

QUETTA VOICE

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**NA speaker
accepts resignation
of 34 PTI MNAs**



**Beautiful view of
Hanna Lake Quetta
attracts ourists**

CM Mahmood sends summary for dissolution of KP assembly to governor

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Tuesday sent the summary for the dissolution of the provincial legislature to Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

The move comes after the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly as PTI Chairman Imran Khan inches closer to fulfilling his promise of disassociating from the "current corrupt political system" by quitting the two assemblies where he is in power.

**Article 112(1)
of the
Constitution
of the Islamic
Republic**

The chief minister's advice, said: "I, Mahmood Khan, chief minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in pursuance of provisions of Article 112(1) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, do hereby forward my advice for dissolution of KP Assembly on January 17, 2023, at 17:00 hours."

PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said that the KP chief minister, in accordance with the party's decision and the directives issued by Imran, had forwarded the summary for the dissolution of the provincial assembly.



"If the governor does not dissolve the assembly in 48 hours, it will [automatically] stand dissolved on Thursday," he said, adding that the move would pave the way for general elections in the country.

Provincial minister for elementary and secondary education Shahram Khan Tarakai, meanwhile, said that the KP Assembly would be dissolved by tonight.

"This will be a moment for all of us where we will be standing proud and more confident with Imran Khan. We are from the public and the public @ImranKhanPTI," he said.

Earlier, KP govern-

ment spokesperson Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif had told Dawn.com that the summary for the dissolution of the assembly would be sent to the governor before midnight.

**Dissolution of
Punjab, KP
assemblies**

Over the weekend, the Punjab Assembly (PA) stood dissolved as Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman excused himself from the process, saying he could not become a part of the move.

Subsequently, CM Mahmood had also

promised to dissolve the KP provincial assembly following the dissolution of the PA, saying a summary to this effect would be sent to Governor Ali on January 17 (today).

"According to the orders [issued] from leader Imran Khan, a summary for dissolution of the KP assembly will be sent to the governor on Tuesday," the CM had said in a tweet.

The announcement had come after an online meeting between Imran, the KP cabinet and former KP governor Shah Farman at the CM House.

Addressing the 86th cabinet meeting today,

CM Mahmood thanked the government and opposition MPAs apart from the provincial bureaucracy for the last four years that passed by happily.

"I thank the public of KP for posing their trust in me," he added. "In the upcoming general elections, we will establish a government with a two-thirds majority in the entire country."

The chief minister said there was instability in the country due to imported rulers and that getting rid of the corrupt gang had become inevitable.

On January 15, PML-N supreme leader Nawaz Sharif attending an important party meeting via video link from London had directed its leaders and workers to start preparing for elections in Punjab and pledged that the federal coalition would not be "blackmailed" by the PTI chief's demand to hold snap elections in the country.

A party insider had told Dawn that Nawaz was categorical about Imran's demand to hold snap polls in the country. "Nawaz had said... come what may, we will not be blackmailed by Khan's demand. The general elections will be held on time (Oct-Nov 2023)," Web Desk

Army aware of external enemies' 'nefarious designs' to disturb peace in Balochistan: COAS

Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir said on Tuesday that the Pakistan Army was aware of the "nefarious designs of external enemies of Pakistan" to disturb the peace in Balochistan.

According to a press release issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief made the remarks while visiting the province's Khuzdar and Basima areas.

**Received by
Quetta Corps
Commander Lt
Gen Asif
Ghaffoor**

The ISPR statement said Gen Munir was briefed on the prevailing security situation and the formation's operational preparedness, along with measures being taken to ensure a "peaceful and secure environment."

"While interacting with troops, COAS emphasised on maintaining optimum operational readiness to thwart attempts by foreign sponsored and supported hostile ele-



ments to destabilise Balochistan," the statement said.

"We are aware of the nefarious designs of external enemies of Pakistan to disturb the hard-earned peaceful environment in Balochistan," the ISPR statement quoted the army chief as saying. He also said that the army's deployment and operations were being "focused" in Balochistan to provide an "enabling environment for benevolent people-centric socio-economic development." Over the past few months, the law and order situation in the country has wors-

ened, with terrorist groups executing attacks with near impunity across the country.

Insurgents in Balochistan have also stepped up their violent activities and formalised a nexus with the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The year 2022 ended with December as the deadliest month for Pakistan as the country suffered as many as 376 terror attacks in the year that resulted in an increased number of casualties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Lawyers observe boycott of courts against killing of Latif Afridi

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Members of the legal fraternity observed boycott of courts in Balochistan against the killing of senior lawyer Latif Afridi on Tuesday.

The Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) had given the call of boycott to mourn and condemn the killing of former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Latif Afridi.

"This is a sad day for us," Rahib Buledi, the senior lawyers leader said in a statement issued on Tuesday morning. He said the killing of senior lawyer in the court premises exposes the security of judicial places.



No lawyers appeared before the court of law across the province to mourn and protest the killing of senior lawyer. Latif Afridi was killed in a

firing incident in the premises of Peshawar High Court (PHC). Police arrested the killer and termed the killing as the result of a tribal enmity.

PDMA issues alert in view of rain and snowfall in Balochistan

News Desk

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan has issued an alert on Tuesday in view of rain and snowfall in the province. "Negligence will not be tolerated and all arrangements must be completed to cope with the expected rain and snowfall," Provincial Minister for PDMA, Mir Zia Ullah Langove said.

The Minister mentioned that teams are directed to remain on high alert in view of possible rains, snowfall, and floods. All machinery has been brought to the national highways, Mr. Langove added.

Pakistan Army, Health Department, Motorway Police,



administration of all districts have been taken on board, Director General PDMA Naseer Nasir stated. Missionary and rescue personnel are present in the areas affected by expected rains and snowfall, the DG added.

In view of the possible closure of highways, orders have been issued to vacate all government rest houses in Ziarat. "All arrangements have been completed and teams have been formed to restore traffic on national highways," Director PDMA Attaullah Mengal said.

Warm clothes have been delivered to PDMA Village in Khan Mehtarzai and PDMA control room is functional as well as in full communication with Deputy Commissioners of all districts, the DG PDMA mentioned.

Deputy Director Admin, Faisal Tariq said that warm clothes have been delivered to the flood affected people of all districts through the concerned Deputy Commissioners.

Beautiful view of Hanna Lake Quetta attracts ourists

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: It is almost more than half an hour's drive to reach Hanna Lake located some 25 kilometers north of Quetta. The view of the lake full of clear water is the center of attraction for tourists? Silence prevails and very few tourists roam in the valley. The tourists had covered their faces to protect themselves from cold chilly weather.

The beautiful view of Hanna Lake, the country's famous tourist point attracts tourists. After a long time, the lake is now filled with clean water, and tourists roam in boats to enjoy the cold weather of Quetta, Pakistan's mountain-ringed city.



The Hanna Lake had turned into a desert a few years back because of the drought-hit-like situations in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. However, the lake

was filled with clean water after heavy rainfall in Quetta this summer. After lake was earlier giving a deserted look and there were no tourists.

Pakistan concerned over rising militancy along Pak-Afghan border

NEW YORK: Voicing concern over the uptick in militancy along the Pak-Afghan border, Pakistan's UN Ambassador has warned that unless the economic situation improves in Afghanistan, the Taliban may begin to lose members to more militant groups like ISIS or ISIL.

In an interview with Newsweek, a leading American magazine, the Pakistani envoy specifically named insurgent outfits such as the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), both of which have increasingly targeted Pakistani personnel and civilians, but also the regional ISIS Khurasan branch, called ISIS-K or ISIL-K, saying that sometimes these groups worked together against Pakistan's interests.

"We have to deal with this," Ambassador Akram said, "and we are determined to deal with this internally."

And while he said, "we've dealt with this in the past," he warned that new challenges have emerged in trying to influence the Taliban-led government that taking on all of these groups was in its immediate interest. "Now we have we have

a situation in Afghanistan where the Taliban need to be convinced to deal with all of the terrorist movements not only ISIL-K, which they are fighting, but others," Akram said. "We understand the situation, but we have to find an effective strategy of dealing with it."

In addition to TTP and BLA, he said that other groups such as the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) comprising of militants of Uyghur descent, and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) comprising of militants of Uzbek descent also need to be combated. But he said such efforts on the part of the Taliban would be difficult to achieve as long as the government found short on income.

"It's obvious that ISIL-K is becoming stronger and they're getting money from outside," Akram said. "If the Taliban do not have enough money, they may lose some of their factions to ISIL-K, so it's a very disturbing situation." Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari spoke with his Afghan counterpart, Amir Khan Muttaq, on Thursday, offering his condolences over the terrorist INP.

Gas pipeline blown up in Bolan, supply to Quetta affected

Imran Sumalani

MACH: A gas pipeline was blown up in a bomb explosion in Balochistan's Bolan area on Tuesday evening.

Miscreants had planted an improvised explosive device (IED) close to a gas pipeline in the mountainous Bolan valley. The IED exploded with big bang damaging 12 inch gas pipeline.

Work on the repair of the gas pipeline would be started tomorrow in the morning, Agha Samiullah, the Deputy Commissioner Bolan said.

The blast has affected the gas supply to Quetta and other parts of Balochistan, the DC stated.



Methane gas leaves four coal miners unconscious in Dukki mine

Hussain Zarkoon

Methane gas left four coal miners unconscious inside a coal mine in Balochistan's Dukki district on Tuesday. Rescue workers and fellow miners reached the affected mine and successfully rescued four unconscious coal miners. The miners were shifted to the district headquarters hospital Dukki for medical treatment.

"The condition of all miners is now stable," hospital sources told Daily Quetta Voice. The miners have been discharged after the provision of first aid, they said. The coal miners belong to Afghanistan and have been working in mines for last more than a decade.

Hazardous working conditions inside the coal mines of Balochistan have claimed thousands of precious human lives. Despite repeated appeals and criticism by labor organizations and rights groups, the government and mine owners are yet to improve working conditions for coal miners in Balochistan.



NA speaker accepts resignation of 34 PTI MNAs

The Election Commission of Pakistan on Tuesday (ECP) de-notified 34 PTI MNAs after their resignations were accepted by National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf.

The PTI had resigned en masse from the lower house of parliament following the ouster of PTI chief Imran Khan in April last year. Subsequently, the NA speaker had accepted only 11 of the resignations, stating that the remaining lawmakers would be summoned individually for verification.

The notification issued by the electoral watchdog today, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, stated that the lawmakers were de-notified "with immediate effect". The de-notified lawmakers



include Murad Saeed, Omar Ayub Khan, Asad Qaiser, Pervaiz Khattak, Imran Khattak, Sheharyar Afridi, Ali Amin Khan, Noorul Haq Qadri, Raja Khurram Shahzad Nawaz, Ali Nawaz Awan, Asad Umar, Sadaqat Ali Khan, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Sheikh Rashid Shafique, Mansoor Hayat Khan,

Fawad Ahmed, Sanaullah Khan Mastikhel, Hammad Azhar, Shafaqat Mahmood, Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Zartaj Gul, Faheem Khan, Saifur Rehman, Muhammad Alamgir Khan, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, Aftab Hussain Saddique, Ataullah, Aftab Jehangir, Muhammad Aslam Khan, Muhammad Najeeb Haroon and Qasim Khan Sun.

Two PTI lawmakers elected on reserve seats — Aliya Hamza Malik and Kanwal Shauzab — were also de-notified.

In addition to the 34 PTI lawmakers, the ECP also de-notified Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Web Desk

Flour smuggler among eight held in Hassanabdal

HASSANABDAL: The police arrested eight outlaws including a flour smuggler, six gamblers and recovered smuggled flour, stake money and liquor during separate actions here on Tuesday.

smuggler Saeed Khan s/o Waheed Khan hailing from Haripur was arrested. The police during patrolling near Burhan railway station GT Road recovered 10 litres liquor from a drug peddler Muhammad Arif s/o Jehanad Khan.

arrested six gamblers identified as Nazakat Ali, Muhammad Alam Khan, Muhammad Bashir, Muhammad Riaz, Pervaiz Khan and Imran Ahmed besides recovering thousands of rupees stake money, mobile phones and a motorcycle.



PESHAWAR: A vendor displaying Perfumes on footpath to attract customers at G.T road.

Effective monitoring can help improve performance of field staff: Commissioner

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan said that the performance of field staff can be improved strengthening monitoring tier, which will benefit us in the form of public convenience. He expressed these thoughts while presiding over the review meetings related to Revenue, development projects and price checking.

Rawalpindi on Tuesday, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Shoaib Ali, Director Development Nazia Sadhan, Additional Commissioner Revenue Kanza Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Abdullah, ADC (General) Nosheen Sarwar, Assistant Commissioner (General) Maleeha Isar attended meeting in person whereas Deputy Commissioners of other districts of Attock, Jehlum, Chakwal, Tullagang and Murree and other concerned officers participated through video link.

Marriage Act and to share price checking and performance reports of actions against violators of marriage halls with the Commissioner's office on a daily basis. On this occasion, while giving a briefing to the Commissioner Rawalpindi, it was told that regarding the price control across the division, actions are being taken on a daily basis against peddlers and hoarders. In past one week, 22 FIRs and 186 arrests have been made against the violations reported during 20,646 raids, besides a fine of Rs.30,39,500.

Governor Punjab for making Sadiq Public School an exemplary educational institution

LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman has said that Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur will be made an exemplary educational institution.

This was stated by him while chairing the meeting of the Board of Governors of Sadiq Public School held at Governor House Lahore on Tuesday. During the meeting, the Board of Governors unanimously approved the name of the new principal of the school Mr. David Dowdles, and approved the terms and conditions of his appointment.

The Board of Governors also approved the formation of three sub-committees, which will look into the teaching system, infrastructure and financial matters within the school.

Speaking during the meeting, Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman said that attention should be given to improve the quality of education sector.

Later, a meeting of teaching committee of Sadiq Public School was also held at Governor House which was presided over by Dr. Raheel Siddiqui. The educational matters were discussed in the meeting.

The Governor Punjab shared his vision with the teaching committee. He said that Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur has to be made centre of excellence in teaching. Dr. Faisal Bari, Uzmi Yusuf and Ehtisham Anwar were also present in the meeting. INP

KP govt promotes 72,800 teachers

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan chairing a meeting of provincial cabinet here on Tuesday approved elevation of Secondary School Teachers (SSTs) and Primary School Teachers (PSTs) from BPS-16 to BPS-17 and from BPS-12 to BPS-14 respectively.

KP Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Shahram Khan Tarakai and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif told media persons that upgradation was a longstanding demand of teachers. As many as 21,800 SSTs and 51,000 PSTs would be upgraded, they said.

They said that a four-tier formula was also approved to pave way for promotion of 13,888 teachers working in various scales ranging from BPS-17 to BPS-20. They added that the education sector was one of the most focused areas, under the provincial government. INP

Prudent resource management must to end regional disparities: analysts

ISLAMABAD: Region al disparities and uneven development in Pakistan are the areas of particular concern for policymakers for defining goals and achieving the desired results in the economic, social, and geographical contexts, analysts say.

Dr Adnan Rafique, Political Scientist and Public Policy Analyst at the Planning Commission, told WealthPK that Pakistan's four provinces are unequal in terms of area, population, and economic and social development.

He said the geographical structure of Pakistan identifies that most of the large capital cities of the provinces are relatively more developed than other cities. He pointed out that less developed areas are mostly covered in the Balochistan province. He said all these differences at the regional and provincial levels create conflicts and political instability.

"In terms of urban and rural development, Pakistan exhibits typical dual-structural characteristics. The countryside for any nation makes a great contribution to the process of economic development, but differences between urban and rural development levels cause shortcomings for balanced and high-quality development," he said.

"To achieve sustainable economic growth, it is necessary to achieve balanced development, as well as the efficient allocation of resources between rural and urban areas. The development of rural areas is imperative to accelerate Pakistan's economic growth," he underlined.

Dr Durre Nayab, Joint Director Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), said Pakistan has faced significant variations in the development process of different regions, which has created disparity within and between different regions of Pakistan. She said the growth INP

"Mazdoor" Card launched to facilitate industrial workers: Secretary Labour

FAISALABAD: Secretary Labour and Human Resource Punjab, Nabeel Javed has said that "Mazdoor" Card has been launched in collaboration with Bank of Punjab (BoP) to facilitate the secured industrial workers in the prevailing inflation while its ambit would also be further enhanced to provide them subsidized food items in addition to linking them with microfinance scheme of "Akhawat".

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that steps were also underway to streamline the provision of medical and education facilities to the worker's families and children. He said that system was also upgraded to ensure immediate payment of death, marriage and education grants.

Nabeel Javed said that the government was also contemplating to provide higher education to the worker's children in prestigious institutions of the country. He said that the collection of contributions of Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) and Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) had been entrusted to the Punjab Revenue Authority. "It would not only help to check pilferage and evasion of contribution but also enable the labour department to extend maximum facilities to the workers", he added.



QUETTA: Activists of NDM hold protest against killing prominent lawyer Abdul Latif Afridi.



JAMSHORO: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah addressing after inauguration of website at Jamshoro M.H Panhwar institute of Sindh Studies.

Flour smuggling bids foiled, five held with 1415 bags flour

RAWALPINDI: The police and food department in joint actions foiled two flour smuggling bids in different areas of Rawalpindi on Tuesday and held five smugglers besides recovering 1415 bags flour.

Sadiqabad Police and food department in a joint action arrested three flour smugglers including Abdul Rashid, Aizaz and Zameen Khan and recovered 1356 bags flours from their custody.

Mandra Police in a joint action with food department arrested two flour smugglers identified as Zameer and Ijaz and recovered 59 bags flour from their custody.

The recovered smuggled flour was seized and the detainees were being investigated after registering separate cases against them.

SSP Operations reiterated to take strict action against culprits involved in flour and wheat smuggling. INP

Promoting book reading culture in society need of the hour: Governor

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that promoting book reading culture in society is need of the hour.

Addressing an event regarding book launching "22 Log" organized by Islamia University Bahawalpur at the Governor House Lahore on Tuesday, he said due to social media, the trend of reading books among the youth has decreased.

Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that book reading should be encouraged to promote the culture of tolerance in the society. He said that the book "22 Log" is not only a book but the essence of the academic, intellectual, artistic and research life of 22 people. He said that this book includes detailed interviews of those personalities who have a prominent position in the field of art, education, research, journalism, literature and history.

Governor Punjab also appreciated the efforts of Vice Chancellor of Islamia University Bahawalpur in this regard. INP

Revocation of IIOJK status must for talks with India: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said India would have to reverse the pre-August 5 status of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) if it was serious to hold talks with Pakistan on all the issues.

He said Pakistan could respond and retaliate to all kinds of aggression but it wanted talks for peace and stability in the region, but it could not be possible until the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir status.

He said the stance of Saudi Arabia and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on the Kashmir issue was in line with Pakistan's position. Ashrafi expressed the hope that dialogues between Pakistan and India and the resolution of the Kashmir issue could bring prosperity to the region.

Talking to national and Arab media, Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council said the steps taken in August 2019 by the Indian government violated the United Nations resolutions and also contrary to the stance of the international community.

He said the Indian government should stop atrocities against Kashmiris and move towards negotiation to resolve all issues. "Prime Minister

in response to a question, he said Islam did not allow forced conversion and marriage as Pakistan's Ulema, Mashaykh, and religious scholars had issued 'Fatwa' on this very issue. He also termed the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding forced conversion and marriage against reality.

Oversight of poultry sector vital to prevent financial losses: expert

ISLAMABAD: Screening and surveillance of the poultry sector is vital to prevent financial and production losses and to improve access to international markets, said Dr S. Murtaza Hassan Andrabi, Principal Scientific Officer at National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC).

He said chicken is one of the most popular meats, and eggs are one of the best sources of protein since they contain all nine essential amino acids. "Therefore, it is important to protect and enhance the livelihoods of diverse groups of poultry keepers as well as stakeholders in the poultry value chain as a whole," he said.

Dr Murtaza said that in addition to promoting economic development and stakeholder livelihoods, monitoring programs also aim to protect health and improve market access for poultry products. "Through surveillance, we gain more accurate data for risk and impact assessments, leading to better management of animal health and welfare. Farmers can earn handsomely by improving the health and welfare of their poultry," he said.

In order to achieve these broad aims, it is important to identify diseases that are most likely to affect animals and to provide data in order to assess animal health initiatives. "The animal husbandry commissioner is responsible for screening and oversight of poultry diseases. Following the passage of 18th constitutional amendment, provinces now have complete jurisdiction over the surveillance of poultry diseases and they have their own reporting system," he pointed out.

Dr Murtaza said provinces submit reports to the animal husbandry commissioner upon the completion of screening and surveillance. If the animal husbandry commissioner believes there is a risk to regional and global animal health. INP

Mining of mercury can help Pakistan meet industrial needs, cut imports: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Mercury, which is also sometimes called quicksilver due to its liquid metallic appearance, is widely used in different industrial segments in Pakistan. A principal source mineral of mercury is called cinnabar, which is formed in both metamorphic and igneous rocks. However, there is no formal mechanism at the government level in the country to extract the mineral, and the country has to import it at great expense to meet local demand. Discussing the matter with WealthPK, Yaqoob Shah, a principal geologist at Global Mining Company Limited, Islamabad, said the exploration and extraction of mercury is very important for Pakistan. He recalled that from 1992 till 2001, the government conducted a study with the cooperation of the Australian government. INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Deputy Director, Agriculture (On Farm Water Management) DUKI, invites sealed Tender/Bid for execution of various development schemes under the project 'AGRI PROD THROUGH WATER MANAGEMENT SCHEME IN UC WAHVI-I, WAHVI-II, SHARQI LUNI, GHARBI LUNI, PALOS KALAN, THAL CHUTIALI, THALSHARQI, THAL GHARBI DUKI. PSDP 2022-23 S.NO. 130 (22022.0479) from interested contractors/firm with the Bid Security @ 2% of estimated cost/offer rate in shape of Call Deposit (Refundable). The non-refundable Tender Form Fee Rs.2000/- to be deposited in any National Bank of Pakistan Branch situated in Balochistan Province through Green Bank Chalan in a head of account (C03136) (verified by the District Accounts Officer). Bid Security 2% TSE-222301223153

World needs humanity-based morality, new world order: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that the world needed humanity-based morality and a new world order where every person living on this planet was valued, regarded as equal to any other person without discrimination of color, creed, language, religion, or race.

The President, addressing the inaugural session of the 2nd International Annual Conference on 'Security Dialogue', organized by the Institute of Regional Studies, said that the developed countries pursued policies suiting their vested interests and imposed their policies and thinking on the less developed countries without factoring into their specific needs, wants and preferences.

President Alvi said that the vested interest-based world order set by the developed countries had to be followed by the less developed nations without giving them leverage and keeping in view their way of life, preferences and social and cultural values.

He said that the idea that in addition to the traditional ways of doing things, there was a need to adopt non-traditional approach to identify areas of conflicts, their impact, reach and ways to resolve them.

The President said that the traditional concept of the nations and nation-states were being challenged which needed to be handled on a top priority basis but this could only be done with international cooperation

in the key areas of security, food and climate change.

He said the global warming had affected human beings and other living and non-living things on the planet as according to one estimate, around 50 species were in danger of extinction by 2050 and insects were facing stress, affected the weather systems, resulting in catastrophic natural disasters.

He said that much closer and meaningful international cooperation was needed to restore ecological balance and also in agriculture to avoid hunger and malnutrition.

President Alvi said that there existed a paradox in the world as few had abundance of food and resources whereas few were facing a shortage of basic necessities of life.

He emphasized the need for traditional and non-traditional cooperation for averting conflicts in the world and dialogue could play pivotal role in this regard. There was a need to have cooperation in the cyber world and health sector as well, he added.

The President lamented the fact that the regional organizations were established for regional cooperation and for resolving regional conflicts but if the bigger countries like India in SAARC did not give due weightage to the organization, it would lose its scope and efficacy. INP



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf launch Sustainable Development Report 2022 in collaboration with All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA), at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services.

Senate gets details of expenses incurred during Imran Khan's tenure

ISLAMABAD: The details regarding the expenses of the Prime Minister's Office from 2019 to 2021 were presented in the Senate on Tuesday.

The Senate meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sadiq Sanjrani. During the question hour, PPP Senator Bahramand Tangi said former prime minister Imran Khan talked about coming to office by a bicycle and preached simplicity but travelled by a helicopter. The senator said according to the data, Imran Khan spent Rs1 billion as the prime minister in the last three years.

Minister of State for Law Shahadat Awan said that during three years a budget of Rs1.17 billion was allocated for the Prime Minister's Office while the expenses remained more than Rs900 million.

In response to the allegations, Senator Shehzad Waseem asked for the details for flood funds and said how much and where those funds were allocated. "They had to submit the details of the crowd that they had taken to the conference in Egypt. Where did the money go that was taken from the world conference, or they are having the intention to spend the money for their personal use?" he interrogated.

On Senator Shahzad Wasim's question, Shahadat Awan said an irrelevant question had been asked. "If a written question is submitted according to the rules, I will provide all the details," he said. INP

National exchequer suffers Rs 1.226b due to discos' performance

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday expressed serious concern over electricity distribution companies (Discos) as national exchequer lost Rs1.226 billion.

The deteriorating performance of the Discos in several cities of Pakistan due to which the national treasure suffered at least 1.226 billion in total.

NEPRA report unveiled that due to the inefficient distribution, Discos including Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPSCO), Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) the national exchequer got benefited.

On the other hand, the inefficiency of Peshawar, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Lahore and Quetta power distribution costed Rs127 billion from the national treasure.

"K Electric saved Rs 2.15 billion by reducing its transmission losses," the report revealed.

Meanwhile, the Lahore power delivery company caused a loss of Rs 9.3 billion, and Peshawar electric bring about Rs 64 billion loss to national treasury. INP

Overseas Pakistanis, Kashmiris urged to highlight Kashmir cause in media

ISLAMABAD: APMC-AJK Convener Mehmood Ahmad Saghar has urged the Kashmiris and Pakistanis living in Saudi Arabia and other countries to use their resources to highlight the Kashmiri dispute in the local and international media.

According to Kashmir Media Service, talking to a delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Community Overseas Saudi Arabia that called on him at the APMC-AJK office in Islamabad, today, Mehmood Ahmad Saghar informed the delegation about the eviction of Kashmiri Muslims from their land and properties in the name of encroachment campaign in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by APMC-AJK leaders Syed Yousuf Naseem, Imtiaz Wani, Sheikh Muhammad Yaqoob, Nisar Mirza, Javed Iqbal Butt, Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Syed Mushtaq, Gulshan Ahmed, Nadeem Ahmed and APMC Coordinator of Jammu and Kashmir community Overseas Raja Parvez Ahmed, Vice Chairman Raja Muhammad Rizaz, Sardar Kamran Azam, Raja Muhammad Zareen Khan and Khalid Gujjar. INP

Center helping Balochistan youth to acquire skilled based education under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is providing better opportunities to the youth of Balochistan especially that of Gwadar to acquire modern education and technical skills under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

To shape and enhance the skills of the active population of Gwadar, Federal Government has launched many initiatives. One such initiative is vocational training in various engineering disciplines. The objectives of the project also include the development and generation of technical know-how in the field of precision mechanics, instrument technology, and die and mold technology.

Technical Training Center for Precision Mechanics and Instrument Technology, Gwadar is one such CPEC-related project which has been built for Rs 1200 million. The 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 creating employment opportunities. Today, Gwadar has three technical and vocational training centers i.e. Pak-China Technical and Vocational Training Institute Gwadar, Gwadar Institute of Technology, and Technical Training Center for Precision Mechanics and Instrument Technology.

PPP plans to propose reserve seats in Senate, NA for differently abled persons: Faisal Kundi

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Kundi Tuesday said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had planned to propose reserved seats in the National Assembly and Senate for the differently abled persons.

"The PPP government has always provided rights to special people and minorities as they strongly believe in their rights", he said. The minister was speaking during the National Conference 2023 of Community Based Inclusive Development Network (CBIDN) Pakistan under the theme Paradigm of Development, Economy and Equity, Unsolved Dilemma of Inclusion and Social Mainstreaming. The conference was arranged by Sightsavers in collaboration with the other partners.

Pakistan 'concerned' over rising militancy along Pak-Afghan border: Munir Akram

NEW YORK: Voicing concern over the uptick in militancy along the Pak-Afghan border, Pakistan's UN Ambassador has warned that unless the economic situation improves in Afghanistan, the Taliban may begin to lose members to more militant groups like ISIS or ISIL.

In an interview with Newsweek, a leading American magazine, the Pakistani envoy specifically named insurgent outfits such as the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), both of which have been increasingly targeted Pakistani personnel and civilians, but also the regional ISIS Khorasan branch, called ISIS-K or ISIL-K, saying that sometimes these groups worked together against Pakistan's interests.

"We have to deal with this," Ambassador Akram said, "and we are determined to deal with this internally."

And while he said, "we've dealt with this in the past," he warned that new challenges have emerged in trying to influence the Taliban-led government that taking on all of these groups was in its immediate interest.

"Now we have a situation in Afghanistan where the Taliban need to be convinced to deal with all of the terrorist movements not only ISIL-K, which they are fighting, but others," Akram said. "We understand the situation, but we have to find an effective strategy of dealing with it."

In addition to TTP and BLA, he said that other groups such as the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) comprising of militants of Uyghur descent, and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) comprising of militants of Uzbek descent also needed to be combated. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri addressing a press conference.

Pakistan needs strategy to benefit from free trade agreements: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan should devise an effective strategy to improve the trade balance and get maximum benefits from the free trade agreements signed with different trading partners, an expert told WealthPK.

The prevalent trade deficit has affected the economy of Pakistan. The country needs to take result-oriented measures to improve the trade balance.

Muhammad Adnan Khan, a socio-economic and development specialist at China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, told WealthPK that China implemented a policy to share the benefits of its economic performance with other nations that collaborated with Beijing through different platforms, including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"Pakistan is a major beneficiary of BRI," he said. He said that CPEC gave a boost to different sectors in the country, including agriculture, vocational training, and poverty alleviation. He added that special industrial zones were set up in the country under CPEC. "China allowed Pakistan to export more than 1,000 products with zero duties. China is the second largest exporter of Pakistani goods with a share of 8% of its total exports, after the United States with a 17% share. But the worrying factor is that Pakistan's imports from China have grown more. As a result, the trade deficit with China has ballooned," said Muhammad Adnan. However, Pakistan is currently struggling to maintain a financial equilibrium because the volume of imports far exceeds the level

of exports, adversely affecting the overall economic health of the country. The primary concern is how to improve the trade balance in the presence of FTAs and how to receive the most value from the trading partners of the country.

He said that Pakistani products could not compete with local Chinese items or with those being sent from other regions to China. He said that Pakistani manufacturers and exporters needed to adopt modern techniques to enhance exports to partner countries and help the country to control the overall trade imbalance.

"Proper official research should be conducted to find out the potential export lines in FTA partner countries. Besides this, the local industry should also be provided with incentives by the government to encourage exporters," said Muhammad Adnan.

He said that another reason for the trade imbalance between China and Pakistan was the lack of guidance for the business community. He said that Pakistani traders were unable to explore the Chinese market owing to a lack of knowledge. He said that Pakistani exporters needed to target the proper Chinese market for their products. He added that the language barrier was affecting trade with China.

"However, the free trade agreements have started to show positive signs. We have achieved a significant level of trade partnerships, which will definitely improve in the coming days and months," Muhammad Adnan told WealthPK. INP

Pakistan likely to organizing a roadshow of Pakistani products in China

BEIJING: Pakistan is looking forward to organizing a roadshow of Pakistani products in China this year, said Mr. Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China.

In an interview with China Economic Net (CEN), he said "As China relaxes its Covid-19-related restrictions, I think a major turnaround will happen for Pakistani producers. I hope that Pakistani producers, exporters, and manufacturers will come here and explore this wonderful market".

On Jan. 8, China lifted quarantine requirements for inbound travelers, auguring well for its economic and trade relations with other countries in the world, including Pakistan.

The Commercial Counsellor shares that Pakistan business opportunity conferences and trilateral business opportunity conferences are in pipeline for more frequent exchanges between the two brotherly countries. Various cultural festivities like food, cuisine, and fashion shows shall be held.

Looking back to the past year, Mr. Ghulam Qadir acknowledged it has been a difficult year for the global economy. In spite of this, breakthroughs have been achieved. "Pakistan's cherry has been allowed to be exported to China, which amounts to a US\$2 billion market."

Our sesame seed export to China surged by 50 percent on a year-on-year basis to US\$59.09 million in Jan-Sept 2022. Pakistan's rice exports to China crossed the historical figure of one million tons.

We are also finalizing trade protocols for daily products and meat products. It's around US\$20 billion market", he exemplified.

This year, he said, the focus will be put on e-commerce. "In China, most of the selling takes place through e-commerce. So, we are sensitizing our Pakistani exporters and manufacturers to come to China and use the wonderful facilities provided by the Chinese and provincial governments for warehousing, rent-free offices, and all the rest of other facilities", he told CEN.

Joint ventures will continue being encouraged to help move Pakistani products up the value chain and find broader market. INP

PML-N sends names for caretaker Punjab CM to Governor

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has sent two names for the caretaker Punjab Chief Minister (CM) to the governor.

Following the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly, the government and opposition expedited consultations for the establishment of a caretaker setup. After Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the opposition party, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) sent two names for the caretaker Punjab CM's slot including Mohsin Naqvi and Ahad Cheema. The names were forwarded by the Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly Hamza Shehbaz.

Among the nominated persons, Ahad Cheema was facing accusations of corruption cases alongside the prime minister. Cheema had sought retirement from his government job in June last year.

He has been appointed by PM Shehbaz Sharif as his adviser for the establishment.

Prior to the PML-N's letter, PM Sharif initiated consultations for the caretaker Punjab chief minister. He held telephonic conversations with the top leaders of the coalition parties including Asif Ali Zardari, Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiko Wada called on the Minister of State for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik.

Talks with India only after reversal of illegal actions in IIOJK, says PMO

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Tuesday said that talks with India can only take place after New Delhi reverses its "illegal actions of August 5, 2019", which was aimed at illegally altering the demography of the Muslim-majority state of Indian occupied Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the PMO said, "Without India's revocation of this step, negotiations are not possible".

The statement comes a day after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif asked Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hold serious and sincere talks to resolve burning issues, including Kashmir, and said the United Arab Emirates leadership could play an important role in bringing India and Pakistan to the table. Referring to PM Shehbaz's Al

Arabiya interview on Tuesday, the PMO spokesperson said that the prime minister had consistently maintained that Pakistan and India must resolve their bilateral issues through dialogue and peaceful means.

"However, the prime minister has repeatedly stated on record that talks can only take place after India has reversed its illegal action of August 5, 2019. Without India's revocation of this step, negotiations are not possible."

The PMO spokesperson said that the settlement of the Kashmir dispute "must be in accordance with the UN resolutions and aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir".

The prime minister made this position very clear in his interview with Al Arabiya during his recent visit to the UAE," he added. INP

ANF seizes over 1151 kg drugs in 39 operations; arrests 28

ANF seizes over 1151 kg drugs in 39 operations; arrests 28.

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 1151.015 kg of drugs, 13.32 kg of suspected substance, 400 kg Belet Nut and 38 kg 'Ratan Pan Masala' worth US\$ 38.020 million internationally, arrested 28 persons including two women and two Afghan Nationals, impounded 09 vehicles while conducting 39 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country during last week.

According to ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 9,317 kg Heroin, 975,995 kg Hashish, 117,122 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 23,600 kg Opium, 6,232 kg Amphetamine, 0,354 kg Marijuana/Weed, 0,530 kg Ketamine, 10 Ecstasy Tabs, 8000 Rocchi-2 Tabs, 16,5 kg socked Ice, 13,2 kg suspected substance, 400 kg Belet Nut and 38 kg 'Ratan Pan Masala'.

He informed that ANF Balochistan

recovered 835.99 kg of drugs in three operations and arrested two Afghan nationals involved in drug smuggling. The seized drugs comprised 700 kg Hashish, 115.5 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 20 kg Opium and 0.490 kg Heroin.

ANF Punjab recovered 38,675 kg of drugs in six operations and arrested two persons including a female involved in drug smuggling and impounded two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 0,295 kg Heroin, 37,5 kg Hashish, 0,300 kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 0,530 kg Ketamine and 0,050 kg Marijuana.

ANF KPK recovered 115,444 kg of Drugs in 11 operations and arrested seven persons involved in drug smuggling and impounded two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 5,624 kg Heroin and 109,82 kg Hashish.

ANF Sindh recovered 117,344 kg of drugs, 13.32 kg of suspected substance, 400 kg Belet Nut and 38 kg 'Ratan Pan Masala' in seven operations, arrested