

QUETTA VOICE

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Married couple allegedly shot dead in Mastung Balochistan



Russia to ban oil exports to countries with price cap from February

'Violent' protesters martyr this young policeman in Gwadar: Spokesperson GoB

Staff Reporter

Spokesperson government of Balochistan on Tuesday claimed violent protesters martyred a young policeman in Gwadar.

No immediate response from the Gwadar Rights Movement

There was no immediate response from the Gwadar Rights Movement (GRM) in this regard. The GRM has been protesting against the government for acceptance of its demands including an end to illegal fishing/trawling in the port city of the country.

Violent and angry protesters opened fire at the young policeman in Gwadar

The Spokesperson said violent and angry protesters opened fire at the young policeman in Gwadar.



man in Gwadar. And the young policeman identified as Yasir was martyred on the spot. The incident happened at the Syed Hashmi Chowk Gwadar. Tension prevailed in the port city after violent clashes between protesters and baton-wielding policemen on Tuesday. Police said the policeman received one bullet in the neck and breathed his last on the spot. The dead body of the martyred policeman was shifted

to the district headquarters hospital in Gwadar. Police reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

Chief Minister Balochistan took notice of the incident

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo took notice of the tragic incident and directed the police to submit a

report in this regard. In a statement issued after the incident, Mr. Bizenjo said the perpetrators of the tragic incident would be brought to justice and none would be spared. Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili also took to the social media network Twitter and said that the protesters also burnt a police station in Gwadar and martyred a policeman. He said security was on high alert in Gwadar to maintain law and order situation and avert another untoward incident.

On Benazir's 15th death anniversary, Bilawal vows to take mother's mission forward

PPP Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari vowed on Tuesday to take slain former prime minister and his mother Benazir Bhutto's mission forward and achieve it within the next 15 years.

"This journey will be completed by us together," he said in an address at the party's power show in Garhi Khuda Bux to mark the 15th death anniversary of Benazir Bhutto.

Earlier in the day, a large number of party workers arrived in the city from Larkana to attend the event. Party workers in Karachi left from Sohrab Goth where a camp was set up to see them off.

At the outset of his speech today, Bilawal said that miscreants behind Benazir's assassination thought they would halt her party's journey forward. "I want to tell them to come and see how many people gathered here in Garhi Khuda Bux. Even after all these years, bibi's jiyalas [supporters] are still present here.

"These people have shown their loyalty towards her and have proven that they have not forgotten Benazir or her political ideas. We believe it when we say 'aj bhi Bhutto zinda hai' [Bhutto is alive even today]," he asserted.

Bilawal said that his mother was a patriotic Pakistan, and her name was marked in not only the country's history but across the world

"She was the voice of the poor, an ambassador for the destitute, a true supporter of democracy, and a strong reply to terrorists. She believed in the politics of hope [...] of truth [...] and of unity."

Today, the PPP chairman stressed, "it is our responsibility to follow bibi's vision" and achieve the mission she had set out on.

"President Zardari and I tried to take her mission forward and whatever work is left we will be completed in the next 15 years," he promised.

"Return to NA, or we won't be able to stop those wanting to victimise PTI"

Bilawal also criticised PTI chairman Imran Khan for trying to "make the army controversial again"

"We sent Imran home through the Constitution [...] and this was the first time the parliament ousted a prime minister. The 'conspiracy against the selected' was not hatched behind closed doors, rather it happened on the streets and in the parliament in plain sight.



"Now it is time to say goodbye to the handlers of the selected," Bilawal said.

He went on to say that the army had made its position on staying out of politics clear and it was now time to ensure that they fulfilled their promise.

"This is the reason we are hearing screams from Bani Gala. Imran is once again trying to pressurise the establishment to meddle in politics. But let me tell you, this is your last warning: come back to the parliament.

"You are a stranger to the House. Come back and play your role in the parliament. Come talk about reforms, whether it is the National Accountability Bureau or elections," he pressed, adding that otherwise, the government would not be able to stop those who wanted to "victimise you".

"Have to quit appeasement policy for terrorists"

Talking about the rising terror incidents in the country, the foreign minister slammed Imran for "bending his knees in front of the terrorists" without asking the public or the parliament.

"I will speak to the government and review the appeasement policy for terrorism. We will have to quit that policy and establish the writ of the state," he maintained.

"In any other country, politics and rallies would have come to a halt after the havoc wreaked by the floods. But even in the midst of a catastrophe, the fight for Punjab kept taking place, and [Imran's] long march did not stop.

"On one end there is Imran and his ego and on the other end, we have flood affectees. It will take time to fix all this," he said. Web Desk

NP not to give up national ownership of Reko Diq Project: Dr. Malik

News Desk

Dr. Abdul Malik said that Reko Diq is the national property of the people of Balochistan, our party (National Party) will not give it up under any circumstances. The former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Dr. Malik expressed these views in the NP's Central Committee meeting at Karachi.

"People should have the right to elect their representatives", Dr. Malik asserted

Political and organizational issues were discussed and deci-



sions will also be made in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, While enacting legislation, democracy and the 1973 constitution have been practically turned away.

Dr. Malik said that, no compromise will be made on national interests, no conspiracy against Baloch and Balochistan is acceptable. He directed the workers of the National Party to

start preparations for the election. Party workers and responsible colleagues should go to their respective areas and give time to activate and mobilize the party.

He said that Pakistan is a federation where all nations are the constitutional and legal owners of their resources and powers and equality of nations should be recognized. National Party has a clear policy that there should be no interference in the election process, he added.

"People should have the right to elect their representatives", Dr. Malik asserted. We have faith in the power of the people, he added.

Dr. Malik Baloch termed the expected census as unconstitutional and clarified that according to the country's constitution,

the census has to be held every ten years. Conducting second census after five years is unconstitutional which will be opposed at all levels.

In the meeting, a four-member committee was formed under the chairmanship of Kabir Muhammad Shahi and Jan Muhammad Buledi for electoral alliance and unity which includes Rehmat Saleh Baloch and Khair Bakhsh Baloch, Younis Baloch was elected as a member of the Central Committee.

All the districts were directed to organize workers conference and media conferences in their districts. It was decided to hold a training worker conference in Naseer Abad in January.

2 women murdered in Pishin Balochistan

Asmat Hanafi

Armed men stormed into a house and killed two women. Police sources said the incident happened in the Killi Peeran area of the Pishin district of Balochistan. The attackers escaped unhurt from the spot. People from the area and police reached the spot after the incident. The dead bodies of women were rushed to the district headquarters hospital in Pishin.

Police started an investigation into the incident. The motive behind the attack could not be ascertained immediately. Hospital administration handed over the dead bodies to the heirs of the victims after the completion of necessary official procedures.

Married couple allegedly shot dead in Mastung Balochistan

News Desk

A married couple was allegedly shot dead in the name of honor in Kali Pada, district Mastung on Tuesday. According to the police, they got married five months ago without the consent of their family after which they moved to Mastung due to threats to their life. The sources said that, the heirs of the girl killed her, her husband and her mother, who were living in a house in Kali Pada.



The police have registered a case on the request of Najeeb Ullah, the brother of the deceased Zaheer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi and demanded to start an investigation into it. SHO of Mastung city

Anwar Hussain Lehri of Mastung City said that the accused could not be arrested yet, but he assured that efforts are being made to arrest them. "It appears to be an honor killing, but the police say that they are investigating the matter from all angles", the SHO Mastung city stated.

In Pakistan each year hundreds of women and in some cases men are killed for behaving against customs by marrying of their choice.

Russia to ban oil exports to countries with price cap from February

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday delivered Russia's long-awaited response to a Western price cap, signing a decree that bans the supply of crude oil and oil products from February 1 for five months to nations that impose the cap.

The Group of Seven major powers, the European Union and Australia agreed this month to a \$60-per-barrel price cap on Russian seaborne crude oil effective from December 5 over Moscow's "special military operation" in Ukraine.

The decree, published on a government portal and the Kremlin website, was presented as a direct response to "actions that are unfriendly



and contradictory to international law by the United States and foreign states and international organisations joining them."

"Deliveries of Russian oil and oil products to foreign entities and individuals are banned, on the condition that in the contracts for these supplies, the use of a maximum price fixing mechanism is directly or indirectly envisaged," the decree stated, refer-

ring specifically to the United States and other foreign states that have imposed the price cap.

The decree, which includes a clause that allows Putin to overrule the ban in special cases, stated: "This...comes into force on February 1, 2023, and applies until July 1, 2023."

Crude oil exports will be banned from February 1, but the date for the oil products ban will be determined by the Russian government and could be after February 1.

The price cap, unseen even in the times of the Cold War between the West and the Soviet Union, is aimed at crippling Russian state coffers and Moscow's military efforts in Ukraine. Web Desk

PM Shehbaz calls for fast-track solarization of federal govt's buildings

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has asserted that the government had devised a plan to immediately convert all the federal government entities' buildings on solar power by April next year to slash a huge chunk out of the country's costly fuel import bill hovering around \$27 billion.

Procedures for conversion of solar power should be fast-tracked

Addressing a solarization conference, the prime minister said that the procedures for conversion of solar power should be fast-tracked as they had set April 2023 as the timeline for the implementation of this plan.

PM Shehbaz noted that under the plan, all the federal government ministries, departments, authorities and their offshoots in the provinces would immediately shift on solar energy. He said it would be a model for the rest of the provincial governments as the federal government would not make additional expenditures over the solarization process. The prime minister also urged all the relevant authorities and the stakeholders to complete the required process by the end of April next year and meet the timeline which



had been set. "Consider it as our political, social, national and religious duty to implement it as soon as possible," he opined. PM Shehbaz further said with these urgent measures, they would be able to generate 300 MW to 500 MW of cheap power, thus reducing the import bill worth billions of dollars each year. The prime minister assured that the whole process would be conducted through transparent bidding via a third party.

He also urged the provincial chief ministers to emulate the federal government's launched pattern and introduce solar systems in their respective provinces and assured the federal government's complete assistance in this regard. "It is the only option of our survival as a nation," he added.

The premier added that the process for the generation of 10,000 MW solar power in the country had already commenced and such a conversation by the federal government buildings would be the first phase.

Enumerating the economic challenges

Enumerating the economic challenges faced by the country due to skyrocketing fuel and gas prices after the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he said that developing countries like Pakistan had to bear the brunt. He said \$27 billion costly fuel import bill was a big challenge for the countries like Pakistan, adding the ongoing conflict had also surged prices of gas and worsened its availability as the supply to Europe was disrupted. PM Shehbaz said during the Covid pandemic, the prices of gas were crashed to the lowest and it was sold at \$2 per unit, then the government committed a criminal negligence by not securing its import and due to it, now the whole nation had been suffering. He said during former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's tenure, a 15-year agreement for the purchase of gas at rate of \$13.2 per unit was reached with Qatar, but unfortunately. Web Desk

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

Slow pace of development projects in Quetta

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Remembering Benazir

By Sharmila Farooqi

Benazir Bhutto, a deeply cherished democratic icon of Pakistan, is recognized globally for her unparalleled personal and political struggle for the people.

Benazir Bhutto served as the eleventh and thirteenth prime minister of Pakistan. When she was sworn in for her term from 1988 to 1990, she became the youngest person and first woman to head a Muslim majority state, having won by a landslide. Bhutto's leadership of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) helped sustain and strengthen democratic institutions in the country during a period of military rule and political instability.

During her term, she was heavily committed to ending poverty and hunger, and bringing housing and healthcare to all areas – especially those in the rural regions. However, this progress was not without its obstacles; she was heavily opposed, criticized and impeded by the opposition. She was removed from her post, and her government was dismissed in 1990. Her second term began in 1993, and she was focused more than ever on women's rights – planning to introduce women-only courts and take down several laws that undermined women's freedom. However, her government was marred

by allegations of corruption and mismanagement. Bhutto was wrongly disqualified from holding public office by the Supreme Court in 1996 and went into self-imposed exile.

In addition to her efforts to promote democracy and women's rights, Bhutto also worked to address economic and social issues facing the country. She implemented economic reforms and sought to improve living standards for the poor and disadvantaged. She also worked to improve relations with other countries and played a role in promoting peace and stability in the region. Some of the key policies implemented by Bhutto's government include:

Economic reforms: Bhutto's government implemented a number of economic reforms, including measures to liberalize trade, reduce tariffs, and increase foreign investment.

Poverty reduction: her government implemented a number of initiatives aimed at reducing poverty in Pakistan, including the establishment of a poverty alleviation programme and the expansion of social welfare programmes.

Education: Bhutto's government implemented policies to improve access to education, particularly for girls and women. This included

initiatives to build new schools and improve the quality of education in the country.

Healthcare: Bhutto's government implemented a number of initiatives to improve the country's health care system, including the establishment of new hospitals and clinics and the expansion of access to medical services.

Women's rights: her government implemented policies to promote gender equality and women's rights, including measures to increase the representation of women in government and the workplace.

Foreign policy: her government worked to improve relations with other countries and played a role in promoting peace and stability in the region. This included efforts to improve relations with India and to address conflicts in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

Benazir Bhutto married Asif Ali Zardari in 1987 and had three children together: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari, and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari. Her family life had been a constant string of losses before her marriage. She once said: "I have led an unusual life. I have buried a father killed at age 50 and two brothers killed in the prime of their lives. I raised my children as a single moth-

er when my husband was arrested and held for eight years without a conviction – a hostage to my political career."

Bhutto and Zardari faced around 90 cases on allegations of corruption and unfair dealings, all of which she battled and won bravely. In the face of all this, she succeeded in raising three children. Bilawal was born in September 1988, while she was campaigning for that year's election. When she gave birth to Bakhtawar, she became the first elected head of government to give birth while in office.

Despite the challenges she faced during her political career, Bhutto's contributions to democracy and social progress in Pakistan continue to be remembered and celebrated. She returned to Pakistan in 2007 after living in self-imposed exile for several years. She had originally planned to return to Pakistan in October 2007, but her return was delayed due to security concerns. On October 18, 2007 when she returned to Pakistan she was greeted by an enormous crowd of supporters at the airport in Karachi. However, her return was also met with violence – a suicide bombing killing over 140 people and injuring hundreds more.

Despite the security challenges, Bhutto bravely remained active in

Pakistani politics. She remained committed to her beliefs and worked tirelessly to achieve her vision for Pakistan, campaigning for the parliamentary elections in 2008. On December 27, 2007 Benazir Bhutto was assassinated while leaving a campaign rally in Rawalpindi. Her death was met with widespread condemnation and triggered widespread protests in the country.

Bhutto faced numerous challenges and dangers during her political career, including assassination attempts and persecution by the government. However, she remained steadfast in her commitment to democracy and the well-being of the Pakistani people.

She was always optimistic. When I met her in Dubai at her home in 2006, she welcomed us with all sorts of hospitality. I remember her as a very affectionate and warm person. She took my mother and I out for dinner at one of her favourite Thai restaurants, and when she saw me shivering in the cold February air, she draped her own shawl over my shoulders. When I looked at her in surprise, she said, "Keep it as a token of my remembrance, and when I come to Karachi we will have dinner again". That moment has stayed with me.

Pakistan still feels your loss

By Aseefa Bhutto Zardari

As December 27 approaches, we are filled with the same grief and hollowness that left us bereft 15 years ago. Mourning any loss doesn't only occur in the moment, or for 40 days after it. There is no cut-off date for grief. Every moment, big or small, happy or sad, unearths a new wellspring of loss. But then we are forced to dry our tears, take an extra breath, and set aside our immeasurable pain and put on a brave face. Much like we did that horrific 15 fifteen years ago.

And through the grief, we are compelled to recall the reasons our mother came back. Pakistan was in a desperate situation. A treasonous dictator had terrorized the people, ravaged democratic institutions, and left us at the mercy of terrorists. The country was in need of a champion. Someone to raise their voice, someone to fight for the rights of the people, someone to stem and undo the rot of eight years of dictatorial rule. She was the only one who could salvage it – and give hope to the people, unite them, fight for them.

One article, or even a series of articles would be insufficient to encapsulate Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's immense love for her country and her unwavering commitment to its people and their welfare. As the first woman prime minister in the Muslim world, she carried a very heavy burden. Her con-

duct shaped the future of billions of women across the world who would come after her. And our mother was incredibly aware of that burden. To quote her: "It is not easy being a woman anywhere. Moreover, for women leaders, the obstacles are greater, the demands are greater, the barriers are greater, and the double standards are greater."

Despite her two tenures, both cut short by the abuse of dictatorial laws, not even equalling one full constitutional five-year term, Benazir Bhutto transformed the country. She revolutionized foreign policy and international relations, national technology policy, the economy, women's rights, climate change, agriculture, energy, defence and nuclear programme, human resource development and labour – there was no facet of governance she did not address or plan to reform. In the short period of 39 months spread over two terms she achieved more than any successive government, elected, selected or imposed in Pakistan.

If one were to focus on just her initiatives for the women of Pakistan, one would be hard pressed to find such rapid strides elsewhere. She believed that no nation would succeed unless its women stood as equals and broke free from the patriarchal chains that shackled them. As she famously said in Beijing, "It is my conviction that we can only conquer poverty,

squalor, illiteracy and superstition when we invest in our women and when our women begin working."

She found great inspiration in the status given to women in Islam, one of true empowerment and dignity. Empowerment, she taught us, "is not only a right to have political freedom. Empowerment is the right to be independent; to be educated; to have choices in life. Empowerment is the right to have the opportunity to select a productive career; to own property; to participate in business; to flourish in the market place"

At the forefront of her goals was for women to achieve financial and economic empowerment. She believed that "economic independence is the key to free choice and therefore, to freedom and dignity". A relentless advocate of providing women opportunities to serve and excel, SMBB announced the reservation of a 10 per cent quota for women in public-sector jobs. This also inspired her to launch the First Women Bank. The First Women Bank employed only women, and provided services and gave loans only to women. Access to capital enabled thousands of women to start their businesses and become financially independent.

SMBB was also cognizant of the lack of security and access to mechanisms of protection which women faced. The PPP has always been mindful of the need to provide

women a safe haven to report crimes and seek justice. Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was the first prime minister to recruit women into the police force, and our mother took his vision further and introduced all-women police stations. The creation of a women's police force with separate police stations was aimed to create an atmosphere where women would feel comfortable asking for assistance and talking about the violence that is all too often perpetuated on them. She believed that in patriarchal societies such as ours, women's issues often were written off by men. There was ample evidence that women did not feel safe or comfortable filing complaints and regularly faced harassment when they went to report crimes. By setting up all-women police stations, manned and staffed only by women, SMBB made it possible for women across Pakistan to get access to justice and the protection of the state.

To build upon the initiative of women's right to justice, she launched free legal aid cells across districts in Pakistan, within the first 100 days of her government, providing access and insight into legal remedies and options available to oppressed women. For SMBB, after access to the safe spaces of all women police stations, and access to free legal aid, the next logical step was to have female representation in the courts. Under the SZAB

government, women judges had been appointed to the district and session courts, but not a single woman had been elevated to a high court in the 11 years of martial law that followed. SMBB appointed five women to the high courts and shattered the glass ceiling that created a precedent for appointments on merit and not gender. She saw this three-pronged approach of access to safe police stations, free legal advice, and the appointment of women justices to the high courts as the foundation for the access of justice and the empowerment of women through it.

As a woman prime minister and a young mother herself, SMBB was personally invested in and entirely cognizant of the importance of access to healthcare as a form of empowerment for women. She increased Pakistan's health budget by 60 per cent, underlining her commitment to the health sector, and focused initiatives on women's health. "As a woman leader," she said, "I thought I brought a different kind of leadership. I was interested in women's issues, in bringing down the population growth rate... as a woman, I entered politics with an additional dimension – that of a mother."

Recognizing our cultural realities, she understood that the majority of Pakistani women would only have access to quality healthcare if provided by women themselves. To that end,

Drinking Water Pollution in Quetta

Dehana Rabail Urooj

Everyone recognizes the importance of safe drinking water. Nonetheless, a variety 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 community in a simple and economical manner. Water pollution is defined as the addition of any substance into the water that changes its physical or chemical properties in such a way that the water becomes unfit for drinking. Water plays a vital role in managing life and human health. A study has been showed that 80% of related disease in developing countries is due to scarcity of good quality water. Diseases due to drinking of contaminated 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 very high percentage. By applying an even sampling plan with the samples distribution taken from tube wells of different sites of Quetta city, where the drinking water quality is known to have been deteriorated. 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-

ley is due to metamorphic and igneous

rocks such as gneisses and granite, WHO has recommended 500 and 2000mg/L as the upper and lower permissible levels, respectively. The most inhabitants of the Quetta city utilize contaminated groundwater for drinking purpose. The increasing pH and TDS of the groundwater were due to the contribution 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 the

increased concentration of fluoride in groundwater. Moreover, the groundwater may come from the strata of the same surroundings. Nevertheless, there has been no inclusive health survey conducted for dental fluorosis to address the problems in the past and there is a very minor difference 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 maintain the water quality. Modern water filter tanks should be provided in Quetta to ensure a safe drinking water supply to the people. Non-toxic and biodegradable cleansers, as well as insecticides, are now widely available. Spending a little more money on certain items reduces water pollution automatically. Grease, fat, and used cooking oil should be thrown away or stored in a "fat jar" 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 charity 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 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 hold collecting days for which volunteers are needed.

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 artistic spectrum – including film, dance, music, comedy, literature and community centres – to ascertain the state of creative industries in the country. With each 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 any 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 audiences, allowing them to let loose and forget about their troubles for a while. This is even more impor-

tant 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 pronounced 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 simply to access the space. Performing in

open-air public zones is also not an option due to 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 foreign donors which assist them in making ends meet, but invariably restrict their creative freedoms. Performers must toe the line, make themselves '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 sustainable. Naturally

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 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 authorities to facilitate artists and grant them resources, subsidise their activities, facilitate the acquisition of equipment, or simply bring them under one umbrella. The

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 level.

They grant them jobs in state institutions and plan events in remote areas in order to expand outreach and unite the nation under a shared love of transcendence. On an existential level, art triggers a sense of 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

Syed Abid Shah

The 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 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 the 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 children 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 age. According to UNHCR 155 countries legally guarantee 9 years or more of compulsory education. Only 99 countries legally guarantee at least 12 years of free education 8.2% of primary-school-age children do not go to primary school. Only six in ten young people

will be finishing secondary 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 balance 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 free. Fundamental education for individuals who have not completed education. Professional training opportunities. Equal quality of education through minimum standards. Quality teaching and supplies for teachers. Adequate fellowship system and material condition for teaching staff.

Rain to lash upper parts of country; subside fog and benefit crops: PMD

ISLAMABAD: After a long dry spell, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain with snowfall over the hills in upper parts of the country that would subside foggy conditions and benefit the standing crops.

The Met Office on Tuesday informed that a westerly wave has entered northwestern parts of Balochistan and is likely to grip upper and central parts of the country on December 28 (night) till December 29.

Under the influence of this weather system, rain with snowfall over the

hills is expected in Quetta, Zhob, Barkhan, Ziarat, Nokkundi, Dalbandin, Harani, Oillah Saifullah, Qillah Abdullah, Chaman, Pishin, Gwadar, Jiwan, Turbat, Panjgur, Kalat, Khuzdar, Sibbi, Naseerabad and Lasbela from December 27 (evening/night) till December 29.

Light to moderate rain with snowfall over the hills is also expected in Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Chitral, Dir, Swat, Malakand, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Mardan, Peshawar, Charsadda,

Bajaur, Kurram, Waziristan, Kohat, Sargodha, Islamabad, Murree, Galiyat and Potohar region on December 28 and December 29.

Light rain is also expected in Sukkur, Larkana, Jacobabad, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, Rahimyar Khan and Bhakkar during the period. About the possible impacts, the Met Office revealed that the rain will be beneficial for the standing crops especially in Barani areas. INP

Pakistan's renewable energy sector needs more attention: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Despite a lot of potential in the renewable energy sector in Pakistan, the transition in this direction has been modest.

Pakistan features a large network of surface water systems in the form of River Indus and its tributaries, a daily average of nine and a half hours of sunshine, and globally recognised wind corridors.

Ijaz Ali, a research economist at the Centre for Business and Economic Research, said while talking to WealthPK that Pakistan has a lot of potential in renewable energy but it still has not been fully realised, and the shift in this direction has been on the slower side.

In Pakistan, green energy technologies have a relatively weak market hold and poor penetration rates compared to conventional technologies.

"The general public's awareness and its incorrectly perceived economic competition with conventional electricity providers are the causes of this delayed progress. The lack of developed infrastructure is another factor preventing the

spread of renewable energy technology, as the requirement for electricity in the undeveloped parts of the country is much lower due to the lack of a planned network of transmission lines," he pointed out.

Syed Mujahid Shah, an energy consultant at the National Engineering Services Pakistan, told WealthPK that Pakistan has a number of renewable energy policies and some positive aspects.

"However, on the whole, there are still questions about whether or not these have been sufficient to propel huge development in the renewable energy sector," he said.

"Recently, the government has undertaken a major and challenging initiative to produce renewable energy, but Pakistan's national grid is not in a good shape at this time," he pointed out.

He said a technological overhaul has not been conducted in order to improve its ability to absorb renewable energy more effectively because of its variability and irregularity.

According to the

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) annual state of the industry report, 22,298 GWh of electricity was lost through the transmission and distribution of DISCOS (power distribution companies) during the fiscal year 2021-22. As a result, Pakistan has suffered nationwide power outages due to fragile distribution systems and high grid losses.

"For power systems to utilise top-notch solar and wind resources, accelerating variable renewable energy generation necessitates grid expansion, improving transmission lines, and required modifications," he said.

In order to achieve renewable energy targets, the government needs to rationalise the tariff regime. Secondly, more public and private sector investments are needed to upgrade power sector transmission and distribution infrastructure. Thirdly, to curtail circular debt, timely bill recoveries must be ensured. And lastly, governance structure must be improved to cut theft and inefficiency. INP



RAWALPINDI: Supporters of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) recitation holy Quran at the site where the first female Muslim prime minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto was killed to mark her death anniversary, at Liaquat Bagh, in the city.

15th anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto observed in Garhi Khuda Bux

GARHI KHUDA BAKHSH: The 15th martyrdom anniversary of the slain Chairperson of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and former prime minister Shaheed Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto was observed here on Tuesday with great zeal and respect, renewing the pledge to make Pakistan stronger and viable in all aspects.

Qura'an Khawani and fateha khawani was held in every corner of the country for the departed soul of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

People from all walks of life in their messages on the occasion paid rich tributes to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto for her services for the cause of poor and downtrodden people and for the progress and prosperity of

Pakistan and restoration of democracy in the country.

In this connection, Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Federal Minister Shazia Atta Marri, President PPP Punjab Qamar Zaman Kaira, Syed Naveed Qamar, Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, Syeda Nafisa Shah, Farhatullah Babar, President PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuro, Speaker Sindh Assembly Agha Siraj Khan Durani, Senators, Provincial Ministers also visited the graves of the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, founder chairman of PPP Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and others.

Besides, Senators, MNAs, MPAs belonging to Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Members of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) and Federal Council of PPP also visited the mazars of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Shaheed Z. A. Bhutto and offered fateha and placed floral wreaths.

They also visited the graves of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Mir Murtaza Bhutto and Mir Shahnawaz Bhutto, placed floral wreaths and offered fateha.

The President PPP AJK, central leaders of PPP AJK and other PPP leaders and workers from AJK went to the mazars of their leader Shaheed Z. A. Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, laid floral wreaths and offered fateha. INP

LHC orders week-long extension in winter vacation across schools, colleges

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday ordered a seven-day extension in winter vacations across educational institutions in Lahore due to unrelenting smog.

The Punjab School Education Department had on Dec 14 announced winter vacations for public and private schools across the province from Dec 24 to Dec 31.

Last week, the LHC directed authorities to propose to the school education department to implement a two-week-long winter vacation as a step to help curb smog in Lahore.

The court previously ordered the closure of schools on Fridays and Saturdays.

Hearing the public interest petitions on different environ-

mental issues today, Justice Shahid Karem of the LHC observed that vacations in schools and colleges ought to be extended due to the persistent smog.

A representative of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pembra), who was also present during the hearing, told the court that letters had been written to satellite channels to run advertisements for the awareness and prevention of smog.

The court remarked that smog was in control to a considerable extent. However, it said the prevention of smog was the responsibility of the government.

The judge also summoned the director general of the Pakistan Disaster Management Authority

to the next hearing. The hearing was adjourned till Jan 6.

A few days ago, the Lahore deputy commissioner submitted a report to the court containing recommendations to mitigate smog.

The report revealed that the Punjab government had already approved a project to procure 200 drone cameras under a World Bank-funded programme. It said modern drones with night-vision cameras could be programmed to report smoke emissions even during nighttime. The report further stated that long-range PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) cameras do not require human control and can automatically detect and record certain emissions from up to 3,000 metres distance. INP

Poor visibility caused by fog badly affected flight operations

LAHORE: Poor visibility caused by fog has badly affected flight operations at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport as several flights have been delayed.

The visibility has dropped at the runway of Lahore airport which forced the diversion of four international flights to Islamabad airport. The departure of flights towards Istanbul, Abu Dhabi, Medina, Quetta and Jeddah have been shifted to Islamabad airport from Lahore.

The PIA spokesperson advised the passengers to contact the PIA call center at (021) 111 786 786 to get timely information about flights. Earlier, due to poor visibility and fog in Lahore, Pakistan International Airlines decided to shift all international flight operations between 10pm and 11am from the capital of Punjab to Islamabad.

The rescheduling of flights during these hours is temporary and will be restored as soon as the foggy conditions improve, according to the national flag carrier. INP

Grade-17 & above contract employees seeking service regularisation

ISLAMABAD: Expressing deep anguish and grave concern over not regularizing the service of grade 17 and above contract employees of Passport and Immigration Directorate have requested the Prime Minister and federal interior minister to intervene and relief the employees of the severe mental torture faced by them for the last many years.

In a memorandum addressed to Prime minister and federal interior minister the affected employees have beseech that despite of the Islamabad High Court decision the Directorate is not paying any heed to the matter.

It mentioned that High Court had ordered that the employees may be regularized, through Federal Public Service Commission test and interview but in spite of going through the process a vested interest group in the directorate is influencing not to implement the high court order.

Now more than five months have passed the employees have taken the test and interviewed but the result was still not announced and implemented. The affected employees have said that they are working in the same grade and position for the last fifteen years. In spite of their repeated requests and submissions they are not regularized. INP



PESHAWAR: Leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Tahir Abbas addressing during death anniversary ceremony of Benazir Bhutto at press club in Provincial Capital.

Dangerous' deadlock occurred between incumbent govt & IMF: Shabbar Zaidi

ISLAMABAD: Former chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Shabbar Zaidi alleged that a 'dangerous' deadlock was created between the incumbent government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He claimed that IMF was thinking about holding talks with a caretaker government in March it will not hold negotiations with the current government if it continues till March.

Zaidi said that Finance Minister Ishaq Dar failed to find a temporary solution to bring down the US dollar price. He said that two different prices of the US dollar in the interbank and open market are causing troubles.

He reiterated that a 'big decision' regarding the economic situation is likely to be made on Friday, ARY News reported. While talking to

a private news channel Shabbar Zaidi said that the country would not even spend one week in the prevailing economic crisis.

He alleged that a 'dangerous' deadlock was created between the incumbent government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He claimed that IMF was thinking about holding talks with a caretaker government in March it will not hold negotiations with the current government if it continues till March.

Zaidi said that Finance Minister Ishaq Dar failed to find a temporary solution to bring down the US dollar price. He said that two different prices of the US dollar in the interbank and open market are causing troubles. He said that Pakistan has to repay around Rs8.5 billion in debts but the national exchequer is empty.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) decided to issue a white paper on the country's 'deteriorating' economy and human rights violations. The PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry announced that his party has decided to issue a white paper on the country's 'deteriorating' economy and human rights violations.

Lambasting the government over 'flawed' policies, the former information minister pointed out that essential items and energy have become extremely expensive in the country. "Inflation and unemployment are increasing rapidly under the incumbent government's rule," he added. "A bag of 20 kg flour has reached Rs2,500 in Karachi," he said, adding that if the government accepts conditions of the International. INP

Cold, dry weather expected in most parts of country

PESHAWAR: Cold and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country over the next twenty-four hours, with very cold temperatures in the upper parts. Dense fog conditions are likely to continue over plain areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and upper Sindh. Frost with fog is likely to occur at isolated places in the Pothohar region and Kashmir during the morning hours. Islamabad, Peshawar, and Muzaffarabad three degrees centigrade, Lahore eight, Karachi thirteen, Quetta minus one; Gilgit minus six, and Murree one degree centigrade. According to the Met Office forecast for Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Director Agriculture (Economics & Marketing) Balochistan Quetta invites sealed tender/bid based on composite schedule of rates 2018, Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date from interested contractors/firms for the work listed below. Earnest Money 2%, Tender Fee Rs. 3000/- and Time Limit 28.06.2024 for each work:

S. No.	Name of work	E/Cost
1.	Development of Marketing Infrastructure Facilities at Kachi TSE-222312203853	30,000 M
2.	Development of Marketing Infrastructure Facilities at Zhob TSE-222312204543	30,000 M
3.	Development of Marketing Infrastructure Facilities at Killa Abdullah TSE-222312204573	44,253 M

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory, Rules 2014. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in relevant category: C-05 and above in relevant discipline renewed for the year 2022 and registration with Tax authorities i.e (NTN, Department and BRA) and BPPRA Presence Active, who are on active Tax payer List (ATL) of FBR. Bidder must have completed three assignment of similar nature of work experience in last three years and Turn over of last three years.

METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage - One Envelope Bidding Procedure. **BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The contractors/firms can obtain the bidding document from the address mention above on production of Green Chalan form of an amount of Rs.3000/- (Non-refundable) for said work deposited in the head of account: C03-Miscellaneous Receipt, C031-Economic Services Receipt-Food & Agriculture, C03199-Agriculture Services Others through Govt. Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from the Website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gov.pk) during working hours from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. The contractors/firms who obtain bidding document by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to produce deposited Green Chalan form of above mentioned fee. The documents if requested by mail will be promptly dispatched by registered mail for which cost of mail will be borne by the applicant, however, under no circumstances, the procurement agency will be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the document so mailed. Earnest Money as mentioned above should be submitted in the form of bank guarantee or Deposit at Call from a scheduled bank.

DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION: The Bidding Document (Technical and financial proposals) duly filled, signed and attached with copies of supporting documents in sealed one envelope clearly marked with work title & type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before **10th January, 2023 at 01:00 PM.**

OPENING: For Bidding Document will be opened on the same day **10th January, 2023 at 02:00 PM** before Tendering/procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.

Bids Validity: Ninety (90) days.

Place: The place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be - **Office of the Director Agriculture (Economics & Marketing) Balochistan Rani Bagh, Sariab Road Quetta Phone No. 081-9211504, Fax No. 081-9211329, Email: dir.agric2004@gmail.com.**

DIRECTOR AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS & MARKETING BALOCHISTAN QUETTA

PRO No.1645/27-12-22
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ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, held a meeting with Chinese's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong in his office.

Saghar urges world to take cognizance of worsening HR situation in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter Convener, Mehmood Ahmad Saghar, has urged the international community to take immediate cognizance of the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Mehmood Ahmad Saghar in a statement issued in

Islamabad said the people of the occupied territory are facing the worst Indian state terrorism for the past over seven decades. He said India is continuously denying the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination in gross violation of the UN Charter.

The APHC-AJK Convener said instead of giving the Kashmiri people their inalienable right, the Indian rulers through the use of military power in the last 75 years have

tried unsuccessfully to crush the Kashmiris' just freedom struggle. He deplored that over 10 lacs Indian troops deployed in the occupied territory are using extrajudicial killings, arrests, target killings, enforced disappearances and molestation of women as a weapon in the occupied territory to intimidate the Kashmiris into submission. He pointed out that since August 5, 2019, India has made IIOJK a hell for its inhabitants. INP

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT BALOCHISTAN AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBAL QUETTA SUIT NO. 36/2022

National Bank of Pakistan through its Manager, City Branch Quetta, Plaintiff

Versus

1. Zaheer-ul-Hassan S/o Manzoor Hussain R/o Muhammad shah town near Noman General Store, Qambrani Road Quetta
2. Syed Ashfaq Hussain S/o Sharif Shah R/o H.No. 5-39/136, Rehmat colony Sirki Road Quetta

Defendant

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF RS:473890/- ALONG WITH COST OF FUND U/S 9 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES ORDINANCE 2001).

Notice to: The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: **473890/-** balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you. In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint. Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. if, it reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is **06-02-2023.**

(MUNIR AHMED MARRI)
JUDGE Banking Court
Balochistan Quetta

CPEC Health Corridor seeks inspiration from Health China Plan

ISLAMABAD: As 2023 draws closer, CPEC's newly announced health corridor set the direction to revamp and modernize Pakistan's healthcare infrastructure, telemedicine, pharmacy, life sciences and medical market.

According to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday, CPEC Health corridor has been announced in 2022. It has unleashed a new chapter of Sino-Pak synergic collaboration encompassing health domain. Luckily, CPEC has a robust model of "Health China 2030" to pursue to make things happen.

With Chinese cooperation, CPEC Health Corridor is likely to follow the policy that include training for primary health-care physicians, incentivizing high-quality and high-value care, integrating clinical care with basic public health services, and coordination between primary healthcare and hospitals.

Pakistan has a mixed health system that includes public, parastatal, private, civil society, philanthropic contributors, and donor agencies. According to a survey by The Lancet, the performance of Pakistan's healthcare system as a whole, places it 154th out of 195 nations. Pakistan struggles to maintain a suitable healthcare system in terms of quality and accessibility as a developing nation with only 2% of its GDP allotted for total health expenses. The frequent cases of infectious and vaccine-preventable diseases in Pakistan illustrate that the country has a troubled healthcare system.

Today, telemedicine, 5G artificial intelligence, and big data-connected healthcare facilities are essential for sustainable development. Apart from Pak-China cooperation in various sectors, the two brotherly countries are also making strides in the health sector.

Besides various developments in Pak-China health sector cooperation in 2022, the announcement of the Health Corridor in CPEC is undoubtedly the biggest highlight of the year. According to Dr. Muhammad Shabbaz

President of the China Pakistan Medical Association, China-Pakistan Health Corridor (CPHC) will offer a framework on which Pakistan's healthcare system can develop.

Alongside the major announcement of the health corridor under CPEC, health related cooperation between the two brotherly countries reached new heights in 2022. Some of the highlights of new strides in health sector are listed below.

In a major development, recently a symposium on medical device innovation and application was held in Shanghai, where three Chinese and Pakistani groups inked an agreement on medical cooperation.

The agreement was signed by Shanghai High-End Medical Equipment Innovation Centre, China-Pakistan Medical Association (CPMA), and the Journal of Economic Affairs Pakistan. The agreement aims to encourage Chinese and Pakistani cooperation on cutting-edge medical items and medical equipment.

According to the MoU, the trio will host the China-Pakistan International Medical Exhibition soon, which will feature exhibitions of medical supplies, equipment, and services. Additionally, efforts will be made to work together in medical staff training, particularly in the use of cutting-edge medical technology.

According to Dr. M. Shabbaz, the three parties will also work together to prepare for the Belt and Road China-Pakistan Medical Forum, which will alternately be held in China and Pakistan and invite experts and companies that manufacture medical equipment from both nations to encourage the integration and cooperation of the medical industry. Apart from millions of Covid-19 vaccines over the last two years, Pakistan also received more than 100,000 doses of China's hepatitis A vaccination for adults and children in 2022. The Sinovac biopharmaceutical business in China, which produces the doses, donated them during a ceremony on during November, 2022 at the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) INP

Pakistan needs to protect agri land to ensure food safety: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The impacts of climate change have posed a challenge to food security in Pakistan and the rest of the world. Pakistan is particularly affected the most due to recent floods, which damaged standing crops on large swaths of agricultural lands. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has also warned about increasing risk to food security in the coming months.

An official of the Ministry for National Food Security and Research said while talking to WealthPK that due to natural disasters, there is a possibility of food shortage in the country in the upcoming months. In particular, Pakistan cannot produce enough wheat to satisfy its own needs, so it will have to import wheat in dollars which will also put pressure on the foreign reserves.

The official said global warming and growing population are major contributors to food insecurity in Pakistan. Currently, Pakistan has an estimated population of about 225.5 million, making it the fifth largest country in the world.

"The growing population means they need more houses, which are being constructed mostly on agricultural lands. In Pakistan, there are about 8,767 housing societies, of which about 6,000 are not registered with the concerned government department. Only in Islamabad, the total number of housing societies has crossed 150," he pointed out.

The official said the government needs to take concrete steps to save agricultural lands from

illegal housing societies. He said the government must make sure that the expanding housing schemes don't affect the land meant for agricultural use.

He pointed out that insufficient availability of irrigation water, slower growth of food crops, inadequate storage capacity, higher post-harvest losses, weaker management, rising trade deficit, and inflation are also among the reasons for increasing food insecurity in Pakistan. He said that research and effective policies regarding agricultural resources, skilled labour, technology, transportation, and marketing can reduce the risk of food shortage in Pakistan.

He added that there are multiple channels through which food security will come under stress in Pakistan. A small amount of land can be farmed in the short to medium term, particularly for wheat, due to technological limitations, and there is a limited supply of water in the Rabi season in canal-irrigated areas. Land degradation occurs due to imbalanced fertiliser use as well as waterlogging.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) estimates that annual losses in Pakistan due to the impacts of climate change can be up to 9.1% of GDP (gross domestic product), which would be the highest in South Asia.

The official said the imposition of carbon tax and border carbon adjustment can increase public revenue to combat climate change. INP



QUETTA: Engr Waqas Mengal, Founder Balochistan Stars receiving honorary certificate from CM Quddus Bizenjo on completion of National Security Workshop, NWB-10.

Flour crisis continues in Balochistan

QUETTA: Flour crisis continues in Balochistan, as the per kg price of flour is being sold between Rs125 to 130.

According to details, the prices of flour have skyrocketed in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan while the commodity was not available in most shops across the province. The price of a 20-kg flour bag has reached Rs2,500. Meanwhile, a 50-kg bag of flour was being sold between Rs6,000 to 6,500 in the local market.

The provincial government is failing to control sky-rocketing flour prices. Earlier on September 13, flour mill owners blamed the provincial government for the ongoing flour crisis in the province, alleging that the food department failed to procure wheat according to the requirement for this year.

Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) Balochistan chapter representatives said there was a huge gap between the demand and supply which created the crisis. They said flour mill owners were being blamed for the crisis, while in reality, the provincial government has imposed an inter-provincial and inter-district ban on the transportation of wheat during the harvesting season. INP

Capital police issue special security plan amid possible threat

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police have issued special security plan amid possible threat of a terrorist attack following the suicide bombing in the I-10 Sector.

According to the security plan unveiled by Capital police, temporary security check posts have been established at 25 different locations in Islamabad while Safe City cameras will record Red Zone entrances. The video of passengers travelling via metro bus service would also be recorded, the police said in a statement.

The Islamabad police have advised citizens to carry their identification documents and use excise office issued number plates on vehicles. "Legal action will be taken against illegal number plates and unregistered vehicles," police said, adding that foreign nationals should also carry their identification documents.

The police have further advised citizens to register tenants and employees at the nearest police station. "Citizens employing unregistered local or foreign workers will also be investigated," the police statement read.

The security plan comes three days after a policeman was martyred and six others, including four fellow cops, had been injured in a suicide blast reported in Islamabad's I-10/4 sector. The slain officer was identified as Head Constable Adeel Hussain.

The security alert advised incoming Saudi residents and those in the country to "be cautious" and not step out except for any necessity. "Security of Islamabad has been placed at the highest level," the alert said, adding that Saudis should contact the embassy and consulate if the need arises. Meanwhile, Australia has updated its travel advisory for Pakistan, noting that "Australian officials in Islamabad have been advised to increase vigilance and limit travel within the city." INP

Petition seeking removal of Punjab governor filed in LHC

LAHORE: A constitutional petition seeking removal of Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman was filed in the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday.

A citizen named Shabbir Ismail has lodged the plea through his counsel advocate Azhar Siddique, arguing that the governor breached his authority by asking Punjab Chief Minister Parvez Elahi to seek a vote of confidence from the provincial assembly without any reason. The governor couldn't issue an order for the trust vote until a current assembly session was over, the petitioner said.

He said a letter was also sent to President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif but they took no action against the Punjab governor. He pleaded the high court to direct the president and the prime minister to remove Balighur Rehman as governor. INP

ICT revolutionized functioning of institutions of high importance: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has revolutionized the functioning of institutions of high public importance. He said that to this end, the Parliament needs to rely more and more on information technology to facilitate the people.

This was stated by him on Tuesday while speaking after inaugurating recently established IT Complex in the Parliament House.

The DG (IT) Senate, Syed Asim Raza apprised the Chairman about the current IT projects undertaken as a part of Chairman's initiative of Digital Parliamentary Framework, which consists of upgradation of IT Infrastructure, Automation of Parliamentary Processes and Citizen Centric IT services.

The Chairman was briefed that the newly established IT Complex comprises of

Telecasting Cell, Software Development Hall, Helpdesk, IT Store and Workshop. The Chairman Senate also inaugurated the project of Digitalization of Analog Video Record of the Senate Proceedings. Chairman Senate appreciated and lauded the efforts of IT Directorate.

Speaking on the occasion, Sadiq Sanjrani underlined that Parliament is a forum, where the will of the people resides and synergy of ICT makes it convenient for the people to communicate and interact with their representatives directly.

The Chairman Senate further said that our aim is to galvanize Parliament's functioning by introducing state of art ICT Services. He hoped that the newly developed IT Complex will provide maximum enablement to the Senators, Senate Staff and ultimately make the Institution more efficient. Senators, Kauda Babar, Fida Muhammad and Secretary Senate, Qasim Samad Khan were also present on the occasion. INP

IHC gives polish mothers custody of children from Pakistani father

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has given the Polish mothers custody of two children from their ex-husband from Pakistan.

The IHC's Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard a petition filed by two Polish women married to a Pakistani man namely Saleem Muhammad - a resident of Sialkot.

The high court directed Saleem Muhammad to hand over his son and daughter to their Polish mothers after hearing arguments in the child custody case.

The court granted interim custody of the two children to Saleem Muhammad's ex-wives from Poland. The court further directed the citizen to hand over the Children and their passports to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

The petitioner's lawyer argued that his client is a Muslim and he

had two children from his two Christian ex-wives.

The children's father apprised the IHC judge that he brought the children to Pakistan with the consent of their mothers, adding that his relationship with his ex-wives had worsened due to religious beliefs as his wives used to take his children to the church.

The court asked the father why he shouldn't have taken the kids to Poland to nurture his children. The father said it is very difficult for him to raise his children under the Islamic umbrella as the nearest mosque was some 300 kilometres far from his house.

While questioning [Saleem] about his dual nationality, the court observed that it was a crime to which he said he is ready to cancel his 10-year-old Polish citizenship for his kids but he won't take his children to Poland. Online

Senate body on Narcotics Control meets

Islamabad: Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Narcotics Control was held here at Old PIPS Hall, Parliament Lodges on Tuesday with Senator Ejaz Ahmed Chaudhary in Chair.

The Senate committee deliberated on the current status of drugs trafficking case against the Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah, Humaira Ahmed, Secretary for Ministry of Narcotics Control, apprised the committee that court has decided in the favour of Rana Sana Ullah because the eye witnesses have stepped back from their prior statement. The Chair recommended the ministry to file appeal against the decision of the court.

Furthermore, the committee also discussed the Bill titled "Control of Narcotics Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2022". Senator Mohsin Aziz, mover of the Bill, underlined that primary aim of bill is reduction of drugs usage in varieties and creation of healthy environment for the students.

Humaira Ahmed, Secretary for Ministry of Narcotics Control, stated that the Bill involves Educational Institutions and the ministry has forwarded the Bill to Education Ministry for their input but the later has not responded. Moreover, Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shazain Bugti requested the Chairman Committee to direct the Law and Education Ministry for their stance on the subject matter. The Chair directed both the Law and Education Ministry to submit their input on the matter in writing and deferred the deliberation till the next meeting. However, as to matter related to viral video of Anti Narcotics Force officials involved in bribery at Islamabad Airport.

Secretary for Ministry of Narcotics Control informed the committee that inquiry has been initiated to probe the matter and report will be submitted before the committee once it's completed. INP

Rupee continues downward slide against US dollar

KARACHI: The United States (US) dollar continued to gain grounds against the Pakistan rupee in the interbank market on Tuesday, the State Bank of Pakistan said.

According to the SBP, the local currency plunged by Re0.33 and closed at 226.45 against the greenback in the inter-bank market.

The dollar is being sold between Rs231 to 235 in the open market, the forex dealers said.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Pakistan rupee is under pressure for a couple of weeks as Islamabad and IMF are holding talks on the ninth review of a \$7 billion loan program. INP

Energy Ministry explores new reserves of Gas

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Energy in collaboration with private partners has explored new reserves of Gas and Condensate from an exploratory well in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The well was drilled down to depth of 3527 meters and as a result of drilling, potential hydrocarbon bearing zones were identified showing reserves of 39.12 Million Standard Cubic Feet per Day Gas, 1840 Barrels of Condensate per Day and 32.8 Barrels of Water per Day.

This is the 15th Oil and Gas discovery during the current calendar year. INP

ECP postpones local govt elections in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) postponed on Tuesday the local government (LG) elections in Islamabad which were originally scheduled to be held on December 31.

The new date for the polls will be announced later. The elections have been delayed owing to a change in number of union councils in the federal capital. LG elections in Islamabad: ECP rejects govt's decision to increase number of UCs.

In a hearing on Tuesday, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) counsel Ashtar Ahsan argued that the number of union councils in Islamabad was increased from 101 to 125 based on the surge in the population. He also called for changes in constituencies. Chief INP

Islamic calligraphy out religious, cultural heritage: Qasim Suri

RAWALPINDI: Member of National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri has said that Islamic calligraphy is our religious and cultural heritage.

The MNA was speaking as chief guest after jointly inaugurating an Islamic Calligraphy exhibition with Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad organized here at Punjab Council of Arts on Tuesday.

More than seventy artworks of internationally renowned calligraphers Muhammad Ashraf Heera, Waseem Ashraf, Aslam Dogar and Muhammad Younis Rumi were displayed in the exhibition.

Qasim Suri said that it is the responsibility of all of us to protect and promote the Islamic calligraphy as it is the legacy of Muslims. He said that the tradition of calligraphy

is centuries old and our calligraphers are the trustees of this tradition who have kept this art alive.

He said the artists have written the Quranic verses in a very beautiful way in the works of art. The art of Islamic calligraphy has a prominent and unique place in our civilization and culture. Today's young people are stepping into the field of painting with good thinking and new thinking, he added.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that calligraphy is one of the oldest arts in the world. Arts Council is taking substantial steps to promote Islamic calligraphy. Islamic calligraphy classes are a link in this chain.

A large number of people from twin cities participated in the exhibition. INP



ISLAMABAD: Jawed Ali Manwa, Finance Minister Gilgit-Baltistan and his team called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at the Finance Division.

39-member NDU delegation visits Parliament House

ISLAMABAD: A 39-member delegation of National Defence University (NDU) visited the Senate Secretariat here Tuesday.

High ranking officials of the Parliament House welcomed the delegation.

The delegation also visited the Senate Museum, portraying the evolution, history and reorganization of the Upper House of the Parliament. The delegation took keen interest in the artifacts, murals, dioramas, exhibits, historical documents and above all the statues and photographs of the country's leading politicians.

The delegation toured the Senate Hall and was briefed with regard to the electoral and legislative process at the Senate of Pakistan.

The delegation was apprised about the role of the Upper House for the promotion of national harmony among the federal units.

Chinese Envoy welcomes expanding disaster management plans with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nong Rong met Chairman National Disaster and Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik to discuss collaboration in disaster management.

According to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday, they discussed the various aspects of mutual collaboration and proactive approach of disaster management in Pakistan.

The Ambassador underscored the strong collaboration at the front of climate-induced disaster management and stressed on further expansion of the existing working relation with Pakistan.

He suggested chalking out a comprehensive bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between NDMA and the Ministry of Emergency Management of China (MEM) for remodeling the National Preparedness & Response Regime

complemented with technology and information sharing, establishment of Early Warning System and Weather Prediction Analysis.

He further stressed on enhancing the bilateral communication between NDMA and MEM.

On the other side Chairman NDMA thanked the overwhelming support by the Chinese government in rescue & relief operations during the floods in 2022.

He also acknowledged the continued assistance from China for the rehabilitation phase in flood affected areas.

Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik shared details of the transformation plan of futuristic and technology-driven National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) which will be the interface of integrated emergency response with all Government stakeholders, humanitarian agencies and international Donors. INP



ISLAMABAD: DR Muhmmad Shoiab Suddle & DIG Asghar Ali cutting cake on the occasion of Christmas celebration.