

# QUETTA VOICE

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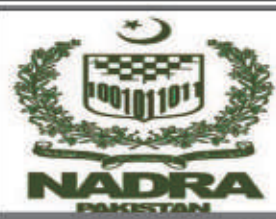
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**COAS appointment: Khawaja Asif rejects rumours about 'deadlock on names'**



**Balochistan Assembly calls for DNA test before issuing NICs**

## Petrol prices to remain unchanged till Nov 30: Ishaq Dar

**Price of petrol will remain at Rs224.80 per litre and diesel at Rs235.30 per litre, says finance minister**

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced on Tuesday that there would be no change in the prices of petroleum products for the next fortnight till November 30.

"The government has decided, after permission from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, that there will be no increase in any petroleum products. All the items, petrol, diesel, light diesel oil and kerosene [...] their prices will remain unchanged from Nov 16 to Nov 30," he said in a televised address.

The current prices for petrol are Rs224.80 per litre, Rs235.30 for HSD, Rs186.50 for LDO and Rs191.83 for kerosene. On October 30, too, the government had decided to keep the petrol prices unchanged.

During his brief media talk today, Dar also said that the State Bank of Pakistan and the National Bank of



Pakistan had submitted applications to the Supreme Court requesting to withdraw their appeals against the Federal Shariat Court's (FSC) direction to the government for a complete transformation of the banking system into Shariah-compliant banking by December 2027.

Earlier this year, the FSC had ruled

that the federal government and provincial governments must amend relevant laws and issued directives that the country's banking system should be free of interest by December 2027.

Commercial banks and the central bank had subsequently filed an appeal before the Supreme Court (SC) challenging the FSC verdict.

However, last week, Dar had said that the SBP and NBP would withdraw their appeals, adding that the government would quickly try to implement Islamic banking system in the country. Updating on the matter today, he said: "Both of the applications have been submitted in the apex court." Web Desk

## PM Shehbaz again tests positive for Covid-19

Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who returned from a five-day stay in the United Kingdom a day earlier, had tested positive for Covid-19.

In a tweet, the minister said the premier was feeling unwell for the past two days and took a Covid-19 test today as per the doctor's advice. She appealed to the nation and to PML-N workers to pray for PM Shehbaz's speedy recovery. This is the third time the prime minister has tested positive for the virus. He had previously contracted Covid-19 earlier this year in January and in June 2020. PM Shehbaz had landed back in Pakistan on Monday after a brief but busy trip to London, but had taken the day 'slow' due to feeling unwell. A source close to the PM said he was not well, as a result of which he spent a 'slow' Monday. The premier had fallen ill in London, which was why he had extended his private visit by two days, he added. The premier had reached London last week after attending the COP27 summit in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. During his five-day stay in the British capital, the premier held a slew of meetings with his self-exiled former



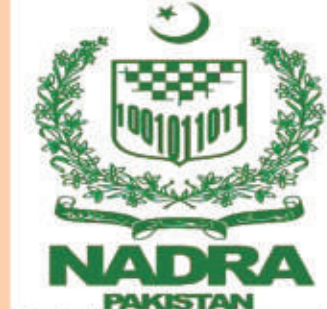
prime minister brother, Nawaz Sharif, wherein according to media reports, they discussed the next army chief's appointment among other critical issues. Politicians and journalists were quick to wish the premier a speedy recovery. In a statement, President Arif Alvi wished PM Shehbaz a quick recovery and expressed his well wishes. Web Desk

## Balochistan Assembly calls for DNA test before issuing NICs

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly has called for deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) tests prior to the issuance of national identity cards in the province. The house adopted a resolution tabled by Bushra Rind, the Chief Minister's adviser on the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD).

Lawmakers from the opposition and treasury benches backed the resolution and demanded the federal government to direct the National Database and Registration



Authority (NADRA) to make DNA tests compulsory for issuing national identity cards in Balochistan.

Speaking on the feasibility of the resolution, Bushra Rind

stated that a large number of people have illegally obtained national identity cards and terrorists were also using fake NICs to carry out subversive activities. "The house should adopt this resolution and ask NADRA to make DNA tests compulsory", she mentioned.

Deputy Speaker Balochistan, Sardar Babar Musakhail who was chairing the session put the resolution for voting. Subsequently, the house unanimously adopted the resolution and demanded of the federal government to instruct NADRA to include DNA test compulsory for issuing NICs.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing a ceremony to commemorate World Diabetes Day: at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## JUI F Balochistan expels MPA Maulvi Noorullah

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

QUETTA: Jamiat ul Ulama e Islam (F) Balochistan expelled a member provincial assembly, Maulvi Noorullah on Tuesday evening. Haji Ainullah Shams, the leader of JUI and the former provincial minister told Daily Quetta Voice that the party has terminated the basic membership of Maulvi Noorullah.

MPA Maulvi Noorullah has violated the party manifesto in the local government elections, Ainullah Shams said. There was no immediate response from the Maulvi. The MPA belongs to the Muslim Bagh tehsil of Killa Saifullah district of Balochistan and was elected as an MPA on the ticket of the religious party.

Maulana Abdul Wasey, the Balochistan Chief of the JUI chaired an important meeting



of the party that made a number of decisions regarding Balochistan and the upcoming second phase of local bodies elections in Balochistan. The party also discussed its relations with chief minister Mir Qudus Bizenjo and other political parties and reviewed its strategy in this regard.

## Forensic laboratory in Balochistan to be established: IG Police

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Balochistan Police Chief, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh on Tuesday announced the establishment of a forensic laboratory in Balochistan. This laboratory will help in improving the process of investigating crimes in Balochistan and conducting the tests in Quetta instead of Lahore and other parts of the country. The Inspector General (IG) of Police Balochistan expressed these views while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Crime Scene Units in Quetta.

"Happy to see the practical demonstration and professionalism by the police jawans", IG Police Balochistan stated. Anti-Riot Unit (ARU) also showed great skill, he added. The ARU impressed the



police chief and other senior officers present on the occasion. Senior Police Officers including Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Quetta, Azfar Maisar, Senior Superintendent Police (SSP)

Operations, Abdul Haq Umrani, and Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Investigation Asad Nasar were also present at the inauguration ceremony of the Crime Scene Unit at police station Quetta.

### Britians introduced a police system

The IG said that the British introduced the police system in the past. 115 helpline is very famous in Pakistan and a police model has been made in every city of the country to support the masses, Mr Sheikh stated.

Action should be taken against street crimes, drug dealers and the occupation mafia in the provincial

capital, IG Police Balochistan stated. The rescue process of the police is not weak as the other institutions, he added.

**The Police of Balochistan are as smart as the police of other provinces**

The police of Balochistan are as smart as the police of other provinces, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh. If the protestors do not disperse even after negotiations, the light force will be used there, the IG added.

A forensic laboratory is going to be built in Balochistan and its building has already been constructed, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh said. Community policing in Balochistan is also going to be started, he added.

"We want to restore the confidence of the masses in policing through community policing", IG said.

## FM Bilawal inaugurates 11th edition of Defence Exhibition-IDEAS 2022

KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari inaugurated the 11th edition of Defence Exhibition-IDEAS 2022 at Expo Center in Karachi on Tuesday.

The exhibition will continue till Friday in which around three hundred exhibitors from thirty two countries will display their latest and innovative products whereas over five hundred national and international delegates are taking part in the exhibition.

Apart from the six halls of the expo centre, three marquees have also been set up, one of which has been named after Kashmir.

A Karachi Show will also be held on November Thursday



at Nishan-e-Pakistan on the beach for the citizens.

High-level defence delegations of friendly countries are also participating in the IDEAS-2022.

Federal Minister for Defence production Muhammad Israr Tareen,

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and high civil and military official also attended the inaugural ceremony.

Addressing the inaugural session of exhibition Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Pakistan has come out of danger of

default. The coalition government is working to steer the country from economic challenges. The government is facing multiple challenges.

"We are working with full force to pull the country out of economic challenges. We are improving our relations with other countries under foreign policy."

**He held Pakistan has and will continue to work for peace in the world.**

The peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue is vital for the betterment of the region, he underlined. Millions of people were affected due to floods, he said adding Pakistan was highly affected by the effects of climate change. Online

## SC issues notices to Imran, Fawad, Asad in ECP contempt cases

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notices to former prime minister Imran Khan, and PTI leaders Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry in cases pertaining to the contempt of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ayesha Malik and newly elevated Justice Athar Minalallah heard the case at the apex court in Islamabad.

Earlier, a petition was moved through Advocate Sajeeb Sheryar Swati on behalf of the ECP with a request to order consolidation of all six petitions before one high court instead of defending the commission's stance over the issuance of contempt notices against PTI leaders in different high courts.

However, the recipients had challenged the same before different high courts, including the Lahore High Court, its Rawalpindi bench, the Sindh High Court and the Islamabad High Court, on the grounds that Section 10 of the Elections Act, the statutory provision about the commission's power to punish over contempt, was against the Constitution.

According to the Election Act 2017, Section 10 titled "Power to punish for contempt" states that the "election commission may exercise the same power as the high court to punish any person for contempt of court and the Contempt of Court Ordinance, 2003 (V of 2003), or any other law pertaining to contempt of court shall have effect accordingly[...]"



The PTI leaders had also sought from the high courts a declaratory relief from the charges.

At the onset of the hearing, the top court, in response to the ECP's request, remarked that the election commission had submitted applications in different high courts regarding all the cases being shifted to one high court. "Either prepare for local body polls or pursue the cases," the court stated.

The chief justice went on to say that the election commission is relying on Article 186-A in the case. "Is there any precedent in history where the SC consolidated cases of different high courts?" he asked.

According to the National Assembly website, Article 186-A of the Constitution titled "Power of Supreme Court to transfer cases" states that the "top court may, if it considers it expedient to do so in the interest of justice, transfer any case, appeal, or other proceedings pending before any high court to any other high court."

Responding to the CJ, the election commission's counsel said that the SC had ordered the consolidation of all income tax cases to one high court in 1999.

Upon hearing this, Justice Bandial said it is imperative that a valid legal point be present to consolidate all the high court cases. "Who are the petitioners in contempt of ECP cases in high courts?" he asked. Web desk

## QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

### Slow pace of development projects in Quetta

The pace of the development projects currently underway in Quetta is slow. Various suburbs of this provincial capital paints a bleak picture when it comes to development projects and the availability of basic facilities including water, education, health, road network, and sanitation.

Billions are pumped by the federal and provincial governments to bring this city at par with other developed parts of the country, but with no tangible results. For instance, the dualization of the Sabzal Road, Sariab Road is yet to be completed in spite of passing three years.

Sabzal Road is yet to be constructed. Former Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan inaugurated a portion of the Sabzal Road, which was really a good addition to the development and beauty of Quetta. However, a major portion of Sabzal Road is yet to be completed. Dirty water on the surface of the road and piles of garbage made peoples' lives miserable.

Residents of the area have made repeated appeals for immediate construction of the road. Chief Minister Mir Quddus Bizenjo has also visited the road and directed an early construction. Despite this all, the road is yet to be constructed. This actually exposes the bad governance in Balochistan.

Action should match the directives of the high-ups. Sariab Road and other ongoing development projects are also underway at a slow pace. Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili visited various development schemes the other day and directed the concerned departments to ensure timely completion.

Action should match the directives of the high-ups. People are fed up with the ongoing slow-paced projects, which compound their problems. The provincial government should also share the volume of funds being spent on various development projects in Quetta with the media and people. This will improve transparency and accountability.

A viable master plan needs to be evolved to address the city's problems including an influx of people, new settlements, traffic, water, education and health problems.

### Facing future floods safely

Dr Aftreen Siddiqi

Pakistan's floods of 2022 were the latest, and most damaging yet, addition to the long history of floods in the country. As the muddy waters slowly recede, the need for speeding up action to face future floods stands clear.

Floods have been the most frequent natural disaster in Pakistan. Yet, decisions for land-use and habitation do not reflect this reality. The rising intensity of floods has been concurrent with an increasing population in the flood plains of the Indus river. It is this confluence of water and people in floodplains that creates the tragedy of lost lives and property. The flood of 2022 has led to reported losses of over 1700 lives, affected 33 million people, and incurred damages of over \$40 billion (amounting to 11.5% of the 2021 national GDP). The flood of 2010 led to a loss of over 1200 lives, loss of homes for over 14 million people, and damages of over \$43 billion. The flood of 1992 led to a loss of 2000 lives, affected more than 9.3 million people and incurred damages of over 1 billion dollars. This list continues on. Each was declared the worst flood in Pakistan's history. Each was unprecedented at its time of occurrence. There is precedent for unprecedented floods in the country.

It is time to focus on setting a different kind of precedent — one with a clear focus on elevating the safety of people in rural, flood prone areas, and elevating the well-being of farmers who bear the most losses.

The prevailing mindset of flood management has to change. In the past, money has been poured in building levees and flood protection infrastructure, and then again on re-building higher and reinforcing more the structures to "fight" the next flood after each cycle of levee breaches, infrastructure failure, and devastation of lives and properties. Gilbert White, a prominent 20th century geographer, noted this adverse cycle, and advocated for including the role of humans in damages resulting from natural disasters. He warned about the trap of building levees, followed by eventual breaching and flooding, and then rebuilding again, with increasing level of damages in each flooding episode. The so-called "levee effect", empirically observed in several river basins around the world, points to the paradox where building higher levees has led to increasing levels of flood damages. This is due to flood protection infrastructure creating a perception of flood security, leading to

relaxation of rules for land-use and construction over time, and increasing density of habitation. This results in greater exposure of lives and properties to floods. It is time to see and stop this cycle. This can be done if policymakers and people recognise the role of human decisions in contributing to the disaster. When we recognise responsibility for our actions, we gain agency for change.

What are the changes needed? First, a conception of flood security as the emergent outcome arising from interactions of people with their environment. These interactions are governed by physical laws of nature and institutions (policies, rules and norms) devised by humans. There is a need to structure these interactions in particular ways in order to be able to steer emergent level of flood security towards a desirable state.

Second, a systems approach for addressing the complex challenge is needed. Establishing a "goal-seeking" system structure to attain desired targets of flood safety is important. It entails setting clear and shared goals, having sensors for measuring the state of flood security, having accurate and timely communication of that information to relevant actors,

having a process that assesses the situation (condition) based on the information, and having decision-makers with necessary authority that take corrective action. If all of these elements are linked appropriately, to produce a feedback structure at district, provincial and federal levels and function with necessary speed and resources, then level of flood security can rise.

Presently, agencies and organisations exist that monitor and forecast weather, forecast floods, conduct disaster risk management and aid in disaster response. However, shared goals of flood safety are absent. Additionally, components that produce information at local levels at required times are absent or inadequate. Additionally, components that have the authority and resources to take corrective action are lacking. These deficiencies can be addressed. Goals and targets for flood safety can be instituted and adopted from federal to district levels. Necessary links that connect existing agencies can be established. Sensing and monitoring, such as through periodically updated flood-risk maps, can be generated at teshil and building lot-level. These can be shared with the public to inform property owners and resi-

dents of their flood risks) as well as to inform public officials in land-use planning. Local evacuation plans for people and moveable assets (such as livestock) in rural areas can be put in place, and early warning systems can be installed. Community education programmes that raise awareness about safety and evacuation procedures can be conducted. Actions for efficient drainage and storm water passage can be taken. Flood resilient designs and construction, and aid for households to live in lower risk areas can be provided. Financial solutions, such as funds in which land owners contribute towards flood loss compensation when needed, can be created. Such literal 'rainy-day funds' can be drawn up at time of need. Overall, regular processes for short-term and long-term flood risk assessment and corrective actions can affect flood security in positive ways. These actions are not as costly as some may think. High resolution, frequently updated, land imagery from earth-observing satellites has been available for free for more than a decade. National agencies and universities within Pakistan have capacity for geospatial data analysis and flood risk mapping.

### Climate challenge

By Dr Ameena Tanvir

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

mango must be 13 degrees C to 30 degrees C, but this year the temperatures in those days hovered around 40 degrees C. Year-on-year temperature increases have brought plague after plague in rural and urban areas. In 2020, Punjab faced the most devastating locust infestation in nearly 30 years, which affected 15 per cent of the area of the province. Experts believe that the rising temperature of the Indian Ocean is one of the main reasons for the invasion of locusts in the South Asian region.

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

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

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

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

Before the recent rains brought relief for the residents of Cholistan, Thal and other desert areas of the country, life was upturned, forcing hundreds and thousands of people to migrate with their cattle to greener pastures and urban centres in desperate search for water. Although all provinces confronted acute water shortages as of late June, Sindh faced the worst of it with a record 40 per cent shortage.

The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) expected a 22 per cent water shortage for the Kharif season, but it turned out even worse with a water shortage of 38 per cent. Prolonged drought eventually ended with the beginning of the monsoon season in July, but heavy rains made things look even worse. Flash floods caused by abnormally heavy monsoon rains have killed over 550 people so far, with Balochistan among the hardest hit.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), July turned

out to be the wettest month since 1961, with 181 per cent more rain than average. Balochistan received 450 per cent and Sindh 308 per cent more rain than the annual average, the disaster agency said. Unusual and torrential rainfall in Karachi caused havoc, forcing residents to stay at home during weekdays. The provincial government also announced a day off to cope with the heavy rainfall challenge.

During the second spell of monsoon rains, the city received more than an entire summer's worth of rain in one day. Over 50 casualties have been reported in Sindh. Successive governments, on their part, avowed to mitigate climate challenges and keep the issue as one of the top priorities. But little has been done in this regard due to lack of funding, attention and will power.

This year's devastating floods have inflicted immense damage to the infrastructure of Balochistan and Sindh. It will take the government years to rebuild resilient infrastructure since it is barely surviving a default-like situation currently. Lack of awareness among people and the absence of sustainable policies are some other factors that will keep Pakistan's fight against the looming climate change challenge unaddressed at least in the foreseeable future.

### Climate affairs

By Chloe Atkinson

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

According to the research, greenhouse gas emissions have heated the planet by an estimated 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.16 degrees Fahrenheit) over the last two centuries. The Nature journal published an article this month detailing what its authors say is proof that heatwaves in Europe have increased three-to-four times faster than in other northern mid-latitude areas such as the United States. The reason for this, according to the article, is due to the fast west-to-east air stream, or atmospheric circulation, which is carrying hot air across the northern atmosphere.

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

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

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

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

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

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### Global energy security

By Maximilian Hess

Not since World War II has the threat to global energy security been as severe as it is today.

Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine and the consequent geo-economic war between the Kremlin and the West disrupted global gas markets at a scale unprecedented in recent history. The Kremlin's use of its power over energy markets as leverage — and Europe's efforts to wean itself off of Russian natural gas and avoid a massive shortage this winter — are triggering price hikes and rerouting flows around the world.

No one is left unaffected, even those who thought they had prepared for every eventuality. For example, Pakistan, which had secured several long-term natural gas import contracts to increase its energy security in recent years, has seen partners break those deals to send their gas to new clients offering to pay more. The coffers of both the developed and developing world are being drained. Meanwhile, the Kremlin is using the global energy crisis it created to sustain its economy in the face of severe international sanctions. Moreover, it is weaponising Europe's dependency on Russian natural gas to try and break Western resistance to its ambitions in Ukraine. Earlier this week, Moscow tried to tighten its squeeze on

Europe further, saying it plans to reduce gas supplies through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany to just 20 per cent capacity. In response, European Union energy ministers swiftly announced an agreement for the bloc's members to gut gas usage by 15 percent this winter. This was an attempt by Europe to show it would not give in to Russian pressure and abandon Ukraine in order to fill up its gas reserves. Such conflict-driven demand reduction, however, means that an already likely recession is now all but guaranteed. Following Gazprom's latest cuts, analysts already predict the EU will not be able to reach its own target of refilling gas storage to 80 percent capacity by winter. Now that Europe made it clear that it is finally — and perhaps much belatedly — ready to take the steps to cut its need for Russian gas at any cost, the Kremlin will do everything it can to inflict maximum pain on Europe in the short term, while the dependency remains.

A recent German poll found that at the moment, 58 percent of the population is supporting sanctions against Russia despite potential negative impacts for Germany. Russian President Vladimir Putin is working to bring that number down — down to the point that it becomes

untenable for Germany's leaders to push for policies to support Ukraine and help the West win its confrontation with Russia. The waning of public support for the sanctions regime in the face of economic difficulties is an equally significant risk for other European governments.

Europe's leaders are now facing the herculean task of simultaneously helping their industries survive on a reduced energy supply, supporting Ukraine's war effort and maintaining public support for the sanctions regime amid a cost-of-living crisis largely manufactured by Russia that seems to have no real end in sight.

Energy is perhaps the most consequential front in the ongoing geo-economic battle between Russia and the West, and thus Europe needs to strengthen its hand there first. After moving to address the demand side of the equation, now it needs to address the supply side of the problem to be able to shore up its economy to the furthest extent possible, and insulate public support for Kyiv and the sanctions regime against Russia.

There are some obvious steps that European governments can take — but have been reluctant to in fear of domestic backlash — to resolve the supply issue swiftly. The Netherlands, for

example, can pump billions of cubic metres of extra natural gas across Europe by increasing production at the Groningen gas field. Bewilderingly, however, it is still planning to take the entire operation offline next year over the risk of minor earthquakes in the surrounding area and some pushback from environmentalists. Germany can also increase its future capacity to supply energy simply by extending the lifespan of its nuclear power plants that are meant to come offline at the end of the year. The governing coalition said it is now considering this option, but the Greens — including Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock — continue to resist the move. The party's stance on this issue is somewhat understandable — after all, Germany's Green Party was in large part borne out of Germany's Cold War-era anti-nuclear movement. Nevertheless, by blocking a relatively straightforward and low-risk solution to a major problem facing the nation, it risks failing the test of being a responsible government partner at a time of war, less than a year after its best-ever election result. Beyond increasing their own production capacity by any means possible, European nations should of course also work on forming new

partnerships with suppliers outside their region. The global gas crisis and its impacts are by no means limited to Europe. It is therefore imperative that Europe seeks to bring together the international community to coordinate global supply.

When the world last faced such a major energy crisis, the Allies had significant control over the world's oil supplies. British Petroleum and its predecessors, and the forefathers of the modern United States energy majors, controlled most of the Middle East's petroleum at the dawn of World War II. Britain established the Petroleum Warfare Department and the Petroleum Board — which brought together all allied energy firms, including US ones even before Pearl Harbor brought the US into the conflict directly — to coordinate supplies for the war. Today, ownership of global energy supplies is far more diversified. And while the US has pledged to use its role as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter to support Europe, a fire this June at its flagship liquefaction plant in Freeport, Texas has seen export capacity fall by some 17 percent. Thus addressing global gas shortages will require a coming together of key public and private players from across the world to develop a strategy for this winter.

Switzerland for an in-person meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion. Thanks to protests and new research, however, participants will not be able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth during the pandemic.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods. A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billionaires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers.

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

### Inequality and hunger

By Chuck Collins

Beginning on May 24, the World Economic Forum is gathering in Davos, Switzerland for an in-person meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion. Thanks to protests and new research, however, participants will not be able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth during the pandemic.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods. A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billionaires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## NEPRA likely to jack up power tariff by Rs2.18 per unit

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) likely to increase electricity tariff by Rs2.18 per unit on account of monthly fuel adjustment (MFA).

The hike in electricity prices will impose an additional burden of Rs43 billion on electricity consumers.

Chairman NEPRA Tauseef Farooqi said that he is also worried that how the figure went up

so high to Rs 43 billion. The electricity consumption has decreased by 10 percent which has impacted the capacity payments. Last year the quarterly adjustments were Rs 14 billion, he added.

Meanwhile, the power division official said we are trying to not increase the power tariff, it should be delayed until February or March instead. Furthermore, the official notification will

be released when NEPRA will review the facts and figures. The electricity consumption has decreased by 10 percent which has impacted the capacity payments. Last year the quarterly adjustments were Rs 14 billion, he added.

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## Four-day IDEAS-2022 starts in Karachi

KARACHI: A four-day International Defence Exhibition and Seminar IDEAS-22 started in Karachi on Tuesday.

Defence Export Promotion Organization has arranged the exhibition, which brings together defence industries from across the globe to showcase their latest technological innovations.

A large number of senior civil and military delegations and trade visitors would also witness the exhibition.

IDEAS is a defence exhibition which brings together the defence industry's players across the globe to showcase the latest technological innovations.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari inaugurated the 11th edition of the exhibition, which will continue till Friday.

The previous defence exhibition held at the same venue was in 2018. As is the tradition of the usually biannual event since the year 2000, IDEAS 2022 will showcase a number of splendid activities encompassing the world's advanced defence technology demonstrations, international seminars, the IDEAS Karachi Show, networking, and business expansions through

Business-to-Business and Business-to-Government engagements.

Addressing the ceremony, Bilawal welcomed all guests to the "special edition of innovation and excellence".

He remarked that the incumbent government inherited an economic catastrophe as Pakistan was on the precipice of default, however, he credited the concerted efforts from the coalition "for the unity that helped the economy" survive an imminent danger.

Federal Minister for Defence Production Israr Tareen, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and civil and military officials attended the inaugural ceremony.

Around 300 exhibitors from 32 countries display their latest and innovative products while more than 500 national and international delegates are taking part in the exhibition, the state-run radio service reported.

Apart from the six halls of the expo centre, three marquees have also been set up, one of which has been named after Kashmir.

The 10th edition of IDEAS in 2018 had some 45 countries exhibiting their products and this year that number has grown to 64. Meanwhile, Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif tweeted that the IDEAS had evolved into a platform that highlighted Pakistan's growing footprint in the global defence market.

"Arms for Peace, theme of IDEAS'22, reflects Pakistan's desire for peace & stability. Good to see that our defence sector is catering to demands of tech era," he said.

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ISLAMABAD: Ameer Jamat-e-Islami Karachi Hafiz Naeem-Ur-Rehman talking with the media persons outside Election Commission of Pakistan in Federal Capital.

## Exercise restores brain insulin sensitivity, may protect against type 2 diabetes

ISLAMABAD: The link between brain insulin insensitivity and diabetes is well-established, but the exact nature of that connection is still being studied.

New research from researchers at the German Center for Diabetes Research, Tübingen University Hospital, and Helmholtz Munich in Munich, Germany, explores the effect of exercise on brain insulin sensitivity.

The study found that healthy levels of brain insulin sensitivity were restored in participants after an 8-week exercise program.

The findings were recently published in JCI Insight.

"This study reinforces the fact that physical activity is needed

to restore the mind-body metabolic pathways in patients with obesity, prediabetes, diabetes, and metabolic disease in general," Dr. Ana Maria Kausel, an endocrinologist and co-founder of Anzara Health, not involved in the study, told Medical News Today. 8 weeks of exercise restores insulin sensitivity. For the study, 21 healthy participants with overweight and obesity were enrolled in an 8-week supervised aerobic exercise program. The cohort included 14 men and 7 women with a body mass index (BMI) ranging from 27.5 to 45.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The participants led sedentary lifestyles and were deemed at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Three times a week, participants were led through 1-hour

endurance training sessions. Each session included a combination of cycling and walking to bring individuals up to 80% of their peak oxygen intake, or VO<sub>2</sub> max. Using functional MRI after administering an insulin nasal spray to each individual, researchers assessed their brain insulin sensitivity at the start of the study and after 8 weeks. The cohort included 14 men and 7 women with a body mass index (BMI) ranging from 27.5 to 45.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The participants led sedentary lifestyles and were deemed at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Three times a week, participants were led through 1-hour endurance training sessions. Each session included a combination of cycling and walking. INP

## LHC adjourns overseas voting rights case for indefinite period

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of a plea seeking the provision of voting rights to overseas Pakistanis for an indefinite period.

As per details, the federal government and the Election Commission of Pakistan failed to submit their response in the case.

Plea filed by a citizen named Salman Shabir said the right of casting vote is a basic

human right of every citizen. After the initial arguments, LHC Judge Justice Shujaat Ali Khan sought a progress report regarding the provision of voting rights to overseas Pakistanis.

Earlier, the Lahore High Court (LHC) sought a response to the pleas provision of voting rights to overseas Pakistanis. Plea filed by a citizen named Salman Shabir said the right of casting vote is a basic human right of every

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## JIT fails to hold investigation on Imran Khan assassination attempt

LAHORE: The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) formed to investigate the attack on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday has failed to launch investigation due to not being given proper directives regarding the case.

The Interior Ministry could only issue a letter to investigate the incident and the members have not even been given any directions on the matter by anyone from the Punjab government or the IG office.

In this regard, the JIT sources revealed that IG Punjab also went on a 14-day X-Pakistan leave after the case was registered and the acting IG Kanwar Shahrukh did not pass any orders for investigation. Meanwhile, the accused Naveed is in the custody of Gujranwala police. Sources further added that despite 12 days of the attack and the accused being arrested, he could not be produced in the local court. The suspect of the attack has not even been formally arrested yet. INP

## FIA stopped from arresting Aamer Kiani in prohibited funding case

ISLAMABAD: A banking court in Islamabad on Tuesday granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Aamer Mehmood Kiani in prohibited funding case.

The PTI leader approached the special court seeking pre-arrest bail in PTI prohibited funding case. The court approved bail plea against surety bonds worth Rs100,000.

The banking court also stopped Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) from arresting PTI leader till November 23.

The court also directed Aamer Kiani to cooperate with the FIA team in the investigation.

Imran Khan, others booked by FIA. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered a case against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and 10 others over accusations of receiving foreign funding. INP

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Planning & Urban Department Kalat Division invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2022 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Bid Security 3% and Tender fee Rs. 3000/- for the work. TSE-222311158463

S#	Name of work	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF NORGAMA CHILDREN PARK KHUZDAR	29,712,765

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 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 20,798,935 PKR. Amount in 3 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 Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned, 3,000 PKR. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 05 December, 2022 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 05 December, 2022 till 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 01:00 PM. Address: nll@gmail.com. Phone no: 0848413467.

Executive Engineer Planning & Urban Department Kalat Division

PRQ NO.1008/15.11.2022 @dpr\_gob @dpr\_gob @dpr\_balochistan



ISLAMABAD: Administrator of Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab talking with the media persons outside Election Commission of Pakistan in Federal Capital.

## Senate body on Federal Education and professional Training meets

Islamabad: Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training was held here at Parliament House on Tuesday, with Senator Irfan Siddiqui in Chair. The senate body unanimously passed the Bill titled "The Federal University (Amendment) Bill, 2022". Senator Seemeezdi, mover of the bill, apprised the committee that the primary aim is to make internship mandatory part of curriculum for all

Public and Private Universities located in Federal territory. Furthermore, the committee deliberated on the matter raised by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi regarding issue of examination faced by students of Law in Bahauddin Zakariya University, Mansoor Akbar Kundi, VC of BZU, apprised the committee that matter is subjudice and university is unable to provide any date until matter is adjudicated. Officials of Law ministry told that there INP

### BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT BALOCHISTAN AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IJOBAL QUETTA

National Bank of Pakistan through its Manager, Manan Chowk Branch Quetta. SUIT NO. 33/2022

Versus

Plaintiff

1. Qaiser Akram S/o Akram Masih R/o Basti Punchayat Kasi Road Quetta.
2. Tanveer S/o Shoukat Maman R/o Basti Punchayat Kasi Road Quetta. Sanitary Wortker, Metropolitan Corporation Quetta.
3. Muneer Barkat Mughal S/o Barkat Mughal Ro House No. 2/74 Kasi Road Quetta. Assistant Tax Branch, Metropolitan Corporation Quetta.

Defendant

### SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF RS:42489040-73 ALONG WITH COST OF FUND U/S 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES ORDINANCE 2001).

Notice to: The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: 714160/09 balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you. In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint. Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 16-12-2022

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.

(MUNIR AHMED MARRI)  
JUDGE Banking Court  
Balochistan Quetta



LAHORE: Girl are visiting on a stall during All Pakistan Universities Innovation Expo at a local hotel in Provincial Capital.

## SC hears Presidential reference on Reko Diq mine project

ISLAMABAD: Additional Attorney General during hearing of the Reko Diq Presidential reference said that some clauses of the Mineral Act have been divided in the domain of the federation and provinces.

A five-member larger bench of the Supreme Court headed by CJP Justice Umar Ata Bandial heard the case.

"If a law could remain simultaneously in the domain of the federation and provinces," CJP Bandial questioned.

"If the government could not amend the mineral resources rules," Justice Yahya Afridi asked. "Why amendments required in the Mineral Act 1948," court asked.

"The law could not come into force like magic," Justice Munib Akhtar remarked. "That law will dominate which will be similar in the central and provincial level," court said.

"The court will intervene if the amendment affects human rights," Justice Yahya Afridi observed.

"Learned bench has raised question over the maintainability of the reference," Balochistan government's counsel Salahuddin Ahmed said. "Reko Diq agreement is a public interest matter," counsel said.

"The court has said that the questions asked in the reference are unclear, it is not necessary that the questions have been set correctly to the point," the lawyer said. INP

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"Learned bench has raised question over the maintainability of the reference," Balochistan government's counsel Salahuddin Ahmed said. "Reko Diq agreement is a public interest matter," counsel said. "President has been empowered under the law to send a reference," Balochistan government counsel said.

"The court has said that the questions asked in the reference are unclear, it is not necessary that the questions have been set correctly to the point," the lawyer said. INP

## CM KP alleges federal cabinet for financial instability

Peshawar: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has stated that the imported federal cabinet is involved in creating financial instability in the province by withholding the budgeted share to pave way for Governor's Rule, adding that a democratically elected government was toppled under the regime change conspiracy and internationally recognized thieves and corrupt politicians were placed into power.

The Chief Minister made it clear that the incumbent imported cabinet is unrepresentative of Pakistanis and has been

placed in power to serve alien interests. He clarified that the time for the "Do more" narrative has come to an end and Pakistani citizens now demand relations with the international community on an equality basis. While addressing a huge public gathering on the true independence march in District Upper Dir, Mahmood Khan clarified that Chairman PTI Imran Khan is working to achieve true independence in the country and for the purpose, he even faced an assassination attempt. He clarified that corrupt political rulers of the country want to

remove Imran Khan from the political landscape, by any means possible, to pave the way for serving alien interests and continuing their corrupt practices. During his day-long visit to District Upper Dir, the Chief Minister also inaugurated various developmental projects and also held the groundbreaking of various others. According to details, the Chief Minister inaugurated Rescue 1122 building in Ankar, that has been completed at an estimated cost of Rs 53.56 Million. Similarly, the Chief Minister held groundbreaking for the Cadet College. INP

## Can a law be within the powers of federation and provinces simultaneously: CJP

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) has raised question can a law be within the powers of federation and provinces simultaneously.

Justice Yahya Afridi remarked could the government not amend mineral rules. Why the need is being felt to make amendments in mineral act 1948. If the basic human rights are affected by the amendment in mineral act then the court will interfere.

Justice Munib Akhtar remarked the laws are not implemented like magic. The laws will dominate which bear resemblance at federal and provincial level.

Reko Diq presidential reference came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP Umar Ata Bandial here Tuesday.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) told the court mineral act 1948 was neither included in 1973 constitution and federal law list nor was it included in provincial law list. Some clauses of mineral act went to the powers of federation some provinces.

Salah ud Din Ahmad counsel for Balochistan government argued

that the learned judge raised question on the maintainability of the reference. Reko diq is matter of public interest and the president has authority to send reference upon it.

The court remarked the questions asked in the reference are vague. It is not necessary that the questions have been formed on precisely correct point. The Indian SC has maintained the SC can give its opinion on the points raised in the arguments.

The CJP remarked on the occasion the SC will have to give opinion only on these legal submissions in Reko Diq reference. Salah ud Din advocate took the plea it is better that court should avoid giving such opinion which is due to the facilitation of all investors. The court adjourned the hearing of the case till November 16. Reko Diq presidential reference came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP Umar Ata Bandial here Tuesday. Additional Attorney General (AAG) told the court mineral act 1948 was neither included in 1973 constitution and federal law list nor was it included in provincial law list. Some clauses of mineral act went to the powers of federal/INP

## COAS appointment: Khawaja Asif rejects rumours about 'deadlock on names'

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has rejected the rumours about a deadlock on the shortlisted names and the exact time of the appointment process for the new Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

While talking to journalists outside the Parliament House building, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif was questioned about the rumoured deadlock on the COAS name between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari. To this, Asif responded, "How can a deadlock be created without even

starting the consultation process for the appointment of new COAS?" He added that consultations for the COAS appointment will be held after November 18 or 19.

He further clarified that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has no favourite name for the COAS appointment. Asif said that consultations will only be held on the shortlisted names forwarded to the federal government by the Pakistan Army.

"Pakistan Army has not yet sent the shortlisted names for the army chief's appointment." INP

## Celebrations mark 30 years of DAFI scholarship programme in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and Inspire Pakistan, celebrated in Islamabad today 30 years of the DAFI scholarship programme for refugees. The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship programme has transformed the lives of over 2,800 refugee students across Pakistan since 1992, and over 21,500 learners around the world.

The German-backed programme provides scholarship opportunities for third level undergraduate students, majoring in fields including medicine, engineering, social and behaviour sciences, business administration, mathematics and computer sciences.

The DAFI scholarship programme contributes to the promotion of self-reliance of refugees by equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge and professional qualifications for future employment. The programme is aimed at the development of highly qualified and skilled human resources that can play a vital role not only in Pakistan but also for the reconstruction of their country of origin.

"By investing in education, students will contribute to the economy of their host country and support their communities once they return to rebuild their lives," underscored UNHCR Representative to Pakistan, Noriko Yoshida.

By enabling refugees to fulfil their potential, the scholarship programme has a transformative effect and changes their lives forever."

The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis with regard to merit, excellence and financial need. The programme grants scholarships to deserving young refugees enrolled in recognised universities, colleges and polytechnics in Pakistan.

In 2022, half of the 175 scholarships were awarded to women, compared to a quarter previously. This increase followed intensive outreach efforts to refugee communities and awareness raising on women's higher-level education opportunities and support available. In addition, a new two-year DAFI Bridge programme for science and technology aimed at women studying at higher secondary level was launched.

"Education does more than teach academic skills – it provides students with a safe place to grow and learn life skills, such as cooperation, responsibility, and respect," noted Qaiser M. Siddiqui, CEO of Inspire Pakistan, which is implementing the DAFI programme.

Joining the celebrations was Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan, H.E. Alfred Grannas, Chief Commissioner, Saleem Khan, Commissioner of Afghan refugees (CCAR), as well as members of the international community. Online



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in a meeting with Representatives of Christian Community.

## FIA summons Faisal Vawda, Murad Saeed in Arshad Sharif murder case

ISLAMABAD: A fact finding committee set up by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to probe the murder of senior journalist and anchorperson Arshad Sharif has summoned two prominent members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) including Faisal Vawda and Murad Saeed.

The two politicians have been directed to appear before the committee on Monday, November 21.

Faisal Vawda, who served as the federal minister for water resources, had in a press conference at the National Press Club in Islamabad had claimed he knew who was behind the attack and that plans to murder the journalist had been hatched in Pakistan.

Subsequently, his party membership was revoked after he pointed fingers at his party Murad Saeed, who served as the federal minister for communications during the PTI government, to had made certain claims about who was threatening Arshad Sharif which had forced him to flee the country.

The FIA said that since both politicians had claimed to have intricate knowledge about the threats facing the slain journalist, it was important they provide all the details they know to the authorities. INP

## Imran Khan says national looking at CJP Bandial for justice in 'landmark cases'

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has called on Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, saying that the nation was looking at him for justice in three 'landmark' cases.

Addressing the Long March participants via video link, the former premier called on CJP Umar Ata Bandial to hear three 'landmark' cases: senior journalist Arshad Sharif's murder, Senator Azam Swati's custodial torture, and the Wazirabad FIR issue.

Giving details of the cases, Imran Khan noted that senior journalist Arshad Sharif was threatened and fake cases were registered against him. "He [Sharif] was forced to leave the country and was later killed in Kenya," he added.

"Senator Azam Swati's case is also a landmark one. He was taken from home on a tweet and was beaten in front of his family," the former premier said, adding that the Senator was later stripped naked and tortured.

Imran Khan noted that being a citizen of Pakistan it was his constitutional right to register a first information report (FIR). "However, despite being the former prime minister, I could not register FIR after an assassination attempt," he added.

"CJP Bandial, the nation was looking towards you because we don't have hope from anywhere else," he said, adding that it was high time the courts became assertive and stood with the people of Pakistan. INP

## CTD kills four alleged terrorists in di khan

DI KHAN: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and police on Tuesday killed four alleged terrorists in Dera town area of Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan).

According to police, a joint operation was conducted with CTD in Dera town area of DI Khan. One terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire with the Police and CTD personnel while the other three terrorists were killed in the explosion during the operation.

According to police spokesperson the exchange of fire took place in the muddy area of DI Khan. Explosives, arms, and ammunition were seized from the possession of the killed alleged terrorists.

According to police, a joint operation was conducted with CTD in Dera town area of DI Khan. One terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire with the Police and CTD personnel while the other three terrorists were killed in the explosion during the operation. INP

## President PMC holds post examination analysis of MDCAT

Islamabad: After successful completion of conducting MDCAT exam in national and foreign venues where almost 204,000 students appeared.

The President PMC Prof. Dr. Noushad Ahmed Sheikh held a meeting of Post MDCAT Examination Analyse on Tuesday with all relevant stake holders and examination department of PMC.

After receiving complaints by the candidates, it was learnt that in MDCAT Exams there were few out of syllabus questions in some provinces. President PMC took notice of the same.

President PMC Prof. Dr. Noshad Ahmad Shaikh directed Vice Chancellors of all public universities to re-check their question papers analyse any discrepancy found in paper and

may be addressed at the earliest and it must be compensated

In the meeting it was also learned that 8% of the students were absent therefore it was decided that their fee for the MDCAT shall not be refunded.

The President PMC appreciated the entire staff especially staff of Examination and IT division for putting unprecedented efforts for conducting a smooth & transparent exam.

It is pertinent to mention that for the first time in the history of Pakistan the MDCAT exam was held in one day on both national and international venues. The result of MDCAT exam will be uploaded on PMC website after a week so students can apply further. MDCAT exam was held at 55 different centers. Online

## Govt stops speaker NA from accepting PTI MNAs resignations

ISLAMABAD: Government has stopped speaker National Assembly (NA) from accepting resignations of PTI members of NA.

According to parliamentary sources file related to approval of resignations of more than one dozen Members of National Assembly (MNAs) belonging to North Punjab was sent to NA speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf. This file included the name of senior vice president PTI Shah Mehmood Qureshi and his nephew Zahoor Hussain Qureshi.

Sources said minister for parliamentary affairs Murtaz Javed Abbasi communicated the message of Prime Minister to speaker NA Raja Pervaiz Ashraf for not accepting the resignation.

Speaker has filed the file of

## PTI long march reaches Chiniot as massive crowd welcome it

CHINIOT: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Hageegi Azadi March has reached Chiniot in northern Punjab where a large number of people have gathered to welcome it.

PTI leaders including Asad Umar, Shah Mahmood Qureshi and others are leading the convoy in Imran Khan's absence.

Meanwhile, the deputy commissioner (DC) of Jhelum has requested the Punjab administration for change in route of PTI rolling Haqeeqi Azadi March to prevent possible clashes. Apart from it, the district administration of Chiniot has decided to close schools at 11am as the convoys of marchers will reach there today.

Jhelum DC has written a letter to the Punjab administration for alteration in the course of the long march.

resignations from PTI members. According to speaker office resignation of no one will be accepted till further orders.

It is pertinent to mention here that the matter of resignation of two members of PTI including Shakoor Shah and Muhammad Mian Soomro is pending hearing in the courts. Decision in this regard will be made after the announcement of court's decision.

According to parliamentary sources file related to approval of resignations of more than one dozen Members of National Assembly (MNAs) belonging to North Punjab was sent to NA speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf. This file included the name of senior vice president PTI Shah Mehmood Qureshi and his nephew Zahoor Hussain Qureshi. INP

The letter states that the houses of three political opponents of PTI were located on the route which could potentially trigger clashes between the political workers.

The copies of the letter have been forwarded to the provincial chief secretary and Punjab Police inspector general (IG). After crossing Mandi Bahauddin and Jaranwala the other day, the long march en route to Islamabad will reach Chiniot.

PTI leader Asad Umar has vowed party supporters will march toward Islamabad despite threats from Interior Minister Rana Sanullah.

In an address in Chiniot, he slammed the coalition government for its "undemocratic ways", saying that PTI supporters were beaten up and arrested after the march on May 25. INP

## Govt taking steps for equal development across KP: Mahmood

UPPER DIR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is taking steps for equal development across the province. This was stated by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan during his visit to district Upper Dir on Tuesday.

During the visit, he laid the foundation stone of Cadet College which will be built at a cost of three point six billion rupees. The Chief Minister also laid foundation stones of two Girls degree colleges and forty-four kilometre-long Patrak to Kumrat road.

Mahmood Khan also inaugurated the Rescue 1122 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa building which was completed at a cost of more than forty million rupees. INP

## Dacoit gang busted, looted valuables recovered

VEHARI: Police have busted a notorious dacoit gang and arrested its four members besides recovering looted valuables from their possession during a special crackdown launched on Tuesday.

Taking action on the rising incidents of dacoity and robbery in the district, the District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Zaffar Buzdar directed police to launch a special crackdown to arrest the criminals involved in snatching cash, jewellery and valuables from citizens.

The police busted the notorious Qamri gang and arrested its four members including the ring leader Qamar alias Qamri, Ahmed Salman and Iqbal.

The police have also recovered looted valuables including nine motorcycles, cash Rs 157,000 and illegal weapons from their possession. However, further investigations were underway from the arrested criminals and more recoveries were expected, police sources said.

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## NA speaker praises minorities' role for country uplift

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Tuesday said that the Constitution of Pakistan ensured equal rights to citizens irrespective of caste, color, or creed as parliament alongside the government always played its part to safeguard the minorities' rights.

He made these remarks in a meeting with notables from Christian Community on Tuesday Speaker House, Islamabad.

He acknowledged and appreciated the commendable services of the Christian community in the overall progress of the country particularly in education, health, social welfare and promotion of inter-faith harmony.

Speaker also lauded the community's role in strengthening democracy and promotion of democratic values in the country.

While talking to the delegates which included Mr. Roekh Yousaf Bhinder, Leader at HT Church of England Liverpool Diocese, Kashif Nemat, President Christian Lawyers Association in Pakistan, Mr. Samuel Maksan, Chairman Implementation Minority Rights Forum and Mr. Samuel Payara emphasized upon propagating the positive image of the country.

He urged them to highlight the landmark achievements of the state in protecting their rights and creation of equal opportunities for minorities in the country.

Speaker underscored that no country can progress unless it caters to the needs of all its citizens. He remarked that minorities in Pakistan are greatly satisfied with the state in comparison to minorities in our next-door neighboring country. INP



Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque talking to Chief Executive officer (CEO) Zong Mr. Wang Hua who called on him in Islamabad.

## EC reserves judgment on LB polls in Karachi

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission (EC) has reserved judgment about Local Bodies (LB) polls in Karachi.

Chief Election Commissioner has said the provincial government never wants to hold LB polls. The LB polls have to be got held within 120 days. Decision will be given on proper time.

A five members bench of EC presided over by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) heard the case regarding Karachi LB Polls Tuesday. The representatives of Sindh government, MQM, JI and PTI appeared before the bench.

Special secretary EC Zafar Iqbal told about completion of preparation for holding LB polls in Karachi.

Joint secretary interior ministry said we can not provide security in the prevailing situation.

Murtaza Wahab while requesting for postponing the election for 90 days more has said we are ready for election but government alone cannot deal with the situation due to floods.

CEC inquired does the provincial government not want LB polls. There is contradiction in the present and previous stance of Sindh government.

Member Ikram Ullah Khan remarked how can Sindh cabinet exercise the powers of EC. Murtaza Wahab said as per Sindh laws announcing LB polls is power of Sindh government.

CEC said EC held LB polls in difficult situation. Difficult situation is being faced in holding LB polls in Punjab. Wasim Akhtar expressed reservations over population census and demarcation of constituencies.

CEC said there are several forum regarding injustices in population census. EC is not forum. PTI counsel stressed on holding LB polls in 90 days. JI Amir Karachi Hafiz Naem ur Rehman said local bodies term has expired since two years and two months. The election be held neither in 15 days nor in 90 days but these should be held within 45 days. ONLINE

## LHC bench hearing the petition against constitution of second JIT in Model town incident stands dissolved

LAHORE: The larger bench of Lahore High Court (LHC) hearing the petition challenging the constitution of second JIT regarding Model Town incident has been dissolved.

Justice Ali Zia Bajwa, member of bench has recused from hearing the petition.

Justice Ali Zia Bajwa said he could not become part of bench due to personal reasons.

A five members bench of LHC presided over by Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Amir Bhatti took up the case for hearing Tuesday.

CJ Amir Bhatti said new larger bench will be constituted in connection with next hearing.

The petitioner Khurram Rafiq prayed the court to adjourn the hearing as he wanted to hire new lawyer. He requested the court to give time to hire new lawyer in place of Azam Nazir Tarar.

Advocate General Punjab Ahmad Owais and counsel for Awami Tehreek Azhar Siddique advocate

also appeared in the court. Azhar Siddique took the plea one judge who is included in the bench has remained lawyer in this case.

The CJ LHC remarked this matter is in the knowledge of the court. New bench will be constituted before next hearing.

The central petition has been filed by Police personnel Rizwan Qadir and Khurram Rafiq.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case till November 29.

Advocate General Punjab Ahmad Owais and counsel for Awami Tehreek Azhar Siddique advocate also appeared in the court.

Azhar Siddique took the plea one judge who is included in the bench has remained lawyer in this case.

The CJ LHC remarked this matter is in the knowledge of the court. New bench will be constituted before next hearing.

The central petition has been filed by Police personnel Rizwan Qadir and Khurram Rafiq. Online



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the participants to the Senior officers, Leadership Course of National Command Authority, at Alwan-e-Sadr.