

QUETTA VOICE

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In farewell meetings, COAS Gen Bajwa tells troops to keep serving nation with same zeal



Imran urges CJP to 'save nation' as PTI long march resumes in Wazirabad

Pakistan Iran agree to boost bilateral trade as border commission meeting ends

Pakistan committed to eradicating the curse of narcotics

Quetta Voice Report

Pakistan and Iran have agreed to boost bilateral trade and address issues relating to the border at the joint border commission meeting in the Iranian city of Zahedan on Thursday evening. Delegations from the two countries thoroughly discussed bilateral trade, illegal human trafficking, narcotics smuggling and other issues relating to the border.



Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili, the head of the Pakistani delegation said that the two countries have discussed trade, security issues and an end to narcotics smuggling and human trafficking. Pakistan committed to eradicating the curse of narcotics. "Pakistan committed to eradicating the curse of narcotics", Mr. Uqaili assured his counterpart. The Governor of the Iranian province Sistan-Balochistan for law enforcement, Ali Raza Marhamati presented the Iranian side during the two-day joint border

commission meeting. The delegates presented various proposals with regard to enhancing security and addressing other issues relating to the more than 900km border between the two Muslim neighboring countries. CS Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili stated that Pakistan has taken a number of measures to facilitate the people living on both sides of the border. "People of neighboring areas given incentives by the provincial and federal governments", he stated. Iran appreciates steps taken by Pakistan. The Iranian side appreciated the steps taken by the Pakistani government for ensuring legal movement at the border and eradicating the curse of narcotics. The Iranian counterpart thanked the CS Balochistan and the government of Pakistan for its commitment to addressing issues relating to the border and boosting the bilateral trade between the two countries. Members of the chamber of commerce Balochistan, deputy commissioners of six districts of Balochistan, and other law enforcement agencies participated in the two days meeting. The Joint Border Commission comprising officials of the two countries hold a meeting after every 15 days to discuss bilateral issues.

Speakers call for devolving powers to LGs in Pakistan

Provinces should form provincial finance commissions

Matiullah Khan

QUETTA: Speakers at a seminar called for devolving powers under article 140 of the Constitution to local governments in the country. They made this demand at a dialogue organized by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) with the financial support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Pakistan (FNF Pakistan).



Current local government structure should be given the freedom to build upon it and ensure public participation in true spirit. This will, in turn, play a significant role in strengthening the democratic system and the institution of a more substantive, inclusive and pro-people democracy in Pakistan. These views were expressed by speakers in a stakeholders dialogue on the Balochistan Local Government Act 2010.

Provinces should form provincial finance commissions

The provincial government should also constitute Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) Award, akin to the National Financial Commission, where the district would get funds from the divisible pool according to their population, area, and underdevelopment. Capacity development and training programs for newly elected local representatives should be introduced so that local government representatives can deliver according to people's choices and requirements. While addressing the seminar, Mr. Mukhtar Ahmed Ali, Executive Director of CPDI said that local government is the third tier of government. It is not the local bodies but a tier of government. It should have all the powers of a government. Developed countries have delegated powers and resources to local governments to increase service provision efficiency. It increases opportunities for citizens to engage in the policymaking processes of local governments which improves democratic efficiency.

empowerment, just like there is one each for the federal government and the provincial governments. Political leadership and the provincial government is not against the local governments and is committed to empowering local governments. We have made 41 amendments to Baluchistan LG Act 2010 to make it more effective. We have made progress towards empowerment but still, there is a need for improvement in the overall governance structure of the country says Dostain Baloch. Ms. Raheela Durrani, Former Speaker Balochistan Assembly stressed the inclusion, equality, and participation of all marginalized sections of society in the electoral process at the local level. Member of Provincial Assembly Mr. Ahmad Nawaz appreciated the efforts of workers, especially female workers on the ground, and said that political work is a backbone of a party therefore, they should be given preference while allotting tickets.

Imran urges CJP to 'save nation' as PTI long march resumes in Wazirabad



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairperson Imran Khan, addressing supporters at the party's long march resumed from Wazirabad a week after he was attacked, said that the "plan" to assassinate him was first formulated in September which Imran

said he had "unearthed in a public rally on September 24". According to Imran Khan, all eyes are on the top court now as the nation has "lost trust" in the institutions, saying that Pakistan is becoming a banana republic. "You [Supreme Court's chief justice] have to save the country. The nation has lost trust in institutions. You have to fix this as the country doesn't work without institutions," he added. The former prime minister, who was removed from power through a vote of no confidence in the National Assembly in April this year, said that it is unimaginable in western coun-

tries what is happening in Pakistan these days. "When will the country's law give protection," Imran said. The PTI chief also said it was a miracle that so many people survived the attack. Doubling down on earlier claims, Imran held a senior military officer, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah responsible for the attack and said they had used "religious extremism" as a "cover to shunt off the blame". "For anyone harboring any doubts," Imran added, "you can tell that he had been told to say this when the attacker claimed he

had done this alone". "The forensic [report] of the container has shown that there were two types of bullet, meaning there were two shooters," he added, "so the whole plan they had was that [just like] Salman Taseer was killed by a religious extremist and the matter is sorted". Imran also hailed Ibtisam - the young man whose quick thinking had saved the former prime minister - for his "heroic effort". He also announced again that the party will "take lifetime responsibility" for the children of the victim who lost his life during the attack. Web Desk



PESHAWAR: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing a seminar "Effective Role of Federal Insurance Ombudsman in the Provision of Justice at Governor House."

NA Body on NHR&C for filling vacant posts of PIMS on contract basis

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHR&C) has recommended the federal government to recruit paramedical staff, doctors, nurses, and other medical staff for vacant positions at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on a contractual basis. Chairing a meeting of the NA Body on Thursday, chairman committee Dr. Muhammad Afzal Dhandla, directed the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination to fill these vacancies immediately on a short-term basis. He said that at least a three-year contractual period should be announced for all pending seats to serve the patients and

improve the efficiency of the hospital. The NA Body on NHR&C also recommended to ask the Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) to provide a subsidy on the electricity bills of PIMS and Federal Government Polyclinic hospital. The committee was informed that the PIMS hospital has been facing a shortage of 1,114 posts including doctors, nurses, and other medical staff for the last 15 years. It was further informed that in order to enhance the performance of the hospital there is an immediate need to fill these posts. Earlier, the committee members visited the different departments of the PIMS including the Cardiac center, Mother and Child care ward, and OPD, and inspected the health facilities being provided to the visitors. INP

Bill Gates mentions Sikandar Bizenjo from Khuzdar in his book

News Desk

American business magnate and software developer Bill Gates has mentioned a young man from Pakistan's Balochistan province in his book. Bill Gates said that Sikandar Bizenjo, a young man from Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province played a key role in the fight against COVID-19. He said Mr. Bizenjo and



Balochistan Youth Against Corona played a crucial role against COVID-19.

In farewell meetings, COAS Gen Bajwa tells troops to keep serving nation with same zeal

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa Thursday advised armed forces to keep serving the nation with the same zeal and commitment no matter what the circumstances. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the army chief's comments came during his visit to Sialkot and Mangla garrisons as part of his farewell visits to various formations. The COAS appreciated formations for their excellent performance during various operations, training, and natural calamities. Earlier, on arrival at Sialkot, Lieutenant General Muhammad Aamer received the army chief and at Mangla garrison, Lieutenant General Asman Bilal Safdar had received him. Just a day earlier, the army chief

had directed the troops to always stay focused on their professional duties in the service of the nation. COAS expressed the views on arrival at Peshwar Corps Headquarters, where he laid a floral wreath at Shahuada (martyrs) monument. Later, the COAS addressed officers and men of the Peshwar Corps, where he appreciated the formation for its monumental efforts in achieving peace and stability. "We owe it to the sacrifices of our shuhada for providing a secure and enabling environment for socio-economic development in newly merged districts in particular and KP in general," the COAS said. Earlier, on arrival at Corps Headquarters, the COAS was received by Commander Peshawar Corps Lieutenant General Hassan Azhar Hayat. Web Desk

Bizenjo, Mengal and Kalmati forgot people of Balochistan: Maulana Hidayat

"15 days on, so far, no government official has come to meet the protesters", Maulana

Behram Baloch

GWADAR: Chief of Gwadar Rights Movement (GRM), Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman on Thursday claimed that the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo, Balochistan National Party (Mengal) Chief, Sardar Akhtar Mengal and Hamal Kalmati, the MPA forgot people of the province in general and Gwadar in particular. The protest of GRM in Gwadar entered the 15th day on Thursday. The GRM has been protesting against illegal trawling, unnecessary checking, and delays in the implementation of its charter of demand. "Well-wishers of Balochs forgot after getting ministries". "Well-wishers of Balochs forgot everything after getting government positions", Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman claimed. He said present rulers were least bothered about the plight of the people in Gwadar and the solution to their issues. "They are interested in ministries rather than serving the Baloch masses", the Maulana said. The GRM Chief lashed out at the provincial and federal governments for



their failure to address the issues pertaining to the port city of the country. The protesters have blocked the main Gwadar Chowk to press the provincial government for acceptance of their demands. They vowed that the protest would continue till acceptance of their demands. "15 days on, so far, no government official has come to meet the protesters", Maulana "15 days on, so far, no government official has come to meet the protesters", Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman said. He

claimed that incompetent people were imposed on Balochistan and they were least bothered about the issues relating to the province. The GRM Chief reiterated that despite repeated assurances, illegal trawling was going on in the sea under what he called the nose of influential people. "We want an end to this practice", the Maulana said, adding that the protesters would not call off their protest until all demands are met. The protest was underway till the filing of this report.

Quetta: Academia plays crucial role in promotion of peace and tolerance

Gender, human rights, and development in education were highlighted to be improved, Dr. Shahida Habib Alizai

Amin Barech

QUETTA: Speakers at a seminar termed the role of academia crucial for the promotion of peace and tolerance in society. The Balochistan University hosted a panel discussion on Thursday about the role of academia in promoting peace, tolerance, and nonviolence. The panelists include Pro VC Dr. Anwar Panizai, Dr. Babrak Niaz, Dr. Kaleem Ullah Barech, Madam Zahra, Madam Farhana Umar, Dr. Shahida Habib Alizai, Pro Azeem Tahir, and Dr. M. Usman discussed peace, tolerance, and non-violence happening in Balochistan. People practice violence in different ways such as in politics, social, cultural and religious. And somehow in abduction, protest, load-shedding, and all other factors that happen to citizens of any state.



In some cases, leadership is the main cause of creating violence among the people through guiding them and engaging them in different activities to achieve their goals while misguiding them through religion, laws, cultural values, and all the other ways forward, which makes any citizen psychopatient. Gender, human rights, and development in education were highlighted to be improved so that such extremism could be resolved. In the panel discussion, the media was also focused on playing its role in overcoming intolerance and nonviolence and bringing peace, as the media is considered the Fourth Pillar of the State. Such panel discussions and workshops must be organized everywhere to raise awareness of peace. Tolerance, and nonviolence, and then it will be over. The panel discussion ended to Present shields to the panelists of Today's Discussion at the University of Balochistan.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

Cries of coal miners in Balochistan

Perhaps, the cries of coal miners fall on deaf ears in Balochistan like in other parts of the country. Horrifying news of coal miners buried alive, burnt to death, severely injured by methane gas blasts continue to surface from different areas of the province.

Such tragedies are yet to attract the attention of rulers and above all make no headlines in the so-called mainstream national media. Incidents in coal mines are always ignored. No, follow up investigation and inquiries, when it comes to the death of hapless miners in Balochistan.

Hazardous working conditions have claimed thousands of precious human lives inside coal mines of Balochistan, which houses rich-coal reservoirs. Almost with no safety, the miners enter into mines in the morning and extract coal for a whole day. Fortunate are those who come out alive in the evening. As per the 1923 mines act, the inspector of mines is bound to inspect mine in the morning prior to the entry of miners. Similarly, children, minor boys, and women are not allowed to step inside the mine according to the act.

Coal mines incidents rampant in Balochistan
Incidents in Dukki, Mach, Chamalang, Sorange, Khost, Harnai, and other parts of Balochistan are rampant in coal mines.

Six coal miners trapped when a fire erupted inside the coal mines the other day in the Chamalang area of Balochistan. Fortunately, rescue workers backed by the Frontier Corps (FC) rescued all six miners after nine hours-long operations. The technical team dispatched from Quetta in a helicopter to ensure the unhurt recovery of coal miners.

The mines and mineral department government of Balochistan is reluctant to share data of incidents with the media. Although, thousands have died in the coal mines of Balochistan during last more than a decade. Mines owners are hardly punished for poor working conditions that cause such tragedies.

Broken families need to be provided a reasonable compensation
Broken and poverty-hit families need to be provided reasonable compensation by the government and mines owners. Currently, the families are paid a nominal amount by mine owners. It is time for the government to make sure the implementation of the 1923 mines acts to save precious human lives.

Such incidents cause a national outrage in other parts of the globe. Nonetheless, they go unnoticed in this part of the world. It is a matter of our collective conscience and responsibilities to raise voice for saving precious human lives and raising voice for a down-trodden class of society.

To be precise, the implementation of the 1923 mines act can help reduce the number of such incidents in the coal mines of Balochistan.

Pakistan's energy transition

By Engineer Khurram Dastgir-khan

Pakistan in 2022 became the canary in the mine of climate change. The flood that ravaged one-third of the country this year came from the sky, not from overflowing rivers. An area larger than many European countries became a flood-lake many feet deep. The calamity was an undeniable consequence of global warming.

"Pakistan has [been] flooded before but it has never flooded at this scale," wrote one observer, "and never in so many ways at once: cloudbursts and glacial outbursts in the north, prolonged spells of rain in Sindh and Balochistan, flash floods in the foothills west of the Indus, and urban flooding in cities like Karachi — a mélange of meteorological disasters."

There was no spring this year in Pakistan. The weather turned from cold to hot seemingly overnight in April, and then became hotter still. Electricity demand soared first to an unprecedented seasonal level, and then to the historical record high of over 30,000MW.

Monsoon rains came in mid-July and burst

the clouds in late August, as if on steroids. Sindh and Balochistan received rainfall manifolds above average. The rainfall was the flood. It caused \$30 billion in loss and damage, destroyed nearly two million dwellings, displaced 8 million people, and affected 33 million citizens.

The irony is stark. Pakistan contributes a negligible 0.8 per cent of the global carbon footprint, but we are among the 10 most climate-stressed countries on the planet — a tragedy writ large. Pakistan is a victim of pollution emitted by others. Even if we reduced our climate impact to zero, we would still be vulnerable against melting glaciers, errant and severe rainfall, agricultural failure, and extreme prolonged heat.

The pluralist government of PM Shehbaz Sharif has, however, begun to build resilience by addressing mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The transition towards renewable, clean, and indigenous energy is the highest priority because it combines equally urgent imperatives: reducing

cost of energy, energy sovereignty, and protecting the environment.

The new energy landscape after the Ukraine war has necessitated that all new power generation in Pakistan shall henceforth be based upon indigenous resources, of which major ones are: solar, Thar coal, hydel, nuclear, and wind. These might be supplemented by other domestic sources such as wave, geo-thermal, and waste, as they become feasible economically.

On September 1, PM Sharif announced a 10,000MW solar initiative, of which the bidding for the first 600MW will be held in a few weeks. Part of the solar initiative is the proposal for thousands of 1-4MW rural-grid based micro-solar plants that will be put for bidding soon, and conversion of all federal government-owned buildings to solar.

New 10,000MW solar will be supplemented in the next few years by 12,500MW from two large-scale hydel-power project at Dasu and Diamer-Basha as well as many medium-scale hydel projects already

installed or due to come into operation such as Neelum-Jhelum, Karot, Sukhi-Kinari, Azad Pattan, and Kohala.

The wind corridor in Sindh continues to provide reliable electricity and a renewed push for wind will be announced in the coming weeks. The solar-hydel-wind projects currently under construction and some nearing completion will help fulfill Pakistan's pledge of 60 per cent renewables in our energy mix by 2030.

The renewable energy projects will perform indispensable pro-poor and pro-growth functions: reduce the price of electricity; reduce the strain on our balance-of-payment by decreasing imports of expensive fossil fuels; and reduce carbon emissions — the three pillars of sustainable development. We have also begun a serious push towards conservation.

The public's behavioural change towards conservation is slow, but we will nudge it through technological innovations such as Advanced Metering Infrastructure and, particularly, through conversion of all motorcy-

cles and three-wheelers to electronic vehicles (EV). Our EV initiative will cut emissions as well as Pakistan's fuel consumption by half — a boon not only to the environment but also to the public exchequer.

PM Sharif's government is also moving speedily towards changing specifications of electrical appliances and accessories towards energy conservation, encouraging car-pooling, installing conical baffles in gas geysers to conserve gas, and to persuade traders to change working hours towards international norms.

Pakistan's geography makes it extremely vulnerable to climate change. We cannot change our geography. We alone cannot address global carbon emissions and the consequent warming of the globe. As PM Sharif said at COP27 this week, "the international community must come together to create a common charter for the survival of the planet. And we should vow to succeed at all costs." We will provide Pakistan's future generations with clean, economical energy to power our coming economic growth.

Climate challenge

By Dr Ameena Tanvir

Long denied and then ignored, climate change is now taking a toll in Pakistan as the country sits at high risk of being run out of water and braces for intense and unprecedented weather patterns.

Pakistan is breaking its own records of being one of the worst-hit countries by climate change, almost every year. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan ranked eighth most vulnerable country in the world. In May, the UN enlisted Pakistan among the top 23 countries facing drought emergencies over the past two years. Between 1998 and 2018, the country is estimated to have lost nearly 10,000 lives to climate-related disasters and suffered losses amounting to about \$4 billion from 152 extreme weather events.

Analysts have estimated Pakistan's climate migrants over the past decade at around 30 million people. Severe weather patterns coupled with lack of readiness are not only endangering lives of millions of residents but also leading to food insecurity and dwindling economic outlook.

Although heatwaves had started impacting the country for the last many years, this year's premature heatwave has made ripples, forcing millions to readjust or reduce their daily workload or life pattern. The unprecedented and

intense heatwave that began in as early as April also sent shockwaves to the country's economic outlook, especially to Punjab. The province produces more than 50 per cent of the total wheat of the country, but the premature heat resulted in early harvesting that led to missing production targets.

Punjab witnessed an unprecedented and premature rise in temperature varying from 41 degrees C to 47 degrees C in different parts, shaving off the spring season completely this year. It is not that 47 degrees C in the country is an abnormal temperature; the problem is that wheat and other crops need certain temperatures at a certain time for their growth. The extreme heat episode in March and April led to a significant reduction in the per acre yield from over 40 mounds to 28 mounds. In May, the federal government decided to import three million tons of wheat from the international market to meet domestic needs.

This year's intense and blistering heatwave didn't spare mango production either, as the country faced nearly a 50 per cent drop in mango production. Punjab alone, which produces 70 per cent of the total mangoes, faced a 60 per cent drop in mango production during the 2022 season. The ideal temperature for good flowering of

mango must be 13 degrees C to 30 degrees C, but this year the temperatures in those days hovered around 40 degrees C.

Year-on-year temperature increases have brought plague after plague in rural and urban areas. In 2020, Punjab faced the most devastating locust infestation in nearly 30 years, which affected 15 per cent of the area of the province. Experts believe that the rising temperature of the Indian Ocean is one of the main reasons for the invasion of locusts in the South Asian region.

Also, increasing temperature is one of several reasons for deadly air pollution in the country. According to experts, rising temperature is intricately linked with the climate crisis because warmer temperatures create an environment for smog formation and can lead the air to stagnate — preventing dirty air from leaving an area. Air pollution thus exacerbates existing inequalities and paves the way for human rights violations.

Deteriorating air pollution is also leading to indirect costs such as lower labour supply and productivity, migration of skilled labour, and volatility in the financial sector.

Rising temperatures are not an exclusive or sole reason for low yield of several crops in Pakistan, but prolonged droughts and below-normal rains have their part

to play as well. Despite having one of the world's largest irrigation systems, water channels across Pakistan confronted acute water shortages due to less or below-normal rainfall from February through June of this year. Water reservoirs remained unfilled or partially filled leading to hampering economic activities.

Before the recent rains brought relief for the residents of Cholistan, Thal and other desert areas of the country, life was upturned, forcing hundreds and thousands of people to migrate with their cattle to greener pastures and urban centres in desperate search for water.

Although all provinces confronted acute water shortages as of late June, Sindh faced the worst of it with a record 40 per cent shortage.

The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) expected a 22 per cent water shortage for the Kharif season, but it turned out even worse with a water shortage of 38 per cent.

Prolonged drought eventually ended with the beginning of the monsoon season in July, but heavy rains made things look even worse. Flash floods caused by abnormally heavy monsoon rains have killed over 550 people so far, with Balochistan among the hardest hit.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), July turned out to be the wettest month since 1961, with 181 per cent more rain than average. Balochistan received 450 per cent and Sindh 308 per cent more rain than the annual average, the disaster agency said.

Unusual and torrential rainfall in Karachi caused havoc, forcing residents to stay at home during weekdays. The provincial government also announced a day off to cope with the heavy rainfall challenge.

During the second spell of monsoon rains, the city received more than an entire summer's worth of rain in one day. Over 50 casualties have been reported in Sindh.

Successive governments, on their part, avowed to mitigate climate challenges and keep the issue as one of the top priorities. But little has been done in this regard due to lack of funding, attention and will power.

Climate affairs

By Chloe Atkinson

Scientists have long clamored that human activity on Earth has led to the calamitous weather changes we are witnessing today. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that climate change makes heatwaves hotter and more frequent.

According to the research, greenhouse gas emissions have heated the planet by an estimated 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.16 degrees Fahrenheit) over the last two centuries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Reasons for rationality

By Kamila Hyat

Rationality is essential to a state, just as it is for an individual. Without rationality a country can only fall into various traps including that created by conspiracy theories; chaos which has been deliberately manufactured, and other faults which hold it back from moving forward and developing as nations should. This is one of the reasons Pakistan continues to face a host of problems.

There is a distinct lack of rationality within the country, except of course from a few scholars, researchers, and young people who have brought a new vision in their comments about the state of the country and its people. However, these individuals are too few and their voice is far too limited to make any real impact on the nation and its citizens.

We now see the results of this lack of rationality. So many people have bought into Imran Khan's narrative of the US cipher and America's attempt to overthrow his government. They seem to have also bought into his narrative of a plot to assassinate him. Other conspiracy theories have also emerged although not by Khan himself. And with a disjointed party structure and many faultlines within the PTI, this has translated into sporadic protests across the country following a targeted attack on Imran Khan in

Wazirabad, Punjab.

However, these protests have been enough to disrupt life and throw some parts of cities into chaos. We do not know what will happen next as Imran has announced the resumption of his long march from today (Thursday). He also plans to join marchers in Rawalpindi and take whatever steps he deems fit. We do not know what these steps are or what the PTI's plans are. The party's demands that the prime minister, the interior minister, and a senior army official step down are obviously not going to be met. And the party has not been able to register an FIR on its terms so far. An FIR has been registered by the state, not the PTI or Imran Khan, against the shooter who has cited religious reasons for the attack.

Why are we this irrational? Why do we, as a nation and as a political entity, fall into the traps that lie along our way? There are multiple reasons. Many of them begin at the primary level, as a child enters school at the age of four or five years. From the very beginning, s/he is taught not to question, think, use creativity, question teachers, and put forward views, but to learn by rote. Most of our schools, indeed almost all our schools, and our madrassahs, have no other way of teaching children and depend entirely on their

ability to learn long texts by rote, and repeat them in one form or the other for exams, tests or on other occasions.

The problem is magnified by the issue of language, and the fact that children attending mid-tier privately run English-medium schools as well as those in government schools do not learn the language at all, and struggle to understand even the basics of their textbooks. This problem continues into the higher levels of education, and even university students are often unable to comprehend the basics of their subjects — mathematics, biology, physics or some other field of expertise.

On top of this, we do not have a culture of debate on important issues, with very few willing to come forward with rational views and to discuss matters openly or debate all issues that face us. When people do so, they often face threats and harassment in one form or the other. Multiple journalists have come up against this and some, as a result, have fled the country. Others have chosen to go behind the safety of silence or to stop putting forward any view that could in any way upset the dominant narrative that we are taught from an early age. The Arshad Sharif case simply adds to the reality of shadows of secrecy and intrigue.

While the PTI insists that Arshad was driven

out of the country, we do not know what happened and why he was killed — by whom and for what reasons. The investigation taking place in Nairobi, Kenya will finally bring forward some results though it is unlikely that we will know the truth. Once again, in this story — tragic in the sense that Arshad's family has already met death too often — the lack of rationality among people makes it even more difficult to uncover the truth.

People simply follow the party line of political parties they support without looking at the facts or attempting to sort them out by themselves. It has now become easy to predict what one set of media will say as opposed to the other, and in the same way, what one individual will say as compared to another individual. Everything seems to be based around the great divide which has split our country into two different halves, with people sticking firmly to their opinions about parties. Even after the current crisis, which has occurred after the events in Wazirabad, there is no sign that the parties are willing to talk or reach any kind of consensus on what should happen next or how things should move forward. This is nothing short of a disaster.

Another problem is that we know little about

the world and history. While Imran Khan has quoted Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew as a leader to be admired and a man who turned his country around, ending corruption and mismanagement and making it one of the most developed countries in the world, many do not realize that Yew was also an autocrat who ruled with an iron fist, and Singapore is still known for its rather draconian punishments for even relatively minor crimes.

There are other examples. While Singapore is certainly a success story in terms of development, it is not the success story in terms of democracy or the rights it gives to its people. Quite a lot is banned in the country, and debate is kept within a limited circle, when permitted at all. All these factors would have to be overcome to turn us into a rational and truly literate nation. The fact that our current education setup only makes things worse is not encouraging. It narrows down minds further and does not permit rationality or good sense to grow. And it makes us unwilling to move away from our strongly held worldview or to enter into debate so as to promote critical thinking across the nation.

The writer is a freelance columnist and former newspaper editor. She can be reached at: kamilahyat@hotmail.com

Inequality and hunger

By Chuck Collins

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Historical, decisional stay of long march to be in Rawalpindi: Sh. Rashid

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former federal minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that the historical and decisional stay of PTI's long march would be in Rawalpindi.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, he said that he would be pleased if guests of Saudi Arabia return back to Pakistan.

Sheikh Rashid said that it was matter of grave concern that mother of journalist Arshad Sharif had to move Supreme Court for postmortem

report of her son and the report has shattered the hearts of nation.

He warned that rubber stamp parties were not owners of Islamabad but it belongs to us.

The AML chief said that a single appointed has terrified the entire political leadership.

Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari and Maulana Fazl ur Rehman would have to face disappointment, he added.

Sheikh Rashid said that decision would be taken on merit and general elections would have to be

conducted.

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Sheikh Rashid said that it was matter of grave concern that mother of journalist Arshad Sharif had to move Supreme Court for postmortem report of her son and the report has shattered the hearts of nation. He warned that rubber stamp parties were not owners of Islamabad but it belongs to us. The AML chief said that INP



ABU DHABI: A delegation of Etisalat called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar today at the Embassy of Pakistan, Abu Dhabi.

Mushaal urges UNHRC to suspend India's membership for continued HR violations in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, demanded that UN human rights council (UNHRC) should suspend India's membership to the council, for its failure to address the key human rights concerns expressed by United Nations and the OIC during third Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Mushaal, wife of senior journalist leader Yasin Malik, in a statement on Thursday said that only international sections can make India answerable.

Despite strong protests from human rights organizations including the United Nations and the OIC, the Indian Government has failed to address the key

human rights concerns expressed during third UPR, she added. She appreciated over two hundred civil society groups for raising concerns over the worsening situation in IIOJK and the world should take steps to resolve the Kashmir dispute as per the wishes of the people of Kashmir. Mushaal further said that the Narendra Modi led Indian government crossed all limits of brutalities and fascism, hence the world powers and human rights organizations should have to come forward to stop the ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri people. She said that the Indian government was violating all international norms, conventions, and obligations in the occupied valley with complete impunity sans any fear from the world powers because of their common commercial interests as India being the largest business center. The hurried leader went on to say that India was misusing anti-terror laws against people of political dissent, human rights defenders and journalists, demanding the rights watchdogs to join their hands to hold the Indian government accountable and ask the government to address key human rights issues that have been neglected for too long.

Mushaal said that the world powers and UN bodies should press Indian government to reverse 5TH August unlawful action, because INP

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SHC urges ECP for holding LB elections in Karachi, Hyderabad without further delay

KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) criticized the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for sitting on the local bodies (LB) elections in Karachi and Hyderabad, urged them to hold LB election without further delay.

During the hearing of the petitions submitted by PTI and JI on Thursday, the SHC expressed its displeasure over the holdup.

Headed by Chief Justice Sindh High Court Justice Ahmed Ali M Shaikh, a 2-member bench took up the case.

Justice Yousaf Ali, questioned the ECP counsel during the hearing that why local government elections were being delayed repeatedly. CJ Shaikh remarked that it was ECP's responsibility to hold local government elections.

In his reply, the ECP's counsel said it was a public holiday on Wednesday due to which the commission's meeting could not be held.

The Chief Justice SHC lamented, "It's ECP, not a school. So what if it was a holiday? The meeting could have been held. Enough is enough. Go

hold LB elections."

He asked where were the reports the court had sought from DG Rangers and IG Sindh Regarding the ECP's excuse that LB polls were not being held because of a shortage of security personnel for the election, CJ SHC unleashed a flurry of questions at the defendant's lawyer.

"Which police go to secure flood-affected areas? What are they doing with flood victims and what kind of duty are they performing there," the CJ Sindh High Court asked.

The court sought reports from IG Police and DG Rangers Sindh on the total strength of personnel in the province and how many of them are deployed in flood-affected areas.

CJ SHC also questioned the ECP counsel with regard to police duty in flooded parts of the province. "Name a village in Sindh where police carried out an operation for the victims of the flood. What is the total strength of the police in Sindh and where are they deployed right now?" CJ SHC asked. Having no reply, the advocate gener-

al, prayed to the court for more time. CJ SHC said the court would not grant the government a lot of time and it would need a report as soon as possible.

The court also directed the DG Rangers and IGP Sindh to furnish the court with all the details of their strength or appoint an officer for that.

The SHC later adjourned the hearing will November 14.

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Imran Khan attack: PTI moves court for registration of FIR

WAZIRABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has moved a sessions court in Wazirabad over registration of a first information report (FIR) of attack on former prime minister and party chief Imran Khan during long march.

According to details, PTI leader Zubair Niazi has filed a petition in Wazirabad Sessions Court over the registration of first information report (FIR) of attack on Imran Khan during party's long march.

Zubair Niazi, in the petition, noted that the former prime minister suffered bullet wounds during the attack, which also claimed a life. "The party had formally requested the police to register a case, but no action was taken," he added. The petitioner pointed that that the police did not register the FIR of the incident for several days. "Instead of acting on the party's request, the police registered a case on their own complaint," the petitioner added. The petition termed

the police's step a 'violation of the law', urging the court to direct the law enforcement agency to register the case. Zubair Niazi, in the petition, noted that the former prime minister suffered bullet wounds during the attack, which also claimed a life. "The party had formally requested the police to register a case, but no action was taken," he added. The petitioner pointed that that the police did not register the FIR of the incident for several days. INP

Police conducts search operations in different areas of Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi on Thursday launched search operations in different city areas in the jurisdiction of Kalar Syedan, Morgah, Saddar Baroni, Kahuta, Taxila, Kotli Sattian, Rawat and Patriata police stations, said a police spokesman.

He informed that heavy contingents of Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police under the supervision of senior police officers, conducted search operations in different areas and searched 476 houses, 80 shops, 10 hotels, besides checking the particulars of 47 tenants.

Over 733 persons were also checked during the operations, he added. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations, Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan said that search operations were being conducted to net the lawbreakers. INP

3 injured in Karachi's Shershah Kabari Market fire

KARACHI: At least three people sustained burn injuries as a result of a fire breakout in Shershah Kabari Market in Karachi on Thursday morning.

The fire was put out around noon and the cooling process is underway. The blaze engulfed various shops in the market in no time. At least 10 fire brigade vehicles reached the spot and took part in the fire extinguishing operation.

Chief Fire Officer said three people including a firefighter got injured in the incident while the blaze burnt down six to seven shops.

According to the guard at the duty, the fire broke out in a shop around 6:30am which then engulfed several adjoining shops due to short circuit. INP

ANF seizes over 423 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan has seized over 423 kg of drugs, 428 heroin-filled and 259 charras-filled capsules besides netting three accused during counter-narcotics operations in different areas.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF Sindh managed to bust a gang and arrested three accused namely Shamim Khan, ring leader, resident of Karachi, Abdul Jameel Khalil, resident of Peshawar, drug supplier, and Muhammad Atham, a drug carrier, resident of Karachi and recovered. INP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi addressing a press.

Japan to continue support for Pakistan in safe water supply projects

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Wada Mitsuhiro said that the government of Japan would continue to cooperate with Pakistan in the supply of safe water to citizens and the improvement of the sewage treatment system.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the project of replacement of pumping machinery at the inline booster pumping station and terminal reservoir in Faisalabad and the groundbreaking ceremony of the project, the improvement of the water treatment plant and water distribution system in Faisalabad.

The ambassador said, "With these efforts, I hope the people of Pakistan will remember Japan as the source of clean water."

He emphasized the

importance of water supply services for Pakistan. He said that the government of Japan and JICA will continue to assist with water supply services conducted by the Government of Punjab and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office, Kinoshita Yasumitsu said "JICA is expecting WASA Faisalabad to take the leading role in sharing tips and lessons learned from our projects to be utilized for reforming water supply management not only in Faisalabad and Punjab provinces but throughout the country."

He said, "I hope this grant aid project will be successful not only as a single project but as a sig-

nificant milestone for having a positive impact on the improvement of water supply services in Pakistan in the future."

He added JICA will keep contributing to the sustainable development of the water supply sector in Pakistan. The Government of Japan and JICA has supported water supply system development in WASA Faisalabad (WASA-F) since 2004 to strengthen urban water service for sustainability. The project of replacement of pumping machinery at the inline booster pumping station and terminal reservoir in Faisalabad accomplished the replacement of inefficient transmission pumps with new efficient ones, construction of pumping station, and rehabilitation of reservoirs using 1.616 billion Japanese Yen. INP

ECP hears contempt case against Imran Khan, other PTI leaders

ISLAMABAD: The election commission on Thursday heard contempt case against Imran Khan, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry. A four-member panel of the Election Commission of Pakistan headed by ECP member Nisar Durrani heard the case.

Advocate Ali Bukhari appeared on behalf of the PTI and sought the ECP to adjourn the case. "Faisal Chaudhry has been in Lahore and could not reach due to blockade of roads," the counsel said.

"Anwar Mansoor has been in Karachi, I am an assistant lawyer and not the advocate in the case," Ali Bukhari further said. "They have in calls asked me to get adjournment in the case," he said. "I am filing a written application from Anwar Mansoor for adjournment," the counsel added.

"We have to meet the requirement of justice. You have yourself blocked roads and now saying could not come owing to roadblocks," ECP member observed. "The court has restrained the ECP against adverse action but not stopped from proceedings in the case," election commission member further remarked. "Issuing bailable warrants is not an adverse action," he added. The ECP panel adjourned hearing of the case until November 22. INP

PTI continues hold protest, block several roads

RAWALPINDI: The workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday continued the protest here for the fourth day and blocked several roads including Murree Road and G.T. Road against the assassination attempt on former premier Imran Khan.

The PTI supporters are holding protests at several main places including Murree Road opposite Allama Iqbal Park near Shamasabad closing the road from both sides. The G.T. Road Taxila near bypass chowk and Margala Hills' closed for all kinds of vehicular traffic.

Main Peshawar Road and Mail Road are open for traffic. However, the starting point of IJP Road, near Ghosia Ad towards Rawalpindi and Islamabad is closed for all kind of traffic. Jhelum Road near Swan Bridge towards Kutchery is closed for traffic but the road is open towards Rawat. Motorway M-1, Islamabad to Peshawar is open for traffic moving towards Peshawar while M-2, Islamabad to Lahore is closed for traffic moving towards Lahore. Old Airport Road near Gulzar-e-Quaid is open for all kinds of traffic. The protesters stopped a large number of oil tankers and other heavy traffic on Fateh Jang Road besides blocking G.T. Road in Taxila for three days. Educational Institutions are closed in Tehsil Rawalpindi. INP



QUETTA: Activates of Balochistan Employees Ittihad hold protest rally.

Hina Khar stresses sustained int'l engagement with Afghan interim government

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Thursday in a meeting with Special Representative of the President of Iran on Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Ghomi stressed sustained engagement of the international community with the interim Afghan government to ensure wellbeing and prosperity of the Afghan people.

Reaffirming Pakistan's abiding commitment to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, MoS Khar underscored that deep-rooted fraternal ties underpin the strong bonds of solidarity between the two countries, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

As friends and neighbours of Afghanistan, the Minister of State highlighted the critical role of Pakistan and Iran in this regard.

Earlier, the Iranian Special Representative also met his Pakistani counterpart, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq. Both sides agreed to further strengthen their cooperation towards advancing the mutually reinforcing goals of regional peace and development.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Buildings CWPP&H Department District Kalat invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the bidding documents for the works mentioned below. The estimated cost and other information of works are as under: percentage tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2018, Government of Baluchistan amended up-to-date from interested contractors/firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules & Tender complete details please visit <http://www.bppra.gov.pk>. Bid Security @ 3% and Tender Fee Rs. 2000/- A/C # C02716 for each work.

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Bid submission / Tender opening Date
1	TWO (02) CLASS ROOMS AT PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR KILLI ROBODAS SHAH GAHAR NERMUK PSDP NO 6389/22022.1143 KALAT) EST COST 409924 TSE-22231149953	4,099,024.00	05/12/2022
2	BOUNDARY WALL AT PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR KILLI ROBODAS SHAH GAHAR NERMUK PSDP NO 6389/22022.1143 KALAT) EST COST 2657183 TSE-22231150063	2,657,183.00	05/12/2022
3	TOILET AT PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR KILLI ROBODAS SHAH GAHAR NERMUK PSDP NO 6389/22022.1143 KALAT) EST COST 1019332 TSE-22231150013	1,019,332.00	05/12/2022
4	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL FOR GGHS JOHAN KALAT PSDP NO 6389/22022.1143 KALAT) EST COST 5647445 TSE-22231150063	5,647,445.00	05/12/2022
5	CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CLASS ROOMS AND BATH ROOMS AT 2ND FLOOR AT GOVERNMENT GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL KOHING KALAT PSDP NO 6423/22022.3016 KALAT) EST COST 3099478 TSE-22231150063	38,094,767.99	05/12/2022
6	THREE CLASS ROOMS AT SHELTERLESS GBPS KILLI ILLAHI BUX LEHRI KOHING KALAT. PSDP NO 5942/22022.1096 KALAT) EST COST 5537021 TSE-22231150103	5,537,021.92	05/12/2022
7	BOUNDARY WALL AT SHELTERLESS GBPS KILLI ILLAHI BUX LEHRI KOHING KALAT. PSDP NO 5942/22022.1096 KALAT) EST COST 2653079 TSE-22231150123	2,653,079.00	05/12/2022
8	TOILET BLOCK AT SHELTERLESS GBPS KILLI ILLAHI BUX LEHRI KOHING KALAT. PSDP NO 5942/22022.1096 KALAT) EST COST 1848267.16 TSE-22231150133	1,848,267.16	05/12/2022

DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION: Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed in two separate envelopes clearly marked with Work title type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. The Second sealed envelope containing "financial bids" of technically responsive/qualified bidders will be opened on the same date. Bids Validity: Ninety days Place: The place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be - The Office of the Executive Engineer Buildings CWPP&H Department District Kalat & Submission Time deadline 09:30 A.M Date 05 December 2022 & Opening Time deadline 10:30 A.M Date 05 December 2022.

Executive Engineer Buildings
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Sindh Govt all set to start work on Karachi's Yellow Line BRT project

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali on Thursday presided over a meeting to review arrangements regarding the construction work on Karachi's Yellow Line BRT project.

The meeting was attended by Sindh Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, the World Bank delegation and Sindh transport and mass transit department.

During the meeting, Transport Minister briefed the meeting that Yellow Line BRT is 21km project that would start from Dawood

Chowrangi and end at Numash.

Under the conceptual plan, Karachi's Yellow Line BRT project with intersections is 21 km long which includes 17.6 km at grade, and 3.2km underground, and has 28 stations.

The chief minister directed the minister for the construction of a new four-lane one-kilometer-long bridge, adjacent to the existing Jam Sadiq Bridge.

In the previous meeting, the provincial government and WB had agreed to repair the Jam Sadiq Bridge that has

spent its life and is in a state of dilapidation.

CM Murad also directed the transport department to start the construction work on the project soon by completing all formalities.

The Yellow Line BRT covers a distance of 21 kilometres from Dawood Chowrangi to Numash Chowrangi.

The total cost of the project will be \$438.9 million, of which the World Bank will have a share of \$381.9 million, the Sindh government will pay \$19.5 million.

Under the conceptual plan, eight underpasses

will be constructed at Murtaza Chowrangi, Singer Chowrangi, Bilal Chowrangi, Vita Chowrangi, Shaan Chowrangi, Brooks Chowrangi, Khayaban-e-Ittehad, Korangi Road intersection, and at the Sunset Boulevard intersection. In addition, the Jam Sadiq Bridge will also be widened.

Karachi Breeze is a 112.9 km (70.2 mi) network of Bus Rapid Transit lines under construction in Karachi. The name was officially given by the Sindh Mass Transit Authority for Karachi's Bus and Mass

Rapid Transit system. However, only two lines, Green Line and Orange Line BRTs have started services in Karachi. The construction work on Red Line BRT and KCR is underway.

Karachi's Green Line BRT project with intersections is 24 km long which includes 12.7 km elevated, 10.9 km at grade, and 422 meters underground, and has 25 stations. The phase-II common corridor from Gurumandir up to Municipal Park with a length of 2.5 km has two underpasses at M.A Jinnah Road. INP

Book titled "Human Capital, Innovation, and Disruptive Digital Technology: A Multi-Dimensional Perspective" launched

LAHORE: Authored by the veteran international and national economists as well as management sciences academics, a book titled "Human Capital, Innovation, and Disruptive Digital Technology: A Multi-Dimensional Perspective" was launched at a ceremony held in Lahore on Thursday.

The book has been authored by renowned economists and management sciences academics including the Vice Chancellor University of Sargodha Prof. Dr. Qaiser Abbas, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz of Beijing Institute of China and Prof. Dr.

Shujaat Mubarak of Institute of Business Management Karachi. The book discussed the role of human capital in the context of technological development, innovation, resilience, and ambidextrous behavior. The book also provided a thorough analysis of the role of human capital in industry, firm internationalization, and organizational ambidexterity while keeping contemporary business dynamics in mind. It also outlined strategies for firms to improve their human capital

readiness, which forms the basis of this new economy. Addressing the ceremony, Raja Yassir Humayun Sarfraz congratulated the authors on writing a valuable book for the students of economics and management sciences and stressed on business organizations to make full use of it. He was of the view that the book offered a diverse view of human capital and its multi-faceted role and applications in an organization.

"Pakistan has very low capital and GDP as it relies heavily on traditional technology. But the world is changing along modern lines, and we need to introduce new ideas into our economy" said by the PHEC Chairman Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir.

The provincial minister went on to say that China has registered 0.6 million patents by 2021. He emphasized economists, especially students using modern technology and introducing innovative ideas to elevate the current annual income which is extremely low.

The author and the Vice Chancellor UoS, Prof. Dr. Qaiser Abbas informed the attendees that the book has been written by keeping in view the post COVID-19 economic challenges. He highlighted the changing role of human capital and social development that led to the necessity of a new paradigm of economic growth. He termed the book very useful for management officers, researchers, academicians and those interested in the dimensions and development of human capital.



ISLAMABAD: Kazakhstan Ambassador to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin called on Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik..

Huge fire breaks out in Karachi's Shershah Kabari Market

KARACHI: Fire broke out in several shops in Shershah Kabari Market in Karachi on Thursday morning. The blaze engulfed various shops in the market in no time. At least 10 fire brigade vehicles reached the spot and taking part in the fire extinguishing operation. According to the guard at the duty, the fire broke out in a shop around 6:30am which then engulfed several adjoining shops due to short circuit.

Dry weather expected in most parts of country: PMD

ISLAMABAD: Dry weather is expected in most parts of the country. However, rain-wind and thunderstorm is expected in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir. Temperatures of some major cities recorded on Thursday morning. Islamabad eleven degree centigrade, Lahore sixteen, Karachi twenty-two, Peshawar thirteen, Quetta seven, Gilgit eight, Murree seven and Muzaffarabad nine degree centigrade. According to Met Office forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, cloudy weather with chances of rain-wind and thunderstorm is expected in Srinagar, Jammu, Leh, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian and Baramulla while cloudy weather with chances of rain-thunderstorm and snow over mountains. Temperature recorded. Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian and Baramulla six degree centigrade, Jammu fourteen, Leh minus one and Anantnag five degree centigrade. INP

Wide-range protests held against anti-people policies of Indian authorities in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: Wide-range protests were held against anti-people policies of the Indian authorities in parts of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The skilled and un-skilled laborers sat on a sit-in protest near the office of Super Highway in Jammu. After passing of deadline given by labour union to enroll the local youth in construction of the highway, a number of skilled and unskilled but unemployed workers staged the protest. They were raising slogans in favor of their demands. A union leader Isha Dass Khajuria widely condemned the attitude of the authorities for ignoring the local unemployed youth and giving employment to outsiders. Meanwhile, the Nursing staff of SKIMS appointed under the academic arrangement also staged a protest against the authorities saying that they were made to work without getting paid. Scores of nurses appeared in the press enclave, Srinagar, holding placards and raising slogans in favour of their demands which included the continuation of their services. "We are working as nursing staff under the academic arrangement in SKIMS. We have been working there for more than 18 months. Firstly, we got the extension of one year and then we were verbally told to work for 6 months more, however, for that, we did not get any approval from the authorities," Mehreen, one of the protesting nurses said. She said that their salaries for those six months were not released either. The Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) of the Education Department staged a protest against the Finance Department for sitting on a file which was submitted to it by the School Education Department. Scores of such workers appeared in the press enclave, Srinagar and raised slogans against the authorities while warning that they will go for no pay and no work to press for the fulfilment of their demands. INP

Pakistan calls for sustained engagement of Int'l community with interim Afghan Govt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reiterated the importance of sustained engagement of international community with the interim Afghan government, to ensure continued wellbeing and prosperity of the Afghan people. This came during meeting of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar with Iranian President's Special Representative on Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Ghomi in Islamabad on Thursday. She said the international community's engagement is important due to multiple and complex challenges confronting Afghanistan. Reaffirming Pakistan's abiding commitment to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, the Minister of State underscored that deep rooted fraternal ties underpin the strong bonds of solidarity between the two countries. Hina Rabbani Khar said as friends and neighbours of Afghanistan, both Pakistan and Iran have critical role to this end. Earlier, the Iranian Special Representative also met Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq and agreed to further strengthen cooperation towards advancing the mutually reinforcing goals of regional peace and development. INP

Sindh gov't plans to launch Karachi-Sukkur bullet train project

KARACHI: Sindh Transport and Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said on Thursday that the provincial government was planning to launch Karachi-Sukkur bullet train project. He said this while chairing a meeting regarding the Yellow Line BRT project in Karachi. The meeting was attended by World Bank delegation and officials from the transport ministry. The minister said that the Sindh government was planning Karachi-Sukkur bullet train project and for that they need cooperation from World Bank. Sindh government is working tirelessly to improve transport system in Karachi, he told meeting. The minister further said that the government was planning Karachi-Hyderabad bullet train project in first phase with the collaboration of World Bank. He also invited WB to bring 300 electric buses for Karachi under People Bus Service project. He said this while chairing a meeting regarding the Yellow Line BRT project in Karachi. The meeting was attended by World Bank delegation and officials from the transport ministry. The minister said that the Sindh government was planning Karachi-Sukkur bullet train project and for that they need cooperation from World Bank. Sindh government is working tirelessly to improve transport system in Karachi, he told meeting. INP

CS AJK urged for playing role to eradicate mafias in govt depts

MIRPUR: Former minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Muhammad Tahir Khokhar has demanded the Chief Secretary of Azad Kashmir to play a role in eradicating mafias in the government departments. He said, "A murderous attack is a very sad and cowardly act. The appointment of a dynamic and highly talented officer like Amjad Pervez to the Secretary Services is welcome. It is hoped that he will rid the state of the mafia and black sheep in the services department by bringing them to justice." Talking to the media here on Thursday, Tahir Khokhar said that Ahsan Rashid Dar always raised his voice against the rights of employees and against corruption. Urgently provide security to them, if any harm occurs to them, the situation may worsen. He said that the time has come to end the mafias. These mafias are so dangerous that as a government minister, the mafias and black sheep in his departments made murderous attacks on him because he had laid hands on them for the first time. Governments are afraid of these mafias. In these situations, union leaders like Ahsan Rashid Dar speak the truth. There are booties, we should give them and protect them. He said that if the accused are not arrested, they will also participate in Ahsan Rashid Dar's protest at Islamabad Press Club on December 1. INP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui visiting calligraphy painting exhibition Calligraphy and Digital Photographic exhibition on the eve of Iqbal Day at Information Service Academy.

AJK Varsity holds 19th Convocation, awards degrees to 12,000 students

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UJK) held its 19th Convocation at the King Abdullah Campus of the university on Thursday and awarded a total of over 1000 degrees to the graduates in various disciplines. President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry who is also Chancellor of the University was Chief Guest on the occasion and awarded Gold Medals to 49 distinctions holders. The President conferred degrees to 25 Ph.D., 201 M.Phils, and 774 M.A./M.Sc, B.S, B.Com, and LLB students. In his address, President Sultan congratulated the students and their proud parents on the highest achievement of their life and encouraged them to move forward in their respective fields. He said that it is truly a memorable occasion for the graduating students, their parents, and their teachers. It is also a memorable moment for the nation as another batch of professionally qualified people has been added to the national talent pool, he emphasized. "This is a day of gratification for the parents of many of you, who invested their time, energy, and hard-earned money in educating you. In many cases, your parents might have sacrificed their personal happiness and pleasures to make sure that you get the best education that leads to your better future", the President said. The AJK President advised the student to prepare themselves for playing their role for the freedom and liberty of their brother and sisters living on the other side of the Line of Control and facing barbarism at the hands of occupation troops. He said that the enslaved people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

are looking towards the youth in the liberated territory for the realization of their supreme struggle for freedom and liberty. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, Vice-Chancellor of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir University, on the occasion presented academic, research, and curricular and extracurricular facets of the past year in the Vice-Chancellor Report. He congratulated the successful graduates and appreciated dedicating efforts of university teachers to producing these young graduates and scholars, who are the pride and source of pleasure for their parents, the university, and the community. Highlighting the significance of the event, he said convocation is a landmark in the academic and professional life of a student. It is not only the day of rewards in the form of degrees, distinctions, and honors but is also a day for starting a new journey to contribute to the nation and the coming generations. Terming the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir as an academic nucleus in the state, which provides education in multidisciplinary academic domains, ranging from Engineering to Medical Sciences - and from Social to Basic and Applied Sciences is currently offering 86 degree programs in 29 disciplines under its four faculties. The student enrolment in the university has gone up to about nine thousand, which is a strong indicator of the services and competitive quality of education provided by it. Sharing some brilliant successes and accomplishments, the Vice-Chancellor said that the construction of a new state-of-the-art King Abdullah campus at Chattr Klash with generous financial assistance from the Saudi government was a big leap forward. INP

Mustafa Khokhar submits written resignation to Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD: Senator or Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar of Pakistan People's Party has resigned from Senate seat. He submitted his written resignation to Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani in Islamabad on Thursday. He made this announcement through a tweet after meeting with senior leadership. He wrote, the party leadership "wasn't happy with my political positions and wanted my resignation from the Senate". As a political worker, Khokhar said, he cherishes his right to express his opinions on matters of public interest. "I have seen very disturbing pictures of physical torture on Shahbaz Gill," Khokhar, whose party is a part of the PML-N-led coalition government in Centre, tweeted. "No matter how much you disagree with or dislike him, a man's dignity should not have been violated like this. Khokhar said that the government was either "complicit or spineless" for not preventing such an atrocity. INP

Info Minister slams PTI Chief for creating anarchy in country

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has slammed PTI chief Imran Khan for trying to create anarchy in the country through riots and disorder. In a statement on Thursday, she lamented that money being used by Imran Khan for protests, could better be used for rehabilitation of flood affected people. The Minister said due to PTI's protests, educational institutes are closed and people are facing trouble when they have to visit hospitals. She said it would be better if Imran Khan had established new schools and hospitals during his four year tenure instead of closing the same today due to his protests. Marriyum Aurangzeb said aim of Imran Khan is to spread hatred and chaos in the country. INP

IHC dismisses petitions for disqualification of Zardari, Fawad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Thursday dismissed petitions for the disqualification of former president Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah issued the detailed verdict. "As a judge, I do not claim supremacy over the elected representatives. The high standard of Sadiq and Amin does not exist for any office holder other than the elected representatives," he said in his judgement. "This measure is not even for the unelected people under whose government half the life of this country has passed," he added. "Disqualification under Article 62 (1)(f) has profound implications. The Parliament can form its own mechanism of self-accountability

for the elected representatives," he pointed out. "Fawad Chaudhry and Asif Ali Zardari are not convicted by any court. Disqualification of both the public representatives has been sought on disputed facts," he stated. "Determining the disputed facts requires investigation. Political opponents of both the representatives will benefit during the investigation," he remarked. "If both are declared eligible after the investigation, there will be no compensation for them for the damage they suffered," he emphasised. "The courts' involvement in such investigations undermines public confidence in the elected representatives," the ruling said. "The courts getting into these matters also waste the time of the ordinary litigants," it added. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Main Javed Latif addressing a press.

LB polls: AJK Election Commission seeks security deployment by federal government

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Election Commission (EC) has again sought extra security personnel from the federal government for the deployment of Local Bodies elections to be held on November 27. In a letter to the federal interior minister, EC referred its earlier letter on the subject and said the interior minister had shown consent to deploy extra security personnel of Punjab, frontier constabulary (FC) and Pakistan Army. The letter further pointed out that time was coming short to polling day on November 27, therefore ; instructions be issued to concern quarters for deployment of army, FC and Punjab constabulary on polling station to maintain law and order on polling day. It may be recalled here that rumors were spreading about reluctance of federal government to deploy security personnel during local bod-

ies elections created concern of postponement of the elections going to be held after 30 years in the region. The election commission had earlier decided to hold the polling in phases in case of unavailability of extra security personnel by the federal government but the decision was rejected by the opposition parties demanding the elections on the same day under supervision of Army. The letter further pointed out that time was coming short to polling day on November 27, therefore ; instructions be issued to concern quarters for deployment of army, FC and Punjab constabulary on polling station to maintain law and order on polling day. It may be recalled here that rumors were spreading about reluctance of federal government to deploy security personnel during local bodies elections created concern of postponement of the elections going to be held after 30 years in the region. INP

Heart failure: Iron buildup following a heart attack may be a cause, study finds

ISLAMABAD: A heart attack occurs when a blood clot blocks blood flow to the heart. Around 1 million Trusted Source people in the United States experience a heart attack each year. Medical and surgical reperfusion treatments can reopen blocked arteries and save lives. Nevertheless, around 50% of individuals who have a heart attack subsequently develop chronic heart failure and die within 5 years. Increasing evidence suggests that heart attack can lead to chronic iron deposition and a buildup of pro-inflammatory immune cells. Other research shows that fat deposition Trusted Source in the heart attack zone is also common and is linked to impaired cardiac function. It remains unknown how fat deposition around the heart attack scar happens. Understanding more about how chronic heart failure develops post-heart

attack could pave the way for new treatment and prevention strategies. In a new study, researchers investigated canine models of heart attack and reperfusion. The researchers found that iron buildup precedes the formation of fatty tissue in the heart, which in turn leads to chronic heart failure. They also found that drugs that remove iron from the body could mitigate signs of chronic heart failure following a heart attack. "The implications of the study suggest a mechanism leading to heart failure, which could potentially be altered to improve outcomes and survival," Dr. William Kessler, board certified cardiothoracic surgeon with Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgeons Today, not involved in the study, told Medical News Today. The study was recently published in Nature Communications Trusted Source. INP