

QUETTA VOICE

Email address:
quettavoic@gmail.com

Thursday 27
October, 2022

Https:// www.quettavoic.com/

ABC Certified

Quettavoic



SHO Brewery Quetta suspended after arrest of 2 policemen by anti corruption



SC rejects govt's request to immediately stop PTI's long march, advises talks with Imran

Gas loadshedding in Quetta as SSGC officials refuse to comment

Musavir Khan, Manan Mandokhail

With the arrival of autumn, citizens of Quetta have been facing gas load shedding for the last more than a week. Dry weather and cold wind further compounded the problems of citizens of this provincial capital. "No gas supply for the last three hours", Syed Muhammad, a resident of Nawan Killi said.

No, and low gas pressure in Pashtoonabad, Nawan Killi, Sariab Road, Marriabad, Khartobad, and other outskirts of Quetta. This daily tried to speak to the concerned officer in the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC). However, no contact could be established with the concerned officer of the SSGC.



SSGC PRO-based in Karachi remains out of contact

"I cannot comment on gas pressure SSGC Public Relations Officer (PRO) is based in Karachi", Muhammad

Anwar Baloch, the General Manager of SSGC Quetta said. He refused to comment on public complaints when asked by this daily.

"What an irony, we are facing unannounced load shedding before the winter", Muhammad Bilal, a resident of Quetta's Sariab Road said. Without any intimation, the gas supply sudden-

ly disappears in different parts of Quetta. This causes gas explosions when the supply resumes without any intimation.

"My room was filled with gas when I came back after two hours", Muhammad Khan, a resident of Mission Road Quetta said. The gas heater was on when Mr. Khan left the

house as he came back, the room was filled with gas since there was an announced load shedding.

Gas blasts claim

precious human lives
"Fortunately, there was no blast as I opened all windows", Mr. Khan informed.

Gas leakage and blasts have claimed scores of precious human lives in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. Besides Quetta, people in Ziarat, Kalat, Mastung, Pishin and other parts of Balochistan have also complained about gas load shedding.

There has been no campaign on the part of SSGC regarding the gas load shedding schedule and creating awareness among the people in the chilly weather regarding gas leakage and explosions.

20000 illegal tube wells operating in Balochistan: QESCO Chief

Syed Kaleem Shah

The Chief Executive Officer of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), Abdul Kareem Jamali said that there are over 20000 illegal tube wells operating in Balochistan. "Industrialists, traders, and growers should support us to prevent illegal connections and recover the due bills from the consumers and eliminate losses", he lamented.

At this time, the company owes billions of rupees to

growers, provincial and federal departments, and other consumers. "The company will provide 24-hour electricity to the consumers of the feeders whose recovery is 100 percent", Mr. Jamali told Daily Quetta Voice.

Uninterrupted electricity supply to industrialists in Bostan Special Economic Zone and Industrial Zone is our first priority and we will end the difficulties in this regard. He expressed these views while speaking to the officials and members of the Chamber of Commerce and



Industry Quetta Balochistan on Wednesday. We will not spare the elec-

tricity thieves and defaulters: The meeting discussed The President of the

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Quetta Balochistan Haji Abdullah Achakzai, Senior Vice President Agha Gul Khilji and Vice President Syed Abdul Ahad Agha, and other officers said that they will not spare the electricity thieves and defaulters, but they want electricity for industrialists and consumers associated with the business community.

They also expressed concern over the unannounced and prolonged load shedding of electricity during the agricultural season and said that

the agricultural sector is suffering due to the non-availability of electricity.

We are ready to provide electricity for 24 hours if bills are paid on time. Mr. Jamali

Mr. Jamali said that during the last year, only 30% recovery has been made in bills of Rs 10,000 from the growers and if the bills are paid on time, we are ready to provide electricity for 24 hours. Work is going on at a 500 KV grade station in Ormara, efforts are being made to connect it to Loralai, Quetta, Mastung, Khuzdar, and then Gwadar.

Our priority is to solve the problems of connections, tripping, and lack of voltage.

The Chief Executive Officer of QESCO said that the elected representatives of the province have to play a role to revise the subsidy on agricultural tube wells. The illegal connections have destroyed the entire electricity system. QESCO chief and the officials and members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Quetta Balochistan agreed to visit Bostan Special Economic Zone in the next week.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting regarding mental health, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Policeman martyred in a hand grenade attack at Dhadar police station

Aziz Marri

A policeman was martyred in a hand grenade attack in Balochistan's Kachhi district on Wednesday. Police sources said armed accused attacked the Dhadar police station and one policeman was martyred.

Police sources said the martyred policeman was a resident of Bhag city. The attackers fled from the spot after the attack. Police also retaliated the fire and the armed accused managed to escape unhurt from the spot.

A huge contingent of police reached the Dhadar police station and launched a search operation to apprehend the culprits behind the attack. However, no arrest was made in connection with the attack on the police station. The dead body of the martyred policeman was shifted to



the district headquarters hospital in Kachhi. The dead body was handed over to the heirs after the completion of necessary official procedures. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

SC rejects govt's request to immediately stop PTI's long march, advises talks with Imran Khan

The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected the federal government's request to immediately stop PTI chief Imran Khan's long march to Islamabad, with Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial advising the government to hold talks with the former prime minister.

The federal government filed a contempt of court plea against the PTI chairman in the Supreme Court over his long march to the federal capital. In its petition, the government said, "Imran Khan is making announcements to attack Islamabad", which it claimed was a violation of a court order. It urged the apex court to direct the PTI chief to ensure the implementation of its orders related to protests and sit-ins.

A five-member bench, headed by CJP Bandial, comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Muneer

Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi heard the plea today. A day earlier, Khan said PTI will kick off its long march on October 28 (Friday) from Lahore.

The former prime minister said that all party workers, supporters and leaders will gather at Lahore's Liberty Chowk at 11am from where they will march towards Islamabad.

In his arguments during the hearing, Additional Attorney General Aamir Rahman said that the reports of police and intelligence institutions have been reviewed. The additional attorney general said that the court had first asked when did the PTI chief give a call for the long march. He said that the court order came on May 25 at 6pm, while the announcement was made by Khan at 6:50pm and he made the second announcement at 9:54pm. Web Desk

Saudi crown prince orders release of Pakistani pilgrims arrested for sloganeering at Masjid-i-Nabwi

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced on Wednesday that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman had ordered the release of Pakistani pilgrims who were arrested and detained for sloganeering and hounding a PM-led delegation at Masjid-i-Nabwi in Madina this April.

PM Shehbaz, who will be concluding a two-day trip to Saudi capital Riyadh today, thanked the crown prince in a tweet for ordering the release.

"I am deeply grateful to the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mr Muhammad bin Salman, who, on my request, ordered the release of the Pakistanis arrested in Saudi Arabia for the April 2022 incident.

We pray to Allah Almighty to make us better Muslims who forgive each other's mistakes," he said.

In April, PM Shehbaz, along with a delegation comprising federal ministers and others, had gone on a three-day trip to Saudi Arabia. On their visit to Masjid-i-Nabwi during the trip, some Pakistani pilgrims had hounded



them, shouted slogans against them and even physically attacked some members of the delegation.

Videos of the incident had gone viral on social media, prompting swift action from Saudi authorities and leading to the arrest of some of the pilgrims.

Earlier, PM Shehbaz and Crown Prince Salman, who was named the kingdom's prime minister last month, agreed to upgrade and enhance bilateral ties and fraternal bonds

between the two countries to "new heights".

The two held a bilateral meeting in Riyadh during which they reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, Radio Pakistan reported on Wednesday.

Taking to Twitter, PM Shehbaz described the meeting as "excellent".

"We agreed to upgrade and enhance bilateral ties and fraternal bonds between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to new heights in line with the requirements of [the] changing world. I told [the crown prince] people of Pakistan are eagerly looking forward to his visit," he said.

According to Radio Pakistan, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the fraternal bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The premier thanked the Saudi leadership for extending assistance to Pakistan during the recent devastating floods, particularly for establishing the air bridge between Riyadh and Islamabad to provide relief goods in flood-affected areas, the report said. Web Desk

SHO Brewery Quetta suspended after arrest of 2 policemen by anti corruption

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh suspended the Station



House Officer (SHO) Brewery Road, Attique Dashti. The police chief suspended the SHO after the arrest of two personnel of the Brewery road police station by the anti-corruption department the other day.

"Yes notification about my suspension issued", the SHO told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. He preferred not to comment and give further details to this scribe.

Anti-corruption department conducted a raid and arrested two personnel of the Brewery road police station. "Both officials were caught red-handed after getting bribery from a person", a well-placed source at the anti-corruption department said. He requested anonymity.

The video of the policemen taking money from the person went viral on social media. People widely shared the video and strongly criticized the police for their actions.

لہو لہو ہے وادی کشمیر
آخر کب توئے گی یہ ظلم کی زنجیر!
27 اکتوبر 2022
یوم سیاہ

75 سال پہلے آج کے دن بھارت نے جموں اور وادی کشمیر میں فوجیں اتار کر محصور کیے کشمیری عوام پر ظلم و بربریت کی ایک انانگ داستان رقم کی جو آج بھی جاری ہے۔

سویہ بلوچستان کے عوام قبضہ کشمیر پر بھارت کے قاصدانہ قبضے اور کیے کشمیری عوام پر بھارتی فوج کے مظالم کے خلاف کشمیری بھائیوں کے ساتھ کھڑے ہیں اور دنیا کے ہر فورم پر اپنے کشمیری بھائیوں کی حمایت کرتے ہیں۔

کشمیر سے محبت پاکستان - ایشیا

محکمہ اطلاعات | حکومت بلوچستان
www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_balochistan

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 the officials.

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

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

Reconstruction of schools a major challenge for the government. The recent monsoon has further compounded the problems of students. The number of government-run primary, middle and high schools in Balochistan is over 15,000. The reconstruction of 3,000 damaged schools is a major challenge for the provincial government, which appears to be least bothered about the state of education in the province.

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

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

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

The Balochistan government, UNICEF and other non-governmental organizations on national and international levels working for the promotion of education should take notice of the situation and ensure the reconstruction of damaged schools. Then, the students should be allowed to keep continue their stalled studies.

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 individual and collective sense of responsibility, honesty, civic sense, accountability, diligence, discipline, 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 educational system has two

Character building and education

major functions: one, equipping the aspirants with the knowledge of the specific field through pragmatic pedagogical practices and reading culture; and two, infusing ethical 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 stu-

dents with cognitive, cultural, social and physical skills necessary for a promising career; refines their personality; and enables them to meet the demanding dynamics of life. Unfortunately, our education system lags far behind on both fronts.

It is almost incompatible with the dynamics and demands of the age. The national education system built on colonial legacy, outdated curriculum, distorted historical accounts, excessive religiosity and 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 entangled 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 legacy.

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 professed. Though Islamiyat 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 education. Moreover, the disturbing trends of intolerance, racism,

xenophobia, blind political, ethnic and religious allegiance, 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 so-called 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 times. Assimilating morals and core character-building values into the national curricula, pedagogical practices and academic culture would go a long way in producing an upright population.

Lifting the quality of education

By Atta-ur-Rahman

The 2023 World University Rankings were published recently by the Times Higher Education (THE). Three Asian universities are ranked among the top 20. These are Tsinghua University (No 16), Peking University (No 17) and the National University of Singapore (No 19), ahead of Cornell University, USA — indicating the emergence of Asian institutions in the leading world institutions. Quaid-e-Azam University was ranked in the 401-500 bracket, among the top 500 universities of the world, a highly cherished goal for developing countries.

Pakistan made an excellent beginning to reform the higher education sector with the establishment of the Higher Education Commission in October 2002. The programmes initiated by the HEC in those early years were visionary and path breaking, so much so that within five years of the establishment of the HEC several Pakistani universities became ranked among the top 500 of the world in THE-QS World University Rankings with National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad, leading the way, being ranked at No 470 in the year 2007. No 376 in the year 2008 and at No 350 in the year 2009 in general university rankings. Others ranked among the leading 500 universities in THE-QS subject rankings in that period included Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, University

Engineering and Technology, Lahore and University of Karachi. Alas the government support waned in subsequent years and the universities dropped out of the THE World University Rankings.

USAID undertook a comprehensive study of the programmes of the HEC undertaken during 2003-2008 and published a 151-page detailed report of their findings in 2009. The team was led by Dr Fred M. Hayward, an experienced international consultant, Dr Gerald Boardman, a higher education specialist, and several other eminent international experts. The study involved physical site visits of USAID education experts to eighteen universities and institutes in Islamabad, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Lahore, Karachi and other cities of Pakistan to determine the actual state of affairs. They interviewed hundreds of teachers, students, vice-chancellors, deans, departmental chairs, principal investigators and technical staff of science research projects as well as officials of the HEC, Ministry of Education and others over a 12-month period.

This first comprehensive report of the HEC conducted by USAID concluded by paying glowing tributes to the excellent work done in Pakistan by the HEC in implementing the Medium-Term Development Framework (MTDF) with primary focus on the quality of

higher education and not just on numbers. The three main thrust areas identified by the HEC in the MTDF were: quality of higher education, access of students to higher education and the relevance of higher education to national needs. The report concluded that the HEC had made very significant progress in each of these areas within a short span of six years.

The 151-page report summarized its observations with the following remarks: "The long overdue transformation of higher education in Pakistan under the leadership of the HEC has made solid progress over the last five years. What is most impressive is the breadth of reforms — faculty development, quality assurance, infrastructure rehabilitation, information technology staff training, research facilities, academic publications, increased access, improved accountability, expansion of campuses, and improved salaries and working conditions — and its insistence on quality improvement throughout the system."

It went on to state: "Faculty development, increased access for students (at almost 15 percent a year), science and technology improvement, infrastructure development, and quality improvement have been particularly successful areas. We applaud the leadership of the HEC for its vision, planning, and project implementation... one of the most successful models in the developing world." This

strong endorsement by an eminent external assessment agency comprising top US education experts put to rest the remarks of some critics who had tried to falsify the true picture and continue to do so till this day.

Endorsement of these conclusions of USAID experts also came from other independent assessments carried out by the World Bank, the British Council and by the UN Commission on Science, Technology and Development (UNCSTD) led by a famous Austrian scientist, Prof Michael Rode. Prof Rode was the chairman of the UNCSTD and was given a high civil award by the government of Pakistan for his contributions to the higher education sector of our country.

Commenting on the spectacular developments of the higher education sector in those early years, he wrote: "The United Nations Commission on Science and Technology has closely monitored the development in Pakistan in the past years, coming to the unanimous conclusion that Prof Rahman's policy and programme is a 'best-practice' example for developing countries aiming at building their human resources and establishing an innovative, technology-based economy."

"Those who have closely watched the development of higher education in Pakistan from outside and have been involved in the numerous programmes established by Prof

Rahman in the past eight years can testify that the progress made was breath-taking and has put Pakistan ahead of comparable countries in numerous aspects."

One important factor to judge the quality of research of any country is the number of international citations that research publications attract. The annual growth in citations of the research publications of Pakistani authors by other international academics is remarkable. According to the 2023 THE World University Rankings report, Pakistan is now ranked number four in the world in terms of the rate of rise of citations of Pakistani publications by other international scientists. We have also now caught up with India in per capita research output, although we were 400 per cent behind India in 2003, no mean achievement.

Thomson Reuters has also applauded the progress made by Pakistan in an article, "Another BRIC in the Wall", in which it compared the increase in percentage of highly cited articles from Pakistan with those in Brazil, Russia, India and China and concluded that Pakistan was ahead of these countries in the rate of rise in quality research articles. However, we still have a long way to go. Our undergraduate education is of poor standard, largely because of the dismal state of our government schools and colleges that are grossly neglected. Since

Collision with happiness

M Bilal Lakhani

Every morning I wake up and ask myself if I'm happy.

This is a terrible 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 experience because this hasn't been the case for the majority of my life. As little as six months ago, I was feeling unhappy every morning, bordering on restlessness and flitting with sadness.

What turned things around and is this happiness 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 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, happiness 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 realisation 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 reinvent myself. But the burden of this reinvention was weighing me down because of the lack of progress rather than exciting me.

So I started experimenting with doing something different half way through my paternity leave. Instead of changing everything at once, I started changing one thing a week and tried to chew on small pieces of it daily. For background, I wanted to start two side gigs, play tennis three a week, get closer to religion, make a new YouTube 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 exercise, 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 all.

The gratitude exercise had a transformational impact not just on my 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 following 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 ridiculously 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, having dinner with a friend every week, reading the newspaper, doing gratitude exercises and getting closer to God. I didn't start two side gigs.

The affluenza contagion

By Mir Adnan Aziz

Rule of law is a cornerstone of democracy. It is also a foolproof safeguard against selective justice or certain groups and individuals meting out extreme excesses, itself a stark manifestation of tyranny.

Affluenza is a blend of the words 'affluent' and 'influenza'. Coined by Fred Whitman in 1954, it was used to describe the effects on children born into power and wealth. In Pakistan, this affliction extends beyond individuals. The concept tended that entitled lives fostered an inability to understand the consequences or fallout of negative actions. Over the years, affluenza has become a carte blanche here for the powerful to perpetrate crimes without fearing the consequences. This preventable malady has taken root and germinated into a lethal monstrosity rending the national fabric apart.

Ethan Couch, a 16-year-old from Texas, had been binge drinking and taking Valium at a party. Driving away and over-speeding in a 40mph speed zone, he killed four pedestrians. Sergio Molina, a 16-year-old friend accompanying him, suffered a serious brain injury. Confined to a wheelchair, Molina can now neither speak nor move.

Ethan's prosecutors asked for a 20 year prison sentence. Dr Dick Miller, a psychologist, testified that Couch was

a victim of affluenza. Shockingly, the judge accepted the defence and sentenced Couch to probation in a facility with yoga and cooking classes. This judgment sent shockwaves throughout the US with people voicing their disbelief and outrage at the verdict.

By protecting the powerful and wealthy, the spirit of blood money law is totally negated by our criminal justice system. The accused intimidate and coerce the affected families into compromises, pardons and in accepting blood money by threatening them. The dice is loaded against those affected even as they lodge the FIR, the very first step for seeking justice. This is compounded by a totally politicized, archaic and non-professional investigation and prosecution system that willfully or otherwise, leaves loopholes ensuring that criminals go scot-free.

The recent exonerations of Shahzeb Jatoi and his henchmen is not a one off case. It is a steady stream of those accused of white collar crime and murder walking away because of their halved affluenzic status. The infamous Raymond Davis saga also proved that compromises are accepted, how they are coerced does not even ruffle a feather of our criminal justice system. In its 2021 index, the World Justice Project ranked Pakistan 130 out of 139 countries in adherence to rule of law. The Georgetown Institute's Women

Security Index ranks Pakistan at 150 among 153 countries. An indicator is the abysmal conviction rate of 0.3 per cent since 2015 in over 22,000 rape cases and only four medico-legal officers in Karachi with over 56,000 street crimes reported in 2022 alone.

Like all state institutions, our justice system too has failed Pakistan. It has also encouraged tyranny by validating and legalizing dictators. Since antiquity, justice has been sought after and propagated. Justitia, the Roman goddess of justice, is often portrayed as blindfolded while carrying a perfectly balanced scale and a sword. The blindfold symbolizes impartiality; the balanced scales show harmony in evidence and judgment while the sword represents the power to administer justice. Justice may be blind in the abstract but here it has systemic flaws that render it prone to selective blindness.

Al-Adl, one of the names of the Almighty, has been repeatedly emphasized upon and mandated in the Holy Quran. Justice is one of the greatest attributes of Islam. Verse 4:135 of Surah Al-Nisaa reads: "Believers, be upholders of justice and bearers of witness to truth for the sake of Allah, though it may be against yourselves, your parents or your close relatives. Be they rich or poor, Allah is best to ensure their interests. Do not, then, follow your own desires lest you keep away from justice".

Absence of rule of law compounded by the impunity that the affluenza contagion breeds has immensely widened the already existing chasm between the haves and have-nots of Pakistan.

In the land of the pure, the powerful, wealthy and pedigreed continue to make a mockery of rule of law with utter disdain. Ironically it was the likes of 'Honorable Justices' Alvin Cornelius, Dorab Patel and Rana Bhagwandas who, with their lifelong impeccable conduct, epitomized the all-important teachings of justice, humanity and humility as mandated by Islam. Affluenza is a blend of the words 'affluent' and 'influenza'. Coined by Fred Whitman in 1954, it was used to describe the effects on children born into power and wealth. In Pakistan, this affliction extends beyond individuals. The concept tended that entitled lives fostered an inability to understand the consequences or fallout of negative actions. Over the years, affluenza has become a carte blanche here for the powerful to perpetrate crimes without fearing the consequences. This preventable malady has taken root and germinated into a lethal monstrosity rending the national fabric apart. Ethan Couch, a 16-year-old from Texas, had been binge drinking and taking Valium at a party. Driving away and over-speeding in a 40mph speed zone, he killed

four pedestrians. Sergio Molina, a 16-year-old friend accompanying him, suffered a serious brain injury. Confined to a wheelchair, Molina can now neither speak nor move.

Ethan's prosecutors asked for a 20 year prison sentence. Dr Dick Miller, a psychologist, testified that Couch was a victim of affluenza. Shockingly, the judge accepted the defence and sentenced Couch to probation in a facility with yoga and cooking classes. This judgment sent shockwaves throughout the US with people voicing their disbelief and outrage at the verdict.

By protecting the powerful and wealthy, the spirit of blood money law is totally negated by our criminal justice system. The accused intimidate and coerce the affected families into compromises, pardons and in accepting blood money by threatening them. The dice is loaded against those affected even as they lodge the FIR, the very first step for seeking justice. This is compounded by a totally politicized, archaic and non-professional investigation and prosecution system that willfully or otherwise, leaves loopholes ensuring that criminals go scot-free. The recent exonerations of Shahzeb Jatoi and his henchmen is not a one off case. It is a steady stream of those accused of white collar crime and murder walking away because of their hallowed affluenzic status.

Transcending limits

Ali Hassan Bangwar

Historic moments warrant introspection 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 fleeting 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 what one principle: one gets what one gives. When we harm nature, nature harms us back.

Among all creatures, humankind is high up the evolutionarily ladder due to unmatched cognitive abilities and intellectual prowess. These intellectual abilities were inherently aimed at distinguishing good and evil, and regulating life on earth in a manner that benefits not only humans but their surroundings. Paradoxically, humans have outstepped and outreached their assigned authority and overestimated themselves as an omnipotent entity enjoying complete impunity of all their activities

regardless of their impacts. 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 wide-scale 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 consumed by capitalist predators. The tyranny against 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, lying, manipulating, exploiting have all

become common traits of our culture.

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 thinking of colonising Mars if we have utterly failed to learn to live peacefully on earth despite being here for 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 existing global order and the underlying principles of globalisation. The pandemic has given humankind the opportunity to rethink and reform existing socio-political and economic orders in line with principles of egalitarianism, eco-friendliness, 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 from nature's

Lahore: Body of 5-year-old missing boy found

LAHORE: The body of a five-year-old boy who went missing after going to a shop in Lahore's area of Badami Bagh, has been found on Wednesday.

According to details, the body of a five years old boy named Ayan who went missing after going to a shop located in the area of Badami Bagh has been found in the area of Ravi Road.

The report of the boy's missing was registered at the PS Badami Bagh. The police said the body of the boy was found near a

railway track in the Ravi Road area.

The forensic team has collected evidence from the crime scene, while the body has been shifted to the hospital for medical.

Meanwhile, CCPO Lahore Ghulam Mahmood Dogar has taken notice of the matter and sought a report from the SP city.

Earlier in the month of February, the dead body of a missing child was found from the water tank of a house in Karachi's Korangi.

A seven-year child who

went missing from his house on February 1 morning was found dead in the afternoon from a water tank at some distance from his home.

The forensic team has collected evidence from the crime scene, while the body has been shifted to the hospital for medical.

Meanwhile, CCPO Lahore Ghulam Mahmood Dogar has taken notice of the matter and sought a report from the SP city. Earlier in the month of February, the dead body of a missing child was found. INP



SWITZERLAND: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Asad Mehmood and DG Pakistan Post Rana Hussain Akhter in a meeting with DG Universal Postal Union Masahiko Metoki Ambassador of Pakistan to Switzerland Amir Shoukat also present.

SHC takes notice of flood-hit minor girl's gang-rape case

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday took notice of gang-rape of a flood-hit minor girl in Karachi's Clifton area.

Sindh High Court Chief Justice Ahmed Ali Shaikh took notice of the gang-rape incident and summoned DG South to appear in person on October 27.

Besides him, the court also directed SSP Investigation South-I to appear before SHC along with the investigation report.

The SHC Registrar's office said that the CJ SHC took notice of the incident after the news was published in newspapers.

Karachi police claimed to have arrested seven accused including 'prime suspect' in the gang-rape case of a minor girl who belongs to a flood-

affected family. Police said that the 'prime suspect' was arrested in Tando Allahyar. Sources said that police also traced the vehicle that was used at the crime scene.

Sources added that the suspects were being interrogated by police officials. A flood-affected girl was allegedly gang-raped by two unidentified persons in the Clifton area of Karachi. The minor girl - residing at the flood relief camp - was abducted from outside a shopping mall at Karachi's Clifton Block 4. Later, the flood-affected girl was found at the same place at 02:00 pm. She was later shifted to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center (JPMC) after her health deteriorated, where the doctors confirmed she was 'gang-raped'. The police,

while quoting the victim, said that two identified persons abducted a minor girl and sexually assaulted her. Hospital sources told ARY News that the girl is eight or nine-year-old. Sources added that the suspects were being interrogated by police officials. A flood-affected girl was allegedly gang-raped by two unidentified persons in the Clifton area of Karachi. The minor girl - residing at the flood relief camp - was abducted from outside a shopping mall at Karachi's Clifton Block 4. Later, the flood-affected girl was found at the same place at 02:00 pm. She was later shifted to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center (JPMC) after her health deteriorated, where the doctors confirmed she was 'gang-raped'. INP

SHC orders to take down billboards, hoardings across Karachi

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of the Supreme Court order regarding the removal of all billboards and hoardings from public properties across Karachi.

The orders were passed by the SHC judge Justice Irfan Saadat while hearing plea against billboards and hoardings in the city.

The SHC while ordering the Sindh government, KMC and the cantonment boards to remove the billboards and hoardings from the public properties sought a report on November 15.

Action would be taken against the government officials who fail to comply with the court orders, Justice Saadat remarked. During today's hearing, SHC observed that on October 17, 2018, the Supreme Court ordered the removal of the billboards and hoardings from public properties including overhead bridges, service lines and pedestrians, but the orders were not implemented completely. An apex court bench, headed by the then CJP Justice Gulzar Ahmed, had given the order while hearing a case pertaining to the illegal installation of billboards on public and private properties as well as roads across the metropolis. INP

Imran Khan challenges suspension of NA membership

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has moved Islamabad High Court (IHC) against suspension of National Assembly membership. Imran Khan, in his petition, has requested the court to nullify Election Commission of Pakistan's verdict of de-notifying him as MNA from NA-95. Earlier, ECP had de-notified Imran Khan from NA-95 Mianwali-I constituency after his disqualification in Toshakhana reference. The electoral body had disqualified former prime minister Imran Khan in the Toshakhana reference under Article 63(1)(p) and stated that Khan submitted a false affidavit and was found involved in corrupt practices. INP

FIA-led team to visit Kenya for probing Arshad Sharif murder

ISLAMABAD: The government has formed a two-member investigation team consisting of experts from the country's top intelligence agencies to investigate the murder of renowned journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya on Wednesday.

The Interior Ministry has issued a notification in this regard. The investigation team will go to Kenya to collect evidence.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director Athar Waheed has been appointed as the head of the investigation team. The other member of the team is Intelligence Bureau (IB) Deputy Director General Umar Shahid Hamid.

According to the official sources, the team includes the officers of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) only.

No officer of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Military Intelligence (MI) is included in the team, the sources added.

The team will immediately leave for Kenya for investigating the murder of Arshad

Sharif. The Pakistani High Commission will help the team to investigate the incident.

The team will submit its report to the Interior Ministry after completing the investigation. Medical board formed at PIMS for post-mortem.

The body of Arshad Sharif was moved from Quaid-e-Azam Hospital to PIMS. A medical board was also formed at PIMS for the post-mortem of Arshad Sharif's body.

Six senior doctors were included in the medical board. Among them were clinicians, surgeons and medicolegal officers.

Dr Farah Kamala is leading the medical board. Dead body arrives in Islamabad.

Earlier, the body of Arshad Sharif arrived at Islamabad Airport on Tuesday night and was moved to Quaid-e-Azam Hospital.

The post-mortem of the body of Arshad Sharif will be carried out again in Pakistan, his family confirmed. "A senior surgeon should be there during the post-mortem at PIMS," the mother of Arshad Sharif demand-

ed.

"Arshad Sharif's body will be shifted to PIMS in the morning," the authorities concerned had said. Earlier, the officials of the Ministry of Interior Affairs were present at the Islamabad International Airport to receive the body of Arshad Sharif.

On the occasion, strict security arrangements had been ensured at the airport. It is to be noted here that Arshad Sharif will be laid to rest in Islamabad on Thursday (tomorrow).

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced yesterday to form an investigation team to probe the murder of the late journalist in Kenya, to be headed by a judge of the high court. The prime minister took the decision after receiving a letter from the military headquarters urging setting up of a commission of inquiry and also seeking legal action against those hurling accusations as the Army, Police, FC personnel deployed outside hospital. Personnel of Islamabad police and Frontier Corps (FC) have been. INP

Begum Alvi stresses promoting tolerance in society

ISLAMABAD: Begum Samina Alvi, wife of President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed the need for eliminating extremist behaviour from the society by promoting tolerance and acceptance towards each other.

She termed dialogue and negotiations necessary to promote tolerance and said the solution to such societal challenges rested in following the teachings of Allah Almighty and the Seerat of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

She expressed these views in her address at the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference themed

'Intolerance in society', here at the International Islamic University.

Begum Alvi said the society was facing the challenges of extremism and intolerance, and mentioned that Pakistan suffered huge loss of human lives and economy due to terrorism and extremism.

She emphasized attaining education to bring a change in the society and following the righteous path as advised by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

She quoted the Quranic verses describing the attributes of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as kind, humble, benevolent and sympathetic towards mankind. INP

She stressed the need for inculcating moral values among the people and encouraging them to demonstrate forgiveness and respect towards each other.

In this regard, she said, the society would be able to overcome the ills of anger, frustration, intolerance and aggression. She quoted the Quranic verses describing the attributes of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as kind, humble, benevolent and sympathetic towards mankind. She stressed the need for inculcating moral values among the people and encouraging them to demonstrate forgiveness and respect towards each other. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways & Aviation, Khawaja Saad Rafique chairing a meeting regarding installation of more advance automatic weather stations in the country here at PMD Headquarte.

Ahsan Iqbal lauds Turkiye for supporting Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday lauded the role of Turkiye for supporting Pakistan on every regional and international front and said both the countries have deep-rooted historic, cultural and cordial bilateral relations with each other.

He said that that Pakistan and Turkiye are two countries but one nation.

He expressed these views on the closing ceremony of an International Conference on Celebrating 75th Years of Turkiye-Pakistan Relations as chief guest at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on Wednesday.

He said that during the recent horrific flood Turkiye's help and sup-

port was unprecedented and unsolicited.

The minister paid warm gratitude to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his immediate support in the relief activities during the crisis.

Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Prof Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (Retd), Pro-Rectors, Deans, Directors, HoDs, faculty members and a large number of students also attended the ceremony.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal while addressing the youth stressed the need of peace and harmony and advised them to keep away from internal polarization and the forces of propaganda. He said we must learn from Turkiye in this regard.

Rector NUML Major General Muhammad

Jaffar HI (M) thanked the Hon'ble Chief Guest Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal for sparing time to attend the closing ceremony of the international conference.

He said that during the recent horrific flood Turkiye's help and support was unprecedented and unsolicited.

The minister paid warm gratitude to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his immediate support in the relief activities during the crisis.

Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Prof Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (Retd), Pro-Rectors, Deans, Directors, HoDs, faculty members and a large number of students also attended the ceremony. INP

Islamabad court grants bail to PTI MNA Saleh Muhammad

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Wednesday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Saleh Muhammad Khan Swati.

The Islamabad District and Sessions Court announced reserved verdict on the post-arrest bail application of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmaker. The PTI MNA was directed to submit surety bonds worth Rs100,000 to secure bail. It is pertinent to mention here that Saleh Muhammad and his gunmen were booked in a terrorism case during a protest outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) office in Islamabad. The PTI MNA and his two gunmen were arrested from outside the ECP office during a protest against the Toshakhana case's verdict to disqualify Imran Khan. A case was lodged against the PTI lawmaker and his two gunmen under the anti-terrorism act (ATA). According to the First Information Report (FIR), the accused attempted to disturb law and order situation in an organised way and the lawmaker's gunmen resorted to firing at police officials to murder them. INP

Prohibited Funding Case: Banking Court grants bail to two co-accused

ISLAMABAD: The Banking Court granted interim bail to two co-accused of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in the Prohibited Funding case.

Hearing was held under PTI Prohibited Funding case and Foreign Exchange Act in Banking Court Islamabad on Wednesday, in which two co-accused of former Prime Minister Imran Khan applied for bail.

During the hearing, the lawyer of the accused said that after the orders of the High Court, the case of Foreign Exchange Act has been transferred to the Banking Court.

He said PTI leaders Tariq Shafi and Faisal Maqbool had been involved in investigation before the FIA on October 20.

The court granted interim bail to the two aforementioned till October 31 and further directed them to submit a surety bond of Rs. 1 lakh each. The court also issued notice to FIA for October 31.

It is pertinent to mention here that former Prime Minister Imran Khan has already been granted interim bail till October 31 from Special Judge Central in the said case. INP



ISLAMABAD: Donald Blome, Ambassador of the USA to Pakistan, calling on the Federal Minister for National Food Security Tariq Bashir Cheema at his office.

Pakistan seeks China's help to become regional manufacturing hub

BEIJING: Trade and industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is intended to make Pakistan a manufacturing and economic hub for the entire region, Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy in China, Ghulam Qadir has said.

"Pakistan is ready to become a food basket for China, while Pakistan's agricultural products to China are gaining popularity," he said while addressing audience at "China-Pakistan Trade and Industrial Cooperation Forum," jointly hosted by Embassy of Pakistan, United Bank Limited (UBL), Beijing Innovation Alliance (BJIA) and Economic and Commercial Counselors Alliance in China.

Pakistan, he said, had all the ingredients needed to become a regional hub and added, Pakistan hoped to improve its investment and increase its trade and economic ties, by making 'made-in-Pakistan' products.

"We are also working on different e-commerce platforms and we are bring-

ing our enterprises to connect with Chinese e-commerce platform," he added.

Emphasizing importance of the forum, Ghulam Qadir commented that such kinds of events would help Pakistani enterprises interact with Chinese companies.

"Meanwhile, we can improve our yields by using Chinese technologies and methods. We can also export the finalized products to China and the world," he mentioned. Pakistan, he said, had all the ingredients needed to become a regional hub and added, Pakistan hoped to improve its investment and increase its trade and economic ties, by making 'made-in-Pakistan' products.

"We are also working on different e-commerce platforms and we are bringing our enterprises to connect with Chinese e-commerce platform," he added.

Emphasizing importance of the forum, Ghulam Qadir commented that such kinds of events would help Pakistani enterprises interact with Chinese companies. INP

Kashmir issue linked with sentiments of people of Pakistan: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Wednesday said Kashmir issue was linked with the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and no government dared to compromise on it and assured them full support in their right to self-determination struggle.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of black day, to be observed on Thursday, along with Chairman Kashmir Committee Syed Basit Bukhari and

Hurriyat leaders Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Faiz Naqashbandi and Mehmood Ahmad Saghar, he termed the Indian subjugation of Kashmiris a gross violation of Human Rights and stressed for awakening the consciousness of the international community.

He said October 27 was the blackest day in world history when India on this day in 1947 landed its 80,000 army personnel in Kashmir and illegally occupied the valley against the will of the people. Now in the

presence of one million Indian Army, the worst atrocities against the innocent Kashmiris were continuing but could not demoralize their courage, he added.

Kaira said irrespective of political affiliations, every government had voiced the plight of Kashmiris at home and internationally which would continue.

There had been some semblance of support from the Muslim countries on Kashmir issue, however, there was a need to bring the international community together in discrediting

the abuse of power in the held valley at the hands of a fascist Indian government, he added.

Kaira called for keeping the youth aware of the government's efforts for Kashmir and the importance of Kashmir as the unfinished agenda of partition to keep them motivated and save them from hopelessness.

Termining Kashmir a human rights issue, he said that no one could be subdued through the use of brute force in the twenty-first century. He added that

Pakistan's main dispute with India was Kashmir and it would keep providing moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle.

Pakistan was never the aggressor and it would never choose to be one in the times that follow, however, Kashmir was one issue that commanded absolute resolve and commitment for Pakistan, he pledged.

Kaira said that Pakistan Peoples Party was the first political party that included the Kashmir dispute. INP



RAWALPINDI: Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen at his office.

People of KP, Kashmiri to observe Oct 27 as Black Day

PESHAWAR: The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir would observe October 27 as Black Day to strongly condemn the forced occupation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by India and would demand the UN Security Council to implement its resolutions on Kashmir.

Big protest demonstrations and rallies have been planned in all 35 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the people of KP will express solidarity with Kashmiris. They would raise placards and banners to protest against the illegal and forced occupation of IIOJK by India. On October 27, 1947, the sufferings of

Kashmiri people started with the landing of Indian occupation troops in Jammu and Kashmir, which had been further increased after Modi's fascist government abolished the special status of IIOJK after revoking Articles 370 and 35-A of Indian constitution on August 5, 2019.

October 27 is observed as Kashmir Black Day each year to mark protest and resentment by Kashmiris around the world, including Pakistan, to condemn the forced occupation of the Held Valley. The transport and rickshaw unions of Peshawar have planned a big protest demonstration in front of the Press Club in connection with the day. INP



ISLAMABAD: A view of billboard displaying at front of Parliament House to mark Black Day against Indian forces' atrocities in the Held Kashmir.

PTI unveils long march schedule for beginning day

LAHORE: The PTI long march that will begin on Friday from Lahore will proceed to Shahdara on the first day, as per the march's schedule.

Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan had Tuesday announced to start long march on Friday, October 28, from Lahore's Liberty Chowk.

The anti-government long march to begin on Friday at 11:00 am and the PTI chairman will deliver his last speech of the first day at Azadi Chowk, according to the details shared.

The PTI has shared the scheduled route for the first day of its march. "The long march will proceed from Kalma Chowk via Ferozpur Road. The march on the next day will begin from Shahdara Chowk," according to details.

The party leadership has directed its activists for launching the publicity campaign and installing camps on the route of the march.

PTI chairman yesterday addressing at a press conference in Lahore said, "We will head towards Islamabad with the nation from GT Road." The PTI chief said that there was no timeframe for the conclusion of the upcoming long march.

Meanwhile, additional contingents of law enforcement personnel have been deployed in Islamabad to tackle the long march announced by the PTI chairman, sources said.

"Steps being taken to implement a plan of blocking roads," according to sources. "Containers have already brought to various points to block the roads and arrangements being made to keep the cranes standby for placing containers," sources said. "Containers to block roads have been present at Faizabad T-Chowk and on adjoining roads," sources added. INP

Humanitarian aid worth RMB 300,000 departed for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A batch of humanitarian aid worth RMB 300,000 is on its way to Pakistan, Gwadar Port reported on Wednesday.

Shipment of the supplies started last Friday and will arrive at the Karachi Port by sea.

The supplies, donated by the Red Cross Society of China Guangxi Branch, composed of 4,286 blankets will be distributed among the flood affectees in Pakistan. A launching ceremony was held on this occasion.

Wang Lei, Executive Vice Chairman of the Red Cross Society of China Guangxi Branch, expressed his sincere sympathy to the people of Pakistan who suffered from the natural disaster.

He hoped that the materials donated by the people of Guangxi could help them overcome the difficulties. He also wished an early recovery in the flood-hit areas. Ahmed Farooq, Deputy Chief of the Pakistani Embassy in China attended the ceremony online and expressed his thanks to the people of Guangxi. It is learned that the materials will be received by the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan. INP

LHC disposes of Farah Gogi's petition for quashing corruption case

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday disposed of the petition, seeking quashing of the case registered by the Anti-Corruption Department against Farah Gogi, the friend of former first lady and wife of PTI Chairman Imran Khan, and her mother.

The department officials, on the occasion, submitted to the court a written report to prove that the case had already been quashed.

Speaking on the occasion, counsel for Farah and her mother argued that since the offence relating to the occupation of state land in which their clients had been booked on the complaint of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was not "criminal", therefore it had been quashed.

"Therefore, it is prayed to the court to order quashing of the case," he requested. INP

ADB transfers \$1.5 billion loan to Pakistan: SBP sources

KARACHI: Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday transferred \$1.5 billion loan to Pakistan, sources said.

ADB on Monday signed an agreement with Pakistan to provide \$1.5 billion loan for budgetary support and help flood-related rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The loan would build the foreign exchange reserves and rein in the rupee's depreciation.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves holding the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reach to \$9 billion with transfer of ADB loan.

The country's total forex reserves had declined to \$13.25bn as of Oct 14, which included SBP's holdings of \$7.597bn, equivalent to about five weeks of controlled imports.

The \$1.5bn ADB loan is aimed to provide social protection, promote food security, and support employment for people amid devastating floods and global supply

chain disruptions.

The ADB in a statement said after signing the loan agreement that the financing will provide the fiscal space needed for the government to implement its package, which is designed to target the poorest families in Pakistan who are often disproportionately affected in times of crisis. The government's support includes specific measures to promote gender empowerment and climate change adaptation, which have become even more important in light of the recent floods, the bank stated.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves holding the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reach to \$9 billion with transfer of ADB loan.

The country's total forex reserves had declined to \$13.25bn as of Oct 14, which included SBP's holdings of \$7.597bn, equivalent to about five weeks of controlled imports. INP

No choice except indictment if Imran fails to appear in contempt case: ECP

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday said that it will have no other choice but to indict PTI Chairman Imran Khan, leaders Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry if they fail to appear in the contempt case.

A four-member bench headed by ECP member Nisar Durani conducted a hearing on the contempt case filed against Imran Khan and other PTI leaders, while Advocate Anwar Mansoor appeared on the party's behalf.

During the hearing, PTI's counsel contended that the notices were issued by the ECP's secretary and not by the electoral watchdog itself.

"The show-cause notice is illegal until this issue is solved. The show-cause notice has the

signature of the director general of law," he said.

At this, an ECP member of the bench denied the claim and said that it was the Commission that issued the notices and instead of the secretary, who has "just informed" about the notices.

However, the PTI's lawyer urged the ECP to issue its charge sheet after October 31 as the Lahore High Court (LHC) was hearing a similar case on the said date.

He said that Umar has received threats last night and there is no security for him.

At this, the ECP's member said that they would have no other choice but to issue the charge sheet after November 10. INP

Arshad Sharif's wife urges media, masses to respect family's privacy

ISLAMABAD: Javeria Siddique, the spouse of slain senior journalist and former anchorperson of ARY News Arshad Sharif, on Wednesday urged the media and masses to respect their privacy and avoid sharing pictures of children.

In her appeal, Javeria Siddique urged to avoid sharing pictures of her children and avoid interviewing them. Interview elders of the family in case of the statement, she added.

The wife of Arshad Sharif said she was informed by the Kenyan journalists that her spouse was killed in Nairobi. Javeria also urged the masses to raise their voice for the slain journalist.

She also demanded to reveal the facts that forced Arshad Sharif to leave Pakistan.

The body of the slain journalist was repatriated to Pakistan through a private airline plane.

On the other hand, the federal government has formed a three-member high-level committee to investigate the killing of senior journalist and former anchorperson of ARY News Arshad Sharif.

As per details, a three-member probe committee comprising officers of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will investigate the killing of the Pakistani journalist. INP

Shehbaz Sharif all set to make maiden visit to China as PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will be leaving for China on a two-day visit on November 1.

The prime minister is visiting the neighboring country at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

This will be his first visit to China since assuming the office in April 2022 and follows his meeting with President Xi Jinping in Uzbekistan on September 16, 2022.

The premier will be among the first leaders to visit China following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said the PM visit represents the continuity of frequent leadership-level exchanges between Pakistan and China.

He will also meet with President Xi Jinping and hold delegation-level talks with Premier Li Keqiang.

The two sides will review the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership and exchange views on regional and global developments. Asim Iftikhar said the visit is also expected to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda with the conclusion of a number of MoUs/Agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation. INP

Arshad Sharif shot at from close range, murder premeditated: Faisal Vawda

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Faisal Vawda on Wednesday claimed that as against the version of the Kenyan police, journalist Arshad Sharif was shot at from a close range, therefore, his murder was "premeditated."

Holding a press conference at the National Press Club in the federal capital, Vawda, who claimed that he was a close friend of the slain journalist, said that irrespective of how a probe into his murder is launched, evidence related to his killing — including his mobile phone, laptop, and documents — will "never be found as they have been erased."

He dismissed the version of the Kenyan police — that had maintained that Arshad was killed in a case of "mistaken identity" after the local law enforcement fired about 20 bullets at his car — and said that only two bullets were fired at him.

"In my opinion, two bullets were fired at him, one to the head and the other to the chest by a person either sitting in the car or present at a very close range," he stated.

Vawda explained that bullets cannot be fired from a long distance when it directly hits the head and chest, adding "if it would have been from far away, then 8-10 bullets would have been fired."

"The story that has been narrated regarding the mistaken identity case should have been plotted well because no matter which country is in question, the police would never open fire if they had (as they claim) doubts of a child being present in the car," he added, stating that in this case, only Arshad died as a part of

this "cold, planned, brutal murder that was conspired." He lamented about the procedure of justice in Pakistan as well as Kenya — where he said conditions were worse than that of Pakistan — and claimed that Arshad was "chosen to be killed in Kenya by those who want to break the country."

The PTI leader said that the journalist's murder is now a matter of Pakistan's dignity and honour, so "I will speak the truth without fearing the consequences because his martyrdom was a pre-conspired murder, not a mere accident."

He also said that "conspirators" blackmailed and threatened Arshad to leave Pakistan, so he went to Dubai.

"Later, it was claimed that either the establishment or some unknown institutions pressurised him and asked him to leave Dubai, but this information is false. I will give you details of it later."

The PTI leader said that Arshad completed his stay in Dubai until the expiry of his visa and later, it was reported that he went to London. "However, he did not go to London either."

Vawda asserted that a person was "conspiring" against the slain journalist and he has informed PTI Chairman Imran Khan about this "conspirator."

"Arshad was an honest person, but the conspiracy that he was informed about had another conspiracy behind it", the PTI leader said. Vawda added that a common man could not send Arshad to Kenya from Dubai. "Those are the people who wish to see instability and chaos in the country. INP

NEPRA approves another hike in electricity prices

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has approved another increase in electricity tariff by Rs0.9 per unit on account of monthly fuel adjustment (MFA) on Wednesday.

The power regulator held a public hearing to consider the monthly fuel adjustment (MFA) on a petition filed by the Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guarantee.

The increase will not be applicable for lifeline, K-Electric consumers, the notification read. The recent hike will be charged in the bills for October 2022, it added.

On Monday, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) notified a raise of Rs12.68 per unit in the power tariff for the consumers of K-Electric on account of quarterly adjustment.

The people of Karachi would face an additional burden of billions of rupees as NEPRA has approved an enormous Rs12.68 per unit hike in power tariff for K-Electric (KE) consumers on account of fourth quarterly adjustment for FY2021-22. INP

HEC all set to restore prime minister's laptop scheme

KARACHI: Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed has announced to restore Prime Minister Laptop Scheme in the next few days.

The HEC chairman made the announcement while speaking with journalists in Karachi.

The chairman further shared that the HEC will also initiate a programme for online courses for students in Pakistan's universities with support from Microsoft and different global organisations.

The announcement comes after the federal government led by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) announced to resume its landmark Prime Minister Laptop Scheme under the Youth Development Initiatives. According to HEC sources, a budget of Rs10bn was allocated for the scheme and laptops will be provided to students of BS. INP

Investigative team to probe Arshad Sharif's murder from all angles: Rana Sana

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that a high-level three-member investigation team had been formed to find out the facts related to the murder of senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya.

He stated that the investigation team consisted of top officials from the FIA and other intelligence agencies. "The investigation team will immediately leave for Kenya and investigate the murder case of Arshad Sharif. The final report will be submitted to the Ministry of Interior," he added. "In the Arshad Sharif case, the investigation team will look into the role of a person associated with a private channel in Pakistan in the gold smuggling business in Kenya," he

stated. "The investigation team will examine all the causes and motives behind Arshad Sharif's departure from Pakistan to Dubai and then from Dubai to Kenya," he affirmed.

"After the confession of a political figure, the investigation team will also examine the factors that forced Arshad Sharif to travel from Pakistan to Dubai and then from Dubai to Kenya," he added.

"The investigation team will prepare an independent report in the light of the information and evidence gathered from Kenyan police and other sources and submit it to the Ministry of Interior Affairs," he emphasised. INP



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing a press conference regarding Kashmir Black Day.

Karachi commissioner fixes milk price at Rs170/ litre

KARACHI: Karachi commissioner has fixed price of Rs170 per litre in the metropolis, notification has been issued on Wednesday.

Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal held a meeting with the dairy farmers to fix the price of the milk.

The commissioner, while presiding over a meeting regarding milk price, said he had consulted all the stakeholders to fix the price at Rs170. "Hence, the official price of milk is Rs170 a litre," he said.

The last official rate list for milk was issued by the administration in December 2021, setting the milk price in the city at Rs120.

It may be noted in last year's December, the price of milk was also increased by Rs26 per litre in Karachi. Meanwhile, the dairy farmers association has rejected the new price of the commodity at Rs200 per litre in Karachi. INP

milk even after a massive hike and continuing selling of the commodity at Rs200 per litre in Karachi.

Earlier, Karachi's city administration in a crackdown against dairy farmers selling milk at inflated price seized their vehicles.

Dozens of vehicles supplying milk to vendors were detained and closed at various police stations in Karachi. The last official rate list for milk was issued by the administration in December 2021, setting the milk price in the city at Rs120.

It may be noted in last year's December, the price of milk was also increased by Rs26 per litre in Karachi. Meanwhile, the dairy farmers association has rejected the new price of milk even after a massive hike and continuing selling of the commodity at Rs200 per litre in Karachi. INP

Sindh governor launches complaint cell to address public issues

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori launched a complaint cell in governor's house on Wednesday to facilitate the people of the province.

As per details, the citizen can submit their complaints in the governor's house Sindh. The complainants can submit electricity, gas, sewerage, water and other complaints to the team in the governor's house.

The complaint cell will be working round the clock to facilitate the citizens of the province.

Furthermore, the complaint cell team will ensure prompt replies to any query and swiftly resolve the problem in 24 to 48 hours.

According to a statement, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori launched a complaint cell for citizens to address public issues and to ensure transparency in government offices.

Tessori was sworn in as Sindh governor earlier this month. Muttahida

Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Kamran Tessori took oath as the 34th governor of Sindh.

He was administered oath by Sindh High Court Chief Justice Ahmad Ali M. Shaikh at a ceremony held at the Governor's House. The event was attended by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani, cabinet members, officials, diplomats, along with others. According to a statement, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori launched a complaint cell for citizens to address public issues and to ensure transparency in government offices. Tessori was sworn in as Sindh governor earlier this month. Muttahida

Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Kamran Tessori took oath as the 34th governor of Sindh. He was administered oath by Sindh High Court Chief Justice Ahmad Ali M. INP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting regarding mental health, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.