# JETTA VOICE

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Asked Dar to make efforts for 'reconciliation' between govt, PTI: President Alvi

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Court declares e-bidding essential for tenders above Rs.5 crore in Balochistan

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## Nawab Aslam Raisani joins JUI in presence of Maulana Fazal ur Rehman

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Syed Ali Shah Manan Mandokhail News Desk

Minister Balochistan, Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani formal-ly joined the Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (F) in the presence of Maulana Fazal ur Rehman on Wednesday evening at the Sarawan house. Other central leaders of the

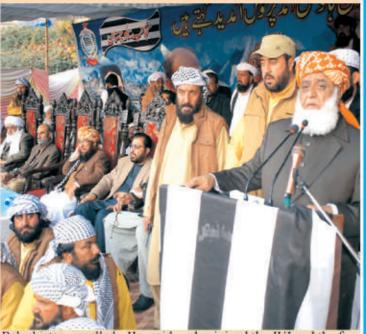
nouse. Other central leaders of the religious party and a large number of supporters of Nawab Raisani were also present on the occasion.

"From today, this movement, I am part of the JUI", Nawab Raisani announced at the gathering. JUI leaders and supporters welcomed the former CM in the religious party.

#### "Finally, we got Nawab Raisani joining our ranks", Maulana

"After a lot of attempts, finally, we succeeded in getting Nawab Raisani", Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, the Chief of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and JUI said. He said the party was committed to protecting the rights of the people of Balochistan. He said JUI and Nawab Raisani made joint efforts to protect the Reko Diq gold and copper project

Addressing the gathering, Nawab Raisani said he had cor-dial relations with the party when he was the chief minister of Balochistan in 2008. "We worked together to protect the rights of the people of Balochistan", the former CM of



Balochistan recalled. He said he would intensify his struggle for the rights of the people of Balochistan through the plat-form of the religious party.

Zafarullah Zehri, Aman Notezai and Ghulam Dastagir Badini also joined JUI

Former home minister, Mir Zafarullah Zehri, and former provincial ministers Amanullah Notezai and Haji Ghulam Dastagir Badini have

also joined the JUI and the formal announcement in this regard would be made soon.

This is for the first time that such a large number of elec-tables from Baloch-dominated areas of Balochistan are join-ing the religious party. "We will be forming the govern-ment in Balochistan", Maulana Ghafoor Hyderi, the central Ghafoor Hyderi, the central secretary general of the religious party predicted while addressing the gathering.

JUI has always supported coalition governments in Balochistan and this is for the first time that a large number of electables are joining the

## Statue of Benazir Bhutto removed in Quetta after criticism on media

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

QUETTA: Statue of Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister and chairperson of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was removed after criticism on social media. The statue of BB Shaheed was installed at the Benazir Bhutto park in Quetta. On Wednesday, a large number of PPP supporters gathered and removed the sculpture because of its substandard quality.

### This sculpture hurt the sentiments and feelings of PPP supporters

This sculpture hurt the sentiments and feelings of PPP supporters, Sarbuland Jogezai, the PPP leader said. He said the government had to review its quality and formation before installing it at the Shaheed BB park. Those installing sub-standard statues should be identified and action should be taken against them, Sardar Sarbaland Jogezai demanded.

Pakistan People's Party will soon build and install a new statue of martyred democracy Ms. Benazir Bhutto, talking to journalists.



### Statue of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was removed

The statue of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was removed due to non-standard and lack of suitable suitable color, Provincial Secretary Information Sardar Sarbaland Jogezai said.

The sculpture of the BB shaheed was widely shared on social media networks including Twitter and Facebook. People lashed out at the responsible people for installing the sculpture with low standards. Court declares e-bidding essential for



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar called on President Dr Arif Alvi here at the

## Father of 54 children passes away in Noshki **Balochistan**

Haji Tayyab Yallanzai

The Head of the largest fami-ly and a father of 54 children breathed his last in his last Noshki Balochistan's Wednesday Haji Abdul Majeed Mengal breathed his last because of a cardiac attack in Noshki. Mengal had married six wives two of his wives died and four are alive.

Mengal was shifted to the district headquarters hospital Noshki for medical treatment. However, he died prior to reaching the hospital.

12 out of a total of 54 children of Haji Abdul Majeed Mengal had died due to malnutrition. Currently, 42 children are alive.

Among Abdul Majeed's chil-dren, 22 are boys and 20 are

Haji Abdul Majeed Mengal



with his children: Photo courtesy BBC Urdu

Noshki is located 130 km West of Quetta, Pakistan's Southwestern city. The largest family and its head Abdul Majeed Mengal came into the limelight when the national census 2017 kicked off. The census officials got astonished after seeing the number of Haji Abdul Majeed Mengal's family members.

was Muhammad who was the father Syed Kaleem Shah

Balochistan High Court BHC on Wednesday declared e-bidding essential for tenders worth more than rupees 5 crore. The court suspended a notification by the finance department on November 18 in this regard. A divi-sion bench of the BHC comprising Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar and Mr. Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi passed this order on a petition filed by senior lawyer Ishaq

Nasar Advocate on behalf of the contractors association.

ine court also directed the Chief Secretary Balochistan, Additional Secretary (Development), Secretary of Finance and other concerned authorities to appear before the court and explain the November 18 notification in this respect.

Ishaq Nasir Advocate said that after the amendment of Section 11-A of Baluchistan Public Procurement Rules, 2014, the e-bidding process of proj-



ects estimated at Rs 5 crore and above has started from 1st July 2022 in order to improve governance, Management, parency, accountability

and quality of public procurement, and services can be improved, but Finance Department Baluchistan issued a notification

curement/2022-23/854-November

procurement 2-1/e-pro-

As per the finance department's notification e-bidding of 5 crore rupees and above was abolished and it was replaced by manu-al bidding and e-bid-ding for contracts up to crore rupees and above this amount was kept as a condition of certain mafias instead of public interest. It is an attempt to benefit the blue-eyed contractors, the counsel for the construction association concluded.

## Asked Dar to make efforts for 'reconciliation' between govt, PTI: President Alvi

President Dr Arif Alvi forward-ed on Wednesday the idea of talks between the PTI and the government in his meetings Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

In an interview with ARY lews, the president said: "We talked about this matter (possibil-ity of early elections). It is possible he says something if his party agrees to it. I gave him some suggestions.

Alvi's statement comes a day after PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry revealed that "informal communications" between his party and the federal government, pertaining to the snap elections, had

begun. It is pertinent to mention that

last week PTI chief Imran Khan gave the federal government an ultimatum to either "sit and talk and give a date for the general elections" or "we will dissolve the assemblies".

Earlier today, a statement from the Aiwan-e-Sadr said that Dar called on President Alvi today and discussed various matters concerning the economy, finance, and the rehabilitation of flood affectees

According to the press release, Dar briefed the president about steps taken by the incumbent government to provide relief to the most vulnerable segments of soci-ety, especially those who were underprivileged or affected by

this year's destructive floods. Elaborating on his meetings with the finance minister in the interview later, Alvi said that he encouraged meetings between the opposing camps in which "everything can be discussed, including

early elections as well". He said it was necessary for him to continue efforts on keeping people together as the presi-

President Alvi said that Dar had a "talent for reconciliation" — referring to his efforts during the PTI's 2014 sit-in — and that was why he had asked the finance minister to make similar efforts again since he had a "reputation of trying to bring things together".
"I think positive [outcomes] will be achieved."

The president said that political temperatures would come down if talks began. He also elaborated on other matters discussed with the finance minister, saying that Dar had proposed import restrictions to which Alvi said he in turn suggested energy conservation meas-ures Alvi said he discussed the military's recent distancing from politics with Dar and how the

development only meant greater responsibility for politicians. "Take steps while considering this responsibility and don't cre-ate problems so someone devel-ops second thoughts."Web Desk

### of 36 children in Quetta. Pakistan projected to be among largest economies in the world by 2075: Goldman Sachs

A research paper published by Goldman Sachs on Tuesday projected Pakistan to be the sixth largest economy in the world by 2075 given "appropriate policies and institutions" are in place.

Authored by economists Kevin Daly and Tadas Gedminas and titled 'The Path to 2075', the paper projected that the five largest economies by 2075 will be China, India, the US, Indonesia and Nigeria.

Goldman Sachs has been projecting long-term growth of countries for almost two decades now, initially starting out with BRICs economies but later expanding to cover 70 emerging and developed economies.

#### Their latest paper covers 104 countries with projections going as far as 2075

Pakistan's future star status is predicted on the back of its popula-tion growth, which along with Egypt and Nigeria, could place it among the largest economies in the world in the next 50 years, according to Goldman Sachs.

By that time, the research projects Pakistan's Real GDP to have grown to \$12.7 trillion and its GDP per capita to \$27,100.



These numbers, however, are projected to be less than a third of the size of China, India and the US. India's Real GDP in 2075 is project-

ed at \$52.5 trillion and per capita GDP at \$31,300. Among key risks to their projections, the economists particularly

highlight "environmental catastrophe" and "populist nationalism".

Unless a path to sustainable growth is ensured through a globally coordinated response, climate change could heavily skew these projections, particularly for countries like Pakistan, with geographies that are especially vulnerable. With populist nationalists coming to power in many countries, the report says it might lead to increased protectionism that could potentially result in the reversal of globalisation, thereby increasing income inequality across countries.

#### Global growth on a declining path

The paper notes that global growth has slowed from an average of 3.6 per cent per year in the past 10 years to 3.2pc, and the slowdown has been relatively broad-based.

They project global growth will average 2.8pc between 2024 and 2029 and will be on a gradually declining path. Web Desk

## QUETTA VOICE

## 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. 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 var-ious development schemes the other day and directed the concerned depart-

ments 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

## Smartphones for all?

Why? Consider this.

Pakistan's phone users continue to rely on imported technology. Since the Pakistani rupee continues to slide against the dollar, it makes sense that the government has decided to collaborate with the private sector to make mobile phones affordable for

The newly launched Smartphone for All initiative relies on the installment sales method to increase consumers' purchasing power. However, it is important to realize that affordability is not the only variable driving the country's digital divide.

The government sees the Smartphone for All' initiative as the next step towards Digital Pakistan. It is meant to close the digital divide by bringing youth, women, and communities' into the digital ecosystem. The intent is to improve the socio-economic indicators of development power the digital econ-

Smartphones have proved to be the most effective tools of the world. They have made service delivery faster, cheaper and reliable. So, the move is logical. But affordability is not enough to close the development gap. And connectivity infrastructure will not solve the puzzle either. Availability of net-

work infrastructure is a prerequisite for digital inclusion. And with a 20 per cent coverage gap. Pakistan needs infrastructural investments as much as it smartphone financing (the telecom sector needs to be heard and facilitated before it collapses). But what it needs more is for the digital

divide discussion to move from access to use, better yet appropriation. Limiting the discussion to access limits smartphone use to instant messaging and video calls (two of the top three online activities recorded for Pakistan's smartphone users). If the definition of digital inclusion expands to socioeconomic opportunities and impact, we need a non-economic lens to see the barriers to digadoption

Pakistan scored 43.96 vs the South Asian average of 51.82, on Mobile Connectivity (MCI) 2021 Index 2021 (pub-by GSMA, lished which is one of the collaborators on the Smartphone for All initiative). The MCI measures countries performance against key enablers of mobile phone connectivity. These enablers include infrastructure, availability. consumer readiness, and content and services. Naturally, if these

digital adoption. Pakistan scored the lowest on Consumer Readiness, a meagre 26.52 (against average of 50.22). Mobile phone ownership makes up only 20 per cent of the Consumer Readiness dimension in the MCI, Pakistan scores highest on it

enablers are poor, they

become barriers to

The picture gets bleaker when the other two sub-dimensions of Consumer Readiness considered. Pakistan scores 30.72 on Basic Skills (the

regional mean 43.63) and a miserable 11.97 on Gender Gender Equality (South Asia averages at 48.65). Pakistan's score has improved by four points on the Basic Skills dimension and 0.58 points on Gender Equality since 2014. What do these strange numbers tell

us? Lack of literacy and digital skills are the two biggest barri-ers to digital adoption in Pakistan. And women continue to be excluded from the digital ecosystem as they have been from all other spheres of the economy and society. Therefore, making smartphones affordable will not help achieve the intended socioeconomic outcomes the government is pinning on its Smartphone for All initiative.

According to the MCI 2021 report, the highest number respondents picked difficulty in reading and writing' as the most important constraint on using mobile Pakistan internet. just above Guatemala and Senegal on this indica-

By Zahra Mughis tor. The respondents also cited 'unavailability of support for learning how to use mobile internet' as a problem. Most of them remain unaware of voice assistants and other tools that can help them benefit from the internet without having to read or

Also, a high number

write.

of the respondents also shared that mobile internet was irrelevant to them, clearly assuming that it is limited to making calls and watching videos. It is therefore unsurprising that only a handful of respondents said that they used (mobile) internet for accessing government services. This implies that a lack of reading and writing skills and awareness<sup>\*</sup> smartphones rather useless for a vast majority of Pakistanis, particularly in rural areas.Smartphones can close the digital and development divides only if consumers are aware of their use. It must be understood that the digital divide is much deeper and more complex than device ownership.

## World's most polluted city

Lahore has earned the distinction of being the world's most polluted city. According to air pollution data released by the US Air Quality Index, Lahore is on the top of the list. Delhi is the second most polluted city, Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek third, Dhaka fourth, and Karachi fifth.

Increasing urbanisation and industrialisation have played a part in the city's deterio-rating air quality. This is having a serious impact on the health of Lahore residents with an outbreak of diseases such as asthma, eye, skin and lung infections, and respiratory tract allergies being witnessed. Prolonged or heavy exposure to hazardous air causes varied health complications, say doctors, including asthma, lung damage, bronchial infections, strokes, heart problems, and shortened life expectancy. The Global Alliance on Health and Pollution estimated in 2019 that 128,000 Pakistanis die annually due to air pollution-related illcontinues to rise. But how serious is

the government about

tackling the problem?

This year, the Lahore High Court expressed its concern over the rise in smog and directed the government to reconsider its decision of closing schools from Dec 20. The court observed that action would to be taken immediately to control smog as the Provincial Disaster as the Management Authority had not taken concrete steps to tackle the issue. authority's deputy director, however, took the plea before the court that barbeque shops are also causing increase in the smog and asked the court to order early closure of these shops. However, this suggestion was not much appreciated by the court. So much for seriousness on part of the government.

We know that smog is nothing new in Lahore. Every winter the situation gets worse. The smog prevalent after sunset

is usually deep and thick and exposure to it is like smoking 10 cigarettes at a time, experts say. Prolonged exposure to environmental pollution also results in a shortened life expectancy. These risks may be reduced by wearing masks, managing gaseous vehicular emissions, eco-friendly products, and reusing and recycling. But that is something only the rich and privileged can afford. The first question

one should ask is: how bad is it? Experts say that the smog is caused as air pollution has been steadily growing in Lahore and many other cities in Punjab. Five cities in Punjab were listed among the 50 most polluted cities in the world in 2020. The current situation in Lahore is most alarming, with its fine par-ticulate count repeat-edly rising well above 40 times the WHO's air quality guideline values. Second question: what is the gov-ernment doing about it? In 2019, Pakistan's climate change minister said the smog problem in Lahore was a conspiratorial attempt to spread misinformation. In a video posted on her account, Gul Wazir Twitter Zartaj called smog in Lahore 'fake news'. She said that data presented is not authentic and companies were spreading sensationalism. The minister also said these companies measure air quality when there are the most cars on the road and that they were doing so because they "want their equipment to be installed". She also said Lahore is not one of the most polluted cities in the world; New Delhi is. End of matter. Since then nothing has been

problem. Many in Pakistan blame stubble burning by Indian farmers as the main cause for Lahore's smog problem. Not surprisingly, the same is true of India where they blame Pakistani farmers. Changing wind patterns during the stubble-burning season mean wind direc-

done to tackle the

#### Kamal Siddiqi

tions keep fluctuating across the India-Pakistan border. So this is not the only cause. The reasons why air quality has been steadily declining in cities like Lahore are more than one. Vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, fossil fuel-fired power plants, the burning of waste materials, and coal being burned by thousands of brick kilns across the province are all to blame. Media reports that the lack of vehicular fitness and emissions testing, alongside use of poor-quality fuel. have compounded the city's air pollution problem. This is a national

problem and should be considered as an emergency. We have seen that the pollution continues to grow and is spreading to other parts of the country. Much of this has to do with lax environmental laws fueled by corruption. Enough is enough. Time to let professionals handle the situation. We can't keep on blaming India

for everything.

## **Drinking Water** Pollution in Quetta

Dehana \Rabail Urooj

lev is due to metamorphic rocks such as gneisses and granite, WHO has rec-ommended 500 and ognizes the importance of safe drinking water. Nonetheless, a vari-2000mgL-1 as the upper and lower permissible lev-els, respectively. The most inhabitants of the Quetta ety of activities we do may contribute to water contamination in many ways. This article explains how to safeguard drinking water at home and in the commucity utilize contaminated groundwater for drinking purpose. The increasing pH and TDS of the groundwanity in a simple and eco-nomical manner. Water pollution is defined as the addition of any substance into the water that changes its physical or chemical ter were due to the contri-bution of different salts of F-, Cl-, K+, Na+, and SO42-in Quetta. Hence it is concluded that rocks present in Quetta valley, are possibly the reason for properties in such a way that the water becomes unfit for drinking. Water plays a vital role in managing life and human health study has been showed that 80% of related disease in developing countries is increased concentration of fluoride in groundwater. Moreover, the groundwater may come from the strata due to scarcity of good quality water Diseases due

of the same surroundings. Nevertheless, there has been no inclusive health survey conducted for dento drinking of contaminat-ed water leads to the death of five million children
yearly and make 1/6 of the
world population ill. A
study conducted on children of Quetta city aged
12-year from randomly
selected areas showed that
dental fluorosis has been
found in 63% of which is a
year, high pregentage. By tal fluorosis to address the problems in the past and there is a very minor dif-ference in the concentration of fluoride that imparts a beneficial or hazardous effect on human health, therefore, there should be regular monitoring of drinking water scheme to very high percentage. By applying an even sampling maintain the water quality. Modern water filter tanks should be plan with the samples dis tribution taken from tube wells of different sites of

water litter tanks should be being provided in Quetta to ensure a safe drinking water supply to the people. Non-toxic and biodegrad-able cleansers, as well as insecticides, are now wide-ly available. Spending a ly available. Spending a little more money on certain items reduces water Grease, fat, and used cooking oil should be thrown away or stored in a equotifat jarequot; to be disposed of with other solid waste.

It's possible that your

pipes may clog, causing sewage lines to choke and back up into yards and basements. Many examples of unlawful garbage dumping and other kinds of water contamination go unnoticed, and they are often not cleaned up. People who pour oil down storm drains, throw garbage bags into streams, and so on should be reported. There will be charities working on watershed conservation, water pollution remediation, and

similar issues no matter where you reside in the nation. Find an active char-ity in your neighborhood and donate to it every year. With your help, we may be able to extend our anti-pollution efforts. Plastic shopping bags and plastic rings from six-packs of drinks pollute the nation's lakes and oceans to a great extent. In the water, plastic bottles may survive for decades. Instead, invest in

some reusable linen or plastic shopping bags. They may be bought for as little as \$1 apiece, thus the cost is really low. Drinks should be stored in reusable, insulated contain-

reusable, insulated containers, and filtered water should be made at home. Supporting water-related charity is vital since they can do tasks that are beyond the scope of the typical household. Volunteer to help plant trees, clean up the local river, or collect leftover chemicals from local homeowners if you don't want to offer money or can't afford to. Some environmental organizations may mental organizations may hold collecting days for which volunteers are

## Pakistan's stranglehold on artistic expression

Over the past several months, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics has been conducting focus group discussions with stakeholders from across the artisspectrum including film, dance, music, comedy, literature and community centres to ascertain the state of creative industries in the country. With subsequent engagement, however, it has become increasingly apparent that the landscape is restrictive, unappreciative and, in some cases, outright dangerous. In the absence of joy and wonder, we forfeit the possibility of meaningful prosperity.

Art has historically served crucial purposes, including as a tool to challenge the status quo and bring definition to societal norms and values by captivating audi-ences, allowing them to let loose and forget about their troubles for a while. This is even more important in a country like Pakistan where economic vulnerability and poor governance have stripped citizens of any sense of hope and stability.

Quality art is never a definitive answer, but rather a question mark, serving to provoke, resist and challenge. In Pakistan, this is made virtually impossible by the toxic culture of censorship that gives people the licence to harass, intimidate and silence those that undermine the status quo. This is especially pro-nounced when performing in a physical capacity. Performers have to make do with infrastructure not meant for their specific style of art, like in cafes, and perform to captive audiences.

This creates a general aura of hostility and dismissiveness, and artists must forego a significant chunk of their earnings to the venue sometimes even having to pay a fee sim-ply to access the space. Performing in

open-air zones is also not an due Pakistan's urban landscapes being fundamentally anti-citizen: with little to no walking spaces. With a dearth of

revenue streams,

artists are compelled to collaborate with corporations and/or donors which assist them in making ends meet, invariably restrict their creative freedoms. Performers must toe the line, make them-selves 'presentable' and promote products they would never use themselves. The ones that aren't able to make the 'cut' for these, frequently based on factors that have little to do with talent, are forced to work soul-sucking office jobs. New digital media channels have created alternative possibilities, although one's audiences must necessarily be in the hundreds of thousands for these avenues to

be financially sus-

tainable. Naturally

public this works against emerging artists. When it comes to organising shows and festivals, artists must navigate a complex and time consuming bureaucracy that presents them with a host of hurdles - whether through bribery, taxation, paperwork or security checks.

Shockingly, virtually all these requirements are ally arbitrary, shifting and morphing at a pace that is difficult to keep up with. Most artists are thus advised to employ formal teams to deal with legal and logistical procedures something that multiplies their expenses, making it difficult to compensate performers. Governance is also absent in the industry. There are no overarching authori-ties to facilitate artists and grant them resources, subsidise their activities, facilitate the acquisition of equipor simply ment.

bring them under

one umbrella. The

Abbas Moosvi

ones that do exist function as fraternities, choosing to collaborate with 'household names' In other countries, governments fund artists for international festivals and conferences, contributing to the accumulation of soft power at a political

They grant them jobs in state institutions and plan events in remote areas in order to expand outreach and unite the under nation shared love of transcendence. On an existential level, art triggers a sense of the inquisitiveness in its beholders: expanding their imaginative capacities and inviting them to dream of a better world.

If societal flourishment is represented by a tree reaching the Heavens, art is the intricate system of roots underneath, symbolising the collective unconscious, extending to Hell. In Pakistan, artists are stopped in their tracks before they can even begin

## **Education: A Basic** Human Right

he highlight of education is the basic human right of all people without any discrimination. According to the universal declaration of human rights, each state must ensure the entitle of education to each child of a country. Education is the fundamental right of each children and youth all over the globe and every state is bound to provide it. Now let's go to check out the right to education in Pakistan, either that state fulfils the basic

Quetta city, where the drinking water quality is known to have been dete-riorated. The study shows that the Concentration of

fluoride varies from 0.32 ppm to 3.0

ppm (Hazara town to the

western by-pass area of Quetta) as compared with World Health Organization

(WHO) guidelines of drinking water for fluoride (i.e., 1.5 ppm). The high content of fluoride in groundwater of Quetta val-

human right or not; so in Pakistan when I searched about that right to education but unfortunately, we never found that much strictness which they take about education, either government of Pakistan said that we bring a lot of variables into the field of education but still there is nothing on the ground to support their claims about education.

The government of Pakistan announced that they brought an equal syllabus all over the country but it's also a claim yet. It's one of the most problems which leads to the destruction of education in Pakistan there are several courses. The major challenges in the way of education due to which education

is poor day by day in Pakistan. The first one, financial support the government of Pakistan is bound to issue 15 to 30 per cent in the annual budget for basic education, and also work on technical education because it is also a basic education due too which the government can produce technical people and youth in the state. Corruption is the key challenge for the government, how to stop corruption in that field because there is no merit system when they select the teachers and also the officer take the money of the schools instead to disbursed on the primary need. According to the UIS roundabout, there are 258 million chil-dren and youth who are out of schools all over the world at the end of 2018 data. The total includes 59 million children of primary school age, 62 million of lower secondary school age and 138 million of upper secondary 155 countries legally

According to UNHCR guarantee 9 years or more of compulsory education Only 99 countries legally guar-antee at least 12 years of free education 8.2% primary-school-age children do not go to primary school Only six in ten young people

will be finishing sec-ondary school in 2030 The youth literacy rate (15-24) is 91.73%, meaning 102 million youth lack basic literacy skills. It is the responsibility of the government to keep an equal syllabus all over the state and ensure that there is no difference in courses among the provinces and federal education system. The state is responsible to look at privatization and its impact on education. States need to strike a between educational freedom and ensuring everyone receives a quality education. Primary education that is free, compulsory and universal Secondary education, including technical and vocational, that is generally available, accessible too all and progressively free. Higher education, accessible to all based on individual capacity and progressively Fundamental education for individuals who have not completed education Professional training opportunities. Equal quality of education through minimum standards. teaching and supplies

for teachers. Adequate

fellowship system and

material condition for

teaching staff.

## PM strongly represented aspirations of Kashmiris at Int'l fora: Marriyum

I S L A M A B A D : Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has strongly represented the aspirations of Kashmiri people at every internaional and regional fora including the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

In a statement on Wednesday, she said the entire Pakistan is united and speaks with one voice on Jammu and Kashmir dispute. She said there should be no politics on this sensitive issue. The

Information Minister regretted that PTI Chairman Imran Khan was playing with the national interests and politics on

She said the AJK Prime Minister, on the instiga-tion of Imran Khan, did a sad act at the Mangla Dam refurbishment project ceremony. The AJK Prime Minister deliberately interfered during the speech of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

She said it was not

Kashmir issue in such a manner for personal, party and political inter-ests. She said Shehbaz Sharif told the AJK Prime Minister that he was ready to sit and resolve his matter.

Information Minister regretted that PTI Chairman Imran Khan was playing with the national interests and doing politics on Kashmir.

She said the AJK Prime Minister, on the instiga-tion of Imran Khan, did a sad act at the Mangla Dam refurbishment proj-

### appropriate to use the **POWERCHINA** helps flood-hit people of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: POW-ERCHINA says it has donated funds, repaired roads and agricultural infrastructure and helped local employees overcome the disaster following this year's devasta-tive floods and heavy monsoon rains.

Since mid-June, under the influence of the monsoon season, many provinces in Pakistan been hit by unprecedentedly severe

POWERCHINA said in a statement on Wednesday that it has also played a leading role in donating money to the flood-affected people in Paristan and received Pakistan, and received positive response and strong support from the

Association Giving details of the aid and relief activities, it said the first batch of donations was raised on 26 August for the floodaffected Pakistani brothers to rebuild their homes. After the first timely donation, as the disaster continued to worsen, in response to the call of the Pakistani government, ERCHINA made a fur-ther donation of USD 104,000 to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund on October 21

POWERCHINA also

participated in a second round of donations to the Chinese Embassy and APCEA. The Chinese enthusiastically spontaneously donated tents worth about 2 million rupees and officially handed over to the Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry and to a Baluchistanbased party at the Chinese Embassy in

Pakistan on December 1. In the face of the sud-den flooding, Diamer Bhasha Dam Project was also seriously affected by the flooding.

The project depart-ment responded quickly

to the flooding, and after surveying the affected site, formulated a relief plan and sent a rescue team with excavators and other large machinery and equipment to participate in the rescue and relief work, helping local villagers to clean up the collapsed road sections, to remove the hazards off the road and backfill the irrigation canal foundation. After four days of reconstruction, the 8 km collapsed roads were cleared and the main road to the nearby villages was restored, thus helping the locals to get out of the trouble.

Affected by secondary

disasters such as landslides and triggered by floods, many sections of the Karakorum Highway, the main road to and from the project construction site, were either eroded or actively closed, and the construction and logistical materials required for the project could not be delivered to the site for quite some time.

The project manager said, "The tougher it is, the more courageous we have to be." Despite the extremely difficult times, the project is still actively assuming social responsibility, demon-strating the responsibility and commitment of a "great power". "Our abil-ity is limited, but we want to do our bit to help this country". The project staff said.

In addition, POW-ERCHINA has taken an initiative to collect and understand the disaster situation of local employees and their families, and has helped near one thousand employees to return to their home-towns. For the hundreds of employees who could not return to their hometowns due to road blockage, POWERCHINA has provided free accommodation and food to relieve their worries.INP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

### Inclusion of women, youths in social dialogue vital to ensure decent work: Experts

ISLAMABAD: Experts at the roundtable termed the inclusion of women and the youth in the much-needed social dialogue a need of hour and declared it prerequisite for ensuring decent work in Pakistan.

work in Pakistan.

They were speaking at roundtable, 'Agenda Setting for Social
Dialogue on Decent Work in
Pakistan,' on the third day of
25th Sustainable Development
Conference (SDC) organized by
Sustainable Development Policy
Institute (SDPI) and jointly held
alongside UNESCAP's 6th
South and Southwest Asia Highlevel Political Forum and Policy level Political Forum and Policy Dialogue on SDGs. The 4-day conference is being held in Islamabad from 5-8 December

2022.
Dr Rabia Razzaque from International Labour Organization (ILO Pakistan)

said that social dialogue is an end and means to end in itself to improve decent work condi-

Rubina Jamil, General Secretary of All Pakistan Trade Union Federation (APTUF), blamed the absence of trade unions for poor communication between employees and employ-ers thus leading to poor work-place conditions. She pointed out that the European Union (EU) guidelines pertaining to women under GSP+ are not being implemented despite female labour dominating garments and textile sector. We'll have to take chambers of commerce on board on this issue to merce on board on this issue to ensure rights of women workers," she added that the govern-ment, trade unions and civil society will have to work togeth-er to promote the rights of

Khalid Mehmood, a labour court lawyer, said the country lacks an enabling environment for masses to organize them-selves at different levels, thus hindering social dialogue. He stressed the need for strengthen-ing democratic norms for hold-

ing an effective social dialogue.
Syed Nazar Ali, SecretaryGeneral of Employer's
Federation of Pakistan (EFP)
said social dialogue is the key to consensus development, which is possible by promoting democratic norms and freedom of

expression.

Noor Zaman, the Chairman of
National Industrial Relations
Commission (NIRC), said that the establishment of work council is mandatory as per law and is crucial in the absence of trade unions.INP

## Good curriculum useful only if taught well via trained teachers: Rana Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that good curriculum is only useful if it is taught well for which good

trained teachers are required.

He stated this while addressing a National Workshop on teacher's trainings organized by the National Curriculum Council (NCC) with the technical and financial support of UNFPA and ACT International. The trainings were organized in continuation of the Teacher's Training program of NCC with a particular focus on Life Skills Based Education. For this pur-

pose, LSBE-focused teachers' training manuals were already developed. NCC hosted all these events where large number of senior officials of the federal senior officials of the federal and provincial education min-istries participated. In addition to the primary teachers, repre-sentatives from public sector primary schools' managers also attended the training. Speaking on the occasion, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that best students Hussain said that best students will be produced if he or she is examined well by the examination/assessment boards based on the curriculum and student teaching. Thus close coordina-tion between curriculum design-

ers; teachers, administrators and examinations board is required. The Minister said that he is emphasizing on components like critical thinking, activity based learning, group learning and all such methods that makes the student to produce and con-ceive ideas instead of depending on memorization. He continued on memorization. He continued that components like understanding of climate change and life skills based education cou-pled with understanding of civic sense and tolerance, empathy, respect for women, respect for minorities and care for animal rights are very important and should be part.INP

#### Seminar on elimination of violation against women at academic institutions today

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR), Centre of Excellence, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad will hold a seminar on "Sympathy or Empathy Elimination of Violence against Women at Academic

Institutions" at it premises. Senator Prof Dr Mehr Taj Roghani will preside over the sem-

The seminar is being organized in cooperation with the Parliamentarians Commission for Human Right (PCHR), Pakistan at NIHCR, QAU New Campus, Shahdarra Valley Road, Islamabad on Thursday, December 8 at 11:00am.INP

#### Governor administers oath to Khayal Castro as provincial minister

LAHORE : Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman administered oath to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Khyal Ahmed Castro as Provincial Minister at Governor House Lahore on Wednesday. Secretary I&C Punjab Zahoor Hussain read out the notification

regarding the appointment.
Chief Secretary Punjab
Muhammad Abdullah Khan
Sumbal, Provincial Minister
Basharat Ahmad Raja, Principal Secretary to Governor Punjab Nabil Awan, Secretaries of various departments and members of Provincial Assembly attended the oath taking ceremony.INP

#### Fatyana doubts capacity, commitment of Pakistan to implement SDGs

ISLAMABAD: Convenor of Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs Riaz Fatyana has said that Pakistan has excellent legislation and policy frameworks in terms of environment-friendly development and industrialization, but lacks capacity and commit-ment with the cause of implementing sustainable development goals (SDGs), thus, concerted efforts should be made to address the issues of sustainable development and better environment.

He was speaking at a panel dis-cussion on "Review of Selected Goals for HLPF 2023 in South Asia' on the 3rd day of Sustainable Asia' on the 3rd day of Sustainable
Development Conference (SDC)
organized by Sustainable
Development Policy Institute
(SDPI) and jointly held alongside
UNESCAP's 6th South and
Southwest Asia High-level
Political Forum and Policy
Dialogue on SDGs.INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan Hannu Ripatti, Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan Dr Riina Kionka and others cutting the cake during Independence Day of Finland ceremony at a local

### Art exhibition seeks to raise awareness of gender equality held

ISLAMABAD: An art exhibition highlighting the role of female leaders and role models was organized to raise awareness of gender equality in Pakistan's border man-

agement agencies. The exhibition, which was jointly organised by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Pakistan and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and funded by the European Union, gath-ered over 50 representa-tives from national border authorities, civil society and the international

community The exhibition, titled "Czech and Pakistani Heroines" was jointly Heroines" was jointly developed by the Czech developed by the Czesi Embassy and National College of Arts, and fea-tures artists from the University of West Bohemia and the NCA Each artwork focuses on a female role model from Czech Republic or Pakistan and the role they

have played in their soci-

Czech Ambassador Tomáš Smetánka opened the exhibition, acknowledged Pakistan's border management agencies together with ICMPD for their focus on issues related to gender in their recent cooperation. He noted that by displaying the collection of women's portraits, the Embassy wishes to complement the topic of workshops held by ICMPD and pay trib-ute to some of the auda-cious, generous, inde-pendent, inspiring and untiring women from our

past and present. Mr. Jan Muhammad, FIA Additional Director General

Headquarters, thanked the FIA's international partners for highlighting the action that the FIA and other border management agencies are taking to improve gender main-streaming. He noted that the FIA is already pursuing a number of recommended activities in this area, but that the FIA recognise it is a long-term process and they continue to focus on increasing awareness of gender issues throughout all lev-

els of the organisation. Ms. Sedef Dearing, ICMPD's Head of the Silk Routes Region, highlighted the positive role gender mainstreaming can play in border management and the progress already achieved by Pakistan's border agencies. She noted that gen-der equality is a global whole-of-society mission, and that international cooperation through initiatives such as the exhibition are integral for

achieving this. The importance of gender mainstreaming is increasingly recognised in both the internal and external activities of border agencies such as the Federal Investigation Agency, Anti-Narcotics Force and Customs INP Pakistan

PU VC for research in special education, paying attention to special people

LAHORE: Punjab University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Asghar Zaidi has said that research in special education and paying special attention to the peo-ple with unique characteristics were the need of the hour to improve their abilities so that better facilities could be provided to them for living a better life.

These views were expressed by him while address-ing the first international conference on 'Research in Special Education' organized by Institute of Special Education (ISE) at Al Raazi Hall. Vice Chancellor Lahore Leeds University Dr Nadeem Ahmed Bhatti, Dean Faculty of Life Sciences Prof Dr Javed Iqbal Qazi, MD PWTD Dr Izhar Hashmi, Chief Medical Officer Dr Muhammad Akram, Director ISE Prof Dr Humera Bano, Director Career Counseling and Placement Center Prof Dr Abdul Qayyum Chaudhry, faculty members and a large number of students were present on the occasion. In the conference, researchers including USA, Karachi, Bahawalpur also addressed online.INP

## POs among 105 held, arms, drugs recovered

LAHORE: Proclaimed offenders among 105 outlaws and drug pushers were apprehended besides recovery of weapons, drugs and other valuables during separate actions in different areas of Lahore, police said on Wednesday.

According to details, during crackdowns and raids, police arrested 71 accused including proclaimed offenders and convicts.

Three drug pushers were held with narcotics worth hundreds of thousands rupees.

The police arrested seven people and recovered arms over display of weapons.

As many as 10 outlaws were held over black paper, kites flying and violation of sound sys-

The police detained 12 people over violation of tenancy, sensitive locations and beggary

Two members of notorious robber gang were held with looted valuables during a raid. INP

ISLAMABAD: Henny Fokel de Vries, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

### Axact fake degree case: Shoaib Sheikh will have to appear at every cost: IHC

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked that Shoaib Sheikh will have to appear before it at

every cost.

The court gave these remarks during the hearing of appeal pleas filed by Shoaib Sheikh and other accused against their conviction in Axact fake degree case here Wednesday.

Shoaib Sheikh appeared in the court along with his counsels Abid Zubairi and Latif Khosa.

The court inquired non bailable arrest warrants in respect of Nigel Brin Robello were issued. What has been done with

them. FIA told that court order were not received Therefore, compliance could not be made.

The court remarked should I get arrest warrants comply by asking DG FIA. If the order was not received one day then you should have checked it next day. File goes from court to branch. The counsel for Shoaib Sheikh told the court the case of the appellant can-not be separated unless he is declared absconder. The counsel for Shoaib Sheikh requested the court the hearing of this case be adjourned till

January. The court remarked when the case will start on merit, it is not liable to end on one date. We don't know what anxiety is with you and why you want delay in this case.

The counsel for Shoaib Sheikh told the court application for exemption from atten-dance has also been filed on behalf Sheikh

your case has not been started so far and you are given unless the process of declaring an appellant proclaimed offender is seeking exemption till the decision of the appeal. It is not your right but the completed. The counsel for Shoaib Sheikh told the court application for court has suspended the conviction by showing grace. The arguments on exemption from atten-dance has also been filed the appeal against the conviction have not been started. We will take it behalf of Shoaib Sheikh The court remarked

along slowly. You should assist.
The counsel for Shoaib your case has not been started so far and you are seeking exemption Sheikh requested the court Shoaib Sheikh is facing security threats. He should be given exemption from the attendance. Exemption be till the decision of the appeal. It is not your right but the court has suspended the conviction by showing grace. INP

INVITING TENDER

The Director / Convener Health Welfare Committee, CENAR

Hospital Quetta Invites sealed tender for the supply of Cancer and General Medicines, for the treatment of deserving patients from

ZAKAT FUND for the financial year 2022-23. (Tender Cost

approximately 12.5 million). Procurement will be made under

BPPRA rules 2014. Eligibility:- Valid drug sales License /

Registration in according with Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan

(DRAP) Rules in the relevant category. Turnover certificate from

scheduled bank of at least 05.00 million in last year showing financial

capacity of the firm. Registration with Income Tax Department and firm name shall be on active Taxpayer List (ATL) of FBR. Method of

Procurement: - Single Stage-2 Envelope Procedure. Bid Security:

the bids must accompany Bid Security (5%) in the form of Call

Deposit of Bank Guarantee of Rs. 6,25,000/- in the name of

Undersigned from a Scheduled Bank, Tender Documents: - the biding documents can be obtained from the office of the Dy. Director

Social Welfare /Security Health Welfare Committee, CENAR

Hospital Quetta on any working day during office hours on cash

payment of tender fee Rs. 2000/- (Nonrefundable). Tender Notice

and biding documents uploaded in BPPRA website can be seen on

www.bppra.gob.pk. Issuance of Tender Documents: - From the

date of publication of tender notice to 26-12-2022 up to 11:00 AM ,

last date of tender submission:- Tender should be submitted on

26-12-2022 up to 11:30 AM in the office of Dy. Director Social

Welfare / Secretary health Welfare Committee, CENAR Hospital

Quetta. Tender Opening:- Tender will be Opened on next day i.e 26-

12-2022 at 12:00 PM in the presence of bidders or their authorized

representative in the office of the Director CENAR Hospital Quetta.

Address:- Office of the Dy. Director Social Welfare / Secretary

Health Welfare Committee, CENAR Hospital Brewery Road Quetta.

of Shoaib The court remarked

PRQ No.1368/07-12-2022

Phone No. 081-9213221. TSE22231218881

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## Favourable environment to businessmen vital to strengthen economy: Governor

LAHORE: Governor unjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that providing favourable environment to the business community holds key importance to strengthen economy of the country. strengthen

He was talking to a delegation of Pakistan Plastic Traders Association headed by its Chairman Syed Azmat Ali Shah who called on him at Governor House Lahore on Wednesday. The del-egation of Pakistan Azerbaijan Turkey Business Council from Turkey also participated in the meeting.

Speaking on the occa-on, Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that continuity of poli-cies is very important for the improvement of the economy. He said that the role of the business community in the philanthropy along with contribution in country's

worthy adding he said "Till date I have not met any businessman who does not do public welfare work.

economy is also praise

Governor Punjab said that all political parties should work out charter of economy with consensus.

Chairman Pakistan Plastic Traders Association, Azmat Ali Shah said that non-luxury, raw materials and machinery parts are very important sectors in the business sector and play an important role in country's economic affairs. He said that the government has imposed an undeclared ban on the

import of luxury items

as well as non-luxury items, adding that due to the ban on import of luxury items, raw materials, and machinery parts, industrialists and traders are suffering from uncertainty and

He further said that the economy of the country can be boosted by solving the problems of the business community, the country's econ-omy. President Plastic Traders Association Mian Haroon while talking on the occasion said that favorable condi-

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tions for business affairs and removal of import ban can increase foreign exchange. On this occasion Governor Punjab assured to play his role

in solving all the prob-lems of industrialists and traders on priority basis. Vice President Azerbaijan Pakistan Turkey Council Business Arshad Muhammad and Vice President Pakistan President Turkey Azerbaijan Business Council Farhan Salim were present in the meeting.INP

## Country direly needs peaceful co-existence, national cohesion: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that in the prevailing circumstances, the country direly needs peaceful co-existence and national cohesion for rapid and robust development. He was speaking during an exclusive meeting with Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi who called on him at Parliament House on Wednesday and briefed him that the government has chalked out a comprehensive strategy under the umbrella of National Security Policy to engage all political leadership of the country to develop consensus between the political leadership on national issues. While briefing the Chairman Senate, minister informed that a nationwide dialogue and discussion would be conducted to develop consensus on respect for national institutions. He said that other areas can also be included in the overall list to debate and discuss them for tangible solutions and harmony. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs gave a detailed overview and rationale behind the initiative. He said that parliament is the institution where the will of the people resides. Minister observed that Chairman Senate, as custodian of the Upper House of the Parliament, can play a significant role in the process. The Minister said that we are identifying the stakeholders and striving towards developing a National Charter of Consensus Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani while welcoming the initiative said that there is need to work in unison and with one voice to counter the negative narratives against Pakistan's overall socio-economic growth, key national interests and territorial integrity. He said that consultative sessions



KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir offered fateha during visited mau-soleum of Quaid- e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah today.

#### Smog rules: Schools in Lahore to remain closed for 3 days a week

LAHORE: Government and private schools in Lahore will remain closed for three days in a week as a notification in this regard has been issued by Lahore High Court (LHC) to protect schoolchildren from the adverse

effects of smog As per the notification submitted to LHC on Wednesday, schools will remain closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays till the issuance of the

next orders On the other hand, the Punjab gov-ernment has imposed an environmen-tal emergency in Lahore and declared

the city calamity-hit.

The air quality levels of Lahore have been deteriorating to hazardous levels. INP

#### Japan provides USD 38.9 million grant in addition to USD 7 million in Sept

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan announced its plan to provide grant assistance of USD 38.9 million to Pakistan as part of Japan's supple-mentary budget to deliver life-saving aid to the flood victims. The unprece-dented levels of flooding have trig-gered a multi-dimensional humanitarian crisis, leaving the affected population with increased health risks and food insecurity, insecure livelihoods and heightened vulnerabilities to gender-based violence.

The Government of Japan will support the affected population in various port the affected population in various social and economic dimensions in partnership with WHO, UNFPA, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNWOMEN, UNHCR, and IPPF in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Punjab provinces, as well as the Islamabad Capital Territory. For the total grant assistance of USD 34.2 million, the proposed areas of support lion, the proposed areas of support include emergency medical assistance, food distribution, agriculture and live-stock restoration, livelihood recreation, and gender-based violence risk

ation, and gender-based violence risk mitigation and response. In order to ensure the rapid rollout to reach the most vulnerable, these projects will commence in January 2023.

The Government of Japan will also provide support through JICA, equivalent to USD 4.7 million, for recovery from the floods in health, agriculture, education, gender, and resilient disaster management, thereby contributing to "Build Back Better" in Pakistan.

The Government of Japan provided

The Government of Japan provided USD 7 million as an emergency grant to address the immediate impact of the floods in September 2022. The Government of Japan, with a long-standing partnership with Pakistan, stands ready to support the people of Pakistan to overcome the ongoing humanitarian crisis.INP

#### **Multan Airport** closed due to heavy fog

MULTAN: The flight operation at Multan International Airport was sus-pended Wednesday after the visibility level on the runway reduced to 100 meters due to dense fog.

According to the airport sources, the flights coming to Multan were advised to land on Lahore Airport, for the runway at Multan Airport had been closed due to low visibility.

Due to the glosure of Multan

Due to the closure of Multan Airport, Multan-bound PK-170 flight from Al-Qassim was landed on Lahore Airport.INP

#### Maulana Fazl demands disbandment

of controversial NAB DERA ISMAIL Pakistan (PDM) Democratic Movement President Maulana Fazl-Ur-Rehman has said on Wednesday that National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is a controversial institution and it should be abolished.He said that he always pointed out that NAB is being used for retaliatory action against politicians and to defame them. While talking to a private Tv channel in Dera Ismail Khan, the PDM chief said that NAB's 22-year progress is in front of our eyes, adding that the bureau failed to create a legacy of unbiased and effective accountability.INP

### Asad Umar's apology prompts court to dispose of contempt case

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Bench of Lahore High Court (LHC)
Wednesday disposed of a
contempt of court case
against Pakistan Tehreek-elnsaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar
after the latter unconditional

after the latter unconditional-ly apologised to the court. Asad Umar appeared before the court along with his lawyer Chaudhary Faisal Advocate.

Advocate.

"Produce your client. Where is he?" Justice Jawad Hassan said to Faisal Chaudhry. Upon this, Asad Umar came to the rostrum and apologised unconditionally to the court for his speech. "My intention was not to target any judge or judiciary. We respect the judiciary and will continue doing so. I apologise if my speech crossed the line," he said.

"Courts allowed your long march, [but] you levelled allegations against the courts The problem is not the contempt of court. It is about the accusations against institud personalities, Jawad Hassa tions and Justice Hassan remarked.

"There was no mentioning of a judge in my speech," Asad Umar replied. "The court has your video

statement. Do you know what you said in the speech? Article 50 and 60 of the Constitution allows the right

democracy. Constitution allows the right to movement but not to criti-cise institutions," Justice Jawad stated. The court, how-ever, disposed of the con-tempt of court case against Asad Umar after an uncondi-tional apology from him. INP

## Sheikh Rasheed raises questions over FIR against Arshad Sharif's

RAWALPINDI: Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Wednesday raised questions over registration of case against murder of senior journalist Arshad Sharif on a complaint by a policeman instead of his rela-

Taking to Twitter, the former interior minister said the case was registered after 44 days of assassination of Mr Sharif, who was murdered by Kenyan police in a case of "mistaken identity near Nairobi in October last.

A day earlier, police registered the case on the orders of the Supreme Court on the complaint of SHO Rasheed Ahmed.

FIR was lodged after 44 days of his assassination while bypassing his mother as complaint in the case, the AML chairman wrote

He also took aim at the coalition government for not announcing fresh elections in the country, stating that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman unable to sense it that Pakistan needs political stability

Predicting early elections, he urged PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to take a decision to return to Pakistan.

The former minister also raised questions over import of wheat and crude oil from Russia. Earlier this week, State Minister for Petroleum Musaddik Malik revealed Moscow had agreed to provide crude oil and other petroleum products at discount-ed rates INP

## BANNU: Cop martyred in terrorists attack on police post

BANNU: A cop was martyred when terrorists attacked a police post located in Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday. As per details, a police post located in the Kangar Pul area of

Bannu was attacked by terrorists with heavy weapons and in the shootout, a havaldar lost his life

while defending the homeland. In a retaliatory fire by the cops at the post, the terrorists fled away. Meanwhile, a search operation in

On November 16, at least six policemen were martyred in a fierce gun attack in Wanda Shahab Khel area of Lakki Marwat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to police, unknown miscreants opened fire on a mobile during routine patrolling in Lakki

As a result, six policemen — including an assistant sub-inspec-

tor (ASI) — were marryred in the gun attack.

The marryred cops include ASI IIm Deen, Detective Foot Constable Ahmed Nawaz, Lower Head Constable Zubair, Frontier Reserve Police's sepoy Usman Ali, Constable Mahmood Khan, and driver Dil Jan.

In a retaliatory fire by the cops

In a retaliatory fire by the cops at the post, the terrorists fled away Meanwhile, a search operation in On November 16, at least six

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during routine patrolling in Lakki Marwat As a result, six policemen including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) — were martyred in the gun attack INP

tor (ASI) - were martyred in the

dead

Islamabad

ard to the centre. "After the post-mortem

cause of its death will be determined," they said.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch giving sghiel dot position holder on poster presenter during a conference on Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness rganized by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS).

with people from different shades of opinion, political affiliations, opinion makers and others will provide an opportunity to take all along. He said that we are at an important juncture of our history and there is dire need to develop a national consensus around key issues. While assuring his cooperation to the minister, Chairman Senate said that this is a national cause and all out support will be extended to achieve the desired objectives. He hoped that this effort will provide direction and clarity of vision to the public and will help in ensuring wellbeing, security, dignity and prosperity of our people. He was speaking during an exclusive meeting with Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi who called on him at Parliament House on Wednesday and briefed him that the government has chalked out a comprehensive strategy under the umbrella of National Security Policy to engage all political leadership of the country to develop consensus between the political leadership on national issues. While briefing the Chairman Senate, minister informed that a nationwide dialogue and discussion would be conducted to develop consensus on respect for national institutions. He said that other areas can also be included in the overall list to debate and discuss them for tangible solutions and harmony. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs gave a detailed overview and rationale behind the initiative. He said that parliament is the institution where the will of the people resides. Minister observed that Chairman Senate, as custodian of the Upper House of the Parliament, can play a significant role in the process INP

## Zong digitally empowering female students of Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: China Mobile's Zong 4G is providing digital equipment to students at Pak-China Gwadar Middle School in order to give female students the opportunity to learn more about technology and its effective use, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

Under the initiative, the students are getting a projector and screen, printing facilities, and digital learning materials

The Pak-China Gwadar Middle School, also commonly known as Faqeer Middle School, is located in Gwadar's Faqeer Colony. This school is part of a China-funded initiative aimed at developing a high-quality educational system in

the area.
"We have a mission to ensure the complete digitalization of Pakistan. Through our inclusive approach, we are ensuring all our children- especially young girls- be provided with quality dig-

ital education to ensure their future competitiveness in an increasingly fast-paced technological
world," according to a spokesperson of Zong 4G.
The management of the Pak-China school
appreciated this, citing that only a handful of
their students had used a computer before and
thanked Zong for setting up a digital lab for their
students.

"We have a mission to ensure the complete digitalization of Pakistan. Through our inclusive approach, we are ensuring all our children- espe-cially young girls- be provided with quality digital education to ensure their future competitiveness in an increasingly fast-paced technological world," according to a spokesperson of Zong 4G INP

#### admitted to hospital in Lahore over 'breathing issue'

LAHORE: Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill has been admitted to Services Hospital Lahore due to suffering from difficulty in breathing and cough on Wednesday

Shahbaz Gill

As per sources, Shahbaz Gill was feeling difficulty in breathing and coughing after which he was shifted to Services Hospital where the medical examination is being conducted. Different medical tests of Gill would be conducted and after evaluating the result of his tests it would be decided whether he should be discharged or

kept in the hospital Gill is admitted to the VVIP ward of the hospi-The ward has been sealed properly and police personnel has been deployed for security measures. No one is allowed to enter into the ward except doctors and medical staff INP

#### Negligence crushes three in Sanghar road accident

SANGHAR: A speed-ing tractor-trolley hit a motorcycle rickshaw on Mirpurkhas Road in Sanghar due to which three people died on the spot Wednesday morning.
Ten people were also
injured in the accident
and two of them are said

to be in critical condition.

The critically injured persons have been referred from Sanghar Civil Hospital to

Nawabshah. The accident was occurred due to the negligence of the driver of the tractor-trolley.INP

#### Rare leopard found dead in Margalla Hills

ISLAMABAD: A rare species leopard was found Wednesday Margalla

According to official sources, the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) launched investigation to find out how the leopard died. The wildlife officials took the body of the leop-

report of the leopard, the

### Assemblies will be dissolved in December: Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday expressed his determination to dissolve Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) assemblies in December

He remarked this while chairing a meeting with senior leadership of the party at his residence in Lahore's Zaman Park.

Imran Khan was determined to dis-solve Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) assemblies this month, ordering the senior leadership to constitute a parliamentary board.

Lambasting the incumbent govern-ment over 'deteriorating' economy, the PTI Chairman reiterated that the only solution to country's problems was

immediate and transparent elections.

During the meeting, former federal minister Asad Umar apprised the former premier on party affairs while Babar

Awan briefed Imran Khan on legal matters. "The reference against the Chief Election Commissioner and Member Sindh should be heard immediately," PTI demanded.

"Zong's Digital Lab has helped the Pak-China School transform into the only non-profit digital school of Gwadar. Our students are very keen on

learning digital technology and they look for-ward to their newly commenced computer les-

tent support and efforts in promoting inclusive growth", Naseem Baloch, Head Coordinator of the school was quoted as sayingUnder the initiative, the students are getting a projector and screen, printing facilities, and digital learning

The Pak-China Gwadar Middle School, also

commonly known as Faquer Middle School, is located in Gwadar's Faquer Colony. This school is part of a China-funded initiative aimed at

developing a high-quality educational system in

We would like to thank Zong for their consis-

Talking to journalists after the meet-ing, PTI Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Imran Khan was will-ing to dissolve Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) assemblies in a few

days.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Imran Khan had given a clear message to not take any steps against national interests. He added that the PTI chief was fully aware of the difficult phase for Pakietan.

Pakistan The nation gives its opinion that fresh elections are the only solution to all problems. We try to convince the incumbent government. President Arif Alvi had also tried to convince the rulers but progress was not made."INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister For Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain addressed a national workshop on teacher's trainings organized by the National Curriculum Council (NCC) with the technical and financial support of UNFPA and Act International.

## PM's son Suleman decides to return, seeks protective bail

ISLAMABAD: Suleman Shehbaz, son of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, has decided to return to Pakistan.

The development came as Suleman Shehbaz through his lawyer filed an application in Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday seeking protective hail

It may be mentioned here that Suleman had been declared a pro-claimed offender in a money laundering case against the Sharif family and an accountability court in Lahore had issued his non-bailable arrest warrants.

In the past, the NAB had made sever-al attempts to bring Suleman back to Pakistan Meanwhile, in a TV interview on Tuesday night, former National Assembly speaker and Federal Minister Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has claimed that PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif was return-ing to Pakistan in January "Nawaz Sharif will return to the country next month and also award party tickets to those aspiring to contest the polls," the federal minister told a private TV chan-

In the party's recent meetings, a good number of leaders had requested the elder Sharif to return and face the challenge posed by Imran Khan. Senior leaders like Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Rana Sanaullah had previously said Nawaz would be in Pakistan ahead of the next general elections. The develop-

the next general elections. The develop-ment came as Suleman Shehbaz through his lawyer filed an application in Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday seeking protective bail. It may be mentioned here that Suleman had been declared a pro-claimed offender in a money laundering case against the Sharif family and an accountability court in Labore had accountability court in Lahore had issued his non-bailable arrest warrants. In the past, the NAB had made sever-

al attempts to bring Suleman back to Pakistan.INP

## Ready for digital delimitations for next elections after census: CEC Raja

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Wednesday said that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is ready for digital delimita-tions for next general elections in

Addressing an event in Islamabad, he said that the delimitation exercise will be carried out once the census is timely completed and approved by Council of Common Interests (CCI).

He added that ECP is taking all possible measures to bring trans-

possible measures to bring trans-parency and assured of improved oversight in the next general elec-tions. The measures will increase the confidence of the people in ECP, said Sikandar Raja

Sikandar Raja said that delimita-tion needs a time period of at least three to four months, and whenever we headed towards elections after completing delimitations, the provincial governments altered their laws CEC further said that the local government (LG) elections in Punjab had been delayed due to continuous changes in local government laws. ECP is ready for delimitation, and

so the provincial governments are ordered to cooperate and provide adequate funds to hold elections, Said CEC.

He also said that several times we had conducted elections without any funds from the provincial govern-