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# UETTA VOICE

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> Friday 16 December,2022



**Another FIR surfaces** against Azam Swati in Balochistan



Editor: Asim Khan

ABC Certified

Ishaq Dar announces 10-rupee cut in petrol prices

# One killed 16 injured as Afghan Taliban fired rockets at Chaman border

Sardar Muhammad Khondai Manan Mandokhail Syed Ali Shah

CHAMAN: At least one person was killed and 16 were person was killed and 16 were injured when Afghan Taliban fired mortar shells in Pakistani territory at the Pak-Afghan border Chaman on Thursday. Women and children were also among the injured. "We received 16 injured after armed clashes at the border", Dr. Abdul Malik Achakzai, the Medical Superintendent (MS) at civil hospital Chaman said.

#### Afghan Taliban fired inside the Pakistani territory

Afghan Taliban fired mortar shells at Killi Sheikh Alam and Changaiz check posts areas inside the Pakistani territory. The mortar shells exploded with a big bang causing panic in the area. The injured were rushed to the district headquarters hospital Chaman for medical treatment. An emergency was declared in the hospital to provide timely medical treatment to the injured of the cross-border

Five seriously injured people were rushed to the civil hospital Quetta for medical treatment. "We have received five injured and the condition of two is serious"



Waseem Baig, the Spokesman for civil hospital Quetta said.

Doctors were called on an emer-gency basis to provide timely medical treatment to the injured, his armed clash has come almost three armed clash has come almost three days after the Afghan Taliban fired rockets into Pakistani territory on Thursday morning. The rockets fired by the Afghan Taliban claimed seven precious human lives. Over two dozen people have been injured as a result of the rockbeen injured as a result of the rock-

#### Frontier corps were moved towards the border after fresh clashes

Pakistan had lodged a strong protest over the unprovoked Afghan forces' attack on Pakistani territory. Pakistan has also tightened security at the Pak-Afghan border after a heavy exchange of fire with Afghan forces. Scores of frontier corps personnel were moved towards the border after fresh clashes, eyewitnesses told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. Afghan side

has also tightened the security on their side of the border, they said. Balochistan Home Minister, Mir Ziaullah Langove strongly condemned the cross-border attack and expressed sympathies with the family members of the victims. In a statement issued after the attack, Mr. Langove said it was an unprovoked firing by the Afghan Taliban at the border He however directed the security forces to tighten security at the

# Emergency declared at Chaman hospital after tension at Pak Afghan border

ardar Muhammad Khondai Manan Mandokhail

CHAMAN: An emergency was declared in the district headquarters hospital Chaman after tension at the Pak-Afghan border on Thursday morning. So far, 16 injured have been brought to the district headquarters hospital Chaman. Children and women are also among the injured, Dr. Abdul Malik Achakzai, the Medical Superintendent of the hospital said.

MS Chaman hospital declared an emergency and called all medical staff

at Killi Sheikh Alam at the border, eyewitnesses said. The Medical Superintendent (MS)Chaman hospital declared an emergency and called all

A medical team moved from Quetta to Pak Afghan border Chaman on the directives of the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo. Doctors and medicines were dispatched from the provincial capital to ensure the provision of timely medical treatment to injured of the attack from the Afghan side, Waseem Baig, the Spokesman of civil hospital Quetta said in a state-



Seriously injured were territory on Thursday morning. The brought to the civil hospital rockets fired by the Afghan Taliban Quetta for medical treatment. "All seriously injured were brought to trauma center Quetta", Waseem Baig, Mr. Baig informed. Orthopedic surgeons and other senior doctors were called on an emergency basis to provide timely medical treat-ment after armed clashes.

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#### **Another FIR surfaces** against Azam Swati in Balochistan

News Desk

QUETTA: Another Information Report (FIR) was reg-istered against Senator Azam Swati in Balochistan. This was revealed during the hearing on the applica-tion for termination of two cases filed against Senator Swati in Balochistan High Court on Thursday.

In the last hearing, the court

demanded detailed records of the cases filed against Senator Swati. Earlier there were five FIRs registered against Senator Swati, which were quashed by the High Court

Balochistan. However, two more FIRs were registered, whose hear-ing was on Thursday, December 15. During the hearing of two FIRs, another third was registered on which the court expressed its displeasure. We were aware of only two FIRs, today the third one has come forward, lawyer Naseebullah Tareen stated while talking to the media. We should be given time to apply for the third FIR also Mr. Tareen added. Taking a break in the hearing, the court fixed the hearing again at 12 noon. Till now there are total of eight FIRs registered against Mr. Swati from internal Balochistan.

#### Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced on Thursday that the

price of petrol was being cut by Rs10 and diesel by Rs7.5. In a televised address, he said: "At this moment, the prime minister wants us to pass maximum relief to the public and we have been implementing that since Oct 30."According to our calculations, petrol prices will be reduced by Rs10 to Rs214.8 after midnight. [The price of] high-speed diesel will be decreased by Rs7.5 to

Rs227.80," he said. Dar said that Kerosene oil will now cost Rs171.38 after an Rs10



Ishaq Dar announces 10-rupee

cut in petrol prices

decrease and the price of light diesel oil will be reduced by Rs10 to Rs169 per litre. The price cut will go into effect at midnight tonight. The government had pre-viously kept the prices of all petroleum products unchanged on Oct 15, Oct 30, and Nov 15. Earlier on Nov 30, the price of kerosene oil was slashed by Rs10 while the price of light diesel oil was reduced by Rs7.5 per litre.Now you can follow Dawn Business on Twitter. Linked In Instauran and Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook for insights on business, finance and tech from Pakistan and across the world Web Desk

# Soaring dry fruit prices in Quetta as winter sits in

Abdul Shakoor Khan

Like many other daily use items, the dry fruit has also gone beyond the reach of common buyers for its soaring prices due to prevailing economic recession and inflation with buyers' footfall plummeting drastically. The gorgeous recipes of winter that once used to be an essential component of most dining tables have now become a distant dream even for the middle class, already struggling to meet its ends in an era of exemplary dearness.

#### Quetta famous for dry Fruits

Economic recession, rising inflation, dwindling source of income and the soaring cost of living coupled with lessening purchasing power had brought down the buyers' footfall to 50 percent as compared to the previous year. Thanks to four years government of



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf economic policies not only landed the country in real trouble but also deprived common users of essential

commodities. Today, like other parts of the country, the dry fruit markets in the heart of Balochistan's provincial capital Quetta have worn a deserted

look.Once packed with customers from across the country, the dry fruit traders are seen sitting idle waiting for buyers as skyrocketing prices had equally impacted the lower, middle, and high classes.

"Dried fruit prices have regis-tered a massive increase. I feel the result of faulty economic policies of the previous regime has started surfacing," said Ezatullah, a local dry fruit shopkeeper in Quetta. "The peak buying season has start-ed but dry fruit markets in Quetta present a gloomy picture."

#### Dry Fruits Prices skyrocketing

Recalling the recent past, he said, just a few years back we had ample buyers during the season. "I am not talking of long ago – it was near when we the shopkeepers could not even spare time to sit in the chair when the season used to be on peak. But, today shopkeepers are felt like spending leisure time as peak. But, today shopkeepers are felt like spending leisure time as

there are very few buyers."
The market trends show a 50 to

100 percent increase in prices with prices of Iranian pistachio surging to Rs 2400 to 3000 per kg from Rs1800, almond to Rs 1800 from Rs1000, Indian cashew nuts to Rs 2800 from Rs 2000 and fig prices soaring to Rs 2600 from Rs 1400 per kilogram. Prices of other items like dry grapes, Iranian chickpeas, and American walnut also rose to

50 to 100 percent in recent years. Shams Khan, a wholesale dealer of dry fruit regretted the worrisome state of the affair as the business had shrunk massively during the current season. "We used to trade tons of dry fruit during the season. But, this time after seeing the mar-ket situation, we are confused to

buy stocks."
"Almost a month has passed since the winter set in but we have not sold even the previous stock he said commenting on the uncer-

tain market situation. As part of Balochistan's unique tradition, dry fruits always remained a compulsory item on the sheets and dining tables usually set for the visiting guests. With its exorbitant prices, now dry fruit is no more an essential dining table item even for those earning handsome money

#### Dry fruits are coming from Afghanistan

"I have cut short the quantity of dry fruit as rising prices had left me with no other option," said Abdul Rehman, Deputy Director at a Federal Department. Despite that Abdul Rehman receives a sizable salary, he finds

himself unable to bear the cost of dry fruits as he used to do in the " I have not only cut short the dry fruit items I used to purchase but the skyrocketing prices of pista-chio and cashew nuts have compelled me to drop them from the list The prevailing situation has not only impacted small businessmen but also wholesalers and big busi-

President Pak-Iran Chamber and All Pakistan Dry Fruit Association
Haji Hamdullah also looked unhappy with the prevailing situation.
The economic downturn and

declining purchasing power of con-sumers had put us too in real trou-ble. The entire business community in Balochistan is upset about price hikes and less purchasing."Haji Hamdullah has urged the government to review regulatory duty on ment to review regulatory duty on dry fruit import to steer traders out of this slumber. "Reviewing the regulatory duty and strengthening rupee value against the US dollar will help lower the commodities prices." The situation is also not dif-ferent in other parts of the country with even the middle class now unable to purchase dry fruit for unable to purchase dry fruit for their families. And when some essential items are missing from your menu, it means people head towards food deficiency and lack of nutrients in their bodies.

## Water shortage in Balochistan

The scarcity of water poses a serious threat to human life in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. Environmentalists and experts on the water issues have warned of an alarming situation with regard to water scarcity in Quetta in near future.

The water level continues to drop with every passing day in Quetta, and most parts of Balochistan. This has sent alarm bells among the indigenous people living for centuries in towns and villages. Environmentalists warn that the shortage of water is likely to force cit-

izens of the provincial capital to migrate.

The Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) has failed to provide drinking water to citizens of the city. Most of the WASA-run tube wells are either not functional or provide water to officials and influentials. People pumping water from more than 1,000 deep underground

Gone are the days, when people were pumping water through tube wells 500 feet deep from underground. Currently, it is more than 1,000

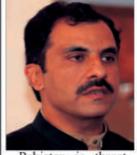
Private tankers are meeting the demand of more than 70 percent population of the city. Tankers owners are minting money from the people right under the nose of WASA and district administration. Per tanker is available at Rs. 2,000 to 3,000. No mechanism to check the quality of waterMore importantly, none checks the quality of water. Nobody knows whether the water is contaminated or clean for drinking. Since it is a matter of human health and life, therefore, the provincial govern-ment should evolve a mechanism to check the quality of water. Set aside, the increasing rates of water tankers association. Depleting water table in Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Kalat, Mastung, Noshki and Chaghi have forced the growers to cut their green trees. This has made a large number of people jobless as most of the people in Balochistan are financially dependent on agriculture and livestock.

Construction of delay and check dams imperative.

As suggested and advised by the environmentalists, the provincial and federal governments must construct delay and check dams on a

and federal governments must construct delay and check dams on a war-footing basis to maintain the depleting water table. Supreme Court has already directed the government to ensure the completion of more than 100 dams within the next three years to overcome the water crisis in Balochistan.

# QUETTA VOICE Looming threat of climate change in Pakistan Muhammad Jehangir Kakar



Pakistan is threat-ened with the chal-lenges of climate change. Be it global standing or regional vulnerability caused due to climatic threats, Pakistan is on crossing the red line. This is so alarming as much as it is so interesting. Is there someone looking after climate change at

the provincial or federal level in Pakistan?
There is none!
Ministry of Climate
Change at the federal level is downplayed to act only as a regulator and one that has the technical capacity to still maneuver only unto the limitations of checking the quality of ambient airs.

Similarly, at all the provincial levels, there

are environmental pro-tection agencies that look after the conformof environmental regulations in various sectors contributing to certain types of pollutions. These provincial agencies act as regulators and with a stick they enforce the environmental laws which can cater for only a limited version or a can cater for only a limited version or a speck of what forms the big idea of climate change. At the provincial levels like at the federal level, there is no agency that is technically sound, composed of such professionals and equipped with such facilities as to counter the grand to counter the grand horror of climate

change.

No climate change data being collected at the provincial level As for the data and statistics, there is as much fragmentation and silos-approach as much it is in the intergovernmental coordination mechanism. The question is not of the dearth of ampleness of data however it is how data however it is how the data is made mean-ingful. Not at any provincial-level one

could ensure that any climate-oriented data is being collected. The aforementioned agencies only ensure the quality of air by recording the various gaseous emissions in the ambient airs. The Pakistan Metrological Centers throughout the country pick up conventional weather data by various means but is hardly translated into making a mean-ingful statement on

mgful statement on where we stand on climate change.
As for policies, laws, rules and regulations, we are more affluent than the developed nations. When it comes to drafting policies, odes are worth writing to our expertise but to our expertise but when given to see them on the ground being implemented; only darkened eulogies are symphonized at shrieks ad infinitum. The laws are being multiplied each day and have become as difficult as to remember the exact number of laws on one single

The National Climate Change Policy

ment of the past being pushed to nullity though it was the vital document that elevated document that elevated the Division of Climate Change to a Ministry level yet the promising implementation never has come off until this date. Though a devolved subject yet the NCCP grants the legitimacy to the Ministry of Climate Change to wreathe all the wreathe all the provinces together in one garland of beautiful working and legal integration to manage the national issue of

climate change.
The Climate Change
Act 2017 was another
move towards climate consolidation that promised to establish the Pakistan Climate Change Authority, Climate Change Council, and Climate Change Fund all of which were last time seen in 2017 when the said Act was passed. The vision 2030 remains a virgin vision

thus far.
Ministry of Climate
Change must realize
that it is the organization at the federal level

catering for climate change affairs. The integration of such a central body with the provinces would be the next challenge given to over politicization of everything. Climate is something which something which should not be made political though globally it is something which has become an element of political decisiveness as in the Biden-Trump thaw.

Nature and nurture along with the potential of Pak-Met office and reach are to be integrated and enhanced fully at the federal and provincial levels with the climate change organizations. levels with the climate change organizations so formed above. The data and statistics need to be enhanced and made up to the mark as being internationally acceptable with proper transcriptions and applications of data. A lot must be done to keep the generalists away from making any decisions and calling the shots and the professionals are given the entry are given the entry who have both the capacity and the legit-

# The climate IDP

Many internally dis-

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain persons (IDPs) remain among the most vulnera-ble people in the world. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement define IDPs as "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of their homes or places of habitual residence, in par-ticular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situa-tions of generalized vio-lence, violations of lence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recog-nized border."

IDPs are often referred to as refugees. However, they do not fall within the legal definitions of a refugee. Pakistan's diverse geography and climate expose the country to a wide range of climate-induced disasters such as floods and landsuch as floods and landslides. Although Pakistan has contributed the least to the climate crisis (it is responsible for less than one per cent of the world's planet-warming gases), it is the eighth most vulnerable nation to the climate crisis, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 16.6 million IDPs and 94 disaster events were recorded in Pakistan from 2008 to 2021. During this period, floods triggered most of the displacements (15.4 million), followed by earthquakes (1.1 million). climate-induced

disasters which triggered internal displacements in Pakistan included chronic droughts, extreme tem-peratures, and frequent

occurring storms. In 2021 alone, 70,000 displacements were recorded in Pakistan, all of them triggered by climate-induced disasters. The recent erratic monsoon rains of 2022 have caused cata-strophic floods and affected an estimated 33 million across Pakistan. The climate change-driv-en disaster has claimed the lives of over 1,400 people and displaced mil-lions, including women, children, older people, and people with disabili-

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has revealed that flood water has washed away more than 1.7 million homes, displacing millions of people within Pakistan, who require shelter food, healthcare and other

essentials.
Additionally, it has been revealed by the UNFPA that an estimated 75,000 pregnant women are affected by the recent floods, and 40,000 are expected to deliver their babies in September babies in September 2022. Women and girls are particularly exposed to the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during disaster events. The UN Women has revealed that more than 70 percent of women suffer various forms of gender-based discrimina-tion in humanitarian

placed children in Pakistan have lost access to education as their schools have been washed away. Many chil-dren would be forced to quit school and engage in child labour to earn a livelihood to help their families. Pakistan already has the world's second-highest number of out-ofschool children with an estimated 22.8 million children aged 5-16 not attending school, as per Unicef. It will be extremely challenging for Pakistan, which is still

Additionally, the WHO has revealed that about 900 health facilities have been damaged across Pakistan. This places IDPs at risk of aggravated disease outbreaks such as dengue fever, malaria, polio, and Covid-19.

recovering from school closures due to Covid-19,

to send internally dis-

placed children back to

Despite a high number of recorded IDPs in Pakistan over the years and the vulnerability faced by them, the country has no national laws policies implemented that specifically apply to IDPs. The Land Acquisition Act 1894 is the only legal document that refers to displace-ment. However, it only applies to the acquisition of land for public purpos-

es and companies.
Article 25(1) of the constitution states: All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law. It is also important to note that Pakistan ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in June

Article 2(2) of the ICCPR obligates Pakistan to take "the necessary steps, in accor-dance with its constitutional processes and with the provisions of the pres-ent Covenant, to adopt such laws or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the rights recognized in the present Covenant." Therefore, Pakistan should enact legislation that specifically protects the rights of IDPs.

Pakistan can take inspiration from the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and incorporate them into its national legislation. The Guiding Principles were containing principles were presented to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1998. They identify the rights and guarantee protection to IDPs in all states of their displacement. Although displacement. Although the Guiding Principles are not legally binding, they have attained significant authority since their inception. At the World Summit in September 2005 in New York, the Guiding Principles were recognized as an impor-tant international framework for the protection of

IDPs. Recently. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited the flood-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan and stated that "there is a very unfair situation, in relation to the level of

#### By Rida Tahir

destruction we are seeing in Sindh." He added that "it is essential for the international community to understand that Pakistan, including Sindh needs today mas-sive financial support to understand overcome this crisis," while emphasizing that this was not a matter of

generosity, but justice. The international community should support Pakistan as it responds to the unprecedented cli-mate-induced floods. Many IDPs remain dis-placed for years. The international community should pledge to support Pakistan until all IDPs return home after the reconstruction of their homes and villages.

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# **Collision** with happiness

very morn-ing I wake up and ask myself if I'm happy.
This is a ternble habit for
my mental health but
over the last few weeks, the answer is that I'm actually happy. This is a strange and out of body strange and out of body experience because this hasn't been the case for the majority of my life. As little as six months ago, I was feeling unhap-py every morning, bor-dering on restlessness and flirting with sadness flirting with sadness What turned things

around and is this happi-ness sustainable? Six months ago, I was on paternity leave and had made big plans to pursue long term professional goals that I never had a chance to pursue because of my full time day job. I thought the extra time I had on paterextra time I had on paternity leave would allow me to pour myself into those goals but week after week, I was literally doing nothing to move the needle on that front Instead, I was finding happiness in spending time with my daughter, wife and parents. As well as the joy of doing nothing. But I was trying to fight this feeling, rather

than embrace it. All my life, being a type A personality, happi-ness was married to my professional life. The paternity leave was a strange window into realising it's possible to be

unhappy professionally but happy personally. Perhaps this sounds obvious to most people but it was a profound realisa-tion for me. I'm also the kind of person who likes to reinvent his life every few years and by that I mean change everything. Originally, I had planned to use the paternity leave as an opportunity to rein-vent myself. But the burden of this reinvention was weighing me down because of the lack of progress rather than exciting me.

So I started experi-

So I started experi-menting with doing something different half way through my paternity leave. Instead of chang-ing everything at once, I started changing one thing a week and tried to chew on small pieces of it chew on the change of the change of the way of the change of the change of the change of the way of the change of the change of the change of the change of the way of the change o wanted to start two side gigs, play tennis thrice a week, get closer to religion, n YouTube make a new be video every day, re-evaluate my purpose in life and take care of my new born baby during the paternity leave. The expectations were crushing me instead of inspiring me. So I started doing something radically simple. For one week, I told myself the only way I'd evaluate whether my day is a success is if I woke up in the morning and did a gratitude exercise, where I'd write down three things I'm grateful for in my diary. That's it. That's the only

thing I'd evaluate myself on. Everything else could wait, I was on leave after The gratitude exercise impact not just on my week — because I

had a transformational week — because I focused on what I was grateful for rather than what I didn't have or was behind on — but it also had a snowball effect that would rip through the existing pillars of my life. The following week the gratitude exercise became easier to do because it was turning into a habit so I decided to take on one more task. Setting up a tennis date for next week. One date instead of three. The next week I played tennis. The fol-lowing week I increased the frequency to twice a week. I felt so energised and excited at the end of my games and the morn-ing after. Week by week, I added

a new habit or goal I wanted to achieve and because I was setting expectations so ridicu-lously low, I was actually able to achieve change and feel happy about my progress rather than denigrating myself for not making progress. Fast forward six months and my life stands transformed. I'm now playing tennis regularly, dinner with a friend every week, reading the newspaper, doing gratitude exercises and getting closer to God, I didn't

# There can be no economic miracle in Pakistan!

hen Ishaq oath as federal finance and revenue minister more than a week ago, there was an instant depreciation in the rate of the dollar versus the rupee; rise in the stock exchange index; and reduction in the prices of petroleum products. Does it mean that one person, who has twice earlier served as federal finance minister escaped Pakistan five years ago because of corruption charges, can cause an economic miracle? Is there any rational basis of Dar's claim to fix the economy by stabilising the exchange rate; lower the interest rate and mitigate inflation?

Moreover, the meager \$8 billion forex reserves just enough to pay for only three weeks of imports, is another cause for concern. It will be nothing short of a miracle if Dar is able to have a paradigm shift in the economy because of harsh realities that will not allow the country to from escape inevitable. In the ongoing fiscal year, Pakistan has to arrange \$40 billion external financing. This is besides the \$20 billion worth of losses the recent floods have inflicted Artificial appreciation of the rupee against major currencies will not work because of high demand of the dollar for imports

and for other purposes. In today's Pakistan, miracles to salvage the economy are certainly not going to happen because of ground realities which are highly unfavorable. Neither the IMF nor the World Bank or the

friendly countries will come for the rescue of Pakistan because the country is constantly requesting donors to waive loans and provide more financial resources in order for it to avoid a financial default. Even in recent devastating floods. the country has not received substantial amount of financial assistance unlike in the case of the 2005 earthquake. Trust deficit and rampant corruption tend to discourage donors from providing cash assistance. Images of floods and the forceful appeal of the UN Secretary General to help Pakistan in this moment of crisis failed to bring positive results. Under the circumstances, Dar's taking up the economy is a major test case for the PML-N led coalition

government. Things were also difficult when Dar took over as finance minister in 2013 because of the PTIsit-in in Islamabad in 2014, but he managed to deal with that crisis. This time the situation is because Pakistan's economy is in dire straits and a country of 222 million people with a conglomeration of internal and external threats along with the devastation caused by the floods cannot have a smooth sailing for Dar despite his so-called magical skills. In 2013, the PML-N enjoyed a two-thirds mandate; but in 2022, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is heading a coalition of around a dozen parues that too with a razor thin dozen parties - and majority.

The existential threat to the coalition govern-ment in the shape of Imran Khan is real, and it will be difficult for the PML-N "financial wizard" to lead a paradigm shift in the economy. The threat of famine following massive floods looms large and the government has meager resources to import food items in order to prevent a crisis situation. With all economic indicators predict-ing a hopeless situation, what magic wand is Dar going to wave to fix the issues which tend to aggravate the country's political and economic situation!

One needs to analyse three major realities which will continue to undermine Dar's "mystic" skills for an economic turnaround. First, the reality of corruption, nepotism, bad gover-nance, absence of rule of law and lack of accountability needs to be taken seriously. Miracles never happen when the country is unable to deal with issues which seriously work ethics

mere words or rhetoric but must eradicate the culture of corruption and nepotism. How can a country be pulled from the brink of an economic disaster when it lacks the motivation, integrity and planning on the part of those who matter? Dar cannot let miracles

happen because his hands are not clean, as well as of many others who hap-pen to be his coalition partners and frontrunners of his own party.
Constant begging from
donors and friendly
countries will not help
because the elitist culture Pakistan is totally oblivious of ground realities pertaining to serious political and economic crisis. Artificially reducing prices and appreciation of rupees versus the dollar would be counterproductive and generate further crisis.

Second, no economic miracle is going to hap-pen unless our leadership has eight qualities in the ory and in practice: hard work, integrity, brilvision, commitment, dedication, planment, dedication, plan-ning, and wisdom, Looking at the other models of success, partic-ularly in developing world, one can learn from former Singaporean PM Lee Kuan Yu, former Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohammad. former Mohammad, former Chairman of Chinese Communist Party Mao Zedong and Nelson Mandela, the founding Dr Moonis Ahmar

president of post-apartheid South Africa. Other models of success are found in the UAE, Qatar, Muscat and Oman. Since the inception of Pakistan, leadership vac-uum and the lack of qualities essential to successfully run a country is a bitter reality.

Whether in civilian or in military control, Pakistan failed to emerge as a role model in good governance, rule of law and sound work ethics. Laziness, incompetence, dishonesty, fraud and cheating became acceptable norms which miti-gated Pakistan's rating in human development index, corruption percep-tion Index and human security Deterioration of quality of life of people in terms of absence of clean and safe drinking water for all, quality and compuleducation, housing, public transport and hygienic food are major challenges. When people at the helm of affairs are hated because of their corruption and nepotism,

ble and qualified.

back. how can Pakistan put its own house in order? Third, miracles will not happen unless there is culture of merit in Pakistan.When decisions are made on the basis of vested interests and likes ings. and dislikes, the country can never emerge as a successful state. Erosion of merit has a long history in Pakistan which eroded the trust of capa-

# **Transcending** limits

istoric moments warrant introspec-tions and reflection. The contemporary pandemic-ridden world seems to be at the crossroads. The prevailing onslaught of Covid-19 against humankind calls for a comprehensive contemplation on what went wrong in our quest for modernisation. The pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented crisis, the likes of which the world has not seen since World War II. Rather than viewing it as a traditional fleecing event, we need to mull over the lessons the pandemic is trying to teach us. When deliberating, one may be forced to conclude that something is wrong with what we have been doing. We shouldn't be oblivious of an inevitable principle: one gets what one gives. When we harm nature, nature harms us

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

ty of all their activities

Rather than running the affairs and utilising the intellect and bounties in a just and sustainable manner, men have badly embezzled with nature's resources at the cost of destruction of other forms of life and of natural ecosystem. The recently released UN IPCC's terrifying sixth assessment report on the anthropogenic destruction of global climate is but a single instance of mankind's high-handedness against their surrounding environment. Even men didn't spare his fellow beings.

A few in the world hold

majority of the wealth the result: millions of people are currently consumed by poverty, hunger and disease. The rich-poor divide widens as time passes by Global poverty and widescale inequality are on the rise. Laws are made and broken for and by the rich, while the poor remain entangled in them. Merciless pogroms are a norm. The week dies of being preyed and conby capitalist predasumed tors. The tyranny against and persecutions of the weak, and the atrocities of rulers over their subjects have surged as time passes by. The growing scourge of terrorism and extremism, rising populism and dema-goguery, and fascist political leadership is the new normal. Mass adulteration, hoarding, black-marketing, organised crimes, cheating, manipulating exploitating have

Ali Hassan Bangwar become common traits of

our culture. There is an ever-rising trend of flattery and hypocrisy, while everything remains centered around material success. Morality, ethos, empathy and compassion are all considered as outdated notions. One might wonder how is NASA even think-ing of colonising Mars if we have utterly failed to learn to live peacefully on earth despite being here for millenniums.

Though heinous acts may go unattended or unpunished by our judicial system, we must realise the earth has its own system of justice. Floods, droughts. forest fires, heat waves, tsunamis, epidemics, earthquakes, torrential rains and violent volcanic eruptions are just a few of the consequences that have come about due to our actions. COVID-19 among other cataclysms questions the sustainability of the exist-ing global order and the underlying principles of globalisation. The pandem-ic has given humankind the opportunity to rethink and reform existing socio-political and economical orders in line with principles of egalitarianism, eco-friendlessness, compassion and empathy. Rather than wasting resources on weapons, we must utilize it for the underprivileged, the poor and the weak. Since we have already prospered materially, we now need to invest in humanity if we want to shield ourselves

#### Economy nosedives due to external factors as well as weak domestic policies: PIAF

LAHORE:The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol has said that the country's economy has nosedived partly due to external factors of the Russia-Ukraine war, global recession and the devastating floods but equally relevantly due to some ques-tionable domestic policy decisions, besides widening differential between interbank and open market rupee-dollar parity, which has led to a decline in remittance inflows by enabling the hundi-hawala system to get a meaningful boost after the global lock-

down in the aftermath of Covid-19 PIAF Chairman, in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal and vice chairman Tahir Manzoor Ch, stressed need for a revisit of some policies including the coordination exercise between the Ministry of Finance and SBP. Take the widening differential between the interbank and open market rupee-dollar parity that has compromised the capacity of the importers of essen-tial items and the repatriation of profits by foreign companies, including the ticket fare sales of foreign

airline companies, thereby shriveling the availability of dollars in the economy. And granted that the Afghan crisis is responsi-ble for dollar outflows from our markets yet this from our markets, yet this is not the only reason. In addition this differential in the rate is contracting remittance inflows as overseas Pakistanis are revert-ing to the hundi/hawala system again, a practice abandoned during the pan-demic due to a global lockdown. The government needs reminding that remittance inflows were 29.4 billion dollars last fis-cal year and this large inflow was also due INP

#### Self-accountability, learning from past mistakes vital to move ahead: PU VC

LAHORE Chancellor Prof University Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi has said that self-accountability and learning from past mistakes holds key importance to move for-ward, make development and progress.

He was addressing a seminar on "Dhaka Fall", organized by the Department of Political Science in collaboration with Department of History & Pakistan Studies in the hall of the Studies in the hall of the Center for South Asian Studies. Col (r) Z.I. Farrukh, former VC BZU Dr Khawaja Alkamah, senior analyst Sajjad Mir, Chairman Department of History & Pakistan Studies Prof. Dr. Mehbook, Hussain Dr Mehboob Hussain, Chairperson Department of Political Science Prof Dr Iram Khalid, faculty members and students were present on the

occasion.

Prof Dr Asghar Zaidi
said that we can become
a great nation by rectifyour mistakes. He said that such seminars must be organized to know how we could solve our today's problems by critically analyzing our past. He said that efforts were being made to put Punjab

ISLAMABAD:

Ghulam Ali has said that

entire business commu-

nity is the backbone of

the country and the econ-omy of the country is based upon the trade by

the business community

ing his visit maiden visit to FPCCI Islamabad

office on Thursday after

Governor. The members of FPCCI Capital office gave a warm welcome to

the visiting dignitary by showering flower, pre-senting flower garlands,

bouquets and Vice President FPCCI and Incharge Capital Office Aminullah Baig and Chairman Coordination Mirza Abdul Rehman organized a lavished lunch in his honour

Speaking on the occa-sion, Haji Ghulam Alisaid that we have to

move towards prosperity

lunch in his honour.

charge as The members

He was speaking dur-

Khyber Haji

Governor Pakhtunkhwa

assuming

University on the road to regain its past glory. The VC said that it was one of the prime responsibilities of the universities to create an honest future leadership for the country for its development. He said that we must act upon the teachings of Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal in order to achieve the dreams of creation of

Pakistan. Col (r) Z.I Farrukh said that one of the rea-sons for the fall of Dhaka was a game of chairs which was unfortunate and even it con-tinued today. He said that nations that did not learn from their past could never move for-ward. He said that the Bengalis were not traitors, they were mature, they were wounded, they were not feudal lords but they only demanded their rights, when they did not get them, the feeling of dep-rivation developed in

Dr Khawaja Alkamah said that the history was very important because it gave us an opportunity to learn and move forward. He said that we have to work together to recover our lost heritage. He said that there

QUETTA: WASA employees hold protest rally in favour of their

Businessmen backbone

of country, economy:

Governor KP

of Pakistan as the

progress is determined by those who have the

courage to overcome dif-ficulties. All the prob-lems of the business community should be documented so that it

could be discussed with

the government and get

the remedies of the prob-

lems, he said and sug-

gested to organize a vast

convention in convention

center Islamabad. The Prime Minister will be chief guest in this and it

will be beyond any polit-ical affiliation. Governor

KP said that biggest problem of the country is unemployment and cre-

ation of employment opportunities is the

opportunities is the responsibility of trade Industries with the help of government. The cur-

rent economic situation

difficult and

is very difficult and every Pakistani should

contribute for the devel-

passion

is no democracy in true sense in Pakistan and no political party can claim to represent as a nation-

Sajjad Mir said that the news about separa-tion of Pakistan surprised and shocked all the Pakistanis. He said that if they had remem-bered the Fall of Dhaka to learn a lesson, they would have become a great nation. Dr Mahboob Hussain

said that since the day of Pakistan's independence, conspiracies and some unwise steps led to the Fall of Dhaka in 1971. He said that there were only one percent of Bengalis who could read and write in English and Urdu but they were being forced to adopt these languages. He said this created sense of deprivation among Bengalis. He said that at that time, instead of ending their feelings of deprivation, it was promot-ed, which led to the

Dr Iram Khalid said that history was a source of training and this event has been organized for the awareness of young students. She said that due to incomplete questions and incomplete information.INP



ISLAMABAD: Türkiye Ambassador Mehmet Paçaci called on Federal Minister of Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique.

### **Exposure to Natural** Light During the Day May Help You Sleep Better

ISLAMABAD: During the winter months when the days are shorter and darker, many people spend less time outdoors and don't get as much natural light. This can affect everything from

mood and energy to sleep.
Prior studies Trusted Source indicate that at least 30 minutes of exposure to natural sunlight has a significant impact on the body's internal clock, promoting

more restful sleep.

Now, a recent study revealed some interesting insights about our bodies' sleep patterns and demonstrates the value of getting outside during the day, even when it's overcast.

The findings, recently pub-lished in the Journal of Pineal ResearchTrusted Source, show that not getting enough natural light during the day causes problems when it comes to getting quality sleep at night.

"Exposure to daylight is really critical to maintain a healthy circadian system and the sleep hygiene that comes with it," senior study author Horacio de la Iglesia, PhD, a biology professor at the University of Washington, told Healthline.

For the study, 500 student participants at the University of Washington in Seattle wore wrist monitors that allowed researchers to monitor their "Exposure to daylight is real-

researchers to monitor their sleep patterns throughout the four seasons.

The data show that students were getting about the same total amount of sleep each night despite whether it was winter or

Yet during the winter months, students who fell asleep later at night woke up later in the morning, a time of day in the region when there is less daylight and it's cloudy outside. On average, they went to sleep 35 minutes later and woke up 27 minutes later on winter school days compared to support school days. pared to summer school days. Because there is less daylight

in the winter, the students' sleepwake pattern came as a surprise to the researchers. For context, Seattle gets about 16 hours of sunlight on the summer solstice and just over 8 hours of sunlight on the winter solstice.

According to researchers, students stayed up late and slept in because they didn't get enough exposure to natural light during the winter months.INP

### on 23 June 2021?: Abdul Basit ISLAMABAD: Abdul Basit, a former Pakistani diplomat, has said that when Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will blacklist India for funding the Lahore blast on 23rd June 2021.

Abdul Basit, who also served as the former High Commissioner of Pakistan to India, in a tweet said that the Lahore blast had occurred in June 2021 but no actions has, so far, been taken against India for

**IIUI** extends

last date of

admission in over 100 programs

till Dec 26

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) has extended the last date to apply for admission in more than 100 programs of its 11 faculties till December 26th, 2022. Administration of IIUI took the decision beggins in view the inter-

decision keeping in view the inter-est and requests of applicants to extend the date. The university has

offered admissions in BS, MS and PhD programs of 11 faculties including Social Sciences, Basic and Applied Sciences, Management Sciences, International institute for Islamic Economics Arabic Usuluddin

Economics, Arabic, Usuluddin,

Languages and Literature, Engineering and Technology and Shariah and Law, Faculty of Computing and Faculty of Education.

The applicants can apply by vis-iting the IIU website or this link

http://admission.iiu.edu.pk. Male applicants can also call on 051-9019567 and female applicants can call on 051-9019327 for guid-ance and details.INP

When will FATF

blacklist India for

funding Lahore blast

When will FATF blacklist India for funding the Lahore blast on 23 June 2021, he questioned in his

tweet.

In June 2021, a powerful blast near the residence of Jamaatud Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed in Johar Town killed three people and injured 24 others, including a police constable.

Six-year-old Abdul Haq, his father Abdul Malik, 50, and a young passerby died in the explosion that left a four-foot-deep and eight-foot-wide crater on the road and damaged several houses and shops nearby. Days after the incident, the then information minister dent, the then information minister Fawad Chaudhry and national security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf told a press conference that the mastermind of the attack was an Indian citizen and he is associated with RAW, Indian intelligence agency INP

### Pakistan, Tajikistan face similar security challenges being neighbors of Afghanistan: Kh Asif

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Thursday said being neigh-bors of Afghanistan, both Pakistan and Tajikistan were facing similar security chal-lenges and threats including terrorism and drug traffick-ing across the border. Khawaja Asif made these remarks during a meeting

remarks during a meeting with President of the Republic of Tajikistan Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, a news release said here.

The minister expressed best wishes for the military

and civil leadership of Tajikistan, and its people. Pakistan believes in peaceful resolution of all

peaceful resolution of all issues and appreciates the efforts of Tajikistan in promoting peace," he added.

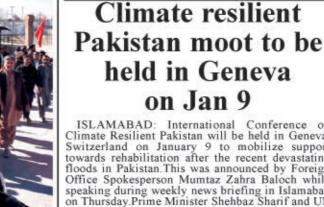
Moreover, it was agreed upon that Pakistan would continue to provide assistance in intelligence capacity building and sharing of technical expertise with Tajik Armed forces. Armed forces.

The minister proposed friendly sports competitions between the armed forces and display of military band on reciprocal basis on spe-cial occasions of the two countries.

During the meeting, mat-ters related to bilateral defence cooperation, counter terrorism, defence produc-tion and exploration of new avenues to progress and

prosperity were discussed.

The Tajik President assured his government's commitment and pledged to work with Pakistan to strengthen their bilateral ties He invited the Minister ties.He invited the Minister for Defence to Tajikistan soon.INP



ISLAMABAD: International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan will be held in Geneva, Switzerland on January 9 to mobilize support towards rehabilitation after the recent devastating floods in Pakistan This was announced by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch while speaking during weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will co-chair the conference, she said, adding that Pakistan will present the reconstruction rehabilitation, recovery and resilience framework based on post disaster needs assessment launched in October this year to estimate the flood damages. The spokesperson said the conference will engage the international community to mobilize support towards building back better after devastating floods. It will also be an opportunity to hold an informed dialogue on climate adaptation and resilience and to discuss supportive arrangements for the recovery processes.INP

#### 'APHC represents collective feelings, struggles & sufferings of oppressed Kashmiris'

ISLAMABAD: A prominent social worker Muhammad Ismail Shad, today, met the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmii (APHC-AJK) chapter leaders in Islamabad Muhammad Ismail Shad on the occasion said APHC represents the collective feelings, struggles, sufferings and sacrifices of the suppressed and oppressed people of Kashmir and has a high position among the common people. He said that the people of Pakistan would con-tinue to play their role at all fronts to highlight the Kashmiris' struggle for achieving their right to self-determination. The APHC-AJK Convener, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar on this occasion said Muhammad Ismail Shad has done excellent services to the freedom movement of Kashmir, for which 'we are also grateful to him and pay tribute to his services' Today, a prayer meeting was held under the chairmanship of convener Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, in which prayers were prayed for the mother of Hurriyat Qazi Imran. Meanwhile, a prayers session was held in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Convener Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in which the Hurriyat leaders expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of the mother.INP



QUETTA: Chief guest Abdul Naeelm pose with group photo of position holder students during a ceremony of Darul Arqam School.

#### Workshop on tourism development, destination management held

ISLAMABAD:Destina tion Investment and Management Plans Management (DIMPs) and Visitor Management Plans (VMPs) for three tourist destinations (Kalam, Kumrat, and Chitral) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) were launched here on Thursday. The DIMPs and VMPs

promote responsible tourism by suggesting diversity and quality in the tourism offering of these destinations and providing guidance for tourist planning and destination management

tination management.

DIMPs and VMPs were prepared by the KP's Department of Tourism (DoT) through KITE project with the support of international experts in one year. The experts in one year. The speakers shared the opportunities for public and private sector investments with the partici-

They informed that customized plans for each destination have been prepared to guide the investments from public and private sectors and that destination manage-ment will lead to an improved visitor experience, better regulation, and mobilization of resources. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is well positioned as a preferred tourism destination, it has a considerable competitive advantage due to the natural endowments and a culture of hospitality. Government is not only focusing on creating employment opportuni-ties but also making

natural and cultural assets, said Chief Minster KP Mr. Mahmood Khan natural in his special message for the event

Tourism Secretary Muhammad Tahir Orakzai said that efforts are being made to devel-op new tourist sites and better manage the existing sites. It is important to prepare the sites for tourist influx during peak season and to use this opportunity to create eco-

nomic opportunities. Mr. Touseef Khalid, Project Director KITE gave a briefing on sustainable tourism initiatives, and innovative approaches including, development and plan-ning for new and existing destinations, reduced car-bon footprint, and heritage preservation. INP

### Online Pakistani national pavilion empowers national physical production

We should forget about

the past and should con-centrate on future, he

added.
On this occasion,
President FPCCI Irfan
Iqbal Sheikh also gave
his message for Haji
Ghulam Ali for his new

appointment as the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that it is a privilege for FPCCI as well as for business community of Pakietan, that Govern

Pakistan that Govern ment of Pakistan gave this important assign-ment to one of visionary leader of Business com-

munity of Pakistan Haji Ghulam Ali. President FPCCI further stated that

the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will for

sure play a pivotal role for the stability of eco-

nomic situation of Pakistan. He said that it will promote business

and increase the industri-al and commercial activi-

BEIJING: "With the development of the real economy as the core, the online Pakistani national pavilion on China's e-commerce platform is expected to support Pakistan's physical pro-duction logistics and cre-Pakistan's physical pro-duction, logistics and cre-ation capabilities. This could be materi-

alised by making use of online communication. education and advertising to expand the audience and shorten the distance between enterprises and consumers of China and Pakistan," Ms Ge Xiao'ou, President of Prestige International said, in an interview with

Gwadar Pro. Prestige International

dedicated to international trade business. In 2019, it started cooperating with Chinese e-commerce platforms JD. com and COFCO Womai, com on its national pavilion project. It currently operates 8 countries' pavilions, national including Pakistan, the Philippines,

a Chinese company

Laos, etc. Since its opening in December 2021, the Pakistani national pavil-ion on JD. com has expanded its categories from zero to 72 products, covering a number of basic areas of people's livelihood such as grain and oil flavoring, casual snacks, tea brewing and

Pakistani products are highly popular among Chinese online con-sumers. Ge revealed that this March the total num-ber of purchase orders for a biscuit was 2.8 million, ranking high among sim-ilar products in all national pavilions.

Ge added, "We will continue to increase the categories of products with Pakistani characteristics. At present, we are preparing to introduce pine nuts, jewelry, hand-made carpets and other products that show the national customs of Pakistan in an all-round

online national

pavilion project com-bines online retail and offline wholesale to build full-channel market penetration. As a permanent import expo online and offline, it provides overseas brands and products with as much Chinese customer base as possible through cooperation with China's largest e-com-merce retailers, wholemarkets, processors, manufactur-

processors, manufactur-ers, and traders.
Ge explained that the current limitations for the development of online Pakistani national pavil-ion are cultural differ-ences, lack of awareness ences, lack of awareness of Pakistani products among Chinese con-

sumers, mismatch between production and packaging technology of the products and local policies and regulations.

She termed it a long and arduous process and hoped for cooperation from more platforms to meet their knowledge content release so that more consumers could understand the product types and advantages of Pakistan.

Last month, China and Pakistan sig Memorandum signed Understanding on E-commerce Cooperation The cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of e-commerce is comprehensive.INP

#### **TENDER NOTICE**

efforts to conserve the

The Director General Research & Supplies, Livestock & Dairy Development Department, Balochistan Quetta, invites sealed bids for the "Procurement of Poultry Birds, Feed & Hatchery for Research Purpose" for the Financial Year 2022-23 from well reputed eligible firms/bidders: TSE-222312187681. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- Fixed Cost Bid Security @2% 70,000 /-

Name of Items Cost in Million **Poultry Birds** Rs. 3.5 Million Approximately Head of Account: C-03224 (Others) Poultry Feed 3 Hatchery
Procurements shall be made under BPPRA Rules, 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: (a)The bidder must have

completed 01 Similar assignment in last 03 years. (b) Turnover of at least PKR 02 Million annually in last three years showing financial capacity of the firm. (c) Registration with relevant taxation departments. Method of Procurement: Single Stage-Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee of amount specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment (nonrefundable) of bidding document fee (amount mentioned above) through Green Challan. (The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.gob.pk) Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 29-12-2022 during office hours. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders should be submitted on 29-12-2022 till 2:00 P.M. at the office of the undersigned. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed dated 29-12-2022 at 03:00 p.m. Address: The Director General Research & Supplies, Livestock & Dairy Development Department Brewery Road Quetta, Balochistan. Mobile No. 03138382852, OFFICE: 081-9213144. Email: kamran 0363@yahoo.com

PRQ No.1486/15-12-2022 🔷 www.dpr.gob.pk. 📝 @dpr.gob 🙍 dpr.gob 🛨 @dgpr.balochistan

DIRECTOR GENERAL (R & S) LIVESTOCK & DIARY DEVELOPMENT DÉPARTMENT BALOCHISTAN QUETTA

# UN says funds for flood-hit Pakistan to run out in weeks

The United Nations on Thursday said emergency food aid for devastated flood-hit communities in Pakistan would run out in January after a funding appeal received only a third of its target.

The country was lashed by unprecedented monsoon rains over the summer that put a third of the country underwater, damaged two million homes and killed more than 1,700 people.

"It is a big concern for us to ensure food security in the com-ing days and weeks for the people affected by rains," UN Resident Coordinator for Pakistan Julien Harneis told a press

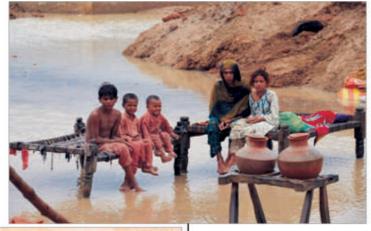
conference in Islamabad.

The UN had appealed for more than \$816 million but said its agencies and other NGOs have only received \$262 million from international donors.

"It is deeply worrying as other emergency responses around the world get a far higher percentage of response and we're not getting that financing here," Harneis added.

The UN's World Food Programme will run out of funds for

Pakistan on January 15, said the director of its mission in the



"We have a major and frankly, I think, very serious crisis ahead of us as we go into 2023 unless we get the required support," he added.

The number of people in need of life-saving food assistance will grow from the four million previously identified to 5.1 million during the winter, said Kaye.

Between eight million and nine million have been pushed below the poverty line by the floods. The monsoon washed away vast tracts of crops, with many already impoverished families

losing their livelihoods. While most of the floodwater has receded, some homes remain submerged, leaving families living on elevated roads or in displacement camps. Some people have been pushed into child labour, child marriage, or trafficking, the UN said. Pakistan places highly in the ranking of nations vulnerable to extreme weather caused by climate change but is responsible for less than one percent of global greenhouse gases. Web Desk



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi calls on President Dr Arif Alvi .

#### Sheikh Rasheed lambasts govt over economic, border security issues

LAHORE: Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) Chief Sheikh Rasheed has lambasted the incumbent government over issues related to economy and border securi-

former federal minister expressed these remarks while talking to journalists after meeting former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan at his residence in Lahore's Zaman Park. Sheikh Rasheed noted that Imran

Khan will announce the date for disso-lution of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) assemblies on December 17 at 08:00pm, adding that the whole nation stands by the former

Lambasting the incumbent govern-ment, Rasheed claimed that the pres-ent rulers made amendments to National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) for 'personal gains', as he urged the Supreme Court to put the names – those who amended the NAB ordinance – on Exit Control List (FCL)

He claimed that the ruling coali-tion's ultimate goal was to knock out Imran Khan technically, "The security situation on the border is getting worse," he said while referring to the shelling by Afghan forces on Pakistani

civilians.

"The incumbent government is not serious about solving the country's problems", he alleged, adding that collitical instability means death to the political instability means death to the country Sheikh Rasheed reiterated that the only solution to the country's issues was 'transparent and immediate elections', adding that if the government wasn't serious about elections, then they were not willing for negotia-tions.INP

#### Dissolving assemblies: Moonis Elahi vows to support Imran Khan's decision

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Moonis Elahi called on former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and vowed to support his decision to dis-solve assemblies.

According to details, the PML-Q leader called on Imran Khan at the latleader called on Imran Khan at the lat-ter's residence in Lahore's Zaman Park. During the meeting, matters related to current political situation came under discussion. Sources told ARY News that Moonis Elahi conveyed Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi's message to the former premier expressing confi-

the former premier, expressing confi-dence in the decision.

"We will break the Punjab assembly on your [Imran] call," sources said, quoting the PML-Q leader. The two leaders also held consultation over the future policies regarding the next elec-tions.INP

#### PTI's early elections narrative aimed to cover its misdeeds: Kh Saad

LAHORE: Minister Pakistan Railways and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that earlier election narrative of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is aimed at covering its misdeeds.

Taking to his twitter handle on Thursday, he said that 'Money Gala' was exposed over its offense and using different tactics to flee.

Khawaja Saad Rafique said that it was not dispute of sale of few expen-sive watches but the accused swept away the entire 'Toshakhana' INP

#### Yet to see if Imran asks CM to dissolve assembly, he obeys him or not: Governor

SIALKOT: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that the chief executive of the province has the constitutional power to dissolve the assembly but it is yet to be seen whether PTI Chief Imran Khan asks the Punjab Chief Minister

to dissolve the assembly and if he does, the CM obeys him or not.

He expressed these views while talking to the Members of Provincial Assembly and business community who called on him at the residence of Defence Minister Khawaja Asif in Sialkot on Thursday.INP

### Shah Mahmood Qureshi writes to NA Speaker to verify resignations

ISLAMABAD: Former foreign minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi has penned down a letter to National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, urging him to verify the remain-ing resignations of party law-

According to details, the for-mer federal minister wrote a letter to NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, noting that party MNAs can return to National Assembly for verification of

their resignations.
In the letter, Shah Mahmood
Qureshi pointed out that 123
PTI MNAs submitted written resignations to former Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri on April 11, 2022. The lawmakers had submitted resignations as per constitution and assembly rules", the letter added.

resignations accepted by the then Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly on April 13, 2022," it noted, adding that Secretary National Assembly Mr Tahir Hussain had also issued a noti-

The PTI vice-Chairman regretted that the incumbent government has not followed the orders passed from former deputy speaker. "Later, only 11 rejument the property of the prop resignations were accepted illegally on July 28," it stated, alleging: "You [Raja Pervaiz] have used the position to give political advantage to the government." ernment.

"We once again formally request you [Raja Pervaiz] to verify the remaining resignations without any delay," Shah Mahmood Qureshi said, hoping that the speaker will not delay the matter any further.INP

#### 'China Today' workshop highlighted Sino-Pak brotherhood

ISLAMABAD: China Study Center (CSC), University of Peshawar organized a one-week workshop titled "China Today" covering various themes including Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and

China-Pakistan Economic
Corridor (CPEC).
"China Today" was organized
at the conference hall of CSC,
University of Peshawar this week which comprised five sessions in addition to the concluding session, according to Gwadar Pro-

Six presentations were made by eminent speakers/scholars that covered various themes including "Economy of the People's Republic of China", "Constitution of the People's Republic of China", "Development of Science and Technology in the People's and Technology in the People's Republic of China", "Geography of the People's Republic of China", "History of China", "Pakistan-China Relations", "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC)".

The workshop was attended both online and offline by a large number of students, MPhil & Ph.D. scholars from Pakistan. The Participants benefited from the

Ph.D. scholars from Pakistan. The Participants benefited from the valuable presentation and learnt a lot about China.

Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Director CSC talked about the contemporary developments in China in global and regional context.

He also discussed BRI and CPEC and said that China's BRI project is based on a win-win model for all the member countries. Pakistan should take full advantage of CPEC. "The corridor aims to enhance the well-being of people throughout the country and people throughout the country and bring long-term prosperity and stability," he said INP

#### QWP chief rejects Imran's demand for early elections

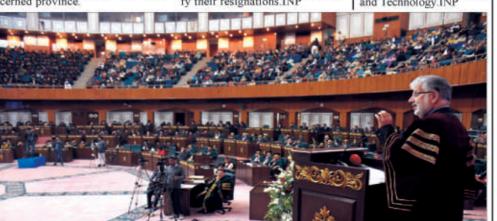
ABBOTTABAD: Chairman, Qoumi Watan Party (QWP), Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao has rejected the demand of PTI's chief Imran Khan for early elec-tions and said that polls would be held on the fixed time.

Addressing a press conference at Mirpur, district Abbottabad on Thursday, he also advised the PTI MNAs to return to the National Assembly and complete their con-

stitutional time period. He said that the negative poli-tics of PTI chief Imran Khan was pushing the country towards anar-chy and financial default. He said that the National Assembly would complete its constitutional tenure. Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao

said that the dissolution of Punjab and KP Assemblies was not the prerogative of Imran Khan rather it was the discretionary powers of the chief minister of the conHe said that on one side, the leadership of PTI was tendering resignation from the assemblies and on the other hand, they were not ready to verify their resigna-tions before the Speaker of the National Assembly and continu-

ously claiming their incentives. He said that political stability was inevitable for improvement in the national economy and added that the rumors spread by the PTI leaders were putting negative impact on the national economy. Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao said that the dissolution of Punjab and KP Assemblies was not the prerogative of Imran Khan rather it was the discretionary powers of the chief minister of the concerned province. He said that on one side, the leadership of PTI was tendering resignation from the assemblies and on the other hand, they were not ready to verify their resignations.INP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmad address-

ing in convocation of Capital University of Science and Technology.

### Masses not interested in Imran's narrative of declaring opponent corrupt: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that masses are not interested in narrative of PTI Chief Imran Khan declaring the political

opponents as corrupt.
In interacting with media persons here on Thursday, she declared Chairman PTI as a men-

tally depressed person.

Marriyum Aurangzeb alleged that the PTI led
Punjab government has turned the educational institutions of province into political arenas.

'I am glad to see that youth are moving away from the politics of division and corruption of Imran Khan," she added.

She said they had realized that the country was economically far better before PTI came to

power.
The information minister said the process of The information minister said the process of dragging children into dirty politics should be stopped. "Pakistan had 6.2 per cent GDP growth rate, inflation was only 3 per cent, over 14000 megawatt power generation had been done, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects were in progress and youth were get-

theft of national resources.

To a question, Marriyum Aurangzeb said that
Tosha Khana was an open and shut case and it
was not only a case of watches, gifts worth bil-Taking dig at Imran she said the person who demanded others should be held accountable for forty years, now he should be held accountable

for his own four years tenure. She said Imran had all the powers during his tenure, and all record was available, if someone had committed corruption they should have been punished. Imran Khan would have to answer for his cor-ruption and theft, she maintained INP

ting employment opportunities, health card facility was provided to the deserving people,

youth programme was launched to provide jobs to the new generation, motorways were being

She said the youth also knew that due to Imran's inefficiency and incompetence, the

country was facing economic crisis. Moreover, she said that Imran accused other of corruption but he himself was involved in corruption and

#### Not in favour to impose 'Governor's Rule' in KP: Ghulam Ali

PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Ghulam Ali has said that he is not in favour of imposing 'Governor's imposing 'Governor's Rule' in the province as general elections in the country are going to be held after six months.

He stated this in tele phonic conversation with Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi during which political sit-uation of the country came under discussion.

Ghulam Ali invited Punjab Chief Minister to Governor House and expressed resentment to PTI's provincial government for not felicitating him on assuming the charge as Governor.

CM Pervaiz Elahi

CM Pervaiz Elahi assured Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to make all out struggle to take the terment.INP

#### ECC gives nod for sugar export

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has allowed the export of about 100,000 metric tonnes (MT) of

According to details, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) - chaired by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar – allowed export of about 100,000 metric tonnes (MT) of sugar.

The committee also approved technical supplementary grants of Ministry of Climate Change and Ministry of Housing and Works INP

#### Engineering student killed during robbery in Karachi

KARACHI: Street criminals killed a budding Engineer near Karachi's NED University for resisting a robbery attempt. According to details, an Engineering student Bilal, aged 21, was killed by street criminals who wanted to rob him of his cellabone and him of his cellphone and other belongings but as the youngster tried to resist the robbery, the rob-bers shot at him, killing him on the spot Bilal tried to hit the robbers with a chair as he was with his friends at a tea-spot near the university. The victim was a final-year student was a final-year doing petroleum engi-at NED neering at NED University of Engineering and Technology INP

#### Drug-shortage might lead to health crisis in Pakistan

KARACHI: The fear of medicine shortage is looming large as the pharma industry is facing a number of hurdles including the issue of Letters of Credit (LCs) being faced for the import of raw material.

Due to the Shortage of dollars in Pakistan, the pharmaceutical sector is facing LCs issues for the import of

raw materials for medicines.

The Pakistan Pharmaceutical
Manufacturing Association (PPMA)
claimed that no bank was opening the
LCs for the import of raw material for medicines from last month, arguing that they were under 'verbal instruc-tions' from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) not to open LCs for the import of the pharmaceutical sector.
On the other hand, SBP sources,

said there are no restrictions on imports of petroleum and pharmaceu-

tical products. The Governor State Bank has clear instructions not to close LCs for petroleum and pharmaceuticals and compare to October there were more imports in November.

The PPMA said that if the problem of opening LCs is not solved at the earliest, there would be a serious crisis of medicine and medical devices in the country.

country.

Chairman PPMA Syed Farouk Bukhari told ARY news that LCs have been suspended since last month, Banks say that they have verbal instructions from the SBP to stop

imports.
He further said that the Bank's other tance is that all the dollar have gone to the black market, due to which the dollar is short. "SBP assured that the LCs of drugs will not be stopped in any condition," he added.INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar presided over the meeting Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

#### **HEC & Microsoft** jointly launch largest free skills initiative for Pakistani students

ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: Renewing the Education Transformation Agreement (ETA) in Pakistan, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Microsoft have launched magnanimous initiative announcing over 100,000 free technology certifications for university students across the country.

the country.

Microsoft and HEC collaboration reimagines the education landscape, empowers the next generation of students and bridges the gap between knowledge and employability.

Goal of the said academic alliance is to enable the next generation of computer science/IT experts on state of art technologies including but not

computer science/11 experts on state of art technologies including but not limited to, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Business Applications, Office Automation / Productivity tools etc. as per the directions from Prime Minister's Office. This partner-

ship will ensure that Microsoft will be providing several services to all HEIs in leveraging new technologies to make learning inclusive, personalized, and student-centric through knowledge transfer workshops and training on trending Microsoft technologies like Dynamics 365, Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Azure.

The event was attended by several renowned Vice Chancellors, educators, students, academicians, and partners where accomplishments of previous years of partnership were highlighted and the next vision of the digital transformation of education

digital transformation of education system in Pakistan was shared. Mr. Rana Tanveer, Education Minister graced the event as the Chief Guest whereas the event was opened by Chairman Higher Education Commission, Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and Jibran Jamshed, Country Lead for Jordan INP

## **Nation anxiously** awaits announcement of PTI chief: Kamran Bangash

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Kamran Kan Bangash has said that the nation is anxiously waiting from the announcement of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regarding dissolving the assemblies.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, he said that as soon as the PTI chief issues directives, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister will dissolve the assem-

bly Kamran Bangash said that the countrymen will never let the conspiracy of disqualifying Imran Khan to succeed.

He said that free and transparent elections were the only solution to ensure political and economic sta-

ensure political and economic stability in the country.

Spokesperson to CM KP, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said that amendments were get passed from incomplete assemblies to pave way for sheathing their corruption. The only aim of the imported leaders was to conclude cases against them and to get their loans waived off, he added.

The spokesman further stated that Imran Khan will soon return to assembly with 2/3 majority and

assembly with 2/3 majority and will push the looters of national exchequer behind the bars.INP