

QUETTA VOICE

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Loans worth Rs1800bn to be provided to farmers: PM



Landslide kills 2 coal miners in Chamalang Balochistan

Balochistan: "None feels our pain", a coal miner narrates his troubles

Hazardous working conditions claiming precious human lives

Syed Ali Shah

"None feels our pain", Habibullah, a coal miner who appeared to be in his early 30s narrated his troubles. In dry cold weather and blowing dust of coal, Habibullah was busy loading trucks of coal in Quetta's Spin Karez, one of the eastern outskirts. "We work here in this coal depot from dawn to dusk", Habibullah said. Because of the flying coal dust, the faces of the coal miners cannot be recognized. It was very difficult for us to breathe flying coal dust. Nevertheless, the hapless coal miners were engaged in unloading the truck. "Over 100kgs of coal in this one bag", Habibullah said. The miners were carrying over 100kgs

of bags full of coal on their shoulders and throwing them in trucks.

No basic health unit near coal depot

Hundreds of trucks loaded with coal depart from Quetta and other parts of Balochistan for Punjab province for running factories and industries. The government in general and the mines and mineral department, in particular, have not been able to establish a basic health unit near the coal depot to make sure provision of timely treatment to the miners.

Laborers engaged in coal mining, loading, and downloading are facing various diseases. "Lungs problem is common among the coal miners", Dr. Shireen Khan, a well-known chest specialist told Daily Quetta Voice. He said tuberculosis was also common among coal miners and the laborers associated with this profession.

Hazardous working conditions claiming precious human lives

"I daily earn around Rs.2000", Abdul Wahab, another coal miner

intervened while the author was talking to Habibullah. "No medical treatment when we get ill", Mr. Wahab said.

Hazardous working conditions inside coal mines of Balochistan have claimed scores of precious human lives during the last few years. The provincial government is yet to implement the safety conditions inside the coal mines

of Balochistan to avoid the occurrence of untoward incidents.

"Government has to ensure implementation of safety rules as per 1923 mines act", Pir Muhammad Khan Kakar, the central leader of Pakistan Mines Association said. He said the mine owners were minting money at the cost of the lives of coal miners.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Traders block Quetta Karachi highway against lawlessness

The traders' community staged a sit-in against lawlessness and increasing robbery incidents

Staff Reporter

Traders blocked the main Quetta Karachi highway at Lak Pass against increasing incidents of robberies. The traders' community staged a sit-in against lawlessness and increasing robbery incidents.



Rahim Agha, the President of the traders' community in Balochistan led the protesters. The protesters chanted slogans

against the government and district administrations for their failure to protect the lives and properties of the masses. "Our people are not safe on this highway", Rahim Agha said. He said 50 trucks loaded with goods were robbed in the Mangochar area of Kalat the other day. "The administration was a silent spectator", Mr. Agha claimed. Long queues of vehicles on both sides of the highway were witnessed because of the blockade of the highway. Passengers remained the worst sufferers of the protest

staged by the traders' community. People could not reach their destinations on time because of the blockade of the road.

Senior administration officials reached the spot and held successful negotiations with protesting traders. They assured that the government has taken notice of their protest and that traders and passengers would be provided security on the Quetta Karachi highway.

Subsequently, the protesting traders reopened the road for traffic.

Landslide kills 2 coal miners in Chamalang Balochistan

Hussain Zarkoon

DUKKI: At least two coal miners were killed in two separate incidents of landslides in Balochistan's Dukki district on Monday. Levies sources said the landslides inside two separate coal mines in the Chamalang area of the district.



Naseem, residents of Swat Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa and Loralai. The dead bodies were brought to the district headquarters hospital Dukki. The hospital administration handed over the dead bodies of the heirs after the completion of necessary official procedures. Hazardous working

conditions have claimed scores of precious human lives during the last few years inside the coal mines of Balochistan. Such untoward incidents inside the coal mines of Dukki, Harnai, Mach, Sorange, Marwar, Khoist and other parts of Balochistan have become the order of the day.

Loans worth Rs1800bn to be provided to farmers: PM

Unprecedented floods have wreaked havoc across the country

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that loans worth Rs1800 billion will be provided to the farmers which is Rs400 billion more than the previous year.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, he said that the unprecedented floods have wreaked havoc across the country with damaging crops at 4 million acres of land.

The prime minister said that only thing that can move forward Pakistan's economy is agricultural economy and we can modernize agriculture as this is the sector that can transform its economy in 6 months. Earlier, addressing the first meeting of Pakistan China Business and Investment Forum, the premier stressed for building strong business to business partnership between Pakistan and China to further expand bilateral relationship and augment China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's dividends.

He said we need to double our efforts to connect with the Chinese business houses and create an enabling environment to attract Chinese investments. The Prime Minister was confident that his visit to China and his meetings with the Chinese leadership there will be helpful in accomplishing these targets as well as promote our strategic and cultural relations.

The Prime Minister said he strongly believes that the CPEC has been a game changer in building our business relations and so far billions of dollars of investment has already been committed by the Chinese Companies. He recalled that Pakistan was

able to address the issue of load shedding due to the energy projects completed under the CPEC.

Shehbaz Sharif noted that given our comparatively cheaper labor, relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan by establishing Special Economic Zones will be a win-win situation for the businesses of both the countries. The Prime Minister said Pakistan can enhance its agriculture yield by taking advantage of the Chinese modern technology and techniques. He said we can then install agro based industrial houses and export agriculture production to the Middle East and other countries. Alluding to the Chinese achievements under President Xi Jinping, Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan needs to emulate and learn from Chinese model. The Prime Minister thanked the Chinese government and companies for their valuable support to the flood-affected people of Pakistan. He said China is at the moment one of the largest donors to the flood victims. China created an air bridge between Beijing and Islamabad, sending important items such as food and tents. He said the way Chinese companies and individuals contributed in a big way in the flood relief show the depth and strength of this friendship. In his remarks, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan wants to enhance partnership with China to bolster its exports and become part of its global supply chains. He said the government is committed to removing all the bottlenecks which can stand in the way of attracting investment in the country. INP

Police station established at Hazara Town on instructions of Corps Commander

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: A police station was established in the Hazara town area of Quetta on the instructions of Corps Commander Balochistan,



Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor. An inspector and 11 policemen have been appointed at the police check post.

This police station will be facilitating the people until the establishment of a permanent police station in the Hazara Town area of Quetta, official sources said. The Hazara community has hailed the establishment of the police station and thanked the Corps Commander Lt General Asif Ghafoor for the support.

PTI concludes 4th day of long march; journey towards Gujranwala to continue tomorrow

PTI chairman informs participants of march it would take 8 to 9 days to reach Islamabad

GUJRANWALA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday said that his party's caravan will reach Islamabad within nine days.

Addressing the PTI's participants in the Mor Aimanabad area of Gujranwala, the former prime minister expressed his gratitude to his supporters, saying that in his way towards the city, people showered their love for him. Reiterating that his movement is not about doing politics, but 'jihad' to bring actual change in the country, the PTI chief said that his motive to gather his supporters to Islamabad is to bring real freedom to the country.

Slamming Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Imran said, the one who plunder Rs24 billion has been allowed to come into power. He went on to say that the nation will get freedom, where the prevailing law will be same for both the privilege and underprivileged segments of society.

Taking a dig at PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif, PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz, former president Asif Ali Zardari and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Imran went on to say that the biggest mafia of the country has been imposed on the masses.

Saying that when Nawaz was asked to provide a money trail, he ran



away, Imran added that now he [Nawaz] wants a suitable situation for himself and understanding with the powerful segments.

Earlier, addressing the PTI participants in Tehsil Kamonke of Gujranwala, the former prime minister said that he is witnessing the revolution, coming into the country, in the last six months, adding that the establishment will never stand against the nation because both the Army and masses strengthen the country's foundation.

Saying that everyone can see how fast his long march is moving towards Islamabad, Imran raised the question, saying is the revolution will come through elections or bloodshed.

Taking a dig at the Chief Election Commissioner, Imran said, "You are a servant of the Sharif family." The former prime minister alleged that the ECP's chief is acting like a 'servant' of the Sharif family. He also announced filing Rs10 billion defamation case against the chief election commissioner of Pakistan.

"You [CEC] have raised questions on my dignity and honesty, that's why filing defamation case," Imran Khan was quoted as saying.

He said, "I will deposit the damages received from Sikandar Raja in the hospital". INP

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. Horrific 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.

Vulnerability of Balochistan Pakistan to Climate Change

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

According to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), Pakistan is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change. Pakistan will face a \$26 billion annual loss. The greenhouse gas emissions of Pakistan are 0.7% which is nearly negligible. Greenhouse gases are resulting in the increase in temperature of the planet earth.

Pakistan received heavy rainfall in this monsoon. The rainfall was followed by extreme flash floods in many parts of the country. The 3 provinces Khyber Pakhtun khwa(KPK), Sindh, and Balochistan particularly received heavy rainfall and floods. Till now most damages are recorded in the Balochistan province. Balochistan is the most vulnerable to climate change.

Balochistan is the most vulnerable province of Pakistan to climate change. Many times this province has faced different types of natural disasters due to climate change. Drought is the major threat to Balochistan as Barkan the district of Balochistan faced a prolonged drought of 22 months from 1999 to 2002, and Quetta experienced severe droughts in 2000, 2004, and 2008. During this monsoon season, Balochistan faced extreme floods in almost every part of the province. Houses damaged in Quetta



The floods swept away dams and destroyed the buildings, houses, roads, and bridges in Balochistan, KPK, and Sindh. The communication links were destroyed by the merciless waves of the flash floods. This resulted in the break-

down of physical communication between the provinces. The provinces faced food shortages, as all of the roads were broken and the bridges collapsed. Train service was also suspended due to the collapse of a bridge in Bolan, a dis-



Balochistan totally paralyzed due to floods: The flood waves destroyed the infrastructure in Balochistan. The primary source of income for Balochistan's 85 percent population is agricultural. Floods destroyed crops on

large scale, and people faced economic issues. Life in the province was totally paralyzed as it faced a prolonged Sui gas suspension, no electricity, a shortage of food items, and no mobile network. The government announced 7 days holiday for all educational institutions in the province, due to the continuous floods.

The floods claimed many precious human lives. Most of them were children, women, and aged men. The provincial government and Federal government seemed very weak to cope with the situation. Balochistan's government called for the Pakistan Military to be stationed in the different flood-affected areas of the province in order to handle the unwanted incidents.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) need to make disaster management plans to handle such situations. It should highly train its employees so that human lives can be saved.

Dams must be built on emergency bases to prevent floods and store water for drought-like situations. The dam construction work should be strictly supervised to increase the construction quality of the dams. The provincial government must ensure zero encroachment in the waterways.

Pakistan as a developing country needs the cooperation of the International community. Pakistan's economy is mainly based on agriculture and climate change is adversely affecting its crops. Climate change is having an impact on the seasonal conditions of Pakistan in which summers will get longer and winters will be shorter. Pakistan is economically weak and it is difficult for the country to fight climate change. As a developing country, it has limited resources and poverty is spread all over the country. The average daily income of more than half of the population is around 2 dollars.

Bridge collapsed in khuzdar district of Balochistan

The highest emitters of greenhouse gases are developed countries. Interestingly only 10 countries emit 68 percent of the greenhouse gases. Pakistan being a signatory of the Paris agreement on climate change and being the least emitter of greenhouse gas needs the cooperation of the international community to help it to fight against climate change.

The author is a student of Software Engineering at the Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS). He frequently writes about looming threat of climate change and global warming in Balochistan and Pakistan.

Not by elections alone

These are times that, in Thomas Paine's words, "try men's souls". And: "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now will deserve the love and thanks of men and women".

Yes, a state of crisis remains endemic in Pakistan. We can constantly hear the muffled sounds of things falling apart. The centre has almost never held. At this time, however, the sense of alarm has peaked. To now invoke Yeats: "The best lack all conviction while the worst / Are full of passionate intensity". In his apocalyptic premonition, the poet could see that "surely, some revelation is at hand".

I am sorry for these rather metaphorical reflections on a situation that is so hard to comprehend and so unbearable in its stark reality. One cannot even imagine the misery of such a large chunk of our population that is directly affected by the floods and its lethal consequences. In addition, the entire country is confronted with challenges that boggle the mind. A sensitive and sensible Pakistani would rightly be in a state of depression and acute emotional distress.

I confess to being very upset and distraught in the face of a rising wave

of economic, political and social disruptions. Unfortunately, the tragedy of the floods and the magnitude of the human misery that they have caused have not brought the nation together. On the other hand, confrontation in the political arena is becoming more antagonistic and this animosity is beginning to cast its shadows on the working of our national institutions.

Striding on the political stage is Imran Khan, energizing his large following in a manner that has distracted attention from the floods and the urgent need for relief and rehabilitation. There have been a few somewhat cosmetic visits to affected areas but the fury of the former prime minister is exclusively directed against the present, 'imported' regime.

Meanwhile, suspense is building up about how the PTI leader would cope with his coming encounters in the courts of law and if he would be disqualified in this process. There are dire threats of agitation and popular revolt if Imran Khan were to be awarded with a disqualification verdict. This means that a spell of chaos and disorder is very much ensured because Imran Khan also keeps promising a long march on Islamabad if his demand for fresh national elections is not accepted.

I am desisting from taking note of or interpreting many statements and moves made by the PTI leader this week to add to the tally of his U-turns and reversals in his political stance, such as those involving the choice of the next chief of army staff and a dalliance with the Americans, who were supposed to have facilitated his ouster from power in April.

But there is consistency in Imran Khan's demand for fresh national elections. Unprecedented floods and other national emergencies have failed to deflect his attention from this campaign. On Thursday, he reiterated this demand in a video address. He argued that only fresh elections would save Pakistan from its present quagmire and foster economic and political stability.

Though the present coalition government is not willing to go for snap polls and has decided to stay in office until the national elections are due almost a year from now, there is no harm in considering the pros and cons of this proposal in the existing circumstances.

As for Imran Khan, he views himself to be riding a wave and in no need for the hidden hand of the neutrals that helped him in 2018. But he himself is creating conditions in which political peace and sta-

bility have become elusive. An election campaign is sure to raise the temperature and subvert any attempt to bring the nation together to build for the future. Even without any distractions, national elections turn the country upside down.

If elections are meant to strengthen the democratic foundation of our polity, the outcome would hardly be propitious without the induction of democratic values of tolerance, rule of law and respect for the fundamental human rights of the citizens. It is widely acknowledged that elections alone do not a democracy make. Apparently, survival of democracy in Pakistan is becoming more and more tenuous even when any other option would be suicidal.

In a statement issued on Thursday, which marked International Day of Democracy, Senator Raza Rabbani made certain points that are notable. He said that democracy is tottering in Pakistan and the struggles and sufferings of hundreds of thousands of political workers are being sacrificed at the altar of personal ambitions, ego and compromises.

"There are two Pakistans", he remarked. "One is a drowned Pakistan and the other is the elite's Pakistan. This apathy towards the sufferings of millions is a

By Ghazi Salahuddin

threat to democracy". In his view, the politicization of the army chief's appointment was also a threat to democracy.

But if democracy is under siege, what else is in the offing? PTI leaders, particularly Fawad Chaudhry, have often frightened their adversaries with a mass revolt. Imran Khan has repeatedly said that if elections are not announced, he would give a "call to the nation". A call to the nation to do what? Is the PTI a revolutionary party stronger than the might of the state?

Obviously, the PTI cannot masquerade as a party of the poor and the underprivileged whose immortal longings for freedom and social justice have remained unrequited. When the Taliban took over Afghanistan in August last year, Imran Khan was prime minister and he proclaimed that Afghanistan had broken "the shackles of slavery".

Is he pleased with the reports that members of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were again surfacing in Swat? Sadly, Imran Khan's followers do not care about what he says and believes in. His lack of fidelity to any specific values does not matter. And this, in addition to other burdens we carry, puts Pakistan in a very dangerous position.

Future directions

By Atta-ur-Rahman

As the floods sweep across much of Pakistan, they have highlighted the need for proper water management. It was in the 60s when President Ayub Khan built the Warsak, Mangla and Tarbela dams. Little work on new dam construction has been done in the subsequent 50 years.

In contrast China has constructed 80,000 large dams, and India has built over 5000 large dams while Pakistan has only two big dams. If Pakistan too had built about a thousand large dams, much of the water that is causing national devastation could have been stored and used both for agriculture as well as for electricity generation.

The country's river systems are dependent on melting of glaciers in the snow-covered Himalayas and with global warming, increased flooding is to be expected both in terms of overflowing rivers as well as flash flooding due to unusually heavy rains, as has happened now. The water storage capacity of Pakistan in the Indus Basin is hardly 30 days whereas India has a storage capacity of about 200 days while in Australia and US this capacity is about 900 days. It is imperative that a well-thought-out water management strategy is urgently implemented as the present floods are likely to be a regular feature with further intensification over the next few decades, on account of global warming.

But dam construction is only one of the major problems facing Pakistan. The

country has dismally failed to tap into its real wealth, our children, by neglecting education. Our planning ministry needs to drastically change the overall directions of the country to a technology driven knowledge economy. Innovation leading to creation of disruptive businesses must become the national priority. For this it is important to promote the venture start-up eco system.

Pakistan's main problem is that its exports are at a miserable level of about \$30 billion since we are exporting only low value textiles, agricultural products etc. We need to emerge from this low value trap and start manufacturing and exporting high value products such as electronics, engineering goods, automobiles, new solar energy technologies, pharmaceuticals as well as AI products such as those based on Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things etc.

To achieve this, a number of steps need to be taken. Our universities and research centers must integrate innovation and entrepreneurship into their programmes. Universities today are harbingers of change. They can act as the platforms from which thousands of successful start-ups can sprout up. Technology Parks need to be made an integral part of all universities, and government support to university budgets linked to their success in promoting new businesses and enhancing national exports.

One excellent model is that of the University of Cambridge. I know the uni-

versity well as I spent over eight years there first for my PhD and later as Fellow of Kings College Cambridge. This association has continued over the last 50 years. A large Science Park is associated with Cambridge University which has been the home to thousands of new start-up companies in high tech fields. Established in 1970 by Trinity College, Cambridge Science Park is today Europe's largest centre for commercial research and development.

Cambridge city is now home to some of the fastest-growing tech companies in the UK such as Darktrace, GeoSpock and more. These companies have been estimated to have an annual turnover of GBP2.4 billion.

There are huge opportunities in Pakistan in many sectors that remain unexploited including waste recycling, mineral extraction and processing, advanced agriculture and energy storage systems. Our universities need to be upgraded with high quality faculty, and technology parks established within them to foster new start-up companies. They should be given liberal research grants in both applied and basic areas of science, for technology development and for social sciences. The private sector has a pivotal role to play in these efforts by investing in Research and Development -- this is almost absent in Pakistan. The government can help jumpstart the private sector R&D efforts by giving tax breaks to industry investing in research and development.

Where stands the National Assembly?

By Aasiya Riaz

The National Assembly of Pakistan is the only popularly elected federal house where 272 seats are allocated to each province and the federal capital on the basis of population. Members of the National Assembly are elected every five years on these 272 seats across the country and represent the over 220 million citizens of Pakistan alongside MNAs on reserved seats for women and non-Muslim minorities.

The core functions of a legislative assembly in any democracy are to represent citizens, legislate and to oversee the elected government. Effective exercise of these powers has not only built functional, established and mature democracies, but fulfilling these responsibilities is also crucial in young democracies where conduct of assemblies helps establish democratic norms alongside instituting effective democratic governance.

Like other global democracies, these functions are elaborately laid down in our constitution. From qualifications on who can contest election to assembly tenure and from procedure of introducing and passing laws to details on the most crucial power of the assembly on scrutinizing and passing the federal budget, a long chapter on parliament in our constitution covers it all.

How does the legislative assembly exercise these constitutional responsibilities? PILDAT has been analyzing this question periodically by

looking at the assembly's performance in law-making, assembly debates and questions raised, oversight of government by committees and other key performance indicators.

While PILDAT looks at a whole host of performance indicators, let us discuss just a few basic ones. For instance, how consistently are assembly sessions held in a year? Even though we have completed five-year tenures of three successive national assemblies since 2002 and the current and 15th National Assembly has completed four years out of its five-year tenure, there is no set calendar of assembly sessions which is a standard practice of parliamentary systems.

In the British House of Commons, for instance, there is a set parliamentary calendar that is followed year after year with pre-determined recess periods when the House is not in session. That way, the general public is always aware when the Commons or Lords would and wouldn't be in session during a year.

Similarly, the Indian Lok Sabha has three pre-determined annual sessions - Budget, Monsoon and Winter - and its recess period is also present. In the case of our National Assembly, when a session starts and ends remains a public mystery and at the discretion of a sitting government. Even though now there is a practice of announcing a provisional calendar of sessions at the start of

each parliamentary year, it is seldom followed.

Our constitution has set a minimum requirement of 130 days for which the assembly must be in session. However, there is a built-in provision also that in counting required yearly working days, up to two (2) days of adjournment between assembly sittings and joint sitting of parliament can be included in the count of 130 minimum working days.

Instead of convening sittings of the assembly for exactly 130 days or more during a year, successive assemblies have used this provision cleverly and almost as a loophole. The current assembly, for instance, has only met for 87 days in the just-concluded fourth parliamentary year in August. The average days of sittings of our successive National Assembly are far fewer than other legislatures. The UK parliament meets for an average of 150 days a year, the Indian parliament for 120 days a year and the US Congress for upwards of 100 days annually. Instead of focusing on increasing working days each year, it appears that our National Assembly is convened by successive governments only to meet the minimum constitutional requirement of sittings.

When a sitting takes place, what is its usual duration? Just three hours or under. This average has been almost consistently maintained by successive assemblies since 2002. Sittings in the UK

House of Commons last eight hours a day on average and sittings in the Indian Lok Sabha are of six hours on average.

Another strange phenomenon in our National Assembly is that sittings are often adjourned without completing the set agenda for the day. Just during the fourth parliamentary year, 59 per cent agenda items on orders of the day could not be disposed of. In at least PILDAT's research, most other parliaments find it strange that a sitting could be adjourned without completing the agenda of the day.

We have a constitutional provision by which at least one-fourth of the total membership of the Assembly has to be present during a sitting of the Assembly or the sitting has to be suspended or adjourned due to lack of quorum. This provision became the reason for adjourning 23 out of 88 or nearly 27 per cent sittings during the fourth year even though over 60 per cent MNAs were marked as present in assembly sittings. This points out issues in the attendance mechanism of the assembly where MNAs do not remain present in a sitting after recording attendance. Requirement of quorum is not a common practice in established democracies where sessions continue even if lone legislator is presenting a legislative business as members can watch proceedings from their individual offices or are engaged in committee meetings and join proceedings when

required to vote.

Successive prime ministers too have not treated the National Assembly more than an electorate for the office of PM. As prime minister and as MNA, Mr Imran Khan attended only 34 or 11 per cent sittings of the current assembly so far. Before him, Mr Nawaz Sharif attended only 52 or 14 per cent sittings in the similar period 14th National Assembly. Since taking oath in April to the end of the fourth parliamentary year, the current PM has attended only eight out of 43 or 19 per cent sittings of the assembly.

Successive premiers' disregard for the national Assembly can also be gauged by the fact that they rarely announced major policy decisions on the floor of the House. On the major challenges facing the country in economic and public governance, there is little role played by the National Assembly in policy advice, review and oversight. It is also not surprising that the National Assembly is not utilized for resolving political crises despite representing major parties while major conflicts spill out on the streets or are negotiated by non-democratic forces. Even though democratic decision-making is the forte of elected governments, the National Assembly's role is critical in democratic governance as elected representatives speak for citizens' concerns and issues, scrutinize and pass necessary laws and are the only

US gun violence

By Belen Fernandez

On July 27, two top executives from prominent US gun companies - Marty Daniel of Daniel Defense and Christopher Killoy of Sturm, Ruger and Co - appeared before the United States House Committee on Oversight and Reform chaired by New York Democrat Carolyn Maloney. The hearing came on the heels of the latest succession of massacres - the Buffalo supermarket, the Uvalde elementary school, the Highland Park July 4 parade - that have come to define life in America.

As the Guardian noted, this "marked the first time in nearly two decades that the CEOs of leading gun manufacturers testified before Congress". The CEO of Smith and Wesson Brands - which according to the committee earned at least \$125m in 2021 alone from the sale of assault-style rifles, a frequent prop in mass shootings - had declined to participate in the attempt at "oversight".

But the two willing invitees presumably spoke for the US gun industry as a whole when they shot down the notion that their products and aggressive marketing practices have anything to do with rampant killing.

Killoy insisted that a firearm is an "inanimate object" that cannot accrue responsibility, while Daniel - whose

firm manufactured the inanimate object that slaughtered 19 school kids and two teachers in Uvalde - maintained that the blame must be assigned to the individual "murderers". In Daniel's view, "these murders are local problems that have to be solved locally".

For her part, Maloney took the opportunity at the hearing to express her "hope [that] the American people are paying attention today", noting "it is clear that gun makers are not going to change unless Congress forces them to finally put people over profits".

But were we Americans really paying attention, we would have noticed long ago that our country is entirely predicated on putting profits over people - from the corporate destruction of the environment to the manic incarceration of poor minorities to a healthcare system that is decidedly ill. This is not to mention US behaviour abroad, where the "war on terror" and other forms of military slaughter with US-made weapons have also produced many, um, "local problems".

are meant to be used in the battlefield".

Which brings us to the following question: When the US converts the world into a battlefield, how do Americans know where to draw the line? More precisely put, it is not immensely shocking that a country that inculcates its citizenry with a macho, shoot-'em-up attitude vis-a-vis other human populations might end up with some, well, "murderers" on its hands - particularly when the domestic panorama is one of dystopian capitalism and acute alienation.

As for the culpability of US gun manufacturers in scenes of armed sociopathy from Buffalo to Uvalde, there is no denying that the industry itself is morally depraved - and yet it is merely fulfilling a nefariously lucrative function made possible by general systemic depravity. The fundamental blame for mass shootings does not lie with the CEOs of Daniel Defense and Sturm Ruger - just as the blame for US-bound migrant deaths does not lie with off-scaped goat human smugglers, whose reprehensible business is only made possible by America's brand of deadly capitalism and profit-driven border militarisation schemes. On July 29, two days after the House Committee on Oversight hearing, the US House voted to ban assault weapons.

Brazil president-elect Lula urges 'peace and unity' after vote

SAO PAULO: President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva called for "peace and unity" in a bitterly divided Brazil, saying the country was no longer an international pariah, and highlighting the need for a "living Amazon".

In his victory speech, Lula reached out to supporters and rivals alike, highlighting the need for "a Brazil of peace, democracy, and opportunity." He touched on gender and racial

equality and the urgent need to deal with a hunger crisis affecting 33.1 million Brazilians. "The wheel of the economy will turn again," he promised.

Da Silva won with 50.90 percent to far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro's 49.10 percent, a snapshot of how polarized the country has become after a dirty election campaign. "It is in no one's interest to live in a divided nation in a permanent state of

war," the 77-year-old leftist said, vowing to serve all 215 million Brazilians, and not only those who voted for him.

"This country needs peace and unity. This population doesn't want to fight anymore." He signaled that Brazil was ready to take its place again on the international stage, after Bolsonaro aligned himself with former US president Donald Trump and took frequent aim at traditional allies. INP



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan addressing the inaugurating ceremony of 500 KV Grid Station.

Digital connectivity infrastructure in high gear in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: In order to promote digital connectivity in Gwadar, a broadband project costing PKR 188.1 million has been approved for more than 15,000 people in 19 villages of Gwadar.

According to Gwadar Pro, the rest of the villages in Gwadar will benefit from digital connectivity.

An IT ministry official said that the completion of the project will provide an opportunity for the residents of unserved, under-served, and remote areas of Gwadar.

Recently, the Universal Service Fund (USF) launched a fiber-optic project for Gwadar to bring 4G compatible high-speed internet and telecom services to the region. The project is expected to be completed by next year.

USF has finalized paperwork for several projects, including a 400km fibre-optic project in Gwadar and 4G services in Loralai, Balochistan. Apart from residential and commercial districts, USF has an extensive plan to cover the roads in Gwadar, especially Gwadar Eastbay Expressway.

Makran coastal highway and NH 50-70 in Balochistan have already been covered with telecom services.

Gwadar Port has already gone digital as the state of fiber optic cable network is operationalized.

"Installation of fiber optic cable has equipped Gwadar Port with a high-tech web-based one customs (WeBOC) system of goods declaration

and clearance," GDA senior official said. He also added that Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) completed the project of laying down the new fiber optic cable.

He said that the fresh development would play a tremendous role in facilitating traders, custom officers, and agents. "It would make processes simpler, GD clearance system faster and container tracking easier," he opined.

CPEC's commercial route runs from Gwadar to western China. The corridor, now worth over USD 60 billion, needs faster internet connectivity to run its large-scale operations smoothly. Fiber optic cable is a gigantic step to fulfil this commercial need. INP

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Senate Chairman rejects Toshakhana reference against Gilani

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjani on Monday rejected a reference seeking disqualification of ex-prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani in a Toshakhana case.

According to the ruling of the Senate chairman, the allegations against Gilani were made while he was the prime minister and a member of the National Assembly, therefore Article 63(A) does not apply to the reference against him.

The ruling further says Gilani was elected senator on March 3, 2021 and after the election of Gilani as a senator, the disqualification reference against him was not justified.

The reference was filed by Senator Azam Swati alleging that then prime minister Gilani gave expensive vehicles to two important personalities from the Toshakhana. INP

Bhera boy dies in accident on way to school

BHERA: A student was killed while four others were injured when a speeding vehicle crashed into the rickshaw taking children to school at Miani near Bhera on Monday morning.

The injured, including the rickshaw driver, were shifted to a nearby rural hospital, while one of the critically injured children was shifted to district headquarters hospital (DHQ) in Sargodha. INP

Youth dies due to snakebite in Nawabshah

NAWABSHAH: A youth died due to snakebite in Jam Sahib area of Nawabshah on Monday.

Ali Brohi was working on his land when a snake bit him, police said. There was an atmosphere of shock and grief when body of the deceased was brought home from hospital. INP

Gujranwala turns into 'no-go' area before arrival of PTI long march

GUJRANWALA: Gujranwala has been turned virtually into a no-go area well ahead of the arrival of PTI's long march in the city on Monday.

According to reports, examinations have been postponed as educational institutions in the city, especially those situated on the GT Road, have been shut. INP

Cloud pavilion launched, Pakistan all set for upcoming CIIE

SHANGHAI: An Online National Pavilion featured Pakistan's trade exchanges, investment environment, characteristic industries, and tourism was launched for the upcoming 5th China International Import Expo (CIIE), China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

As per Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the cloud pavilion showcased Pakistan as an emerging market of thriving opportunity.

"We are looking forward to the participation in different trade fairs, especially the upcoming CIIE to be held in Shanghai this November," noted Moin ul Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China, while taking an exclusive interview with China Economic Net.

Scheduled from November 5 to 10, the 5th CIIE provides a platform for companies from around the world to display their products, promote their brands, and find more business partners in the world's second-largest economy.

The Expo launched its cloud series recently, which consists of the online national exhibition and the Digital CIIE platform.

A total of 30 countries have taken part in the online country exhibition which is now in trial operation, said Sun Chenghai, deputy director-general of China International Import Expo Bureau, adding that the platform is set to offer a visiting experience comparable to that of an offline exhibition.

Pakistan enjoys a large pool of workforce of more than 60 million, and a growing consumer tele-density of more than 150 million, noted source from TDAP. Also Pakistan is one of the major contributors to the global market when it comes to agriculture, textile, footwear, pharmaceutical, sport goods, packaging, iron & steel. "Using this platform, we are working together to expand our trade with China and with the world," the Ambassador pinpointed, adding that China is already Pakistan's largest trading partner and last year the bilateral trade volume hit a record level. Courtesy of the booming Sino-Pak trade and investment cooperation coupled with important platforms such as CIIE. INP

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorism in Somalia

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack in Mogadishu, Somalia claiming over 100 innocent lives and injuring many.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the deceased and wounded. The people of Pakistan stand in complete solidarity with the Somali nation in this most tragic hour of grief and mourning," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The statement mentioned that Pakistan attached great value to its fraternal ties with Somalia, and believed that the resilient Somali nation shall emerge from this tragedy stronger.

The twin bombings in Somalia killed at least 100 people and injured around 300 on Sunday. INP

Court extends Imran's bail in foreign funding case till Nov. 10

ISLAMABAD: A banking court in Islamabad on Monday extended the interim bail granted to former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the case registered against him under the Foreign Exchange Act until November 10, 2022.

Judge Rakhshinda Shaheen also accepted Imran's plea for exemption from court appearance today.

Prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbasi, on the occasion, told the court that Imran had been granted protective bail from the high court.

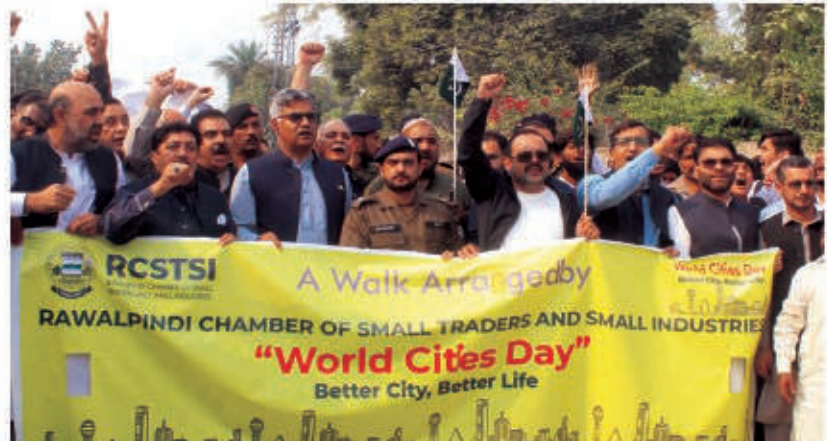
Former prime minister's lawyer said that the first issue in the case was to determine the court's jurisdiction. "And now the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has resolved the issue," he added.

Seeking exemption for his client from court appearance today, his counsel said that since Imran was PTI head, and was leading a long march; therefore he be exempted from attending today's hearing. INP

"An investigation has been initiated and the culprits will be brought to the book," the Sindh police chief told the meeting.

Following the IGP's briefing, CM Shah said such incidents could not be ignored and the "killers have to face the law". The Machhar Colony incident and other instances of a mob killing individuals who were or believed to be offenders were a "question mark on the public confidence in our police," he added.

"Therefore, we have to revisit laws to discourage mob justice and police have to develop public confidence," the CM stressed. The committee, comprising Sindh Energy Minister Imtiaz Shaikh, Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab, Special Assistant to the Sindh CM for the Rehabilitation of Special Children Sadiq Ali Memon, the Sindh IGP and the home secretary, was also asked to submit its recommendations on the issue. Meanwhile, the committee formed will assess the need for the creation of a "Mob Management Police Force" to handle such cases. INP



RAWALPINDI: Participants hold a banner during a walk on the eve of World Cities Day at Murree road in the city.

LHC issues notices to ECP in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday issued notices to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and other defendants in the petition filed against the disqualification of former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case by the ECP.

The court also issued a notice on the petition, seeking stay in the case.

Similarly, the LHC also allowed the petitioner to file an amended petition in order to make the government of Punjab party to the case.

Justice Muhammad Sajid Mehmood Seith of the LHC heard the petition filed by a citizen named Muhammad Jabir Abbas.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) Nasar Ahmad represented the federal government in the case.

In his petition, Abbas argued that since the ECP was not a court of law, therefore it did not have the power to declare any politician from holding a public office.

The petitioner prayed to the court to declare the disqualification of PTI chairman by the election commission in the Toshakhana reference null and void.

Justice Sethi remarked that the case was pending in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

"But here the ECP's jurisdiction has been challenged," the petitioner's counsel told the court.

The AAG, on the occasion, argued the petition could not be admitted for the hearing.

But Justice Sethi directed him to submit government's reply on the petition since the ECP's jurisdiction had been challenged in it.

Later, the court adjourned hearing of the case until November 12. Similarly, the LHC also allowed the petitioner to file an amended petition in order to make the government of Punjab party to the case.

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Sindh govt approves Rs5m each as compensation for Machhar Colony lynching victims

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Monday approved Rs5 million compensation for each of the two Machhar Colony lynching victims and constituted a committee on the matter.

The decisions were taken during a provincial cabinet meeting presided over by Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah who was briefed about the last week's incident, according to a handout issued by the CM Office.

On Friday last week, a vigilante mob had lynched two telecom workers and torched

their vehicle after some miscreants spread rumours that they were kidnappers and roaming the area with the intention to abduct children.

Sindh Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon told the meeting's participants today that the deceased were identified as Aimen Javed, hailing from Thatta, and Ishaq Maher of Naushero Feroze.

They were visiting Machhar Colony to check the signals of a mobile tower, but residents believed them to be kidnappers and killed them, he said.

The meeting's participants were told that 15 suspects identified in the case had been arrested so far.

On Saturday, Deputy Inspector General of Police Irfan Ali Baloch told reporters that a case for the incident had been registered in which 15 named and more than 200 unnamed suspects were booked.

Besides the 15 arrests — including that of a key suspect — mentioned in today's meeting police have detained several others in the murder case registered under the anti-terrorism law.

"An investigation has been initiated and the culprits will be brought to the book," the Sindh police chief told the meeting.

Following the IGP's briefing, CM Shah said such incidents could not be ignored and the "killers have to face the law". The Machhar Colony incident and other instances of a mob killing individuals who were or believed to be offenders were a "question mark on the public confidence in our police," he added.

"Therefore, we have to revisit laws to discourage mob justice and

police have to develop public confidence," the CM stressed. The committee, comprising Sindh Energy Minister Imtiaz Shaikh, Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab, Special Assistant to the Sindh CM for the Rehabilitation of Special Children Sadiq Ali Memon, the Sindh IGP and the home secretary, was also asked to submit its recommendations on the issue. Meanwhile, the committee formed will assess the need for the creation of a "Mob Management Police Force" to handle such cases. INP



ISLAMABAD: Police personals crossing Faizabad Bridge as capital administration deployed police around Islamabad entrance due to PTI long march arriving in Federal Capital.

IHC stops ECP from holding by-poll in NA-95

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday stopped Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) from holding by-election in NA-95.

IHC, while hearing Imran Khan's petition against disqualification by the election commission in Toshakhana reference, removed objections of the registrar on the plea. PTI Chairman's counsel urged the court to

suspend ECP's decision disqualifying Imran Khan. However, Justice Farooq turned down the request and issued orders to stop the by-election in Mianwali. The court also issued notices to the ECP against Imran Khan's disqualification. Earlier in the month, ECP disqualified the former premier in the Toshakhana. INP

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TENDER NOTICE			
The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE I DIVISION QUETTA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2022 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Basis.			
TSE-222310140033			
S.No	Name of Works	ECost	TFee Bid Security
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL ON THE ACQUIRED LAND FOR BALOCHISTAN HOUSE MURREE.	14,900,000	3,000 PKR 3%
Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 10,430,000 PKR Amount in 5 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 3,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 15 November, 2022 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 15 November, 2022 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00PM Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE I DIVISION QUETTA C&W Complex NEAR CHAMMAN PATAK MIR JAFAR KHAN JAMALI ROAD QUETTA. Phone no: 0812920243 Fax no: Email: maintainancenon@gmail.com			
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE I DIVISION QUETTA			
PRQ No.824/31-10-2022			
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gov dprgob f@dprgob			

Pakistan's exports to SAARC countries increase by 28% in Sept: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The export of different items from Pakistan to the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) surged by 28% in the previous month of the current fiscal, WealthPK reports.

The data of data the State Bank of Pakistan shows that the volume of exports to SAARC member countries reached \$167.490 million in September 2022 as compared to \$130.611 million in the same month of the previous fiscal. The exports of various goods from Pakistan to SAARC member countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka grew by 17% and reached \$452.113 million in the first three months of the current fiscal as compared to \$387.058 million in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The volume of imports from SAARC member countries stood at \$29.970 million in September 2022. Pakistan had a trade surplus of \$137.580 million with SAARC member countries in September 2022. In addition, the trade surplus with SAARC member countries during the first three months of the current fiscal was recorded at \$362.040 million. In September 2022, Pakistan had a trade surplus with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka while a trade deficit was recorded with India. Bangladesh remained the top importer of Pakistani goods in September, followed by Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.



RAWALPINDI: Former Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad addressing the long march preparation meeting at Lal Haveli.

Marriyum pillories Imran for admitting his march will be 'bloody'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday heaped scorn on former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan for admitting that his party's long march would be 'bloody'.

In her tweet posted today, Marriyum said: "The foreign-funded Fitna has himself confessed of his bloody march. It's not a revolution. The 'bloodshed' and 'guns' are proof that it's a bloody march. It's not a revolution that has been going on for the last six months. The people have witnessed the (mischiefs of) foreign-funded Fitna, his Toshakhana theft, Bushra Bibi's diamonds, trade of plots at the expense of national interests and campaign against Shuhda."

In another tweet, she asked if general elections was what PTI chairman was asking for, then why he did not hold the elections in March when he was the country's prime minister. "So much so that you had even offered lifelong extension to Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa only to enlist his support for prolonging your career," Marriyum said while referring to the assertion made by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief and ISPR DG during a press conference a few days ago. INP

Punjab govt set to abolish medical allowance of public employees

LAHORE: Punjab Finance Department has prepared recommendations for the abolition of medical allowance for government employees.

These recommendations have been sent to the Punjab government for bringing reforms in the salary structure and pension scheme of public servants.

The department has suggested transferring the employees to health cards and insurance instead of medical allowance.

In this regard, the government would save Rs9 billion by not giving medical allowance to government employees. The government will take a final decision soon in this regard, the sources said. INP

World food supplies at risk as Russia withdraws from Black Sea deal

MOSCOW: Russia's weekend backtrack from a United Nations-brokered deal to export Black Sea grains is likely to hit shipments to import-dependent countries, deepening a global food crisis and sparking gains in prices.

Chicago wheat futures on Monday jumped more than five per cent and corn rose over 2pc from the fears over supplies. Earlier this year global wheat prices jumped to an all-time high and corn hit a 10-year top as Russia's invasion of Ukraine added fuel to a rally set off by adverse weather and Covid-19 supply disruptions. Australia, a key wheat supplier to Asia, is unlikely to be able to fill any supply gap, with shipping slots booked right up to February, traders said. INP

South Korea vows probe into deadly Halloween crush

SEOUL: South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo on Monday promised a thorough investigation into the Halloween crush over the weekend that killed more than 150 people in the capital and plunged the country into a week of mourning.

Officials said the death toll had risen overnight to 154 with 149 injured, 33 of them in serious condition. Citizens from at least two dozen countries were among the dead.

Tens of thousands of party-goers had crowded into narrow streets and alleyways of Seoul's popular Itaewon district on Saturday for the first virtually unrestricted Halloween festivities in three years. Many of the revelers were in their teens or twenties and dressed in costume. INP

Massive gas crunch looming ahead of winter

ISLAMABAD: The gas load management plan for winter could not be approved yet, meanwhile, sources from the Petroleum Division on Monday stated that people should be ready to face an acute shortage of gas in winter and that domestic consumers would be prioritized under the gas load management plan.

According to sources, a proposal has been suggested to provide gas supply to domestic consumers three times this winter for cooking purposes with full pressure.

On the other side, the non-export industry i.e. CNG sector, cement, and fertilizers sectors would experience significant gas curtailment. The gas supply for the power sector can be reduced by 45 per cent.

Imran asks 'those in power' to stand with nation

KAMOKE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairperson Imran Khan asked 'those in power' to stand with the nation as he resumed PTI's long march to Islamabad from Kamoke on Monday.

Addressing the crowds on the fourth day of the PTI's Haqeeqi Azadi march, while commenting on the rumors of talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Imran said that he has a message for those who had 'given him (Shahbaz) permission to be in office'. In his message, he asked "those in power" to observe who the people are standing with while referring to his recent electoral victory in NA-45. "The establishment never stands against the nation because the populace and the armed forces strengthen the country together," he said.

On the occasion, the ousted premier said that he will file a

Protesters from across country to head toward Federal capital on Friday

LAHORE: Punjab chief minister spokesperson Musarrat Jamshed Cheema has shared the plan for the second phase of the PTI's long march.

According to the plan, protesters from across the country will head to Islamabad on Friday. In a statement, Cheema said the long march caravan from Karachi would set out for Islamabad on Monday and reach the capital after travelling through Hyderabad, Sukkur and Multan.

Meanwhile, she added, PTI chief Imran Khan would mobilize citizens at GT Road and lead the main caravan to Gujranwala. Under his leadership, the protesters would reach Wazirabad today Tuesday and Gujrat the day

after (Wednesday), she added. The march would reach Jehlum and Kharian on Thursday and would reach Islamabad after passing through Gujrat Khan on Friday, the spokesperson said. In the next phase, she added, caravans from the remote areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan would begin the trek to Islamabad on Wednesday. Caravans from Sindh and south Punjab would begin the journey to Islamabad probably on the same day or on Thursday.

On Thursday, caravans would leave Azad Jammu and Kashmir and KP for the capital and on Friday, protesters from across the country would start the trek to Islamabad. INP

Moreover, Sources claimed that Sui Northern and Southern's gas shortfall can be increased to 1.2 billion cubic feet. Therefore, a proposal for the implementation of the gas load management plan from November 1 has been tabled and it will be implemented after the Prime minister's final nod.

Sources said that a plan was made to provide up to 350 mmmcf of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to domestic consumers, however, the gas supply for commercial use would be stopped from November 1 and they will be switched to LNG.

Meanwhile, roti, tandoor, and tea cafes would get a smooth supply of gas. INP

defamation suit of Rs10 billion against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sultana Sikander Raja for questioning his integrity.

He maintained that he would file a suit against the CEC for raising doubt about his integrity and honesty in the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decisions in prohibited funding and Toshakhana cases. Referring to the CEC, Imran said that he will take him to court and "make you pay so that in the future you do not destroy anyone's reputation on someone else's instructions". He furthered that the money he would win in the defamation suit against Raja would go towards treatment for patients at Shaukat Khanam hospitals across the country and for students' education at the Namal University and Al Qadir University. INP

World Cities Day will be observed across the globe today Tuesday. The theme of this year is "Act Local to Go Global. This year's global celebrations is being held in Shanghai city of China. INP

Saudi Arabia extends Umrah visa duration to 90 days

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has announced the extension of the duration of the Umrah visa from 30 to 90 days.

In order to avoid violating the regulations, the Ministry called on pilgrims to ensure that they complete the Umrah within the specified period and leave before the expiry of the visa period. It is noteworthy that during this period, pilgrims can freely move between Makkah and Madinah and all the cities around Saudi Arabia during their stay, Saudi Gazette reported. Additionally, INP

Exports from Pakistan to Bangladesh surged by 31% and reached \$90.388 million in September 2022 as compared to \$68.973 million in the same month of the previous financial year.

Exports from Pakistan to Bangladesh in July-Sep FY23 reached \$234.504 million, representing a growth of 34% compared to \$175.388 million during the same period of the last fiscal year. The trade surplus was recorded at \$214.682 million in the first three months of FY23. Exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$45.362 million in September 2022 against \$31.975 million in the same month of the previous year, showing 42% growth. Exports to Afghanistan in the first quarter of the current fiscal reached \$127.157 million as compared to \$127.647 million during the same period of the previous financial year, depicting a decline of \$0.490 million. The trade surplus with Afghanistan was recorded at \$118.997 million. Exports from Pakistan to Sri Lanka stood at \$30.709 million in September 2022 against \$28.248 million in the same month of the previous year, depicting a rise of \$2.461 million. Exports to Sri Lanka were recorded at \$87.755 million in the first quarter of the current fiscal up from \$81.017 million during the same period of the previous fiscal, showing a rise of \$6.738 million. The trade surplus with Sri Lanka was recorded at \$72.288 million in the first quarter of the current fiscal. INP

PM for emulating Chinese model for sustainable progress

ISLAMABAD: While addressing the first steering committee meeting of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Monday that he looked forward to meeting the Chinese leadership for a series of productive and fruitful meetings aimed at boosting business, strategic and people-to-people relations.

The prime minister stressed the need for emulating the Chinese model of development for the sustainable progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

The prime minister also emphasised creating favourable environment for building a business-to-business relationship between the two countries.

"A huge potential exists between the two countries," he pointed out. He also called for streamlining the business procedures in Pakistan to benefit from China.

The prime minister also termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a game-changer for the development of Pakistan.

He recalled how the CPEC projects helped Pakistan overcome power outages. The prime minister pointed out that the CPEC projects would increase not only dividends for Pakistan but also its business presence in China.

He stressed the need for relocating the labour-intensive Chinese industry in Pakistan by establishing Special Economic Zones. He termed it a win-win scenario for the business houses of both the countries.

In the agriculture sector, he suggested learning from the Chinese modern techniques to increase crop yield. He expressed gratitude to China for being one of the largest donors of relief goods for the flood-hit people in Pakistan.

He also lauded the efforts of Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong for his immense contribution towards strengthening Pak-China relations.

On the occasion, Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that the BOI was fostering business cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Addressing the first steering committee meeting of the PCBIF, he said that the BOI had also signed a framework agreement to promote Special Economic Zones and relocate industries in Pakistan.

The federal minister also said that the BOI had drafted a set of joint initiatives for industrial cooperation which would be submitted to the Chinese investors and enterprises during the visit of PM Shehbaz Sharif to China the following day. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday met Chinese ambassador Nong Rong.

Matters relating to the prime minister's two-day visit to China from Tuesday were discussed. It was agreed in the meeting that the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China would further strengthen the trade and economic ties. Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi was also present in the meeting. INP

RPCCHS office-bearers elected unopposed for period of 3 years

ISLAMABAD: The members of Rawalpindi Press Club Cooperative Housing Society Ltd including Rana Tahir Mehmood, President, Tariq Hussain Vice President have been elected unopposed for the period of three years.

According to the notification issued by the office assistant registrar Cooperative Societies Rawalpindi, as per report of convener Election sub-committee dated 30th October 2022, the members of Rawalpindi Press Club Cooperative Housing Society Ltd Rawalpindi are hereby notified as unopposed elected Managing Committee for the period of three years from the date of election 31/10/2022 under Bye-Laws No 31 of the society to carry out business of the society. The members elected unopposed included Rana Tahir Mehmood, President, Tariq Hussain Vice President, Tariq Mehmood General Secretary, Amjad Hussain Treasurer, Kashif Hussain Executive Member, Manzoor Ahmed Executive Member, Abdul Waheed Executive Member. INP

World Cities Day observe on Today

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Govt okays formation of commission to probe Arshad Sharif's murder

ISLAMABAD: The federal government Monday approved the formation of the commission to probe the murder of senior investigative journalist and anchorperson Arshad Sharif in Kenya and submit its report in 30 days.

Sources said that in this connection the federal cabinet approved the summary to give go ahead signal to the formation of the commission under the Pakistan Commission of Inquiry Act, 2017.

Former judge Lahore High Court (LHC) Justice Abdus Shakoor Paracha was appointed the head of the commission, while other members were

Additional IG Police Dr. Usman Anwar and Intelligence Bureau's Umar Shahid Hamid.

Sources informed that the Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) would also assist the commission in the probe.

Senior journalist Arshad Sharif was shot dead in the outskirts of Kenyan capital Nairobi, a week ago, on October 24, 2022. Police in Kenya confirmed his death and said it had opened an investigation into the incident. Sharif's wife Javeria Siddiqui took to Twitter and confirmed the tragic news, acknowledging that her husband was killed in Kenya. INP



HYDERABAD: Former Governor Sindh Imran Ismael led the rally to join PTI's Long March in Islamabad.

Imran sees 'revolution' as PTI resumes long march from Kamoke

KAMOKE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairperson Imran Khan stated that he has witnessed a "revolution" taking over the country, as he continued his long march for the fourth day on Monday.

Taking to his official Twitter handle in the early hours of the day, the deposed premier questioned if the "revolution" which had been going on for "six months" would be a "soft one through the ballot box or a destructive one through bloodshed".

His remarks came as the party and its supporters continued walking towards the federal capital from Kamoke, demanding immediate elections. According to the PTI, since the vote of no-confidence against him, Imran has won 29 out of 37 seats in by-elections "which is more than a 3/4 majority".

Meanwhile, PTI chief Imran Khan

also visited the residence of deceased journalist Sadaf Naeem to offer his condolences to her family. The development was shared on the PTI's official Twitter with a video from outside Naeem's residence. Taking to his official Twitter handle in the early hours of the day, the deposed premier questioned if the "revolution" which had been going on for "six months" would be a "soft one through the ballot box or a destructive one through bloodshed".

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Meanwhile, PTI chief Imran Khan also visited the residence of deceased journalist. INP

Generator emissions render 14 schoolchildren unconscious

KARACHI: A number of children fainted due to a high concentration of generator emissions at a private school in Karachi on Monday.

All the unconscious children were taken to the civil hospital immediately for emergency medical treatment, rescuers told.

Out of the 14 children who fainted in the incident that occurred at a private school in Lyari, at least 10 were declared stable at the hospital and sent back home while the rest have been held under observation.

As per the details, a running generator caused the incident at the school. High carbon dioxide and

carbon monoxide concentrations in the air left the school children unconscious and gasping for air.

Health experts continue to warn against burning fuel in closed spaces and recommend a well-ventilated area for the purpose. It was worth noting that though carbon dioxide poisoning is rare, a high concentration of it in a confined space can be toxic and create an environment for asphyxiation.

Symptoms of mild carbon dioxide poisoning include headaches and dizziness at concentrations less than 30,000 ppm and at 80,000 ppm CO2 can be life-threatening. INP



QUETTA: Chairman Neurology Department Prof. Dr Saleem Barech addressing on the ceremony in connection with World Stroke Day.