

QUETTA VOICE

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Armed men kidnap six coal miners in Mach Bolan



Dr. Malik calls for political strategy to cope with extremism in Balochistan

Unlucky Pakistan cricket team falls in World Cup final against England

Luck was not on Pakistan's side as they were beaten in the World Cup final by England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday.

After a sub-par batting effort but a superb bowling comeback, the Green Shirts had made a match of it before an untimely injury to star pacer Shaheen Afridi a ball into the 16th over forced Babar Azam to turn to part-timer Iftikhar Ahmed.

Seeing the southpaw pacer leave the field deflated the team as his replacement Iftikhar was swiftly dispatched for a pair of boundaries by Ben Stokes and the match, from that point on, was as good as over.

Earlier, Pakistan pacers led by Shaheen and Haris Rauf did a remarkable job of keeping their team in the hunt despite just 137 to defend.

Shaheen, just as he usually is, was superb in the opening over, and got rid of Alex Hales. As mentioned above, luck was not on Pakistan's side, something demonstrated by the fact that the lanky pacer picked up the injury while taking the catch of Harry Brook.



Had it not been for Shaheen's injury, the match was anyone's to take. Earlier, Sam Curran bagged three wickets for just 12 runs as England held Pakistan to 137-8.

With forecast rain staying away, England produced disciplined and economical bowling to stymie the 2009 champions who never really got going, with Shan Masood's 38 the top score.

Curran was deadly, accounting for Mohammad Rizwan, Masood and Mohammad Nawaz.

Adil Rashid's leg spin also proved crucial, removing the dangerous Mohammad Harris with his opening ball then getting the crucial wicket of Babar Azam to end with 2-22. Jos Buttler's England, who reached the final with a thumping 10-wicket win over India, are aiming to become the sport's first-ever dual white-ball champions after winning the 50-over World Cup in 2019. Both teams are looking for a second T20 title after Pakistan's success in 2009 and England's a year later. England, who were again without injured batsman Dawid Malan and pace bowler Mark Wood, won the toss and sent Pakistan into bat. Ben Stokes was given the new ball and Pakistan were lucky to survive the over intact, with a nervy Mohammad Rizwan almost run out going for a risky single. If Chris Jordan's throw had been a direct hit he would have been gone. Rizwan and Azam shared a century partnership in the semi-final against New Zealand and soon settled, with Rizwan clearing the ropes off Chris

Woakes for the first six of the night in the fourth over.

But another big stand wasn't to be, with Rizwan dragging a delivery from Curran on to his stumps on 15.

Pakistan, who powered past New Zealand by seven wickets to make the final, managed just 39-1 off the six-over powerplay, where only two fielders are allowed outside the 30-yard circle.

The introduction of Rashid soon after reaped an immediate reward with Harris (??) attacking him on his first ball only to sky a simple catch to Stokes.

Azam led Pakistan to 68-2 at the halfway point of the innings and then Masood began swinging the bat, hitting a four and six off Liam Livingstone.

But once again Rashid got the breakthrough, pulling off a diving catch from his own bowling to claim the vital wicket of Azam, whose 32 came off 28 balls.

Iftikhar Ahmed only lasted six balls before Masood and Shadab Khan (20) fell in the space of two runs as Curran and Chris Jordan kept the lid on any hope Pakistan had of a late flurry. Web Desk

Traffic accidents claiming Precious human lives in Balochistan

Sardar Muhammad Khondai
Manan Mandokhail
News Desk

CHAMAN, QUETTA: Two different traffic accidents claimed the lives of five youngsters including the acting deputy commissioner Loralai. Jamil Ahmed Baloch, the acting DC Loralai suffered serious wounds on the Benazir Flyover. Police sources said Mr Baloch was trying to save a motorcyclist coming on one way when he hit the wall of the flyover.

The acting DC suffered serious wounds and succumbed to injuries on his way to civil hospital Quetta on Saturday morning.

In another traffic accident, four young men were killed when their vehicle collided with a truck coming from the opposite side of the Kuchlak Bypass area of Quetta.

Pak Army Captain Hidayatullah also lost life in the accident

Four young men including a serving captain of the Pak Army Hidayatullah died on the spot inside the vehicle. Rescue workers and people in the area reached the spot and retrieved the dead bodies from the car, which was completely destroyed in the accident.

The dead bodies were shifted to the civil hospital Quetta. A



large number of relatives and friends reached the spot and heartbreaking scenes were witnessed when the dead bodies were brought. The Pak Army captain and two other young men belonged to Chaman, Pakistan's bordering city with Afghanistan.

Funeral prayer of victims offered in Chaman and Quetta

Funeral prayer of the young men died in the traffic accident being offered in Chaman. Photo provided by Sardar Muhammad Khondai

Their funeral prayer was offered in the absence of thousands of people in Chaman on Saturday. However, one young

man Nauman Kasi, the fourth young man died in a traffic accident was laid to rest in Quetta.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo has expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of five young men. In a condolence statement issued on Saturday evening, Mr. Bizenjo expressed sympathies with the broken families.

Road accidents have claimed thousands of precious human lives during the last few years. Traffic accidents have become the order of the day and especially the Quetta-Karachi has been called the 'killer highway'.

خوشحال کسان ترقی یافتہ بلوچستان

وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان کی قیادت اور صوبائی وزیر زراعت کی نگرانی میں حکومت بلوچستان کا شعبہ زراعت کی بحالی کے لئے انقلابی اقدام

سیلاب سے متاثرہ اضلاع کے کسانوں کو گندم کے معیاری بیجوں کی بلا معاوضہ تقسیم کا آغاز

بروگرام کے لئے 2.2 ارب روپے کا اجراء



- بذریعہ مینڈرنگ گندم کے بیجوں کی 50 کلوگرام کی 3 لاکھ 81 ہزار پوریوں کی خرید
- صوبے کے 34 اضلاع کے ایک لاکھ سے زائد کسان مستفید
- ضلعی انتظامیہ اور محکمہ زراعت کے ذریعہ ترقی کسانوں کو بیجوں کی فراہمی
- وزیر اعلیٰ معائنہ ٹیم کی نگرانی میں گندم کے بیجوں کی شفاف تقسیم
- اس اقدام کا مقصد سیلاب کے بعد گندم کی قلت کے خدشہ کا خاتمہ ہے

زرعی بحالی کے لئے پُر عزم



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SS No. 43/13.11.2022

Blast kills six wounded 33 in Turkey Istanbul Istiklal Street

Monitoring Desk

A powerful blast rocked Turkey's Istanbul city on Sunday evening. Turkish media reports the bomb went off in the Istiklal street area of Istanbul. Casualties were feared as a result of the blast.

The initial report suggests one person was killed as a result of the blast, which rocked the heart of



Istanbul. Police and rescue workers were quick at the spot and shifted the injured to the hospital for medical treatment. Images shared on social media at the time of the explosion indicated it could be heard from far away and that there were also flames. A wide black crater is also visible in the images as well as several bodies on the ground nearby. Istiklal avenue was affected during a series of attacks targeting Istanbul in 2015-2016.

Sakina Abdullah appointed as focal person for OFP schools Balochistan

Staff Reporter

Ms. Sakina Abdullah Khan has been appointed as the focal person for Orsease Pakistan Schools in Balochistan. The Federal Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Rights issued a formal notification in this regard.

In a letter issued by Sajid Hussain Turi, the Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistan, Ms. Sakina Abdullah Khan would take necessary measures to promote employment opportunities for the unemployed youth from Balochistan. Ms. Sakina Abdullah Khan is a well-known political worker from Balochistan. She has also played an important role for women empowerment in the province.



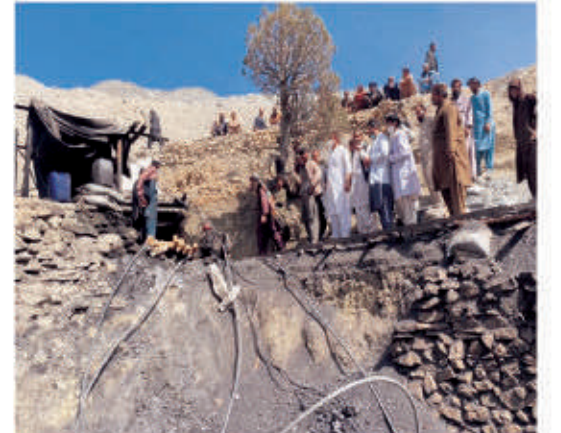
Armed men kidnap six coal miners in Mach Bolan

Security forces launched a search operation for the recovery of the kidnapped coal miners

Imran Sumalani

Armed men kidnapped six coal miners in Balochistan's Mach area on Sunday. Levies sources said armed men entered the Mach mines area and abducted six coal miners. They said the coal miners were shifted to an undisclosed location.

Security forces and levies have launched a



search operation for the recovery of the kidnapped coal miners. The coal miners belong to Swat Khyber Pakhtoonkwa. The miners were extracting coal from mines in the rugged mountains of Mach Bolan when picked by armed militants.

Senior administration officials also reached the spot and monitored the ongoing search operation for the recovery of the kidnapped coal miners. Militants in the area have targeted coal miners in the past. Two years back, armed militants kidnapped 11 Hazara coal miners and brutally murdered them in the Mach area of the Bolan district.

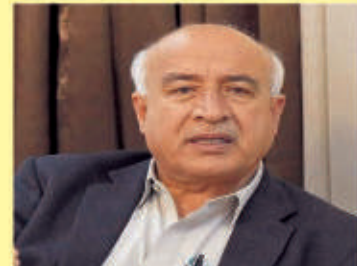
Dr. Malik calls for political strategy to cope with extremism in Balochistan

News Desk:

A strong political strategy is needed against poverty, extremism, and ignorance in Balochistan, the Central President of the National Party, and former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, stated while addressing party workers.

"There is a need to promote positive values against negative social trends and traditions in the province", Dr. Malik said.

Nations can not progress without an intellectual, political, and national party to highlight social consciousness. Nations can progress through hard work and positive educational activities and values. He expressed these views in a conversation with colleagues who joined the party from Kalat and



Zamran at Regional Secretariat Makran.

The National Party is struggling for the fair distribution of national resources, equally vested powers, and for national equality. The people of Balochistan have confidence in the party that the political strategy will be set in the right direction.

Famous political figures of Kalat and Turbat Wajah Fazal Rind,

Jameel Fazal Rind, Naveed Rind, Shoaib Rind, Ghulam Qadir, Muslim, Rustam Muhammad Khan, Azizullah Du Shambe, Miraj Ibrahim, Akram son of Haji Aslam, while from Zamran Muhammad Ayaz, Abdul Mossadeq, Abdul Razaq, Naveed, Mansoor, Shahi, and Muhammad announced their joining of National Party.

Former Chief Minister of Balochistan Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Central President of the National Party said that the National Party is a party of conscious political workers who are truly representing the people.

National Party's Central General Secretary Jan Muhammad Buledi, Central Committee members Waja Abul Hasan, retired Justice Shakeel Baloch, and other central and provincial leaders were present in the induction program.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

The curse of narcotics in Balochistan

The curse of narcotics has ruined our society. Thousands of young people fell prey to the curse of heroin during the last four decades in Balochistan, Pakistan's least developed province. In Quetta, it is very difficult to walk on Jinnah Road because of the young heroin addicts begging and snatching things on the roadside.

First, they (addicts) beg and then try to snatch anything from mobiles to watches and purses from women. Such incidents have frequently taken a place with addicts snatching purses, mobiles, etc, and sneaking into the main city nullah, which snakes through Quetta's high-security zone.

This situation prompted the Quetta police and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) to launch an operation in the main nullah the other day. CTD and police claimed to have killed eight alleged drug peddlers during an exchange of fire. This was for the first time that police and CTD conducted such a targeted operation.

Fate of thousands of addicts is still shrouded in mystery. However, the fate of thousands of young addicts still shrouds in mystery as the government is yet to make a plan for their complete rehabilitation. The challenge for the government is to stop the narcotics smuggling from Afghanistan and rehabilitate the addicts.

Officially an awareness campaign on social media, radio, newspapers, and TV channels should be launched to create awareness among the people about the curse of narcotics. This would be a good initiative to prevent the youth from falling prey to drugs.

History of heroin dates back to USSR invasion of Afghanistan in 1979

The menace of narcotics in general and heroin, in particular, dates back to the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan at the end of December 1979.

The war in Afghanistan had and has direct impacts on Pakistan in general and Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces in particular. It is a common saying that 'Kalashinkove and Heroin' culture is the product of the Afghan war, which distorted the true tolerant face of the two provinces.

Syed Mansoor Ahmed

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

Climate Change and Agriculture in Pakistan

In addition, Pakistan is a semi-arid country. The focal and dependent source of water is from the snow-covered Himalayan and the Karakorum in the Northern Areas, Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and the Sutlej rivers flow through this area. Within the water calculus, the country's entire agriculture is dependant on water flow from the Indus river. Glacial flood outburst also poses a serious threat to the country's climate in the Karakorum range. The sole aim was reaching and understanding the possible nodes of surge-type glaciers, which are characterized by unsteady movements and frequent frontal advances of glaciers. As result, it causes natural

hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, which will ultimately cause GLOFs and pose threats downstream of the water. After meaningful analysis, it revealed that a surge between 1998 and 2002 generated 6 GLOFs. Damages by Climate Change. Meanwhile, rigorous critical exploration of the Attabad Lake of Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan is the distinctive event to justify the future threats of climate change in the center of freshwater. The lake flooding displaced more than 6,000 people from upstream villages and inundated over 19

Multivariate Aspects of Climate Change in Pakistan



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

hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, which will ultimately cause GLOFs and pose threats downstream of the water. After meaningful analysis, it revealed that a surge between 1998 and 2002 generated 6 GLOFs. Damages by Climate Change. Meanwhile, rigorous critical exploration of the Attabad Lake of Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan is the distinctive event to justify the future threats of climate change in the center of freshwater. The lake flooding displaced more than 6,000 people from upstream villages and inundated over 19

Karakorum Range 39 glaciers are responsible for ice-dam formation. On the other hand, 36 glaciers build ice barriers in the running rivers due to frontal advance, near to the densely populated areas of the Karakorum region. By constant observation of the prevailing and growing threat of climate change, it is airing the endless future threat only due to the GLOFs. For instance, the Indus River System (IRS) is the jugular vein of irrigation in Pakistan. It is providing water for almost 90% of the food product in Pakistan. The ice-dam formation due to the GLOFs will slow

down the water flowing pace downstream. And could raise a deep impasse among the units for water distribution formula. In the end, it will ultimately surface the challenge of food insecurity in Pakistan.

The Karakorum Range, more importantly, is the home of the anticipated One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) by giving with a potential corridor through the Karakorum Highway from Khunjerab to the seaport at Gwadar in Balochistan (CPEC) on the Indian Ocean. Therefore, the smooth running of the traffic on the roads is the keynote for progressive economic development. While the ice barriers in rivers due to frontal advance could inundate the blacktops of the Karakorum Highway. The dislocation and dissolution of roads will give birth to never-ending challenges due to the factor of GLOFs. In the same run, these lakes and GLOFs attracted media, political, and scientific attention because of the repeated outburst of floods. So, it needs the heart blood as well as collective effective efforts to bring down the scale of the future threat without causing infinite miseries.

A wave that didn't rise

By Ghazi Salahuddin
There is not much sense in finding an allusion to Pakistan in the mirror of what happens in another country, though political trends sometimes flow across frontiers in a regional or global context.

But we do need to look a bit closely at the prevailing state of affairs in the United States because of the close and yet undecipherable relationship that Pakistan has had with this superpower. And the midterm elections held in the US on Tuesday have surely been watched with interest across the world.

So, what do the results of these elections tell us about the political drift in America? Now, the intricacies of American politics and its electoral arrangement make it very difficult to interpret the entire situation. Hence, I would refer to it only in its broad contours.

Let me put it again: any resemblance to Pakistan in the political circumstances of the US would be incidental and, in a sense, allegorical. One temptation here is to underline some similarities between Imran Khan and Donald Trump, something that has been done so well in the past. That clip from Trevor Noah's show in August 2018 is a masterpiece in which the leading American late night comedian said that

they were actually twins.

Considering how the two leaders have conducted their politics in recent months and weeks, Trevor Noah would do well to present a sequel. Imran Khan rejects his removal through a vote of no-confidence as a conspiracy. Donald Trump does not accept the results of the US presidential election of 2020. Both are running campaigns that have intimations of political violence. Both behave like populist demagogues. Both have followers who lack civility and intimidate their opponents.

In the build-up to this week's midterms, the political situation in the US was infused with a sense of dread. Some observers expressed fears about disorder, chaos and even a civil war. America may still not be able to wake up from that nightmare of January 6, 2021 when a mob supporting Trump had attacked the Capitol building in Washington DC. They were seeking to keep Trump in power.

With the midterms approaching, the Republican Party of Trump was seen to be gaining strength. There was some talk of a Republican tsunami. Almost every political pundit foresaw a red wave rising. Red is the colour of the Republican Party and the Democratic Party is

identified as blue. Actually, there are red states where voters predominantly vote for Republican candidates and there are blue states where Democrats are dominant.

I do not have to go into the details of what is at stake in a midterm election for the entire House of Representatives and a number of senators and governors of particular states. My focus is restricted to the surprising and potentially inspiring message that these midterms have delivered this year.

Lo and behold, the red wave did not rise. With egg on their face, most political analysts had to concede that they had not read the situation correctly.

Before Tuesday, there seemed little reason to expect any gains for President Biden's party. The overall mood of those who care for democratic values and rule of law was of gloom and doom. The toxic politics of Trump appeared to be ascendant. In fact, a number of American analysts saw a global trend in their country's anxiety and discontent. They talked about the decline of democracy all around and weakening of rule of law. They were alarmed by the use of violence as a political strategy. One opinion writer spoke about 'democratic recession'. 'We should be afraid of

our future', someone said.

It was so depressing that just a day before the election, Margaret Renki had this as the title of her column in The New York Times: 'What has happened to my country?' Not only this, she punctuated her piece with lines from Yeats' 'The Second Coming', such as 'Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold'. And so much more: 'Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world..... The best lack all conviction, while the worst / Are full of passionate intensity'. Even if these midterms had not become a test of American democracy, with Trump accused of the 'Big Lie' of the denial of the 2020 election, there is a kind of American tradition that the midterms in the first term of an incumbent president cause a lot of damage to his party.

This year, the Democrats were additionally under pressure because of high inflation and low approval ratings of President Biden. These two factors would in themselves be decisive. But they must also be doing something right, including their handling of the abortion issue. Anyhow, the commentators are trying to sort out why the red wave did not materialize. There is also a sense of relief. 'People just want the circus to stop',

said a columnist. 'America just dodged an arrow', was the heading of Thomas Friedman's opinion piece. One thought is that people perhaps do care about democracy. For sure, this does not mean that America has been transformed. The country remains divided. But the threat that a leader like Trump can pose is a bit curtailed. An analysis in The Guardian said: 'The winner of the midterms is not clear - but the loser is Donald Trump'. President Biden hailed a 'good day' for democracy.

In short, the Democrats have outperformed expectations and there are signs of the repudiation of Trump. The impression that the momentum, before the election, had shifted towards the Republicans was not valid. This means that more than many things, the midterms have rejected the wisdom of media pundits. Finally, do America's midterms bear a lesson or a warning for our media analysts to be more careful in their pronouncements? But critical thinking is not in our national curriculum and partisan passions greatly restrict objectivity and reason. Against this backdrop, let the question of whether the long march is akin to the promise of the red wave in America remain unanswered.

Lust for power

By Dr Farrukh Saleem

Some leaders are hungry in the extreme.

Some leaders have an 'insatiable desire for power'. Some leaders have an 'ardent lust of domination'. This 'ardent lust of domination' is no different from 'extreme selfishness'. Some leaders attempt 'to draw everything to center in ourselves, which we think will enable us to gratify every other passion'. Lust is a 'psychological force producing intense desire for something'. Some have lust for money; others have lust for power.

Some leaders deliberately create 'cults of hatred'. There are two types of cults - religious and political. Cults - both religious and political - can last for a long time. Cults - both religious and political - can be extremely dangerous. Religious cults can be dangerous for their followers and political cults can be extremely dangerous for their country.

According to Dr Janja Lalich, professor emerita of sociology at the California State University, there are 11 common traits of cult leaders: charisma; narcissism; lack of guilt; spiritual bondage; lack of remorse; spiritual abuse; pathological liars; twisting facts;

authoritarian; lack of boundaries and use of media. Cults are a 'risky form of human behavior that diminishes our contact with reality and devalues anyone outside the cult'.

There are two types of personality cults of political leaders: 'rituals of leader worship' and 'propaganda that portrays the leader positively'. Political cults can have serious political consequences as the probability of street violence rises manifold. Political cults often threaten civil war and openly defy rule of law. Most political cults are destructive in nature. The presence of political cults in a democracy means increased political violence.

Within political cults, the 'leader is always right'. Within political cults, the leader is 'projected as a messiah'. Political cult leaders are extremely apt at controlling the behaviour of the youth. The narrative that cult leaders stir up is 'us versus them'. Cult leaders frequently peddle 'alternative facts' and cults are full of conspiracy-addled members. Cult leaders claim that they are the only ones who represent the people - all their 'political competitors are just part of the immoral, corrupt elite.' Quite often cult members do not even realize that they are

part of a cult.

Political cults in established democracies with strong institutions are less of a threat than a nuisance. But, political cults in fragile democracies with weak institutions are a clear and present danger. Political cults damage democratic institutions including parliament and the judiciary. Political cult leaders also damage the military and the police.

I read somewhere that 'lust for power is surely to be counted as one of the worst characteristics of a human being.' One man's lust for power destroyed Germany. Another man's lust for power was behind the Cambodian genocide. One family's lust for power destroyed Syria.

Cult leaders have a tendency to 'transform the most mild government into the most insupportable tyranny.' Yes, a cult leader needs the 'assistance of like-minded people to serve as subordinate instruments in his pursuit of power.' Democracy is about 'rights of the people'. Democracy is about the 'protection of basic freedoms'. Political cults threaten the rights of the people. Political cults threaten basic freedoms. Political cults are a clear and present threat to democracies, especially fragile democracies.

Beyond the charter of economy

By Dr Khaqan Hassan Najeeb

The Charter of Economy is perceived as a minimum agenda to be agreed to by political parties, despite different ideologies. The thought process is that such a charter can somehow shield the economy from the vagaries of political swings. This is indeed a noble thought. However, it may be an uphill task to follow through, considering this would essentially mean that all political parties contest elections on a common manifesto.

Institutional memory is vital in government. A thorough attempt to come up with a kind of Charter of Economy was made by the PML-N and PPP in 2009, which I was honoured to support in putting together. A comprehensive document covering all areas was compiled after due deliberations, which is available on the shelves of the Finance Division. Some commentators, less familiar with the functioning of the government, may not fully appreciate the extent of policy work undertaken over the years within the government and by development partners. Many reports and policy papers within the government ministries, planning commission as well as in the public domain can form part of a revised Charter of Economy.

As an example, let us consider the documents put forth in the agriculture sector alone, to get a sense. A pioneering study was initiated by the government in 2017 for the rice sector. It took two years to analyze the whole value chain, starting at farm-level produc-

tion, processing, storage, value addition and marketing. In a similar manner, useful work was compiled by a committee of experts at the Planning Commission in 2018 for repairing the cotton sector, providing recommendations, some of which can be considered for implementation. A comprehensive document in the shape of National Food Security Policy was also developed in 2018 to reinvigorate the agriculture sector.

In February 2020, the Planning Commission published a Cluster Development Based Agricultural Transformation Plan-Vision 2025 for 33 agriculture commodities. The tasks for the short-term are clearly defined and prioritized in this plan. An agriculture Emergency Program was also put together in 2020 envisaging work through 18 Public Sector Development Program projects.

It is quite unfortunate that, despite all these documents, Pakistan has one of the lowest crop yields in the region, its agricultural marketing system is underdeveloped, and the sector remains vulnerable to climate risk and pest attacks. The intent of highlighting this record is to merely give a glimpse of the extent of work awaiting execution. Of course, the quality of work can always be upgraded and improved through peer reviews. Additionally, there is work by NGOs, INGOs, multilaterals along with reform and growth strategies by development practitioners.

This plethora of work can be used to forge yet another agenda (Charter of Economy) if so desired. Amalgamation is the easier part. Shaping it into actionable points is the more useful and grueling task as that alone will provide a way forward for the necessary changes in the economy.

Pakistan's success in policy and structural reform has generally been through a more focused approach. Let us review this approach where a dedicated team of smart men and women, not a committee or commission, has been assembled with an outcome of some worthwhile results in the country.

Let me give two examples of work I have undertaken in Pakistan. In 2012, we initiated serious work on Ease of Doing Business (EODB) reforms in Pakistan. The modus operandi was a focused team along with key stakeholders to conduct diagnostics, forge an actionable plan and follow through with quantifiable results. It took several grueling years of research and a new report took the form of the first ever National Doing Business Reform Strategy 2016.

We followed our work by inviting the first ever data challenge mission of the World Bank to Pakistan for engaging directly with contributors and to get the most accurate statistics on Pakistan. At the Economic Reform Unit (ERU) we were aware that multiple business-related reforms were not being adequately captured by the EODB report. For the first time,

Pakistan was recognized as one of the Top Ten reformers of the world in the 2017 publication of the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report. Additionally, the country's ranking was upgraded by four notches. This was no meagre feat. Pakistan had been on a downward slide for several years, hurting its image internationally as a destination for investment.

In a similar vein back in 2011, my colleagues and I at the ERU had realized that the government did not have a handle on the number, financial performance and share holdings of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs). A small but nimble team was energized, considering the broad scope of the task at hand. We published in 2013 the first ever report of around 203 SOEs which the Government of Pakistan supported or regulated or had some stakes in.

Our insight has created a country wide realization of the high level of inefficiencies, sizable financial losses and unbearable burden on the exchequer created by SOEs. In follow-up reports we highlighted the need to move on restructuring and divestment. In the first example one was able to show tangible results and in the second build a strong narrative by putting evidence on the table. The point that the two examples demonstrate is that a focused approach can work in Pakistan to bring about a change, through a dedicated team bypassing a clogged system.

There are other exam-

ples of success in various fields with a similar approach: bypass surgery. Building the insurmountable nuclear deterrence, to a decent income support programme, to a new motorway police, to digital data sets and deregulation of the telecom sector, are some worthwhile areas.

The Pakistan of today is fighting an existential economic task much beyond the purview of a necessary programme supported by the IMF. It is strongly proposed that on the same lines of bypass surgery, the country dedicates resources and a small team of sensible experts to oversee an agriculture sector turnaround, an energy sector revamp and further deregulation of the economy with a focus on small- and medium-sized businesses.

Desirables in these three sectors can be articulated. Focus in agriculture should be clear: to raise productivity and reduce cost, adjust to climate change and shift from grain to fruits and vegetables. The energy sector is challenging the country's solvency with both its overbearing effect on the fiscal as well as balance of payments. The necessary surgery has to involve efficiency gains through divestment and a change in the energy mix of the country. On the regulatory side we can strive to further do away with overlapping regulation between local, provincial and federal levels. As we move to digitize and automate processes our focus would be on the bulk of businesses.

Selling lies

By Nick Licata

We are in an era of disinformation.

That term is thrown around by all political persuasions to accuse their opponents of not being truthful. The systematic dissemination of disinformation, however, is more than just lying. It is a political strategy in a war to take control of public power. Its intended purpose is to create confusion, which leads to rejecting government institutions entrusted to deliberate over verifiable facts.

There is a significant difference between lying about a particular action or product and a disinformation campaign to undermine public trust in a democratic republic. A classic example of the former is how the tobacco industry lied or created doubt about scientific findings that demonstrated that smoking caused lung and cardiac diseases. Up to the mid-Fifties, the tobacco industry had succeeded in elevating smoking to be one of the most popular, successful, and widely used items of the early 20th century.

In response to the mounting evidence that smoking cigarettes damaged one's health, the tobacco industry hired the nation's lead-

ing public relations firm. The industry followed the consultant's advice and focused its efforts on disrupting the usual processes of knowledge production in medicine, science, and public health. Consequently, the leading tobacco companies embraced the scientific discourse that assumes there is always more to know. The tobacco industry's strategy was to exaggerate that principle in order to spread doubt and uncertainty about the known facts. The tobacco industry's campaign did not attack the validity of scientific institutions to analyze the facts; instead, they accused scientists of not wanting to find the correct data.

Eventually, the tobacco industry lost its battle by paying over \$206 billion through a court settlement. However, that punishment was only achievable because it was delivered by an independent court system that fairly weighed the facts.

Borrowing a page from the tobacco playbook, Donald Trump has not directly attacked the concept of democracy; instead, he undermines the credibility of democratic institutions by accusing them of not treating him and his supporters fairly. For example, he

attacked Congress for not throwing out Biden's electoral votes, and he condemned the courts for them tossing out his 60 cases challenging the outcome of the election. His repeated message was that the election was rigged.

All politicians and political parties can be justly accused of lying from time to time about their accomplishments or their intent to accomplish things they have no power to do. However, past efforts from major political players have stayed within a sandbox of playing with democratic institutions.

Trump stepped outside that sandbox on the night of the 2020 presidential election when he tweeted, 'This election is a total sham and a travesty. We are not a democracy!' He mistakenly thought that Obama had won the election without the majority popular vote.

Four years later, Trump won his presidential election without winning the popular vote, but he didn't mention that fact. Instead, when the polls indicated that he might lose the 2016 election to Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton, he claimed it would have been rigged if she had won. Then,

Iranian exile who got stuck for years in French airport dies

ISLAMABAD: An Iranian who got stuck for 18 years in a Paris airport, inspiring a Steven Spielberg movie starring Tom Hanks, died on Saturday at the terminal, an airport official said.

Mehran Karimi Nasser died of natural causes just before midday on Saturday in terminal 2F at Charles de Gaulle airport outside the French capital, the official told AFP.

Caught originally in an immigration trap — unable to enter France and with nowhere to go — he became dependent

on his unusual place of living and increasingly a national and international cause celebre.

Mehran Karimi Nasser, a political refugee who lived more than 18 years in Paris' Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport, died, Nov 12, 2022 at the age of 77 in the airport. He called himself "Sir Alfred," and a small section of airport parquet and a plastic bench became his domain. Karimi Nasser's peculiar story came to the attention of Hollywood director Spielberg, inspir-

ing 2004 film "The Terminal," which starred Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Hanks played a man who becomes trapped at New York's JFK airport when his home country collapses into revolution. After spending most of the money he received for the film, Karimi Nasser returned to the airport a few weeks ago, the official said. Several thousand dollars were found on him. Born in 1945 in Masjed Soleiman, in the Iranian province of Khuzestan. INP



RAWALPINDI: Cricket fans react as they watch the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 final cricket match between Pakistan and England, on a big screen at Ayub National Park, in the city.

Secretary Health reviews arrangements at MD CAT examination centers

LAHORE: In line with the directions of Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Provincial Health Secretary Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi on Sunday visited various MD CAT examination centers in Lahore.

Deputy Secretary Abu Bakr and Section Officer Jawad Pirzada along with other officers accompanied him on the occasion.

Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi visited BISE Lawrence Road, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore College For Women University, DPS Model Town, University of Punjab Wahdat Road, University of Education and Expo center Lahore to review arrangements.

Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi dis-

cussed the arrangements in a meeting with the administration in the examination centers. Deputy Secretary Abu Bakr and others officers concerned briefed him about the arrangements.

Secretary Health Punjab expressed his opinion and said that the arrangements in all the MD CAT examination centers in Lahore are satisfactory. Shaikh Zayed Hospital Rahim Yar Khan, Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University, PRO Vice-Chancellor, Fatima Jinnah Medical University Lahore and other Vice-Chancellors and Principals are monitoring the MD CAT exams.

Dr. Ahmad Javed Qazi said that we are in constant contact

with the control room established in the University of Health Sciences regarding the MD CAT exams. The supervising staff in the CAT exam centers are performing their duties diligently. The applicants participating in the MD CAT exams are completely satisfied with the arrangements. Secrecy is being ensured in the MD CAT exam centers. More than 7000 specialized healthcare and medical education, university of health sciences and teaching institutions' staff is performing. There are special NADRA vans for the identification, verification and facility of the candidates in the centers. More than 83 thousand candidates. INP

Imran expresses desire to restore ties with US

LALA MUSA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan—who had for months accused America of fomenting a conspiracy to oust him from power—has in a recent interview suggested a departure from his usual refrain, and expressed a desire to restore his relations with Washington despite accusing it of treating Islamabad as a "slave".

In an interview with the Financial Times following an assassination attempt last month, Imran said he will no longer "blame" the US and wants a "dignified" relationship if re-elected.

"As far as I'm concerned it's over, it's behind me," he

said of the alleged conspiracy, which both Shehbaz and the US had denied.

"The Pakistan I want to lead must have good relationships with everyone, especially the United States.

"Our relationship with the US has been as of a master-servant relationship, or a master-slave relationship, and we've been used like a hired gun. But for that, I blame my own government more than the US."

The ousted prime minister criticized Pakistan's International Monetary Fund (IMF) program, first started under his government in 2019 but revived by Sharif, of pushing austerity measures

such as subsidy-free fuel and power prices and spiraling inflation.

"When you contract the economy, and some of the IMF measures make your economy shrink, how are you supposed to pay off your loans, because your loans keep increasing?" he said.

"Consumption has crashed???? So my question is: How are we going to pay our debts? We are certainly going to head towards default." "Our relationship with the US has been as of a master-servant relationship, or a master-slave relationship, and we've been used like a hired gun. But for that, I blame INP

Walking machine for PTI chief shifted to Zaman Park's residence

LAHORE: A walking machine to facilitate Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan who was injured in an assassination attempt during long march of party in Wazirabad some 10 days earlier, was taken to his Zaman Park's residence on Sunday.

Before entry into Zaman Park, the walking machine was checked through searching devices and searching dogs.

After completing security clearance, the machine was allowed to be carried into Zaman Park. INP

Sikh Yatrees from India perform religious rituals at Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, Narowal

NAROWAL: The Sikh Yatrees from India who are currently on visit to Pakistan to attend the 553rd birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Sahib, on Sunday performed their religious rituals at Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Narowal.

A documentary relating the construction of Gurdwara Sahib was shown to the visiting yatrees on the occasion.

According to spokesman of Evacuee Trust Property Board, after a day-long stay in Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, the yatrees would return to Lahore on Monday. INP

Minorities in Pakistan enjoy equal rights as per Qaid's vision: Balighur Rehman

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that as per vision of Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, all minorities living in Pakistan enjoy equal rights. Speaking during a meeting with the delegation led by the founder and chairman of Implementation Minority Rights Forum Pakistan, Samuel Pyara, which called on him on Sunday, he said that protecting the rights of minorities is our duty and responsibility. Balighur Rehman said minorities played a significant role in formation of Pakistan, adding that the role of minorities in the development and stability ONP

RDA making its mark felt in Pakistan's digital transformation effort

ISLAMABAD: Roshan Digital Account (RDA) is the historic step of the State Bank, allowing overseas Pakistanis for the first time in the country's history to open an account in a Pakistani bank while sitting in their host country without any hassle, states MCB Bank Branch Manager Mohsin Saleem.

He was talking to WealthPK during an exclusive interview, and was responding to a question on how the RDA has made its mark in Pakistan's digital transformation effort.

Further elaborating, Mohsin Saleem said value of the accounts opened under RDA had reached \$3.16 billion as of December 2021, showing its popularity with overseas Pakistanis.

MCB was offering RDA in nine currencies in addition to the Pakistani rupee. The bank's initiatives such as Roshan Apna Ghar, Roshan Apni Car, Roshan Samaaji Khidmat, Roshan Qurbani Service, and numerous other services have opened new doors of investment for Pakistani diaspora.

Future investment opportunities and value-added services are also being extended by the bank.

There are three to four forums, where overseas Pakistanis can invest, including the stock market, real estate, and government certificates with high returns. The return rates offered by MCB are 5% for foreign currency accounts and 11-12% for rupee-denominated accounts.

Q: How are high interest rates affecting banks' operations?

A: The Karachi Interbank Offered Rate (Kibor) is currently hovering around 16-17%, which is unusually high and affects banks' lending as no one is that eager to take a loan at such a high interest rate. Though borrowing and lending money is the primary function of commercial banks, we are only concentrating on current accounts because they do not require banks to pay interest as savings accounts do.

Q: What risks is your bank facing amid the volatile economic environment?

A: The bank's risk exposure has increased

due to a slowdown in economic growth. Our bank is currently facing market risks, capital adequacy risks, credit risks, and liquidity risks due to changes in market variables such as high interest rates, foreign exchange volatility, dwindling stocks and high commodity prices.

Q: How does political uncertainty affect the investment environment in the country?

A: Political stability is a prerequisite for an economy to grow sustainably and restore investors' confidence to put their money in it. There must be a stable political environment in the country so that investors can be assured that their investments would be protected. Political instability can negatively impact the economy/equity market, thus resulting in decreased profitability.

Q: Why are banks' profits dwindling? What possible steps can banks take to offset the crunch?

A: Heavy taxation has dwindled the net profits of the smaller banks though their before-tax margins are fine. However, creating new deposit products and increasing the current product. INP



JAMSHORO: Large number of students solving the question paper during the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) held at LUMHS.

Governor lauds relief activities of public sector, private universities for flood victims

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has highly appreciated the public sector and private universities for committed efforts to collect relief goods and funds for flood affectees and visiting the areas where flood played havoc.

He expressed these views while talking to Dr. Amjad Saqib, Founder and Chairman of Akhuwat Foundation, Kamran Shams, Salim Ranjha, Rana Tariq, Dr. Rizwan and Mian Shahid Iqbal from Bahawalpur Economic Development Forum who called on at Governor House Lahore on Sunday.

During the meeting, the rehabilitation of the flood victims, the construction of houses and especially how to get the flood victims out of the trauma were discussed.

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that it will take a lot of time to come out of the social, economic and psychological effects caused by the flash floods. Governor Punjab said that a mechanism will be evolved in the universities to help the people in the flood-affected areas to recover from the trauma. He urged the students of the universities to play a role in bringing the flood victims out of the

psychological effects. He said that everyone has to play his role till the complete rehabilitation of the flood victims. Governor Punjab appreciated the welfare organization's reconstruction of houses and other rehabilitation works for the flood victims. On this occasion, Punjab Governor along with the members of Bahawalpur Economic Development Forum presented a cheque of over 1.5 crore rupees to the Chairman of Akhuwat Foundation, Dr Amjad Saqib to provide educational scholarships to the students belonging to Bahawalpur Division. INP

Industrial association rejects gas halt, urge PM, CM to intervene

KARACHI: Industrial Association of Pakistan on Sunday rejected the notice of no gas supply to industries.

According to details, the Industrial Association of Pakistan rejected the government's notice to not supply gas to industries in the winter season. The association would urge the federal government to find ways to provide gas to industries, President Karachi Chamber said.

Vice President Javed Balwani said that the Prime Minister and Chief Minister should intervene and save Karachi's industries from closure. The government has not considered any recommendation given by the industrialists committee, Faisal Mueez said.

The committee had recommended shifting load management to a circular basis so industries are not shut completely. It is not clear how export-oriented industries would be provided gas in winter, Javed Balwani said.

The association said that they reject the policy of gas load shedding.

Javed Balwani said that the gas supply is 34% while the industries are getting only 18% (721 mcf) gas supply. INP

SSGC halts gas supply to industries

KARACHI: With the advent of the winter season, the gas crisis seems to have worsened as the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) halted gas supply to industries across Karachi.

In adherence to the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) gas load management plan, that places domestic and commercial customers on top of the priority list, it has been decided to suspend gas supply to all general industries from November 15 to February 28, 2023," a statement issued by the gas company read.

It said the decision is aimed to meet the rising demand of domestic customers in Sindh and Balochistan. "In adherence to the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) gas load management plan, that places domestic and commercial customers on top of the priority list, it has been decided to suspend gas supply to all general industries from November 15 to February 28, 2023," a statement issued by the gas company read.

It said the decision is aimed to meet the rising demand of domestic customers in Sindh and Balochistan. INP



MUZAFFARABAD: A young vendor is selling warm caps on his push cart alongside a road during cool weather in the city.

SCCLO takes notice of fireworks during PTI long march, directs to avoid practice in future

LAHORE: Punjab Cabinet Standing Committee on Law and Order has taken strict notice of the fireworks at some places during the long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and directed that this practice should be prevented in future.

Punjab Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Muhammad Basharat Raja chaired the meeting of the committee held at the Civil Secretariat on Sunday. Chief Secretary Punjab Abdullah Khan Sumbal, Acting Inspector General Police and other officers participated through video link.

During the meeting, the overall law and order situation of the province and the security of ongoing Long March were reviewed in detail. The meeting was told that one leg of the long march is going on GT Road and the other is moving in Faisalabad Division. It was briefed that 3500 policemen have been

deployed in Faisalabad for security purposes.

Chairman Committee Muhammad Basharat Raja expressed satisfaction over the security arrangements and praised the performance of police and district administration. He said that the officers and officials of the police and district administration are fulfilling the assigned responsibility in a good manner. Acting IG Punjab directed the concerned DPOs to make satisfactory food arrangements for the police personnel during duty. On the report of the Additional IG CDT, the committee decided to stop the movement of non-related persons, including carriages within the Long March. Muhammad Basharat Raja said that the date and plan for the arrival of the Long March in Rawalpindi will be determined ahead of time. "PTI leadership will be contacted and final decision on the plan would be taken accordingly", concluded the chair. INP



KARACHI: An old man is filling water cans for drinking water due to shortage of drinking water at Liyari area, in Provincial Capital.

JK Spinning Mills posts hefty sales revenue of Rs27bn in FY22

ISLAMABAD: Revenue for JK Spinning Mills Limited rose 57% to Rs27.33 billion in the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2022, from Rs17.40 billion in fiscal 2020-21.

The company achieved the highest-ever sales revenues, volumes, and profitability during the year, reports WealthPK, quoting the firm's financial statistics.

JK Spinning Mills Limited is a public-limited company incorporated in Pakistan on January 7, 1987 under the Companies Ordinance, 1984, which has now

been replaced with Companies Act, 2017.

The company works in the textile manufacturing industry, which involves spinning, sewing, as well as the purchase, sale, and other transactions of yarn, textiles and other products.

The company also made a hefty gross profit of Rs6.16 billion in FY22, up 84.90% from Rs3.33 billion achieved in FY21.

The company posted over 90% growth in its profit-before-tax, which went up to Rs4.08 billion in FY22 from Rs2.14 billion in FY21.

The company's net profitability increased significantly as a result of the considerable top-line growth, more than doubling from Rs1.81 billion in FY21 to Rs3.66 billion in FY22.

The earnings per share (EPS), which was Rs17.71 the year before, increased significantly to Rs35.79 in FY22.

As of June 30, 2022, the company's directors, their spouses and minor children owned 69.79% of the shares. The chief executive officer possessed over 24% of the total shares. Local investors owned 5.87%

of the shares. Banks, DFIs, NBFI, insurance companies and modarabas held a negligible number of shares.

Company's performance over the years

In 2019, the company's sales revenue increased to Rs13.68 billion from Rs9.90 billion in 2018.

The company's gross profit increased by 84% year-over-year to Rs1.91 billion from Rs1.04 billion the previous year.

The profit-after-tax for the year increased by 112% to Rs716 million from Rs337 million in the previous year. As a result, the EPS rose from Rs4.62

in 2018 to Rs9.8 in 2019.

In 2020, the company's sales increased 8.3% to Rs14.82 billion from Rs13.68 billion the previous year.

The gross profit increased from Rs1.91 billion in 2019 to Rs2.49 billion in 2020.

The company declared a net profit of Rs1.14 billion in 2020 over Rs716 million in 2019. The EPS increased from Rs9.8 to Rs15.63.

The company's topline climbed to Rs17.40 billion in 2021 from Rs14.82 billion in 2020 due to an increase in product demand. INP

Biden and Xi meet face-to-face as superpower relations mired in tensions

US President Joe Biden will meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping in person on Monday for the first time since taking office, with US concerns over Taiwan, Russia's war in Ukraine and North Korea's nuclear ambitions on top of his agenda.

The long-awaited in-person meeting comes as relations between the superpowers have sunk to their lowest in decades. The two will meet on the Indonesian island of Bali ahead of the annual Group of 20 (G20) summit gathering leaders of the world's major developed and emerging economies.

Biden goes into the meeting on the back of a major domestic victory with Democrats clinching control of the Senate, a development acknowledged by global leaders, while Xi secured an unprecedented third term in office last month.

"I know I'm coming in stronger but I don't need that. I know Xi Jinping. I spent more time with him than any other world leader." Biden told reporters in Cambodia on Sunday after the Senate results. "There's never any miscalculation about... where each of us stands. The US president, who is on a whirlwind trip with stops at an international climate summit in Egypt and an ASEAN meeting and

the East Asia Summit in Cambodia ahead of G20, is hoping to build a "floor for the relationship" with China and ensure there are rules that bound competition between the two nations.

Biden recently said he was unwilling to make any fundamental concessions when he meets Xi, and that he wanted both leaders to lay out their "red lines" and resolve areas of conflict. The meeting is unlikely to produce concrete results and no joint statement is expected, the White House has said, but it could help stabilise ties marked by growing tensions over issues from Hong Kong and Taiwan to the South China Sea, coercive trade practices and US restrictions on Chinese technology.

Biden and Xi, who have held five phone or video calls since Biden took office in January 2021, last met in person during the Obama administration. Strains flared especially after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's August trip to Taiwan, the self-governed democratic island that Beijing claims as its territory.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the meeting could run for two hours or more, and Biden would be "totally straightforward and direct" in the conversation. Web Desk

Imran Gichki appointed principal secretary to CM Balochistan

QUETTA: Senior bureaucrat, Imran Taj Gichki has been appointed as the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mr. Gichki is a grade 20 officer.

According to a notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD), the CM has pleased to appoint Mr. Gichki as the Principal Secretary Mr. Gichki remained secretary sports and secretary local government Balochistan.



PKMAP Chief Mehmoed Khan Achakzai presenting Khan Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai's book to Professor Dr. Arif and Mateen Akhundzada

Efforts made to empower youth, maximize job prospects: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives is implementing a number of development initiatives to empower the youth and maximize their employment prospects, reports WealthPK.

A research officer of the Youth Affairs section of the planning ministry, who wished not to be quoted, told WealthPK, "Pakistan Vision 2025 aims to channelize and streamline the energies of the country's large youth population and to realize their immense digital potential to create an innovative and entrepreneurial knowledge-based industry."

In this regard, he said the current government was planning to approve establishment of 250 vocational training institutes all over the country on 50% sharing basis with the provinces for skill development of the youth.

"This kind of educational system might be quite advantageous for emerging nations like Pakistan. Small-scale institutions that can provide quality training in the form of a diploma can be set up at a lesser cost than a university. These can be scaled up in the smaller towns of Pakistan rather than in expensive large cities. The existing facilities of schools can be utilized or upgraded for a range of courses."

"In the projects funded by the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), 20,000 young engineers will be employed as interns to improve their skills and employability. The young graduates will receive paid on-the-job training in various fields under the program," he said.

He said, "the Pakistani students are provided with master's and PhD degrees from top 50 universities worldwide through the National Top Talent

Scholarships Programme. A total of Rs4.7 billion has been allocated for the project, which encourages and prepares talented students from low-income families who aspire for higher education but are unable to apply for the top universities due to financial constraints."

"Pakistan Innovation Fund will also be established under the PSDP 2022-23 for which Rs10 billion has been allocated. The objectives of the project is to prepare a framework for an effective innovation policy for the country, including the identification of factors that lead to positive and effective innovative regulatory processes."

"This young population can improve the country's industrial productivity, competitiveness, domestic production, and exports as well as greatly increase the inflows of overseas remittances if trained and skilled persons participate in domestic and international skilled labour markets," said the planning and development ministry official.

According to Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, "Pakistan's progress and survival lie in the development of its youth because they represent a large percentage of our population, so we must expand these initiatives to equip the young minds with the modern education and skills. The only way to turn our youth bulge from a liability to an asset is to privatize the state investment in them."

Pakistan is considered to be the fifth-largest young country in the world, and compared with Japan, the United States, South Korea, and other developed countries, it is a unique advantage of this country. Around 63 percent of Pakistan's population are youth aged between 15 and 33 INP

Immediate elections only solution to crisis faced by country: Aslam Iqbal

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal has said that the only solution to prevailing crises faced by the country is immediate elections. He said that the country is going through a serious economic crisis. Exports, remittances, foreign exchange are at historic lows and food prices are skyrocketing.

Criticizing the Sharif family and the PDM on Sunday, he said that Shehbaz Sharif, who stole millions of pounds from the aid of flood victims, has been badly caught in the Daily Mail London.

Mian Aslam Iqbal said that the Sharif family has always been a cause of disrepute for Pakistan at the international level. Unfortunately, at present, important decisions of the country depend on the mafia and power corridors instead of the masses. Pakistan cannot prosper until the people rise up against the alliance of these looters. Politics of family limited, vested interests and mafia nexus have tarnished democracy, he added.

The provincial minister further said that thirteen parties of PDM, including PML-N, came to power only to end corruption cases and they have ended corruption cases worth 1100 billion rupees as soon as they came. Today, people are on the streets against the rule of two families over the country for thirty years, he concluded. INP

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In an interview with the Financial Times following an assassination attempt last month, Imran said he will no longer "blame" the US and wants a "dignified" relationship if re-elected.

"As far as I'm concerned it's over, it's behind me," he said of the alleged conspiracy, which both Shehbaz and the US had denied.

"The Pakistan I want to lead must have good relationships with everyone, especially the United States."

"Our relationship with the US has been as of a master-servant relationship, or a master-slave relationship, and we've been

used like a hired gun. But for that, I blame my own government more than the US."

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Minorities in Pakistan enjoy equal rights as per Quaid's vision: Balighur Rehman

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that as per vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, all minorities living in Pakistan enjoy equal rights.

Speaking during a meeting with the delegation led by the founder and chairman of Implementation Minority Rights Forum Pakistan, Samuel Pyara, which called on him on Sunday, he said that protecting the rights of minorities is our duty and responsibility.

Balighur Rehman said minorities played a significant role in formation of Pakistan, adding that the role of minorities in the development and stability of the country is commendable. On this occasion, Governor Punjab also thanked Bishop Nadeem Bhandar and Parvez Masih for their help to

the flood victims.

On the request of the delegation, the Governor of Punjab also agreed to hold a ceremony at the Governor's House in the honour of the people who have rendered significant services for the rehabilitation of the flood victims. He said that those who serve humanity should be encouraged.

Samuel Pyara said that the constitution of Pakistan is the best constitution in the world regarding minorities. He said that all minorities living in Pakistan have equal rights and religious freedom. The delegation included Bishop Nadeem Bhandar, Parvez Masih from UK and Canada, Sameera Hussain Advocate Head of Legal Team of Implementation Minority Rights Forum Pakistan and Kashif Naimat Advocate High Court. INP

Impersonator held, car recovered in Capital

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory Lohibher police on Sunday arrested an impersonator and recovered a car, a Police Public Relation Officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, ICT police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens.

According to the details, a Lohibher police team arrested impersonator Saqib Shahzad and recovered car from his possession. Case has been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

IGP Islamabad said that the safety of lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard. INP

Sherry urges world to take practical steps to save world from climate change

CAIRO: Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman has urged the international community to take practical steps to save the world from negative impacts of the climate change.

Addressing the Inter-Parliamentary Union at COP-27 in Egypt on Sunday, she emphasized the need for collective responsibility to face the challenge of global warming, unprecedented rains, floods and other natural calamities. INP

Governor lauds relief activities of public sector, private universities for flood victims

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He expressed these views while talking to Dr. Amjad Saqib, Founder and Chairman of Akhuwat Foundation, Kamran Shams, Salim Ranjha, Rana Tariq, Dr. Rizwan and Mian Shahid Iqbal from Bahawalpur Economic Development Forum who called on at Governor House Lahore on Sunday. During the meeting, the rehabilitation of the flood victims, the construction of houses and especially how to get the flood victims out of the trauma were discussed. Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that it will take a lot of time to come out of the social, economic and psychological. INP



MUZAFFARABAD: A man covered his child with the warm shawl on their way during cool weather in the city.

'Sindh police officials' arrested for smuggling arms in Karachi

KARACHI: Railway police foiled bid to smuggle arms to Karachi from Peshawar during a raid and arrested two Sindh police officials.

The railway police foiled arms smuggling bid in Karachi by arresting two 'Sindh police officials' for allegedly carrying illegal weapons from Peshawar.

The raiding team recovered weapons hidden in a sack by the accused. The suspects were the officials of the Sindh police, railway police confirmed.

A case was lodged against the accused and interrogation is underway, railway police added. INP

Sialkot airport closed for international flights

SIALKOT: The Sialkot Airport will remain closed for international flights for 15 days.

As per the notification, the Sialkot airport will remain closed from December 5 to December 20 owing to repair work on runway.

As a result of the repair work, all domestic and international flights at the airport from starting from December 5 to 20, will be rescheduled. No photo description available.

However, the Lahore and Islamabad airports could be used as alternative airports. INP

'India cannot change Kashmir's disputed status through its military presence'

ISLAMABAD: Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is the highest militarized zone in the world as over 1 million Indian troops remain deployed in cities, towns and villages across the territory to brutally suppress the Kashmiri people.

Brutal militarization has created a humanitarian crisis in IIOJK as the territory is under military siege since India illegally landed its troops in Srinagar on 27 October 1947, said a report released by the KMS on Sunday.

It said Kashmiris are engaged in a peaceful political movement and India cannot change the disputed status of Kashmir through its huge military presence. INP

US can't stop Pakistan from purchasing Russian oil: Dar

DUBAI: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Sunday that the United States can not stop Pakistan from purchasing Russian oil and it will be possible to do so soon.

While addressing Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) workers in Dubai, the finance minister said during his visit to the US last month, he had a meeting with the officials of the US State Department in which the matter of oil purchase from Russia was discussed.

Dar furthered that the US authorities were informed that they cannot stop Islamabad from buying oil from Moscow as the country's neighbor India is also buying oil from them.

Dar also said that the ministry will try to purchase oil from Russia on similar terms as it has with India.

"In the next few months, you will see that the government will take important steps in favor of Pakistan in this regard,"

added the finance minister.

Dar added that the country has financial dealings with Saudi Arabia, China, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"During the prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia, meetings were also held with the Saudi authorities. From these meetings, you will see that there will be further improvement for Pakistan," said Dar.

Dar also said that Saudi Arabia will set up a refinery in Gwadar, adding that this is an investment of around \$11 or \$12 billion.

He further said that this project was started in October 2015 that he was in Riyadh at that time and that he had meetings with high Saudi officials.

"Due to the political crisis and change of government in Pakistan, this refinery could not be established, now it has been decided to establish the refinery again," the finance minister added. Online



QUETTA: A man busy in purchasing warm coat from a roadside vendor.

PC initiates 'Pakistan Outlook 2035' on future socio-economic roadmap

ISLAMABAD: Planning Commission has initiated a comprehensive study on the future development scenario building for Pakistan titled "Pakistan Outlook 2035".

The study will assess long-term challenges in the light of prevailing economic dynamics in key sectors of economy and identify policy choices for rapid socio-economic development of the country.

While chairing a meeting of the Planning Commission Members in Islamabad, Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal said the study will be launched at the start of 2023.

He said it will act as a prelude to developing Pakistan's Vision 2035 and Vision 2047.

The Planning Minister emphasized that Pakistan's economy requires fun-

damental structural changes and development of new export led growth paradigm.

He said this can only be achieved by following a consistent policy framework for at least a decade.

Ahsan Iqbal said the present government's topmost priority is to bring about an economic turnaround and resume the journey to national progress.

He said it will act as a prelude to developing Pakistan's Vision 2035 and Vision 2047. The Planning Minister emphasized that Pakistan's economy requires fundamental structural changes and development of new export led growth paradigm. He said this can only be achieved by following a consistent policy framework for at least a decade. He said it will act as a prelude to developing Pakistan's Vision 2035 and Vision 2047. INP

Hefty taxation squeezes earnings of corporate sector

ISLAMABAD: The imposition of hefty tax on corporate earnings has impacted the balance sheets of businesses with many of them running in losses. This was stated by Muhammad Qasari, the Manager Operations of Askari Bank Limited, during an interview with WealthPK. Here are the details: According to him, the bank has strong reserve foundation unlike other banks. Moreover, the State Bank of Pakistan's measures have helped insulate the cooperate sector from the economic stress. The central bank has also extended loan facilities to the banks to help them avoid any financial stress and keep paying their employees instead of laying them off.

Due to the bank's exposure to foreign exchange, there is a risk that the bank's capital or earnings will fluctuate as a result of fluctuations in exchange rate.

The bank's treasury wing controls foreign exchange risk by matching

spot and forward liabilities and assets in foreign currencies. Value at Risk (VaR) is determined for the foreign exchange exposure on a daily basis, and the foreign exchange exposure is kept within legal limitations. Through daily sensitivity analysis, the effect of a change in the dollar-rupee parity is also calculated.

Askari Bank posted an operating profit of Rs20.5 billion in 2021, which was marginally higher than Rs19.7 billion a year earlier. The bank's profit-after-tax stood at Rs9.7 billion compared to Rs10.8 billion previously, posting a 10.2% decline year-on-year mainly due to higher provisions against non-performing assets. The net provision requirement increased to Rs4.9 billion as against Rs1.9 billion for the previous year. Inflation affects the banks as the cost of everything rises. INP