the years and the vulnerability faced by them, the country has no national laws policies implemented that specifically apply to IDPs. The Land Acquisition Act 1894 is the only legal document that refers to displacement. However, it only applies to the acquisition of land for public purpos-

es and companies.
Article 25(1) of the constitution states: All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law. It is also important to note that Pakistan ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in June

Article 2(2) of the ICCPR obligates Pakistan to take "the necessary steps, in accor-dance with its constitutional processes and with the provisions of the pres-ent Covenant, to adopt such laws or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in the present Covenant." Therefore, Pakistan should enact legislation that specifically protects the rights of IDPs.

Pakistan can take inspiration from the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and incorporate them into its national legislation. The Guiding Principles were presented to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1998. They identify the rights and guarantee protection to IDPs in all states of their displacement. Although the Guiding Principles are not legally binding, they have attained significant authority since their inception. At the World Summit in September 2005 in New York, the Guiding Principles were recognized as an impor-tant international framework for the protection of

Recently. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited the flood-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan and stated that "there is a very unfair situation, in relation to the level of

By Rida Tahir

destruction we are seeing in Sindh." He added that "it is essential for the international community to understand that Pakistan, including Sindh, needs today masunderstand sive financial support to overcome this crisis," while emphasizing that this was not a matter of

generosity, but justice. The international community should support Pakistan as it responds to the unprecedented climate-induced floods.
Many IDPs remain displaced for years. The
international community should pledge to support Pakistan until all IDPs return home after the reconstruction of their homes and villages.

Despite a high number of recorded IDPs in Pakistan over the years and the vulnerability faced by them, the country has no national laws policies implemented that specifically apply to IDPs. The Land Acquisition Act 1894 is the only legal document that refers to displacement. However, it only olies to the acquisition of land for public purposes and companies. Article 25(1) of the

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Article 2(2) of the ICCPR obligates Pakistan to take "the nec-

Collision with happiness

very morn-ing I wake up and ask myself if I'm happy.
This is a ternble habit for
my mental health but
over the last few weeks,

the answer is that I'm actually happy. This is a strange and out of body strange and out of body experience because this hasn't been the case for the majority of my life. As little as six months ago, I was feeling unhap-py every morning, bor-dering on restlessness and litting with sadness flirting with sadness. What turned things

around and is this happi-ness sustainable? Six months ago, I was on paternity leave and had made big plans to pursue long term professional goals that I never had a chance to pursue because of my full time day job. I thought the extra time I had on paterextra time I had on paternity leave would allow me to pour myself into those goals but week after week, I was literally doing nothing to move the needle on that front. Instead, I was finding happiness in spending time with my daughter, wife and parents. As well as the joy of doing nothing. But I was trying to fight this feeling, rather

than embrace it. All my life, being a type A personality, happi-ness was married to my professional life. The paternity leave was a strange window into realising it's possible to be

unhappy professionally but happy personally. Perhaps this sounds obvious to most people but it was a profound realisa-tion for me. I'm also the kind of person who likes to reinvent his life every few years and by that I mean change everything. Originally, I had planned to use the paternity leave as an opportunity to rein-vent myself. But the burden of this reinvention
was weighing me down
because of the lack of
progress rather than
exciting me.
So I started experi-

So I started experi-menting with doing something different half way through my paternity leave. Instead of chang-ing everything at once, I started changing one thing a week and tried to chew on small pieces of it death. For background, I wanted to start two side wanted to start two side gigs, play tennis thrice a week, get closer to religion, n YouTube make a new be video every day, re-evaluate my purpose in life and take care of my new born baby during the paternity leave. The expectations were crushing me instead of inspiring me. So I started doing something radically simple. For one week, I told myself the only way I'd evaluate whether my day is a success is if I woke up in the morning and did a gratitude exer-cise, where I'd write down three things I'm grateful for in my diary. That's it. That's the only

thing I'd evaluate myself on. Everything else could wait, I was on leave after The gratitude exercise

had a transformational impact not just on my week — because I week — because I focused on what I was grateful for rather than what I didn't have or was behind on — but it also had a snowball effect that would rip through the existing pillars of my life. The following week the gratitude exercise became easier to do because it was turning into a habit so I decided to take on one more task. Setting up a tennis date for next week. One date instead of three. The next week I played tennis. The fol-lowing week I increased the frequency to twice a week. I felt so energised and excited at the end of my games and the morning after. Week by week, I added

a new habit or goal I wanted to achieve and because I was setting expectations so ridicu-lously low, I was actually able to achieve change and feel happy about my progress rather than denigrating myself for not making progress. Fast forward six months and my life stands transformed. I'm now playing tennis regularly, dinner with a friend every week, reading the newspaper, doing gratitude exercises and getting closer to God, I didn't

There can be no economic miracle in Pakistan!

hen Ishaq oath as federal finance and revenue minister more than a week ago, there was an instant depreciation in the rate of the dollar versus the rupee; rise in the stock exchange index; and reduction in the prices of petroleum products. Does it mean that one person, who has twice earlier served as federal finance minister escaped Pakistan five years ago because of corruption charges, can cause an economic miracle? Is there any rational basis of Dar's claim to fix the economy by stabilising the exchange rate; lower the interest rate and mitigate inflation?

Moreover, the meager \$8 billion forex reserves just enough to pay for only three weeks of imports, is another cause for concern. It will be nothing short of a miracle if Dar is able to have a paradigm shift in the economy because of harsh realities that will not allow the country to from escape escape from the inevitable. In the ongoing fiscal year, Pakistan has to arrange \$40 billion external financing. This is besides the \$20 billion worth of losses the recent floods have inflicted Artificial appreciation of the rupee against major currencies will not work because of high demand of the dollar for imports

and for other purposes. In today's Pakistan, miracles to salvage the economy are certainly not going to happen because of ground realities which are highly unfavorable. Neither the IMF nor the World Bank or the

friendly countries will come for the rescue of Pakistan because the country is constantly requesting donors to waive loans and provide more financial resources in order for it to avoid a financial default. Even in recent devastating floods, the country has not substantial received amount of financial assistance unlike in the case of the 2005 earthquake. Trust deficit and rampant corruption tend to discourage donors from providing cash assistance. Images of floods and the forceful appeal of the UN Secretary General to help Pakistan in this moment of crisis failed to bring positive results. Under the circumstances, Dar's taking up the economy is a major test case for the PML-N led coalition led coalition

government. Things were also difficult when Dar took over as finance minister in 2013 because of the PTIsit-in in Islamabad in 2014, but he managed to deal with that crisis. This time the situation is because Pakistan's economy is in dire straits and a country of 222 million people with a conglomeration of internal and external threats along with the devastation caused by the floods cannot have a smooth sailing for Dar despite his so-called magical skills. In 2013, the PML-N enjoyed a two-thirds mandate; but in 2022, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is heading a coalition of around a dozen parties that too with a razor thin dozen parties - and majority.

The existential threat to the coalition govern-ment in the shape of Imran Khan is real, and it will be difficult for the PML-N "financial wizard" to lead a paradigm shift in the economy. The threat of famine following massive floods looms large and the government has meager resources to import food items in order to prevent a crisis situation. With all economic indicators predict-ing a hopeless situation, what magic wand is Dar going to wave to fix the issues which tend to aggravate the country's political and economic situation

One needs to analyse three major realities which will continue to undermine Dar's "mystic" skills for an economic turnaround. First, the reality of corruption, nepotism, bad gover-nance, absence of rule of law and lack of accountability needs to be taken seriously. Miracles never happen when the country is unable to deal with issues which seriously work ethics.

mere words or rhetoric but must eradicate the culture of corruption and nepotism. How can a country be pulled from the brink of an economic disaster when it lacks the motivation, integrity and planning on the part of those who matter? Dar cannot let miracles

happen because his hands are not clean, as well as of many others who hap-pen to be his coalition partners and frontrunners of his own party.
Constant begging from
donors and friendly
countries will not help
because the elitist culture Pakistan is totally oblivious of ground realities pertaining to serious political and economic crisis. Artificially reducing prices and appreciation of rupees versus the dollar would be counterproductive and generate further crisis.

Second, no economic miracle is going to hap-pen unless our leadership has eight qualities in the ory and in practice: hard work, integrity, brilvision, commitment, dedication, planment, dedication, plan-ning, and wisdom, Looking at the other models of success, partic-ularly in developing world, one can learn from former Singaporean PM Lee Kuan Yu, former Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohammad. former Mohammad, former Chairman of Chinese Communist Party Mao Zedong and Nelson Mandela, the founding Dr Moonis Ahmar

president of post-apartheid South Africa. Other models of success are found in the UAE, Qatar, Muscat and Oman. Since the inception of Pakistan, leadership vac-uum and the lack of qualities essential to successfully run a country is a bitter reality.

Whether in civilian or in military control, Pakistan failed to emerge as a role model in good governance, rule of law and sound work ethics. Laziness, incompetence, dishonesty, fraud and cheating became acceptable norms which miti-gated Pakistan's rating in human development index, corruption percep-tion Index and human security Deterioration of quality of life of people in terms of absence of clean and safe drinking water for all, quality and compuleducation, housing, public transport and hygienic food are major challenges. When people at the helm of affairs are hated because of their corruption and nepotism, how can Pakistan put its

ble and qualified.

back. Among all creatures, humankind is high up the evolutionarily ladder due to unmatched cognitive abilities and intellectual prowess. These intellectual abilities were inherently own house in order? Third, miracles will not aimed at distinguishing good and evil, and regulat-ing life on earth in a manhappen unless there is culture of merit in Pakistan.When decisions ner that benefits not only are made on the basis of humans but their surroundvested interests and likes ings. and dislikes, the country humans have outstepped can never emerge as a successful state. Erosion and outreached their assigned authority and overestimated themselves of merit has a long history in Pakistan which eroded the trust of capaas an omnipotent entity enjoying complete impuni

Transcending limits

istoric moments warrant introspec-tions and reflection. The contemporary pandemic-ridden world seems to be at the crossroads. The prevailing onslaught of Covid-19 against humankind calls for a comprehensive contemplation on what went wrong in our quest for modernisation. The pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented crisis, the likes of which the world has not seen since World War II. Rather than viewing it as a traditional fleecing event, we need to mull over the lessons the pandemic is trying to teach us. When deliberating, one may be forced to conclude that something is wrong with what we have been doing. We shouldn't be oblivious of an inevitable principle: one gets what one gives. When we harm nature, nature harms us

Paradoxically

ty of all their activities

Rather than running the affairs and utilising the intellect and bounties in a just and sustainable manner, men have badly embezzled with nature's resources at the cost of destruction of other forms of life and of natural ecosystem. The recently released UN IPCC's terrifying sixth assessment report on the anthropogenic destruction of global climate is but a single instance of mankind's high-handedness against their surrounding environment. Even men didn't spare his fellow beings.

A few in the world hold

majority of the wealth the result: millions of people are currently consumed by poverty, hunger and disease. The rich-poor divide widens as time passes by Global poverty and widescale inequality are on the rise. Laws are made and broken for and by the rich, while the poor remain entangled in them. Merciless pogroms are a norm. The week dies of being preyed and conby capitalist predasumed tors. The tyranny against and persecutions of the weak, and the atrocities of rulers over their subjects have surged as time passes by. The growing scourge of terrorism and extremism, rising populism and demagoguery, and fascist political leadership is the new normal. Mass adulteration, hoarding, black-marketing, organised crimes, cheating, manipulating exploitating have

Ali Hassan Bangwar become common traits of

There is an ever-rising trend of flattery and hypocrisy, while everything remains centered around material success. Morality, ethos, empathy and compassion are all considered as outdated notions. One might wonder how is NASA even think-ing of colonising Mars if we have utterly failed to learn to live peacefully on earth despite being here for

our culture.

millenniums.

Though heinous acts may go unattended or unpunished by our judicial system, we must realise the earth has its own system of justice. Floods, droughts, forest fires, heat waves, tsunamis, epidemics, earthquakes, torrential rains and violent volcanic eruptions are just a few of the consequences that have come about due to our actions. COVID-19 among other cataclysms questions the sustainability of the exist-ing global order and the underlying principles of globalisation. The pandemic has given humankind the opportunity to rethink and reform existing socio-political and economical orders in line with principles of egalitarianism, eco-friendlessness, compassion and empathy. Rather than wasting resources on weapons, we must utilize it for the underprivileged, the poor and the weak. Since we have already prospered materially, we now need to invest in humanity if we want to shield ourselves

Hina Khar in France to participate in FATF meeting

I S L A M A B A D Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar is visiting France these days to participate in the FATF meet-

During her visit, State Minister Khar held a meeting with Diplomatic Adviser to the French President Emmanuel Bonne and discussed the current status of Pakistan-France bilateral relations France bilateral relations.

During the meeting held at Elysée, the official residence of the French president, they also exchanged views on important regional and global matters.

Khar also met with Additional Director

General of Development (AFD) Agency Bertrand Walckenaer at Pakistan Embassy in Paris. She lauded AFD's con-

tribution in energy, sus-tainable urban develop-ment and climate resilience projects in Pakistan. Different areas for future cooperation were also discussed. The minister of state

held a meeting with President of France-Pakistan Friendship Group in the French Senate Senator Pascal Allizard and Senator Madam Gisèle Jourda, a member of the group. The meeting was held at the historic building of the French Senate She appreciated the role played by Senator Allizard in furthering bilateral relations between Pakistan and France, especially in terms of parliamentary

cooperation.

Both sides also discussed political, trade, investment, economic, cultural and educational ties between the two countries as well as the situation of floods in Pakistan.

She appreciated the role played by Senator Allizard in furthering between Pakistan and France, especially in terms.INP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Information Technology Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque calls on Rana Tanveer HussainFederal Minister for Education and Professional Training.

ANTH, IMDC organize breast cancer awareness walk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital (ANTH) and Islamabad Medical & Dental College (IMDC) celebrated Pink Day on October 19, 2022, com-memorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month to raise public awareness about self-examination, screening, preexamination, screening, pre-vention and treatment of Breast Cancer.

The event included awareness stalls, bake sales, fun games, creative artworks, poster competition, pink ribbons and educational materials distributional constants.

als distribution alongside an awareness walk. Chairman ANTH/IMDC, Dr. Ghulam Akbar Khan Niazi, inaugurated the event with a ribbon cutting ceremony in the presence of Managing Director Yasir Khan

institutional Innovation will facilitate Pak-China Trade, says

a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. A forum titled Shanghai

Cooperation Organization Demonstration Area (SCODA) Institutional Innovation cases

was held. At the press confer-ence, 20 business cases were

Niazi, Principal IMDC Prof. Dr. Syed Irfan Ahmad, and Director Hospital Col. (R) Ghulam Mujtaba Abbasi

A large number of doctors, students, faculty members and people of other walks of life participated in the event. The Chairman appreciated the management, staff, and stu-dents for their efforts to raise awareness about this fatal dis-

Yasir Khan Niazi said on this occasion that ANTH is committed to spreading awareness and providing quality Breast Cancer services in its One-Stop Breast Clinic, and emphasized the importance of early detection to cure this fatal disease as it is easier to treat when found

Head

Communications Imran Ali Ghouri told media that the hospital and college are also organizing awareness sessions in various educational institu-tions and corporate sector to spread the message of selfexamination and screening for early detection of Breast

In this connection, the hos-pital is also offering free consultation and subsidized diagnostics to everyone at its Executive Clinics in G-8 Markaz, Islamabad, on October 21 and 22, 2022.

The MD further said that "we are determined to keep

collaborating with the govern-ment and other partners to make every effort in the month of October and beyond in order to lowering the bur-den of Breast INP

SCODA Institutional Innovation to facilitate Pak-China Trade

Asian nation's economic crisis, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday. "We are not asking for any kind of measure [such as] a reschedul-ing or a moratorium," the coun-try's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told the Financial Times. "We are asking for additional

"We are asking for additional funds." The country needs "huge sums of money" for "mega undertak-ings" such as rebuilding roads,

Five injured

after fire erupts

in Karachi

house

KARACHI: A fire broke out on Wednesday morning in an apart-ment located in Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal area, injuring five people including a woman. As per details, the fire broke out in block 11 of Gulshan-e-Iqbal res-idential flats early Wednesday morning

Morning.

After being informed, the fire brigade and rescue teams reached the spot and brought the fire under

control. As a result, five people including a woman received burn

All the injured people were shifted to the burns ward of Civil

Hospital Karachi. According to the

initial investigation, the fire broke out due to a short circuit INP

Pakistan

seeks billions of

dollars in new

loans after

floods: Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan will ask nternational lenders for billions of

dollars in loans after devastating floods exacerbated the South

bridges and other infrastructure damaged or washed away, the FT quoted Sharif as saying.

Sharif did not specify the amount Pakistan is seeking, but repeated an estimate of \$30 billion of flood lesses the report said. of flood losses, the report said. Earlier this month, the United

Nations raised its humanitarian aid appeal for Pakistan five-fold to \$816 million from \$160 million, as a surge in water-borne diseases and fear of growing hunger pose new dangers after the unprecedent-ed floods, read more

The European Union also scaled up its flood assistance to 30 million euros (\$29.57 million).

A decline in Pakistan's currency

is also pushing up the cost of imports, borrowing and debt servinfloring, and will further exacerbate inflation already running at a multi-decade high of 27.3%.

The estimated \$30 billion in damage to the economy from the floods along with rising INP

Use of technology attracts young entrepreneurs to agri sector: WealthPK

use of modern technology is not only benefiting farmers but also attracting young entrepreneurs to the agriculture sector in Pakistan, WealthPK reports. ISLAMABAD: The

major role in farming and agriculture prac-tices, However, young people are mostly hesi-tant to choose agricul-ture as their profession or enter the agriculture sector owing to conven-tional methods of farming. In addition to sta-bilising the agriculture sector, the use of modern technology is also attracting young and educated people to the industry.

Imtiaz Deputy Director General of the National General of the National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad, told WealthPK that new farming technologies were attracting the young generation to the agriculture sector in the

country. He said that in the past, young people turned away from agri-culture to avoid the long and difficult hours of work required for getting sufficient yield. However, the tendency was reversible with the use of the latest technologies in the agricul-ture sector, he added. "In addition to stabil-

ising farms in the immediate term, mod-ern technology is trans-forming the role of the farmer to incorporate skill sets more relevant to a younger generation. This change can't happen at a better time as conventional farming practices won't attract youth," said Imtiaz

Hussain.
Agriculture is the major source of foreign reserves and Pakistan being an agrarian country relies heavily on this sector. The current share of agriculture accounts for 22% of the Gross Domestic Product against 19.2% in the previous year. In the country, about 83 million people are associated with the agriculture

"With the develop-ment of digital technol-ogy, the use of technology in farming and agricultural operations has widened and farmers are benefiting from it. Continuous progress in agriculture is driven by the use of digital and analytical tools. This has improved crop yields and helped to boost the revenue of the farming community," said Imtiaz Hussain. He said that the farm-

ers, who were quick to absorb new technology, were diversifying their operations and integrat-ing technologies like artificial intelligence, remote sensing and others. "They can signifi-cantly decrease their reliance on inputs like

cantly decrease their reliance on inputs like water, fertiliser and pesticides by using these technologies to improve yields," he added.

Imtiaz Hussain claimed that growing organic veggies for personal consumption would be the key advantage for young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. The best vegetables for consumption, in his opinion, are those grown in a personal garden or on the roof of house.

"In terms of nutrition and safety, there is no substitute for organic agricultural products that people grow themselves," said Imtiaz Hussain. Pakistan still needs more advancement in technology adoption. In countries like Pakistan, where agriculture policies are not farmer-friendly, it is understandable that many people have been switching to the corpomany people have been switching to the corpo-rate sector.INP

with SCO countries. BEIJING: Shanghai Cooperation Organization Demonstration Area (SCODA)

Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) qualification is Economic

logical achievements, free movement of people, and con-venience of financial supply, providing solutions for promot-ing trade facilitation and raising the level of economic and trade cooperation among SCO countries."These cases are aimed at the problems existing in the ecothe problems existing in the economic and trade cooperation
between the SCO and BRI countries," Meng Qingsheng,
Member of the Party Working
Committee and Deputy Director
of the Administrative
Committee of SCODA, highlighted on the occasion that,
"SCODA has cumulatively
launched more than 50 cases of

launched more than 50 cases of system innovation. A number of distinctive and influential achievements.INP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy President Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) Onder Bozkrt addressing a press conference at Embassy of Turkey in Federal Capital.

China maintains growth engine of the world economy: Report

ISLAMABAD Numerous reports of World Bank and IMF have clearly indicated that the Chinese macroeconomy has been a driving force for further development and recovery from the global cri-sis since 2008, said Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, Executive Director of the Center for South Asia & International Studies International Studies (CSAIS) in a report published by Gwadar

Pro on Wednesday. Moreover, its multidi-mensional role in the further development, recovery, stability and sustainability of the regional as well as global economies has been enhanced which is

commendable. In this connection, despite global gloomy doomy economic ditions, financial conditions,

crunch, widening ener-gy & food crises, impo-sition of socio-economic sanctions against
China by the US and
punitive legislations
against China and
developing countries,
China is now playing an ous years.

solidating global economic recovery which vividly reflects its increasing role in the global economy and governance alike during the last decade. The most recently published report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)upholds that China accounted

for 18.5 percent of the global economy in 2021, 7.2 percent points higher than in 2012, remaining the world's second-largest econo-my. Moreover, its GDP exceeded RMB 114 tril-

increasingly important role in driving and con-

lion (about \$18.1 tril-lion) in 2021, registering an increase of 8.1 percent over the previ-

The average growth rate of China's GDP reached 6.6 percent from 2013 to 2021, higher than the world's average growth rate of 2.6 percent and that of 2.6 percent and that of the developing economies at 3.7 percent. China's per-capita GDP reached 80,976 yuan (\$11,684) in 2021, up 69.7 percent from 2012 which rightly showcases its upward socio-economic prosperity and immense social development in

the country catering to the basic needs and skills of its population. NBS further reveals that China's per-capita disposable income reached 35,128 yuan (\$4,903) in 2021.INP

centrally released. SCODA has expressed cooperation intentions with Pakistan, Uzbekistan and other SCO countries to gradually promote mutual recognition of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) with relevant SCO coun-tries and deepen trade activities

> SC orders nab to compile lists of mega corruption cases

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has started compiling lists of all the mega corruption cases following Supreme Court (SC) orders. er details, the anti-graft watchdog

started compiling mega corruption lists on the apex court order which it passed while hearing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's petition against NAB amendments last

The top court also ordered the preservation of the records of all the references returned after the amendments to the law and had asked for a

In light of the Supreme Court order, the NAB will also include fraud cases with the general public in the mega corruption list.

Furthermore, former presidents, prime ministers, and former federal and additional secretaries' cases will be part of the list.

Cases registered from the establishment of NAB till October 22 would also be added to the

Several cabinet

members fail to

declare assets

ISLAMABAD: The majority of advisors and special assistants to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the fed-

eral cabinet have not disclosed details of their assets on online portal of the cabinet secretariat, ARY News

According to details, among the 29 SAPMs, only five have declared their assets which included Tariq Fatemi, Shiza Khawaja, Owais Siddiqui and Sadiq

Those who have not declared their assets included Muhammad Sadiq, Syed Fahd Husain, Hafiz Abdul Karim, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Sheikh Fayyaz Ud Din, Romina Khurshid Alam, Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Zafaruddin Mahmood, Attaullah Tarar,

Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Rubina Irfan, Malil

Abdul Ghaffar Dogar, Shaharyar Ali Khan, Nawabzada Iftakhar Ahmed Khan Babar, Mahar Irshad Ahmad Khan, Raza Rabani Khar, Mahesh Kumar Malani, Faisal Karim Kundi, Sardar Saleem Haider and others. The advisors include Awn Chaudhry and Ahad

Cheema According to the rules, these advisors and spe-cial assistants are breaching a cabinet resolution made under the ex-PM's term to increase openness for the

detailed list of all the cases till now

list, the statement said INP

a "green" pass for global trade. After signing a mutual recognition agreement between coun-tries (regions), AEO enterprises can enjoy convenient treatment in customs clearance, which can effectively reduce the cost of port services, insurance, logis-tics, and improve their interna-

tional competitiveness.

In addition to promoting trade development with AEO mutual recognition and cooperation with SCO countries, the conference also released innovative cases involving logistics and cases involving logistics and transportation, production capacity cooperation, transfor-mation of scientific and techno-

HYDERABAD: Resident of Baldia Thana aria relative of Amir chand hold a protest against police outside SSP office.

No need to worry, country saved from default, though at very high political cost: Dar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here Wednesday once again gave a clear message that there was no question of Pakistan going into default as the same has been averted, though at very high polit-ical cost."I want to give message to markets through this conference... no need to get nervous, we are back to business In Sha Allah we will arrange everything. Nothing is to worry" the minister said while addressing the All Pakistan Chartered Accountant Pakistan Chartered Accountant Conference.He said Pakistan would be fine and nobody should have problem because "Pakistan will not default," adding that that there were serious challenges the country had been facing however

the incumbent government had rescued it from default although it had to give very high political cost.If there is choice between State or politics, the priority should be state and not the politics as "If the country is there, there may be politics. If there is no county where there would be politics?" he asked. The minister said that the country would require around \$32-34 billion to fulfill its liabilities and financial needs for the fiscal year 2022-23. These include around \$22 multilateral-level debt liabilities and around level debt liabilities and around billion current account deficit.He however was of the view that government would work hard to fulfill these sovereign guarantees to save pride of the country.INP

ovid kills three after a long break in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 is back to its killing ways in Pakistan after a long break as the it killed three people and infected another 55 during the last 24 hours, showed the figures released by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on Wednesday

morning.

The death toll in the country climbed up to 30,623 while the number of total infections now rose to 1,573,452 after adding the fresh 55 cases.

During the last 24 hours (Tuesday), 8,815 were conducted ghout Pakistan throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 0.62 percent. The number of patients in critical care was recorded at 45

A warming climate could bring viruses in the Arctic into contact with new environments and hosts, increasing the risk of "viral spillover", according to research published risk

Wednesday.
Viruses need hosts
like humans, animals,
plants or fungi to replicate and spread, and occasionally they can jump to a new one that lacks immunity, as seen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Scientists in Canada wanted to investigate how climate change might affect spillover risk by examining sam-ples from the Arctic landscape of Lake Hazen.

It is the largest lake in the world entirely north of the Arctic Circle, and "was truly unlike any other place I've been", researcher Graham Colby, now a medical student at University of Toronto, told AFP.

The team sampled soil that becomes a riverbed for melted glacier water in the summer, as well as the lakebed itself -- which required clearing snow and drilling through two metres of ice, even in May when the in May when the research was carried

They used ropes and a snowmobile to lift the lake sediment through almost 300 metres (980 feet) of water, and samples were sequenced for DNA and RNA, the genetic blue-prints and messengers

public interest INP

"This enabled us to know what viruses are in a given environment, and what potential hosts are also present," said Stephane Aris-Brosou, an associate professor in the University of Ottawa's biology Ottawa's biology department, who led the

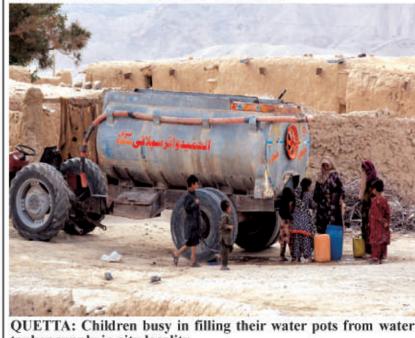
But to find out how likely they were to jump hosts, the team

equivalent of each virus and host's family tree.
"Basically what we tried to do is measure how similar these trees are," said Audree Lemieux, first author of the research.

needed to examine the

Similar genealogies suggest a virus has evolved along with its host, but differences suggest spillover. And if a virus has

jumped hosts once, it is more likely to do so again. The analysis found pronounced differences between virus-es and hosts in the lakebed, "which directly correlated to the risk of spillover," said Aris-Brosou INP



tanker supply in city locality.

PM Shehbaz stresses need for Pak-China | There should be balance in respect of agreement on disaster management

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that he would like to suggest to the Chinese delegation, currently on a visit to Pakistan, to sign an agreement with Pakistan on disaster management before returning to their

He was talking to a special delegation of experts of China's disaster management department, Xu Xianbiao in Islamabad.

He said that he and the entire nation was thank-

ful to the government and the people of China for extending support to Pakistan during floods. "No doubt, China has always helped Pakistan in crisis," he said, adding this was most apt example of a longstanding relationship between the two countries. tries.
PM Shehbaz further said that several places in

Sindh and Balochistan were still under floodwater

Sindh and Balochistan were still under floodwater.

"And to make matters worse, the emergence of waterborne diseases there has created a new challenge for the government," he said.

He said he was also grateful to the employees of Chinese firms both in China and Pakistan for donating to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund Members of the delegation, on the occasion, briefed him about their visit to the flood-affected areas of Pakistan. They informed him that they were here to provide technical assistance to Pakistan in launching short, medium and long-term Pakistan in launching short, medium and long-term projects for building an infrastructure that would not only help forecast floods better but also mitigate their impact. They told the prime minister that they had formed working groups in order to collab-orate with concerned departments in Pakistan. INP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review progress on CPEC proj-

Fertilizers crisis deepens as prices soar in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: The crisis of Urea fertilizer on Wednesday deepened in Faisalabad as the season of Rabi crop

is around the corner.
Although the farmers have started preparing their lands for wheat crop but they remain apprehensive because the urea fertilizers is selling in black in the wheat season.

The official price of a urea bags is 2250 rupees, but it is being sold at 3000 rupees per bag in the market of Faisalabad that is much higher than the notified ones.

Despite the fact that Punjab is the country's biggest fertilizer consumer, the district administration has failed to implement the government rates in the

The skyrocketing prices of fertilizers especially urea compost has left the farmers desolate ahead of the production of wheat.

The country's agricultural is on its last legs as a result of the devastating flood, which will further imperil food security.INP

Pakistan reports 55 coronavirus cases, three deaths in 24

LAHORE: Pakistan has reported three deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of confirmed positive cases has surged to 1,573,490. The nationwide tally of fatalities jumped to 30,624 on

According to the latest figures by the National Institute of Health (NIH), at least 55 persons were tested positive for COVID-19 across the country in the past 24 hours.

Pakistan has conducted 8,815 tests in the past 24 hours out of which 55 persons were tested positive for the disease. The COVID Positivity Ratio was recorded at 0.62 percent. INP

Fazlur Rehman summons PDM meeting on October 21

ISLAMABAD: Head of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has summoned the meeting of govern-ment's alliance on Friday (October

The meeting will be held at the Muslim League Secretariat in Chak Shahzad on Friday which will be presided over by Maulana Fazlur Rehman. All heads of political parties in the PDM will attend the meeting.

According to sources, various issues including rising inflation in the country will be discussed in the meet-ing. The meeting will review prices of petroleum products and discuss about

providing relief to the people.

Sources further informed that the meeting will consider the strategy to stop the proposed long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) INP

AGP detects Rs61m theft in Pakistan Railways in previous govt

LAHORE: The Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) has detected theft of over Rs60 million in Pakistan Railways during the fiscal year 2019-20, exposing gross mismanagement within the state-run transport service that continues to incur losses upon

Pakistan's top auditor, in his audit report for 2019-20, said that the mate-rial and equipment worth millions of rupees had been stolen from Pakistan Railways in FY 2020-21, during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) govt tenure.INP

NA-237 by-election: **SHO Malir suspended** over poor security

KARACHI: Sindh police on Wednesday suspended SHO Malir city and head mohrar over poor

city and head mohrar over poor security arrangements during the NA-237 by-election in Karachi.

Taking action on the poor security arrangements during the NA-237 by-election, Sindh police officials after suspending SHO Malir city and head mohrar have summoned a response from them

moned a response from them.
On Sunday's by-election in NA237 Malir, Pakistan Tehreek-eInsaf leader Bilal Ghaffar was
injured in an attack as the police failed to maintain law and order.

A case was also lodged against alleged bogus voting and DVR theft in the constituency. The police said they are investigating the matter.

Sunday, PPP candidate Abdul Hakeem Baloch defeated former prime minister Imran Khan in Karachi's NA-237 Malir con-stituency PPP candidate obtained 32,567 votes while PTI chief

Imran Khan stood second with 22,493 votes, as per unofficial and unconfirmed results from all 194 polling stations.

In a press conference, the for-mer prime minister demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold re-election in Karachi's NA-237 constituency,

Karachi's NA-237 constituency, accusing Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of 'rigging'.

A case was also lodged against alleged bogus voting and DVR theft in the constituency. The police said they are investigating the matter. the matter.

On Sunday, PPP candidate Abdul Hakeem Baloch defeated former prime minister Imran Khan in Karachi's NA-237 Malir con-

PPP candidate obtained 32,567 votes while PTI chief Imran Khan stood second with 22,493 votes, as per unofficial and unconfirmed results from all 194 polling sta-tions.INP

Hafiz Naeemur Rehman says PPP 'afraid' of LG polls

KARACHI: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Wednesday claimed Pakistan Wednesday claimed Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is afraid of LG polls Rehman in an inter-view said "Why is PPP afraid of the LG polls if it claims to be a democratic party" he termed the postponement of LG polls an unfortunate act These remarks came after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced to the postponement of the scheduled LG polls in Karachi. The JI Karachi Chief accused the ECP of unlawfully favouring PPP led Sindh government. He said, "If Chief Election Commissioner cannot hold elections then he should resign."

Lambasting at PPP and MQM-P leadership, the JI leader said both parties are rul-

ing the province since 1988 but the people of Karachi are deprived of their basic rights.

Earlier, Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rahman announced to move Supreme Court (SC) against the postponement of local government (LG) elections in Karachi.

The Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) leader said the party would

leader said the party would launch a big movement for the betterment of Karachi

The JI Karachi Chief accused the ECP of unlawfully favour-ing PPP led Sindh government. He said, "If Chief Election Commissioner cannot hold elec-tions then he should resign." Commissioner cannot hold elec-tions then he should resign."
Lambasting at PPP and MQM-P leadership, the JI leader said both parties are ruling the province since 1988 but the people of Karachi are deprived of their basic rights.INP

Sindh doctors, paramedics boycott OPDs, demand health risk allowance

KARACHI/SUKKUR: Sindh doctors and paramedical staff on Wednesday boycotted OPDs against non-provision of health risk allowance to them.

The Sindh government's deci-sion to end health risk allowance in the wake of Covid pandemic sparked protests at the government hospitals of the province.

In Karachi, doctors and para-medical staff of the Civil hospi-tal boycotted the OPDs to assert pressure on the Sindh govern-ment for the revival of health

risk allowance.

In Sukkur, the doctors, nurses and paramedical staff of Sukkur Civil hospital also staged protests against the cancellation of the health risk allowance.

The protesters said, that the allowance is not meant only for the services they rendered during Corona pandemic, they treat patients suffering from HIV and

other infectious diseases, so their lives are at risk 24 hours. The protesting doctors and paramedical staff urged the Sindh government to revive the

health risk allowance. Meanwhile, the Sindh health department has decided to serve show-cause notices to the protesting doctors and paramedical staff. In Karachi, doctors and paramedical staff of the Civil hospital boycotted the OPDs to assert pressure on the Sindh government for the revival of health risk allowance.

In Sukkur, the doctors, nurses and paramedical staff of Sukkur Civil hospital also staged protests against the cancellation of the health risk allowance. The protesters said, that the

allowance is not meant only for the services they rendered dur-ing Corona pandemic, they treat patients suffering from HIV and other infectious diseases INP

ply an internet connec-tion. If the person wants to purchase the high-value non-judicial or judi-cial stamp papers, he will need to provide the data regarding the area he wants to purchase. The system will auto-matically calculate the value of the stamp.INP

Federal Minister for Law and Justice since April 2022.

 During his career, Mr. Tarar established himself as a leading Criminal and Constitutional Lawyer and has ndreds of reported judgments to nis

ISLAMABAD: federal minister for law and justice Azam Nazeer Tarar addressing on he international human rights law.

fundamental human rights: CJP

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Atta Bandial has remarked there should be bal-ance in respect of fundamental human rights.

if there are rights of common citizen then on the other side there are national interest and rights of society. There should be balance among the two. The petitioner is linking the affording of benefit to an individual to rights of the society. How the NAB law is detrimental to the public interest. This question is very important. If the cases go to other forums then what will happen. We need assistance on it, he further remarked.

The petition filed by PTI chairman Imran Khan against amendment in NAB law came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP Umar Atta Bandial here Wednesday.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan raised the question during the

hearing of the case has any been left to whom exemption has not been given from NAB law. The decisions of chairmen and vice chairmen of Tehsil councils

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah inquired how can any decision be described wrong without proving financial benefit. Apparently the public office holders have been given liberty for decision making.

Khawaja Haris counsel for imran Khan told the court recovery of more than Rs 8 billion was made from such decision makers in the past

from such decision makers in the past. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked every govern-

ment decision affords benefit to any one communi-ty. Was the recovery made from public office holders. Khawaja Haris took the plea the recovery was made from those who had received money for public office holders. Online

AWG comes as a solution for water-stressed Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Atmospheric water generator (AWG) comes as an alternative system for Pakistan that direly needs alternative sources of water to meet the daily needs of its over 200 million people, reports WealthPK.

An AWG is a device that converts moisture into water. It can work independently without water reserves and adapt to harsh climate conditions in any location. The system's daily output is anticipat-

any location. The system's daily output is anticipated to be 15 litres.

Rabia Liaquat, Head of Department of Energy Systems Engineering, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), told WealthPK that the product can even extract water in harsh environmental conditions with humidity level as low as 30% and temperatures lower than 35°C.

She said water extraction was made possible by

She said water extraction was made possible by the recently developed idea of liquid desiccants in which the desiccant itself is a hygroscopic (waterabsorbing) component. It is more efficient than other methods of drawing moisture from the surroundings

The extraction process involves releasing all of the water absorbed by the desiccant from the sur-rounding atmosphere and then reabsorbing it so the cycle can proceed, she added.

Rabia said water is necessary for continuation of human life. To meet the needs of more than 200 million people and the growing demand for all sectors of economy, Pakistan needs alternative sources of water production for water-scarce rural regions. Many of these regions are located along Pakistan's southern coastline. 'Although the Arabian Sea is around the southern coastlines, this region also has high humidity in the wind. Owing to a lack of

the Karachi commissioner has failed to control the increasing milk prices in

the provincial capital.

The price of milk has reached to Rs200 per litre in Karachi but the city

administration is only car-

rying out show-off opera-tions against the profi-

In December 2021, commissioner Karachi fixed the milk price at Rs

120/ litre but the com-

modity was being sold at Rs180 per litre in the city.

Recently, the Dairy and Cattlefarms Associations jacked up milk prices by Rs20 per litre, taking the new rate to Rs200 in the metropolis

Despite imposing heavy fines, dairy prod-ucts are being sold at high prices in the retail market,

lems for the already infla-

lems for the already infla-tion-hit people.

Earlier, Karachi Dairy and Cattle Farmers Association jacked up the milk price by Rs20 per litre in the city.

They said we were compelled to increase the milk price due to increase in the fares of the vehicles

in the fares of the vehicles

used for the transportation of milk and in the rates of

E-stamp

paper system

launched in

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) gov-ernment has launched E-

ernment has launched Estamp paper which would
stop the selling of bogus
stamp paper and fraud.

KP CM Mahmood
Khan launched the Estamp paper in the
province and said this
would stop the issuance
of stamp papers on older
dates.

dates.
E-stamp paper help in resolving the property dispute, he said and added

now people can verify the stamp paper online and fraud and forgery can be

prevented. How to use an

For the people who are wondering how to use the

new e-Stamping system, he/she need to have sim-

e-Stamping System?

dairy farm items. INP

metropolis.

knowledge about using the humid air to extract water, the country's southern parts face drinking water difficulties, particularly those located around

water difficulties, particularly those located around the Makran coastline. These coastal regions have a high humidity level (about 70-80%) and the government can use AWG to absorb water from the air suitable for drinking," said Rabia.

Temperature and humidity are the two main components needed to create water. Temperatures between 21°C and 35°C and relative humidity levels between 35% and 100% are the ideal operating ranges she added.

ranges, she added.

According to a representative of Industrad Group, with some design improvements, large-scale industrial water extraction using AWG is also achievable. It pulls water from the air using a series of chemical salts. Salt attracts and retains moisture naturally. Humid air travels across salt in desiccant-based water producers. Wet salt is boiled. The condensed steam is filtered to produce water. Moreover, a vacuum is also used to lower water's boiling point to conserve energy. Desiccant-based atmospheric water generation uses less energy than other techniques

He explained that AWG is a sustainable way to produce water since the atmosphere contains 3100 cubic miles (12,900 square kilometres) of water. That's nearly enough water to fill the Great Lakes. The hydrologic cycle constantly replenishes water

vapour, therefore, collecting water from the air may continue endlessly without harming the planet. Rabia said AWGs are also equipped with an antimicrobial air filter to remove impurities from the air. The water is further purified in later stages of the process with Ozone.INP

Karachi Controversial tweets case: commissioner Court adjourns hearing on fails to control milk prices Azam Swati's bail plea KARACHI: In a time of unrelenting inflation,

ISLAMABAD: A court on Monday adjourned the hearing on bail plea of Azam Swati on the prosecutor's request for more time to prepare argu-

During the hearing, PTI leader's lawyer Babar Awan said that the FIR states that the senator's tweet is

considered against Pakistan's integrity "The tweet was published at 7pm and the FIR was filed at 1am, when and where did the inquiry took place?" he questioned.
"Any statement given by a political."

"Any statement given by a political figure cannot impact Pakistan's armed forces", Awan said.

He also said that the chief justice and the judiciary in a case said that a

single tweet cannot harm the institutions of Pakistan.

However, judge told Swati's coun-sel to focus on the non-bailable clauses and not on the bailable ones

Later, prosecutor sough time to present his arguments. "You are not a child who needs to

"You are not a child who needs to be given time to prepare," the judge told the prosecutor and asked him to be ready at next hearing.

"Any statement given by a political figure cannot impact Pakistan's armed forces", Awan said.

He also said that the chief justice and the judiciary in a case said that a single tweet cannot harm the

single tweet cannot harm the institutions of Pakistan INP



KARACHI:Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing at the residence of Hakeem Baloch, the newly elected Member of National Assembly who defeated PTI Chairman Imran Khan on NA-237 Malir

Meeting in Rawalpindi to be positive development for Pakistan: Sh Rashid

League (AML) chief and former inte-rior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad on Wednesday said that the meeting in Rawalpindi will prove to be a pos-itive development for Pakistan.

In a statement on Twitter, the AML chief while targeting the incumbent government for the challenges being faced by the state said the govern-ment has pushed the country into political and economic bankruptcy.

He said they want to bring us [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership] Pakistan lehreek-e-insat leadership]
to the assembly for a deal over
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
(PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif's
disqualified for life.

He further hinted that the final
round will be held in 10 days and the
months of October, November will be
decisive. He made it clear that long
march or election date one is a must

march or election date, one is a must.

The former federal minister further said that the state institutions are with the oppressed people, not the oppressors. Further lashing out at the PML-N leaders he added that the Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah will bring down the government. He also criticized the Finance Minister Ishaq Dargarian that Darg saying that Dar has not received any-thing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the world. There are neither any dollars nor the money to pay salaries, he added. He said they want to bring us [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership] to the assembly for a deal over Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif's disqualified for life. He further hinted that the final

round will be held in 10 days and the months of October, November will be decisive. He made it clear that long march or election date, one is a must. The former federal minister further

said that the state institutions are with the oppressed people, not the oppressors.INP

It doesn't concern me whoever becomes Army Chief, says Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: Former prime min-ister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has asserted that it doesn't concern him who becomes the next army chief.

The former premier made these remarks while talking to a delegation of the National Press Club and the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ), who had called on him at his Banigala residence.

During the meeting, they discussed the freedom of expression situation in the country and the fascism against journalists at the government level, said a statement.Imran Khan noted said a statement infran knan noted that the PTI's political struggle was based on the supremacy of the Constitution and law. "It is impossible to imagine a prosperous society without the establishment of justice and the rule of law," he said The PTI chief further said that the corrupt elite nurtured the culture of trampling the

constitution and law for their own interests, adding that his 'Haqiqi Azadi' movement would bring the rule of law to the country.

He also criticised the coalition gov-

rement, saying that violations of human rights at the hands of the "imported government", especially curbs on the media, were unprece-dented. He added that a shameful tra-dition of torture was revived for the dition of torture was revived for the expression of opinion by senior Senator Azam Swati and other political workers and journalists. On appointment of next army chief, the former prime minister said that he doesn't concern him whoever becomes Chief of Army Staff (COAS). Reiterating his call for early and transparent elections, he said that the party was preparing to bring its the party was preparing to bring its movement to its logical end in a vigorous manner while staying within the framework INP