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IMF team to travel to Pakistan in 2-3 days to finalise ninth review: PM



2 more coordinators appointed as number rises to 31 in Balochistan

Hard area allowance approved for teachers of 7 districts of Balochistan

Education Desk

QUETTA: The Balochistan gov-ernment approved hard area allowance for teachers of seven districts of the province to improve the quality of education and ensure the presence of teachers. The districts include Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Awaran, Musakhail, Sherani, Washuk, and Sohbat Pur.

Abdul Rauf Baloch, the Secretary of Education Balochistan said teachers from grades 9 to 15

said teachers from grades 9 to 15 would get Rs.5000, and teachers in grade 17 would get 10,000. He mentioned that headmasters and headmistresses serving in said seven districts would be getting Rs.15000 as an additional amount.

Education officers male and female to get Rs.25000

However, the district education officers including males and females would get Rs.25000 as an additional amount in their salaries in the said seven dis-

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo during his visit to Awaran, his hometown made this announcement while talking to teachers. The CM has translated his words into action, the Secretary of Education Balochistan said.

The CM gave approval over a summary sent by the education department government of Balochistan in this regard, an official handout issued here on Friday evening confirmed



Zia chairs meeting about parliamentary commission on missing persons

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Home Minister Balochistan, Mir Ziaullah Langove chaired the first meetrangove charted the first meeting of the parliamentary commission about the missing persons in the province. The Balochistan government formed a parliamentary commission on the directives of the court with regard to the missing persons issue a few days back.

regard to the missing persons issue a few days back.

This high-powered commission would make all-out efforts to assist the families of the missing persons, Mr. Langove told the meeting. The meeting reviewed the method for financial assistance for the families of cial assistance for the families of the missing persons. The Home Minister however clarified that the government would only assist the families of those miss-



ing persons who are not involved in terrorist activities in the country Commission to seek all details of

missing persons

The Additional Chief Secretary briefed the members the missing persons' cases in the

Secretary (Home), Zahid Saleem thoroughly briefed the members of the commission about the missing persons' cases in the province. Balochistan Finance Minister, Zamarak Khan Achakzai, Malik Naseer Shahwani of the Balochistan National Party (Mengal), and Zabid Reki of the Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam participated in the meeting.

province

Additional

2 more coordinators appointed as number rises to 31 in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah

OUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo appointed two more coordinators as the number rose to 31 in the province. Shaukat Stephon and Noor Khan Tareen have been appointed as coordinators to the CM Balochistan, a notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) said on Friday evening. "The number now rises to 31", a senior S&GAD



official told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. He requested anonymity. In the notification, it was mentioned that the coordinators have been

basis without perks and privileges. Although, the coordinators roam across the province amid tight official security.

Balochistan high court declares extension of VC **BUETK** null and void

Syed Ali Shah

The Balochistan QUETTA: High Court (BHC) on Friday declared the two years extension Vice-Chancellor the Balochistan University of Engineering and Technology Khuzdar (BUTEK) as null and

A division bench of the BHC comprising Chief Justice Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Mr. Justice Shaukat Ali Rakhshani passed this order on a constitutional petition.



The petitioner had challenged the two years extension given to Ehsanullah Kakar, the VC BUTEK by the then

Balochistan. The bench also declared a notification issued on April 20th, 2022 in this regard. The court directed the concerned quarters to make sure the appointment of the vice-chancellor as per the advertisement pub-lished in local dailies on 23 October 2022.

persons from the concerned authorities. The members of the

commission on missing persons decided to meet the family mem-

bers of the missing persons and

vowed to make a progress in this

The court however allowed the outgoing VC Dr. Ehsanullah Kakar as eligible for the next competition for the post of the VC BUTEK. The tenure of the VC was finished in August 2022.

Dar & President AIIB discuss issues of bilateral interests in virtual meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in an online meeting with President Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB), Mr. Jin Liqun on Friday discussed with issued of

bilateral interests. The federal minister extended felicitations to the President AIIB for assuming second term as bank's President and stated that the Bank to continue to progress in future under his able leadership. He highlighted deep rooted friend-



ship between the Bank and Pakistan for supporting Pakistan in difficult times. The Finance Minister highlighted the economic outlook of the country and

said that the present Government

week economic legacy but is focusing on fixing things in right direction and is introducing reforms in all ic growth and develop-ment. He said that due to pragmatic measures taken by the government, the country is destined for

progress and development Ishaq Dar also apprised the President AIIB of damages caused by the floods in Pakistan and its impact the economy Pakistan. The forthcoming Donor's Conference in Geneva was also discussed the meeting. Finance Minister also extended invitation to the President AIIB to visit Pakistan in 2023.INP

Establishment not acting neutral on vote of confidence: Imran Khan

LAHORE: Former prime minis-ter and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said Friday that the establishment is not acting neutral on the vote of confidence for Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi.

Talking to a delegation of court reporters in Lahore today, Imran Khan said that PTI and its allies are preparing for the vote of confi-

Khan said that PTI and its allies are preparing for the vote of confidence if the court issues such an order to the Punjab CM.

He alleged that the establishment is seemingly not acting neutral on the vote of confidence. "Our people are being approached and so far, three MPAs have informed us about being contacted." The PTI chief claimed that the MPAs are being asked to ditch Punjab CM in the vote of confidence.

vote of confidence.

Khan said that PTI and Pakistan



Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) are political allies and Pervaiz Elahi has his own stance regarding former army chief General Retd Qamar Javed Bajwa.

He said that Pervaiz Elahi own

He said that Pervaiz Elahi cannot ask PTI leadership to change its stance. Khan clarified once again that his political party is not fight-ing the establishment but struggling

to get justice.
The PTI chief told the court reporters that no dialogues will be held with the 'thieves'. He vowed that PTI will immediately organise local government (LG) polls after

coming into power.

He reiterated his allegations against the former army chief and said that Gen Retd Bajwa did not consider corruption wrongdoing and all corruption cases were dis-

Commenting on the horse trad-ing ahead of the vote of confidence, he said that turncoats will not get any support from the nationals any-

Imran Khan said that PTI will not step back from its narrative and they will continue to expose those people who are the reason for crisis in the country. Web Desk

IMF team to travel to Pakistan in 2-3 days to finalise ninth review: PM Shehbaz

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday that a delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would travel to Pakistan in two to three days to finalise the ninth review of Pakistan's \$7bn Extended Fund Facility

He made the remarks while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Hazara Electric Supply Company (HESC) in Islamabad.

Pakistan entered a \$6 billion IMF programme in 2019, which was increased to \$7bn last year. The programme's ninth review, which would release \$1.18bn, is



currently pending. It had earlier been put off for two months due to the PML-N-led government's unwillingness to accept certain conditions placed before it by the Fund, and the disagreements have yet to be resolved. ing Pakistan's agreements with the international

During his address, the premier said he had spo-ken with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva last night (Thursday) regard-

money lender.

He highlighted that he assured Georgieva the current government wished to fulfil the terms of the agreement the previous government had "broken and shattered".

He said that Pakistan would try its best to fulfil the terms of the IMF agreement but also highlighted the destruction brought by last year's catastrophic floods.

Shehbaz said he told Georgieva that the "economic situation is in

nomic situation is in front of you, I can't bur-den the common man any further [...] She assured me that she understands my difficul-ty". Web Desk

QUETTA VOICE Editor Asim Khan Balochistan needs inclusive development

Balochistan, the country's resource-rich province is lagging behind all other provinces in terms of key social indicators including education, health, sanitation, clean drinking water etc. Mismanagement, injudicious distribution of development funds coupled with a lack of political commitments are the underlying reasons behind backwardness of

Track record shows, successive governments have always launched politically motivated development schemes to please their influential supporters. Constituency, individual and political schemes always dominated the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) in every year's financial budget. Nexus among the Chief Minister's Secretariat, the Planning Development and Finance Department continue to deprive the constituencies of other lawmakers. constituencies of other lawmakers.

Opposition's constituencies were ignored

Opposition lawmakers constituencies remained ignored during last three-years of former chief minister, Jam Kamal Khan's government. Despite agitation in and outside the assembly, the opposition lawmakers were not able to force government to allocate funds for their con-

This is irony of fate that the mandate of the lawmakers is to frame laws since the assemblies are called legislative assemblies. But legislators are least bothered about the legislation rather they take keen interest in construction of roads, buildings etc. That's why, provincial governments prefer not to hold local bodies elections rather decentraliza-

tion of development projects.

Development deficit of Balochistan is likely to be Rs. 100b

Development deficit of Balochistan is likely to be Rs. 100b
Balochistan government announced to have allocated Rs. 172 bs for
the PSDP during the financial year 2021-22. However, currently the
government has more than Rs. 40bs as per the statement of ruling
party's Spokesman Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran. The province has
already spent Rs. 40bs and it has more than 40bs for the remaining year.
It means the deficit is close to Rs. 100bs.

Chief Minister Quddus Bizenjo needs to put his house in order and
introduce a strict financial policy to ensure completion of development
projects. The government should ensure inclusive development and end
the practice of exclusive development so that this backward province
could come at par with other parts of the country. Action should match
words now.

Gender budgeting- a tool for gender removing inequalities



Constitution Islamic Republic Pakistan says that there will be no discrimination among the citizens on the basis of sex. It means that the rights of men and women shall be equal. Gender equality is a basic fundamental right in any self-respecting society. Do ground realities substantiate this assertion? Are there even playing grounds for

both genders? If not, why it is so? And how can gender mainstreaming be achieved? Gender Responsive,

Gender Sensitive and Gender Aware budget-

ng There are many policy options to reduce this imbalance but budget is and planning instrument

for governments that can be used for reaching the goal of Equality. Gender Responsive, Gender Sensitive and Gender Aware budgeting in a country, region, or a province can create enabling environment to bring equality? The fundamental objective of gender budgeting refers to refining budget and related policies with a view to promoting gen-der equality as an inte-gral part of human rights. Gender budgeting makes the gender-specific effects of budgets visible and raises awareness about their frequently implicit dimensions of discrimination against women.

Gender impacts of budgets and policies Gender budgeting thus identifies the gender-specific implications of public finance—which is usually presented as gender-neutral—and in particular seco- and, in particular economic policies. Gender budgeting is therefore regarded as a core strategy for raising awareness and understanding of gender issues and the gender impacts of budg-ets and policies. When

we talk in the context of Balochistan, the first question that strikes us that, 'Is there any study ever conducted to find out the Gender Gaps? Did we undertake any post or pre-budget assessment of the annu-al budget on different segments of the society, especially women, who form almost 50% (48.76%, to be specif-ic)of our national population? In Balochistan, is 47.47%. If our budget is not Gender Sensitive, almost half

the population is left out. In our set up womenempowerment starts and ends with the provision of Sewing Machines, the opening of embroidery centers, or the holding of few cultural shows. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender per-spective at all levels of the budgetary process, and restructuring revenues and expenditures is required in order to promote gender equality. As mentioned above female population in Balochistan is 47.4% and their needs are completely ignored at

all levels and they are hardly involved in the budgetary process. An analysis of PSDPs since 2013-14 till 2020-21 shows that there was not a single project in the years 2013- 14 1st 2014-15, as if women did not. Exist or they were not worthy of any consideration. from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there were one to three projects and the total outlay ranged from 12% to 22%. It shows how much priority that 47.49% of the population gets in the province. Although the

world over women is not categorized as a vulnerable group. In Balochistan, they are not only vulnerable but also marginalized But the treatment they get in Pakistan, especially in Balochistan, they are not only vul-nerable but also marginalized in the real sense of the world. A UN Report on Women said that compared to men, women have 26% fewer chances of employment, and around 75% of the women labor force works in unregulated sector of the economy. Why they are consid-

Mehfooz Ali Khan ered vulnerable because

they are solely dependent on male counterparts both at home as well as at the

w o r k p l a c e . Surprisingly there are no separate Rest Rooms(Washrooms) for ladies in Secretariat and directorates. For the entire female population, there is only one female park in Smugli Road and they have no recreational facilities

whatsoever. Women development department manned by male officers

There is a women's D e v e l o p m e n t Department, mostly manned by male officers and workers, who are supposed to work for the welfare of female workers. They lack the capacity to formulate and implement plans for female uplift. Conditions outside the capital city are simply deplorable. Economic Development will remain an unrealized dream unless the government takes concrete

steps through gender budgeting for Gender mainstreaming and using this untapped potential.

Disaster displacement

By Zahra Niazi

In Pakistan, at least 33 million people have been forced to leave their homes. They are not fleeing any con-flicts, but they have been internally displaced by the effects of arguably the biggest global threat of the 21st century

change Since the beginning of Pakistan's deadly floods in mid-June, at least 7.9 million people have been displaced, which is appalling to say the least. Even this could be a conservative estimate given the colossal damage the floods have caused.

Many of these people have lost everything - their homes, sources of livelihood, and prized belongings. These internally dis-placed people now face an uncertain future as national legislation or policy framework that can guarantee longterm protection and assistance to them.

This is regrettable as recent history in Pakistan is marked by a series of disaster-induced displacement crises. In 2010, massive floods displaced 11 million people, and another four million were displaced follow-ing the 2011 floods in

Sindh. A report pub-lished by Oxfam in 2019 revealed that the communities who permanently moved to Karachi from Badin, Thatta, and Sajawal after the 2010 floods were forced to settle on the outskirts of Karachi, where they lacked access to utilities. Nearly a decade on, they continue to live under poor and squalid conditions, which exemplifies the consequences of the lack of specific instruments that can offer long-term protection and assistance to peo-ple displaced by disas-

In 2021, the IDMC reported that a third of all disaster-induced displacements in 2020 occurred in the South Asian region, with Pakistan recording the third-highest number of those displacements India and tghanistan Additionally, the World Bank forecasts continued to stress the forthcoming crisis of cli-mate change and internal displacement in South Asia. Hence, we were cognizant that disasters would continue to force millions to dislocate in Pakistan but did not grant legal recognition and rights to those dislocated during disasters or formucomprehensive policy frameworks to guide the national response in such situations. At the international

level, the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) are covered under the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement of the Office of the High Commissioner Human Rights. These principles serve to ensure that the rights of displacement-affected communities are not violated and guide national and international responses in such situations. However, it does not confer any obligation on the states, with authorities national having the primary duty to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to those in need in times of crisis. A number of states today have incorporated these principles into law or employed them as the basis for policy formulation. Some cases in point are Sri Colombia, Lanka, Burundi, Georgia, Armenia, Angola, Peru, Uganda, and the Philippines. In Pakistan, howev-

er, a legal limbo with regard to the recognition of the rights of disaster-induced IDPs continues to exist. At the same time, no specific policy document comprehensively addresses internal displacement or disasterinduced internal displacement specifically. Pakistan launched its first National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) in 2012 and its follow-Framework for Implementation Climate Change Policy tial. (2014-2030) in 2014

both of which remain silent about disasterinduced displacement. In March 2022, the Ministry of Climate Change launched an updated version of the NCCP. However, as welcome as this development was, the policy pays cursory attention to displacement by mentioning 'increased climate changeinduced migration' as

one of Pakistan's vul-nerabilities to climate change threats. It does not specify policies or o guide solutions, actions to durable including the return, resettlement, or reintegration of those forced to dislocate due to calamities. This gap is also evident in the National country's Disaster Reduction Policy and the National Disaster Management

One can now hope the massive humanitarian crisis amid the devastating floods will be a catalyst

Framework.

for reassessing how we want to move forward and shift away from the status quo. The neces-sity of implementing innovative and practical resilience-building risk-reduction strategies, through a communityled approach, is essen-

The government, through collaboration with provincial authorities and civil society, must now also begin work on developing an effective framework to deal with and protect the rights of those already dis-placed amid the devas-

tating floods.
This framework should serve as the basis for a more comprehensive policy guide in the long term to respond to displacement whether due to sud-den disasters or 'slow onset' impacts of climate change guarantee the rights and dignity of these vulnerable individuals and communities at all times.It is equally important to grant legal recogni-tion to disaster-induced IDPs, which can effectively guarantee their rights

The crisis must serve

as a long-forgotten

reminder that we can

no longer continue

with the status quo.

boundaries and use of media. Cults are a "risky form of human reality and devalues

of domination' is no different from 'extreme

draw everything to center in ourselves, which we think will enable us to gratify every other passion." Lust is a psychological force producing intense desire for something." Some have lust for money; others have lust for power.

ome leaders

are power hungry in the

extreme.

Some leaders

an 'insatiable for power'.

This 'ardent lust

desire for power'. Some leaders have an

'ardent lust of domina-

selfishness'

leaders attempt

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

country. According to Dr Janja Lalich, professor emeritus of sociology authoritarian; lack of behavior that diminishes our contact with anyone outside the

Lust for power

at the California State University, there are 11 common traits of cult leaders: charisma; narcissism, lack of guilt, spiritual bondage; lack of remorse, spiritual abuse; pathological liars; twisting facts;

eginning on May 24, the W o r l d

Economic

Forum is gath-ering in Davos,

Switzerland for an in-per-son meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion.

Thanks to protests and new research, however, participants will not be

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

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

Inequality and

part of a cult.

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

tary and the police.

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

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

Global energy security By Maximilian Hess

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

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

No one is left unaffected, even those who thought they had prepared for every eventuality. For example, Pakistan, which had secured several longterm natural gas import contracts to increase its energy security in recent years, has seen partners break those deals to send their gas to new clients offering to pay more. The coffers of both the developed and developing world are drained.Meanwhile, the Kremlin is using the

global energy crisis it created to sustain its economy in the face of severe international sanctions. Moreover, it is weaponising Europe's dependency on Russian natural gas to try and break Western resistance to its ambitions in Ukraine Earlier this week, Moscow tried to tighten its squeeze on

Europe further, saying it plans to reduce gas sup-plies through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany to just 20 percent capacity. In response, European

Union energy ministers swiftly announced an agreement for the bloc's members to gut gas usage by 15 percent this winter.This winter.This was an attempt by Europe to show it would not give in to Russian pressure and abandon Ukraine in order to fill up its gas reserves. Such conflictdriven demand reduction, however, means that an already likely recession is now all but guaranteed. Following Gazprom's latest cuts, analysts already predict the EU will not be able to reach its own target of refilling gas storage to 80 percent capacity by winter. Now that Europe made it clear that it is finally – and perhaps much belatedly – ready to take the steps

cut its need for Russian gas at any cost, the Kremlin will do everything it can to inflict maximum pain on Europe in the short term, while the dependency remains.

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

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

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

Energy is perhaps the front in the ongoing geo-economic battle etween Russia and the West, and thus Europe needs to strengthen its hand there first.

After moving to address the demand side of the equation, now it needs to address the supply side of the problem to be able to shore up its economy to the furthest extent possible, and insulate public support for Kyiv and the sanctions regime against Russia.

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

example, can pump billions of cubic metres of extra natural gas across Europe by increasing production at the Groningen gas field. Bewilderingly, howev-er, it is still planning to take the entire operation offline next year over the risk of minor earthquakes in the surroundng area and some pushback from environmentalists. Germany can also increase its future capacity to supply energy simply by extending the lifespan of its nuclear power plants that are meant to come offline at the end of the year. The governing coalition said it is now considering this option, but the Greens – includ-ing Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock – continue to resist the move. The party's stance on this issue is somewhat understandable – after all, Germany's Green Party was in large part borne out of Germany's Cold

War-era anti-nuclear m o v e m e n t Nevertheless, by blocking a relatively straight-forward and low-risk solution to a major problem facing the nation, it risks failing the test of being a responsible government partner at a time of war, ess than a year after its best-ever election result Beyond increasing their own produc-tion capacity by any possible. means

should of course also

work on forming new

nations

European

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

When the world last faced such a major ener-gy crisis, the Allies had

significant control over the world's oil supplies.

British Petroleum and

ing global gas shortages will require a coming together of key public

and private players from across the world to develop a strategy for

this winter

able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth dur-ing the pandemic. its predecessors, and the forefathers of the modern United States energy majors, controlled most of the Middle East's petroleum at the dawn of World War II. Britain established the As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost Petroleum Warfare Department and the Petroleum Board -which brought together their lives and livelihoods A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of all allied energy firms, including US ones even before Pearl Harbor people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food brought the US into the conflict directly - to coordinate supplies for the war.Today, owner-ship of global energy and agriculture industry. Oxfam found that billionsupplies is far more diversified. And while aires in that industry saw their wealth increase by the US has pledged to \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their use its role as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 exporter to support Europe, a fire this June at its flagship liquefica-tion plant in Freeport, Texas has seen export capacity fall by some 17 percent. Thus addressmillion small-scale farm-

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

hunger with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billion-aires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to life year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of

poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world, and deliver universal health-care and social protections for all the citizens of lowand lower-middle-income countries.

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

effective solution staring them in the face – taxing the rich – the people of the world will continue to see their so-called dedication to fixing the world's prob-lems as little more than a performance." The letter is signed by

actor and activist Mark Ruffalo, as well as sup-porters of the In Tax We Trust movement including Abigail Disney, Morris Pearl, and Nick Hanauer. These millionaires delivered the In Tax We Trust

By Chuck Collins letter directly to the World Economic Forfum offices in New York and Geneva, and attended pro-taxation demonstrations at the out-

pound in Davos itself.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality.org have documented over the last two years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods.

A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billion-aires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farm-

In January, an analysis In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with year \$50 million, and up over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billionaires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world

Chinese coaches fit and functional in Pakistan: **CRRC** Tangshan

ISLAMABAD: As of Dec 8, the 46 CRRC Tangshan coaches had undergone four successful trial operations in Pakistan, and they will go into commercial operations in the past foundations in the past foundations. tions in the next few days, Mr Zhang, deputy general manager of the overseas business department at CRRC Tangshan told Gwadar Pro in an exclu-The 46 Chinese coach-

es, which arrived in Karachi on Nov 27, were arranged into trains for trial operations by Pakistani engineers and a group of CRRC Tangshan

experts.
As per Zhang, the trial operations started on Dec I with a short-distance journey from Karachi to Rohri. The second opera-tion ran from Karachi to hotween Dec 2 Lahore between Dec 2 and Dec 4 On Dec 8, the coaches travelled from Lahore to Rawalpindi (Islamabad) and then to Peshawar, and the follow-ing day, the trains made a return trip from Peshawar to Lahore. "The successful trial operations are a testa-ment to the quality and ment to the quality and operationalisation of the CRRC Tangshan coaches, especially the bogies," the

deputy general manager told Gwadar Pro As per Zhang, a team of six Chinese experts are assist-ing Pakistani engineers in the commissioning and trial operations of the 46 coaches. "As a rule, we will run rounds of tests and trial operations on the coaches to make sure the coaches run smoothly before they go into commercial operations," Zhang told Gwadar Pro adding that the tests range from inside facilities checks in clzuding the air conditi oners and the pas-senger i information sys-tem etc.INP

Sindh cabinet approves reserved seats for **Local Govt Councils**

KARACHI: The Sindh cabinet on Friday approved reserved seats for the local government

As per the official sources, these reserved seats are for six categories. They include women, youth, labourers/farmers, noners/farmers, non-Muslims, special per-sons and transgenders. The Sindh cabinet

The Sindh cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, fixed the price of sugarcane at Rs302 per 40kg.

It also approved the start of crushing season from November 20. The provincial cabinet also decided to fix quality premium at Rs0.50 per 40kg.

It is to be noted here

It is to be noted here that the Punjab govern-ment has fixed the price of sugarcane at Rs300

The Sindh Home Department reduced the span of the sentence of nine prisoners convicted by the Anti-Terrorism Court on the basis of education

The prisoners whose entence had been duced by months sentence reduced between passed six and 22 the Adib,

Matriculation

Matriculation and Intermediate exams.
Abdul Jabbar, Muhammad Ali, Syed Amir Hussain, Khalid Abbas, Syed Shahzad, Ali Raza, Syed Nair Raza and Khalid Aziz were among the prisonwere among the prison-ers whose sentences were pardoned.

It merits a mention here that there is a remission of punishment for six months for pass-ing Adib Urdu/Sindh, Matriculation and Intermediate exams.

A debate was also held n Baldia Fire Compensation Case dur-

Compensation Case during the cabinet meeting. The Baldia Factory caught fire on November 11, 2012. Over 200 workers had burnt alive in that fire.

It was told in the meeting that the German company gave \$1 million to compensate the dead and injured work-

dead and injured workers of the Baldia Factory.
"The Sindh
Employees Social
Security Institution
(SESSI) is giving pen-Security Institution (SESSI) is giving pen-sions to the families of the deceased on a monthly basis," it was

said. The The cabinet also approved handing over

the control of the malnutrition programme to the

PPHI.
The Sindh government had started the Food Emergency Programme in 2016 under the Accelerated Action Plan.
"The Health Department achieved the Accelerated Action Plan's targets A budget

Department achieved the Accelerated Action Plan's targets. A budget of Rs2.9 billion has been allocated for the year 2022-23," the meeting was told.

The provincial cabinet also approved the purchase of buses for Rs1.7 billion on the request of the transport minister.

the transport minister.

the transport minister.

The Transport
Department will purchase 43 new buses for
the People's Bus Service
in the year 2022-23.

Culture Minister
Sardar Shah requested
the cabinet to run buses
for tourism as well.

The Sindh chief minister directed the culture

The Sindh chief minister directed the culture minister to submit his proposal in writing.

The provincial cabinet also endorsed the agreement with the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) to run four drug rehabilitation centres. The proposed rehabilitation centres are located in tres are located Karachi.INP



Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a virtual meeting with Mr. Jin Liqun, President Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB).

APHC-AJK pays tributes to martyrs of Sopore massacre

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter has paid rich trib-ute to the martyrs of the Sopore

massacre.
The APHC-AJK organized a conference, today, on the anniversary of the martyrs of the Sopore massacre under the chairmanship of Convener Mahmood Ahmed Saghar.
Addressing the conference, Hurrivat leaders said that it was

Hurriyat leaders said that it was on this day in January 1993 when Indian troops massacred innocent people in Sopore and set hundreds of shops and hous-es on fire. He added that the great sacrifices of the martyrs were a valuable asset of the freedom movement, which the Kashmiris would protect at all costs.The Hurriyat leaders said that India had failed to suppress

the freedom spirit of the Kashmiris with all its brutal tac-Kashmiris with all its brutal tactics and tyranny. They said that India should shun the path of oppression and realise the ground realities of the occupied territory and give the Kashmiris their birthright to self-determination. The Hurriyat leaders maintained that durable peace and development in the region was not possible until the lingering Kashmir dispute was resolved in accordance with the resolved in accordance with the

resolved in accordance with the United Nations resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri people. Besides Mahmood Ahmed Saghar, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Altaf Hussain Wani, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Hassan Bana, Muhammad Hussain Khateeb, Sanaullah Dar, Zahid Safi, Raja Khadim Hussain, Mian Muzaffar, Adeel Mushtaq Wani, Zahid Ashraf, Gulshan Ahmed,

Ashfaq Balwal, Sheikh Abdul Majid and Imtiaz Wani addressed the conference. At the end of the function,

prayers were offered for the elevation of ranks of the martyrs of Kashmir and former Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Qazi Hussain Ahmed On the occa-sion, the APHC-AJK leaders expressed their grief and sorrow over the deaths of Hurriyat activists Nasrullah Khaki and Muhammad Umar, and expressed solidarity with the bereaved families.Raja Najabat urges world powers to take solid steps for Kashmir steps for Kashmir solutionMirpur, January 06 (KMS): The Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International, Raja Najabat Hussain has urged the world powers to take solid steps, INP

KARACHI: Employees of Lakhra Power Plant held a protest demonstration for nonpayment of salaries for five months by the

New spell of

snowfall, rain

set to hit upper

KP districts

PESHAWAR: Rains and a new series of snowfall in the upper dis-tricts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is likely to start Saturday, Meteorological Department

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) director general said that instructions had been conveyed to the agencies concerned regarding pre-

cautionary measures for rains and

"In the upper districts, snowfall and landslides may cause obstruc-tions on the link roads. The district

administration must ensure the availability of small and heavy machinery," the PDMA letter read. "Rains are likely to reduce fog.

They are also likely to reduce the temperature during the day," it

"Rains and snowfall are likely to continue intermittently till Monday," it stated and directed the

authorities concerned to inform the

tourists about the weather situa-

Lakhra power

plant workers

demand

withheld

salaries

reported Friday. The Prov

plant authorities.

The protesters' leaders Mazhar Mallah, Jaffar Khoso and Asad Mahesar claimed that they (employees) were put in a surplus pool under ministerial directives and they were absorbed in power distribution companies of the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (Hesco) and Sukkur Electric Supply Company (Sepco), but still they were not getting salaries salaries.

The Lakhra power plant was leased out to the Associated Group for 20 years in 2006 by the Privatisation Commission, but its employees' union led by Mazhar Ali Mallah and Punhal Jamali had questioned it before the Sindh High Court and the court had barred the government from privatising the coal fired power plant while ruling in favour of the employees.INP

Raja Najabat urges world powers to take solid steps for Kashmir solution

MIRPUR: The Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International, Raja Najabat Hussain has urged the world powers to take solid steps for settlement of the Kashmir dis-

Raja Najabat Hussain addressing a function in Mirpur in connection with Kashmiris' Right to Self-Determination Day said a comprehensive strategy and policy should be formulated and the Kashmiris, who are the main parties to the dispute, should be given a role to implement it and take it for-

He said as a Kashmiri he appeals to all the national leadership, the heads of all national institutions and the heads of all decision-making bodies to take the Kashmiri leadership, Hurriyat leader-ship and other Kashmiris into confidence regarding the Kashmir dispute and take a solid decision according to the requirements of the time.

Raja Najabat Hussain said the people of Pakistani and

Kashmir want to complete Pakistan by liberating the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir from Indian yoke. Strong and stable Pakistan could effectively advocate the Kashmir cause at international level he added international level, he added. He maintained that lacs of

Pakistanis and Kashmiris were living abroad and reiterated the pledge to make Pakistan a prosperous country. He said that the Kashmir freedom movement would be taken to its logical end at every cost.



Minister of State for Industries and Production, Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi distributing cheques among the poor in Sargodha.

Delay in tough decisions, ignoring IMF's demands hurting economy: Mian Zahid

KARACHI: f National Chairman Business Group President Pakistan Businessmen Intellectuals Forum, and Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that a delay in unpopular decisions and ignoring the demands of IMF is not benefiting but harm-ing the economy of coun-

Talking to business community on Friday, he said that according to the finance minister, the ninth and tenth reviews of the IMF will be held simultaneously, which indicates a delay in

important matters Mian Zahid Hussain was of the view that if the bitter pill of fiscal discipline is not swallowed Pakistan will run out of time. Further investment in infrastructure projects that become white elephants should be stopped. He said that Gwadar is very important for the country therefore unrest among the local popula-tion should be calmed urgently.

Gwadar is the second most important port after Karachi and Pakistan's future is linked to it, therefore, the issues of the local population deserve the full attention of the authorities, he added.

The business leader said that the masses and the business community are concerned about the disturbing news from Gwadar where people are demanding their basic rights. Locals want access to fishing in their own waters, the inclusion of the locals in jobs, and the provision of proper healthcare and education

facilities, he added. He said that the local population should be preference

employment opportuni-ties and their lifestyle should improve.

There is no justifica-tion in CPEC except Gwadar and this area is considered an indicator of progress on this flagship project, he added.

Mian Zahid said that locals complain that hun-dreds of large trawlers continue to fish in deep waters without any check and they also catch the small fish depriving locals of fishing opportu-nities and resulting in poverty and hunger. Local fishermen fear

that poverty and hunger will increase, impacting the fishing communities of Gwadar, and the adjoining locations. It may be recalled that locals were promised jobs and greater participation when the port became operational but it

remained a promise. He said that the deci-

Sindh okays procurement of more buses for

KARACHI: The Sindh cabinet on Friday okayed the purchase of more buses under the Peoples Bus Service (PBS) project for Karachi and other cities of

Karachiites

The approval was granted during cabinet meeting held here with Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah in the

During the meeting, the Sindh Mass Transit Authority (STMA) presented a summary seeking the procurement of 43 buses for Karachi and other cities under PBS project which was approved by CM Murad Ali Shah.

In the meeting, Sindh Minister for Culture Sardar Ali Shah urged the cabinet to run buses for tourism place. Upon this, Sindh CM told the minister to pre-

pare a summary for the purpose.

The meeting was informed that proposed buses would run at tourist places like Keenjhar Lake and other points.INP

SHC grants custody of Karachi teenage girl to her parents

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Friday temporarily handed over a teenage girl who was reported as kidnapped last year but later found to have purportedly eloped in Punjab to her parents in Karachi after she told the court that she wanted to

live with her family.

The girl, until today, had been residing in a shelter home, while her father, Syed Mehdi Kazmi, had reached out to the court to seek his daughter's custody as well as orders for revocation of her alleged marriage with Zaheer Ahmed the man who was pur-

ported to have tied the knot with her in Punjab Justice Iqbal Kalhoro took up the petition for hearing on Friday. The girl, her father and Ahmed were in court. At the outset, the court summoned the girl and asked her whether she wanted to live with her parents. She replied in the affirmative.After recording her statement, the court ordered authorities to grant custody of the girl to her parents "temporarily", while noting that a decision regarding her permanent custody would be taken by a trial court. The judge also ruled that a child protection officer would visit the girl every Saturday INP



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered the police to recover the allegedly kidnapped girl till January 12.

The court accepted IG Islamabad plea for giving more time for recovery of the abducted girl.

The case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Saman Rafat Justice Imtiaz Friday.

The court while expressing displeasure over state counsel for reaching the court late remarked fine will be imposed on state counsel if such attitude is adopted in future

IG Islamabad told the court investigation officer is in Karachi to arrest the prime accused. The court inquired do

you not know the missing girl is in what part of the country

IG told the court search of the girl is underway. The court should give time. There are social aspects of this case too. But it will not seem appropriate to say such thing at my level. The court remarked "

you are saying the girl had any connection with this man

IG told the court "I am not saying so that the girl had any relation or oth-erwise. This thing is of no

importance.
The court inquired the question is this the girl is in what areas of Pakistan

at present. IG Islamabad told the court possibility is there that the girl may be with

the accused. Give us

time. We will give result. The police had reached close to the accused last night but he escaped.

The court accepted IG
Islamabad plea for giving
more time for recovery of
the abducted girl. The case came up for

hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz Friday. Rafat The court while expressing displeasure over state counsel for reaching the court late remarked fine will be

imposed on state counsel f such attitude is adopted in future. IG Islamabad told the court investigation officer is in Karachi to arrest the prime accused. The court inquired do you not know

the missing girl is in what

part of the country. INP



RAWALPINDI: Labourers are wearing warm shawls and waiting for customers along with their tools during cold weather at Chandni Chowk area in the city.

Pakistani rupee suffers 13th consecutive loss to US dollar

ISLAMABAD: It has been 13th loss in a row for the Pakistani rupee as the US dollar's uninterrupted march continued in the interbank market

on Friday.
The forex dealers The forex dealers divulged that the green-back rose by another 13 paisas against the local currency and was cur-rently being traded at Rs227.25.

On Thursday, Pakistani rupee had registered a marginal loss against the US dollar, depreciating 0.07% in the inter-bank market. As per the State

Bank of Pakistan (SBP). the rupee declined by 17 paisas to close the day at

The market was exected to see some positive development Finance Miniseter Ishaq Dar's statement that Saudi Arabia is all set to boost its deposits in Pakistan, but the State Bank's data regarding

forex reserves apparently dented such hopes dented severely. According to the SBP, the foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank had falled by 4.2% on a week-on-week basis.
On December 30, 2022
the forex reserves were
recorded at \$5,576.5 million, down \$245 million
as compared to \$5,821.9 million on December 23

According to the SBP, the decrease in reserves came due to external debt repayment. Overall, the liquid forex reserves held the country, including the net reserves held by banks other than the SBP, stood at \$11,422.5 million. Net reserves held by banks amounted to \$5,846 million.

Earlier, in the week

ended on December 23, the SBP's reserves decreased by \$294 mil-lion to \$5,821.9 million as Pakistan repaid some of its external debt.

The decline in rupee's value persisted despite Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar's statement that Saudi Arabia "is expected to beef up its deposits in Pakistan in a few days' The minister was of the view: "All nations of the world opt for borrowing

ew money to pay old lia-

bilities or they opt for

rollover. We are opting for rolling over deposits. Ishaq Dar stated that

Pakistan's reserves were "pure till 2018 and no other country had deposits in Pakistan" at that time. The minister said the

country's foreign exchange reserves are projected to be in a much better shape by June 30, 2023. He said there was no issue in the 9th review and the present govern-ment is committed to completing International INP

Skilled workforce of Balochistan to play role in country's uplift: Minister

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hasan Baloch has said that the educated skilled workforce of Balochistan has full potential to play positive role in the uplift of the country and Balochistan

He expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) and COSAT University Gwadar Campus, organized by the Ministry of Science and

Agha Hasan Baloch said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and party leader Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal want real development in the province. The success of CPEC depends on the development of people of Gwadar, espe-

He said that the Technical Training Center for Precision Mechanics and Instrument Technology, Gwadar project built at a cost of more than 1200 million will provide better opportunities to the youth here to acquire mod-

The Federal Minister further said that the objectives of the project include the development and generation of



Lahore: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visited the house of martyred ISI Director Naveed Sadiq in Lahore and offered condolences to his family.

to hit Karachi, North Balochistan

KARACHI: The Meteorological Department has forecast strong winds for Karachi and north Balochistan dur-

ing this weekend.

The strong winds will blow until tomorrow Sunday, January 8. Cold westerly winds can cause the temperatures in Sindh and Balochistan to drop to as low as between 3 and 5 degrees Celsius at some places.

The minimum temperature in Karachi will likely drop to 10 degrees

Meanwhile, rain and thunderstorms are likely to hit the upper and central parts of the country on Wednesday and Thursday.

A westerly wind is likely to enter the upper and central parts of the country. Under the influence of this weather, rains are expected in various cities such as Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Nowshera, Layyah, Jhang

and Peshawar.

More snowfall has been forecast in Murree, Galiyat, Nathia Gali, Naran, Kaghan, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Buner, Neelum Valley, Bagh, Haveli, Astore and Hunza INP

5 people dead in road accident in Azad Kashmir

BAGH: A coaster met an accident near Rahim Kot in Bagh in Azad Kashmir in the wee hours of Friday in

which five people lost their lives.

According to details, a coaster boarding 12 people was going to Mushtamba and left Rawalpindi station at 12am (Friday). When the vehicle reached near Rahim Kot, it met an accident in which five of the passenger was killed. gers were killed.

The coaster bearing number plate 6641skidded off the road and fell into

Five passengers including driver and conductor died on the spot while

three others were injured. The injured were shifted to Dheerkot Hospital.

Sources said the death toll might rise. INP

30 mentally-challenged patients escape Karachi hospital

KARACHI: In an unusual 'mental hospital escape', more than 30 mental-ly-challenged patients fled the facility situated in North Nazimabad, Karachi on Friday

Once the patients got out of the con-fines of the mental health facility and were on the loose, they slammed the doors of nearby houses with sticks. They also damaged vehicles parked outside these houses.

While fleeing, they got hold of the hospital's security guard and gave him a good thrashing.

According to police, a mentallychallenged patient drove away a jeep. However, they recovered the vehicle parked a few miles away.

Police informed that the incident

was occurred on Thursday noon and they took into their custody some of the patients. But many of them have managed to escape, they added INP

ANF seizes 256.8kg hashish, 39kg opium, 2.9kg heroin in operations

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force's (ANF) crackdown against drug peddlers continued as they foiled bids to smuggle huge quantities of narcotics in operations on Friday. According to ANF spokesman, the ANF officials impounded a car on GT Road T-Chowk in Islamabad and arrested two accused after confiscating 256kg and 800 grams of hashish and 39kg and 600 grams of opium from their vehicle.

Both accused were the residents of Khyber and Peshawar, respectively. Separately INP

Strong cold winds | LG polls: ECP reserves verdict on MQM-P's plea on fresh delimitations

KARACHI: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on The Election Friday reserved its verdict on the petition filed by the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) regarding ambiguity in voter lists in Karachi and Hyderabad.

A three-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, announced the verdict after hearing arguments of the MQM-P

nearing arguments of the MQM-P and other parties.

At the outset of the hearing, the CEC told MQM-P lawyer he had been moving courts over the delimitation issue. "Why doesn't the MQM come up with all the issues at once," he asked.

He remarked that the MQM-P contested 2018 elections with the

contested 2018 elections with the same voter lists. The CEC also reprimanded the MQM lawyer for beating about the bush while sub-

miting the arguments.

The CEC also assured MQM-Pakistan that local govt elections would be held on time as

announced ECP.

During the hearing, the Sindh government sought a week to submit arguments in the case as Additional Advocate General Fauzia Zafar appeared before the ECP unprepared.

The CEC abolished the defence right of the provincial government after its lawyer showed up in the case without preparation. announced ECP

case without preparation.

It is pertinent to mention here that Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) decided to hold a protest rally on January 9 against the non-implementation of an agreement signed with the Pakistan People's Party-led (PPP)

Sindh government.

He remarked that the MQM-P contested 2018 elections with the same voter lists. The CEC also reprimanded the MQM lawyer for beating about the bush while submitting the arguments.

The CEC also assured MQM-Pakistan that local govt elections would be held on time as announced ECPIUNP

Pakistan's Optical Fiber Cable Project signed between **Chinese Companies**

ISLAMABAD: A Nationwide Optical Fiber Cable Network Project has been signed between PowerChina and Hunan Sunwalk Group, according to Gwadar Pro on Friday.

Phase 1, Lot 1 of the said project will aim to improve Pakistan's telecommunication infrastructure for better interconnection with its neighboring countries. Talking to Gwadar Pro, busi-

ness manager Sunwalk Group said that the company plans to spend several billion dollars on Pakistan's Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities to establish telecom infrastructure

and fiber industry.

The nation's broadband adoption will be increased for the digital revolution, which will benefit

not only the business-to-business sector but also the government, enterprise firms, and end con-sumers, the official added Previously, Sunwalk Group CEO Pakistan, Lan held a meeting with Federal Minister of IT and Telecom, Syed Amin ul Haque. Lan informed the Minister regard-ing investment plans for establishing investment plans for establish-ing a statewide optical fiber net-work and facilitating the growth

of broadband in Pakistan. He stated that his organization is prepared to invest approximately \$2 billion over the next 8 to 10 years. The nation's broadband adoption will be increased for the digital revolution, which will ben-efit not only the business-to-busi-

Sanitary worker dies of injection administered by hospital's sweeper

sanitary worker lost his life due to wrong injection that was allegedly administered to him by a hospital sweeper in Nowshera Virkan on Friday.

Siddique Masih, the sanitary worker, used to work as a driver in Municipal Committee and he suffered a heart attack while

being on duty.

He was brought to the Tehsil
Headquarter (THQ) Hospital
Nowshera Virkan where, instead
of doctors, one of the sweepers of
the hospital administered him an injection that triggered reaction

and resulted in his death.

Following their colleague's death, the sanitary workers staged protest demonstration outside the THQ hospital against the negligence shown by the doctors. Seeking justice, they demanded a strict action from the higher authorities. They also threatened to continue their protest until the Assistant Commissioner and District Commissioner do not take action against the doctors. Siddique Masih, the sanitary

worker, used to work as a driver in Municipal Committee and he suffered a heart attack while being on duty.

He was brought to the Tehsil Headquarter (THQ) Hospital Nowshera Virkan where, instead of doctors, one of the sweepers of the hospital administered him an injection that triggered reaction

and resulted in his death.
Following their colleague's death, the sanitary workers staged protest demonstration outside the THQ hospital against the negligence shown by the doctors.

technical know-how in the field of precision mechanics, instrument technology and die and mold technology.

The Technical Training center will also provide consultancy services to the local industry on designing mechanical products, jigsaws and fixtures which will help in skilling the local community, increasing exports and creat-

The Federal Minister for Science and Technology noted that after Quetta, COSAT University is starting the teaching process in Gwadar in the next two months so that the people of Gwadar, especially the children of fishermen, can get modern education. Similarly, to provide higher education facilities to more than 1,400 students by the end of 5 years, the govern-

ment is announcing its new plan "COSMAT University Islamabad will talk to the federal government for building a campus in Gwadar,

Balochistan. The total cost of which is 2400 million rupees. Initially, bachelor-level degree programs will be started in the fields of computer sciences, engineering, business administration and basic sciences. The project will be completed in 48 months INP

Aghaaz - The Beginning of Pre-Marital/Marital Counselling in Pakistan

'Our youth make up 70% of the total population and there is a need to bridge the gap that they face in accessing reliable reproductive health information and accessing reliable reproductive health information and services, this was highlighted by Dr. Amanullah, CEO, Forum for Safe Motherhood (White Ribbon Alliance Pakistan Chapter) at a Consultative Session organized in Karachi on Wednesday, December 21, 2022. The Consultative Session aimed at creating awareness about Aghaaz: Pakistan's premium Pre-Marital/Marital Counselling Approach. Initiated by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation & Samp; Coordination (MoNHSR&C) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Forum for Safe Motherhood, Aghaaz has been developed to provide young people who are about to get married or who are recently married complete access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information.

mation.

Dr. Haris Ahmed, Public Health Specialist when briefing participants about Aghaaz stressed that it aims to ensure that young people have a robust foundation for marriage. For this, it discusses several important areas, ranging from pre-marital screening to the how's of fostering a healthy relationship with one's life partner. In the process it touches on oft discussed subjects like number and spacing of children, we want to be a proper post-natal care and household and money. pre & amp; post-natal care, and household and money

management.

The Consultative Session was directed at exploring how best Aghaaz, its Multi-touch Point Sensitization Approach, and especially the resource material and virtual tools (Web Portal www.aghaaz.com.pk and Mobile App) developed under it can best be integrated into rel-

evant provincial structures and systems.

By and large, participants were of the opinion that Aghaaz has taken into consideration all aspects of

Karachi woman shot dead during street robbery

KARACHI: A woman was shot dead during a street robbery in Karachi on Friday

According to police, the incident took place in Gulistan-e-Johar area of the megacity.

The woman, identified as Sana Tariq, was on her way to buy some medicines with her brother.

Some armed men intercepted them and attempted to rob them of valu-ables. On resistance, they opened fire and left Sana Tariq with critical injuries. She was rushed to hospital but could not sur-

vive.
Police registered a case and launched investiga-

tion.
It is to be noted here that the street crimes are on the rise in the financial hub of the country. People are robbed of valuables at gunpoint and shot at for offering resistance.INP

State Bank reserves hit eight-year low at \$5.576 billion

KARACHI: Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) foreign exchange reserves hit an eight-year low at \$5.576 billion during the week ended on Dec 30, 2022, it reports in media.

Despite fast dwindling SBP reserves, Finance Minis-ter Ishaq Dar is still hopeful about reverting the situation with expected financial help promised by the friendly countries, but nothing has been realised so far. During the week the SBP foreign exchange reserves saw an exchange reserves saw an outflow of \$245 million for external debt repay-

Foreign debt servicing is the most troubling question for the PMLN-led coalition government facing a serious threat of default. Several attempts to restart talks with the IMF for the release of the next tranche have so far remained unfruitful.

The falling reserves ave already deeply have already deeply devalued the local currency against the US dollar and other major currencies. The SBP's foreign exchange reserves dipped \$11bn to \$5.6bn from \$16.6bn in Jan-uary 2022 This massive decline left no space for the govern-ment to pay back its for-eign debts without bor-rowing more from friend-

ly countries.

The SBP's reserves holdings are only enough for imports of three weeks. The country's total foreign exchange reserves. during the week were \$11.4bn including \$5.8bn of commercial banks.INP



ticular attention to the needs of young people who are going to be married, as well as those who are first-time

Dr. Amanullah in his concluding remarks stressed that 'Aghaaz envisages a Pakistan where all young people have the information and resources available that are required for a long, healthy, stable and satisfying marriage. The session was attended by senior offirials from different departments of the Government of Sindh such as, Population Welfare, Health, RMNCH Program, LHW Program, PPHI as well as by senior representatives from different donors and NGOs/INGOs such as WHO, UNFPA, BMGF, FPAP, Greenstar, Hands, and the like The participants are Dr.Taj Mohammed, Dr.Sarmad khan, Abdul sattar Shahwani ,Dr.Saima Bugti PR

Junaid Safdar says he won't be participating in any political activities

LAHORE: Ousted premier Nawaz Sharif's grandson Junaid Safdar, while confirming that he had moved to Pakistan, insisted on Friday that he won't be participating in any political activities

In an Instagram post today, he said that he has moved to Pakistan purely to be of service to his parents, family and

community."

"I will not be participating in any political activity, nor have I any interest in politics for now," Junaid said, adding that he was loving the winters in Lahore

and had missed them.

His clarification comes after several reports said Junaid would be helping his mother and PML-N Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz in the upcoming general elections

the spotlight. Last year, he was in the headlines last year for his extravagant wedding event in Pakistan.

wedding event in Pakistan.

Maryam and her father have left for a week-long trip to Geneva. The visit coincides with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's attendance at the UN-led donors conference, where the premier will appeal to the international community for assistance for post-flood rehabilitation. Earlier, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said Maryam would be returning to Pakistan in the third week of January. I will not be participating in any political activity, nor have I any interest in politics for now," Junaid said, adding that he was loving Junaid said, adding that he was loving the winters in Lahore and had missed them.INP



A delegation of SK Hydro led by CEO, Mr. He Xiongfei called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Sedition case; court to indict Gill on Jan 20

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad fixed January 20 for the indictment of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former SAPM, Dr Shahbaz Gill in a sedition case.

As per details, prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbasi and Shahbaz Gill's lawyer Burhan Moazzam presented before the district and sessions court. Gill's lawyer told the court that his client is outside the court in the ambulance. He cannot come to court as he is wearing an oxygen mask. He said that despite his health problem his arrest warrants have been issued.

Furthermore, the court ordered all the respondents to make sure of their presence at the next hearing and fixed January 20 for the indictment of PTI leader Shebber Gill leader Shahbaz Gill.

Earlier, Balochistan Police summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill in connection with a sedition case registered against him in Qila Abdullah. The Balochistan police added that Gill has been summoned and he

agreed to cooperate with the police.
It is pertinent to mention here that a case was registered against Gill at the Kohsar police station, Islamabad. He was accused of creating a divide in the state institution.

As per details, prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbasi and Shahbaz Gill's lawyer Burhan Moazzam presented before the district and sessions court. Gill's lawyer told the court that his client is outside the court in the ambulance. He cannot come to court as he is wearing an oxygen mask. He said that despite his health problem his arrest warrants have been issued Furthermore, the court ordered all the respondents to make sure of their presence at the next hearing and fixed January 20 for the indictment of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill.INP

Sindh Cabinet approves reservation of seats for transgenders in local councils

KARACHI: Provincial cabinet Sindh has fixed Rs.302 per 40kg of Sugarcane as the minimum price for crop 2022-2023 and approved reservation of seats for transgenders in the local councils. The Cabinet also approved the purchase of additional 40 buses for the People Bus Service run in Karachi. Meeting of the provincial cabinet was

Meeting of the provincial cabinet was held at the CM House while the Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in the

All the provincial ministers, advisors, special assistants, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D Hassan Naqvi, PSCM Fayaz Jatoi, and other concerned officers attended the meeting. Advisor to CM on Agriculture Manzoor Wassan told the cabinet that he has held a number of meetings with all

has held a number of meetings with all the stakeholders, including growers and millers to develop a consensus for the fixation of new sugarcane prices. The stakeholders had their own points of view. The cabinet approved the fixation of the minimum price of sugarcane at

Rs302 per 40 kg and also fixed the qual-

R\$302 per 40 kg and also fixed the quality premium rate at R\$0.50 (50 paisa) per 40 kg as approved by the federal government in 1989-99.

The provincial cabinet believing in the policy of equal rights for every segment of society has approved reserved seats for transgenders in the local councils.

At the request of the Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Shah, the provincial cabinet discussed the allocation of reserved seats for the local council for six categories. It include women, youth (at least one seat), labor or farmer one seat, non-Muslim members one seat, persons with disabilities one seat, and transgender persons one

The provincial cabinet on the request of Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon approved an amount of Rs1.7 billion for the purchase of 40 more 12-meter hybrid buses for the already oper-ational Peoples Bus Service in the city.INP

