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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 dissolu-tion of the provincial leg-islature to Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

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 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

party's decision and the directives issued by Imran, had forwarded the summary for the dissolu-tion of the provincial assembly. "If the governor does not dissolve the assembly

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 KPAssembly would be dissolved by tonight.

solved 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 c h o o s e @ImranKhanPTI," he

said, Earlier, KP govern-

ment spokesperson Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif had told Dawn.com that the summary for the dissolution of the assem-bly would be sent to the governor before mid-night.

Dissolution of Punjab, KP assemblies

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

Subsequently, Mahmood had CM also

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 estab-

promised to dissolve the KP provincial assembly following the dissolu-tion of the PA, saying a

tion 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

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

Addressing the 86th

House

lish a government with a two-thirds majority in the entire country."

The chief minister said there was instabili-

CM Mahmood thanked the government and opposition MPAs apart from the provincial bureaucracy for the last

ty in the country due to imported rulers and that getting rid of the cor-rupt gang had become inevitable.

On January 15, PML-N supreme leader Nawaz Sharif attending 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 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 coun-try, "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

Received by Quetta Corps Commander Lt Gen Asif Ghafoor

The ISPR statement said Gen Munir was briefed on the prevailing security situation and the formation's operational prepared-ness, 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 elements to destabilise ened.

Balochistan, statement said.

'We are aware of the nefarious designs of external enemies of Pakistan to disturb the hard-earned peaceful environment Balochistan,

ISPR statement quoted the army chief as say-ing He also said that the army's deployment and operations were being "focused" in being "focused" in Balochistan to provide an "enabling environ-ment for benevolent people-centric socioe-

conomic develop-ment". Over the past few months, the law and order situation in the country has wors-

with terrorist executing groups attacks 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 resulted in an increased number of resulted 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 boy-cott 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 state-ment issued on Tuesday moming. He said the killing of senior lawyer in the court premises exposes the security of judicial



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

Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan has issued an alert on Tuesday in view of rain and on ruesday 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, Health



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

In view of the possible closure of highways, orders have been issued to vacate all government rest houses in Ziarat. ' 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.

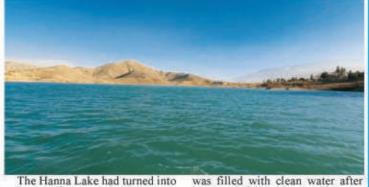
Gas pipeline

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.



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 sum-mer. After lake was earlier giving a deserted look and there were no

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 The P11 had resigned en masse from the lower house of parliament following the ouster of P11 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 potification issued by the

The notification issued by the electoral watchdog today, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, stated that the lawmakers were denotified "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, Shafqat 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. Qasim Khan Suri. Two PTI lawmakers elected on

reserve seats — Aliya Hamza Malik and Kanwal Shauzab were also de-notified. In addition to the 34 PTI law-makers, the ECP also de-notified Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed.Web

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 specifi-cally named insurgent outfits such as the Tehrike-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), both of which have increasingly targeted Pakistani personnel and civilians, but also the regional ISIS Khorasan branch called ISIS-K or branch, called ISIS-K or ISIL-K, saying that some-times these groups worked together against

Pakistan's interests. "We have to deal with this," Ambassador Akram said, "and we are deter-mined 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 move ments 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 Movement (ETIM) comprising of militants of Uyghur descent, and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) com-prising of militants of Uzbek descent also needed 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 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 snoke with his Zardari spoke with his Afghan counterpart, Amir Khan Muttaq, on Thursday, offering his condolences over the ter-rorist.INP

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.



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 dis-trict on Tuesday. Rescue workers and fellow min-

ers 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 under 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.

QUETTA VOICE Editor Asim Khan Destination of electables is PPP

in Balochistan nowadays

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which failed to win a single seat during the general elections of 2018 in Balochistan is finally back. Electables, commonly called the ever-green and influential politicians have been joining the party for last more than a month. The seismic political shift in Balochistan is nothing new. Switching of loyalties and changing political parties normally take a place before every general election in the province, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

Winds of change blowing in Balochistan

"Winds of change are blowing in Balochistan", is a commonly held notion in villages and cities of the province these days. Earlier this year, it was the Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (F) with electables joining the religious party. However, PPP filled the vacuum.

Asif Zardari has no time to visit Balochistan because of crowds join-

ing the party
PPP supremo Asif Ali Zardari has no time to visit Balochistan to
announce the joining of the electables because of the rush. The
electables/evergreen politicians thronged the Bilawal House in Karachi and
started joining the PPP and the party leaders preferred to receive them

Former federal minister Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hassani his son Umair Muhammad Hassani, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, the son of Nawabzada Siraj Raisani, former Balochistan Minister, Tahir Mehmood Khan, Mir Mohyuddin Baloch, the former central leader of the Baloch Students Organization (BSO), Mir Fareed Raisani and others joined the party in Karachi. Three former provincial ministers including Mir Zahoor Buledi, Saleem Khan Khoso and Arif Jan Muhammad Hassani have already

Sardar Noor Ahmed Bangulzai also joined the PPP Sardar Noor Ahmed Bangulzai who is likely to contest elections against former Chief Minister Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani in Mastung has

As the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) nears its permanent collapse, its leaders and workers have started joining other political parties. The BAP, which emerged as the largest parliamentary party prior to the 2018 general elections has practically collapsed since its incumbent CM Mir Quddus Bizenjo, and president Jam Kamal Khan are in contact with

other political parties for joining.

Despite ruling the province for five years, currently, none owns the party and gradually everyone parts ways with it.

Time for decisive action

Never before in recent decades has Pakistan been in such a state of crisis. Our economy, politics and society are in disar-

About the economy, the question being asked is: 'will we soon default?' The combination of external debt, imports, and forex exchange reserves leave many wondering. Understandably, the focus at present is on

survival But even when policy-makers take a longer view of the economy, soundbites about GDP growth and IMF pro-grammes replace vision and strategy. There is no deeper manify about deeper inquiry about what is best for the country. Whether GDP growth results from increase in manufactured goods or from one-time spending of borrowing does not figure in our discussion.

Nor do we discuss how to use the IMF programme to strengthen the country's economic fun-damentals and avoid future crises. Both agriculture and manufacturing are in decline, consequently plunging exports. Slow accumulation of capital and slow produc-tivity growth have reduced the economy's

potential for growth.

For years, the apparent object of our economic policy has been to survive the current economic cri-sis by piling debt on debt,

until the next one comes along. We continued to take on more debt from wherever it came, includ-ing at very high rates from the bond market. No one gave any thought to how it would be repaid. Since 2008, Pakistan's total stock of debt and lia-bilities has grown by \$85 billion. We have paid about \$114 billion since 2008, yet the debt stock 2008, yet the debt stock has still grown by \$85 billion. A more flawed economic policy is hard

to find. Until a few years ago, the debate in Pakistan about economic growth centred on whether we are a security or a devel-opment state. That line of thought suggested that we may be spending too much on defence at the expense of the economy. The debate is redundant now. So much of government spending goes to paying interest on loans that all expenses, including defence, have taken a back seat. In fiscal 22, the federal government spent almost 85 per cent of its net receipts on interest. Most other expenses are met from borrowing.

Our troubles are not for want of capital. They result from unimaginative policies. Post 9/11, the country was awash in for-eign exchange. By 2008, we had spent it all and were back with the IMF with a sudden 40 per cent devaluation. There was

nothing to show for the

money spent. Much of the debt went into meeting imports and debt servicing needs. Two-thirds of our external debt has been spent on the budget and BoP, and only one-third on development. Apart from CPEC investment, the debt amount was not invested. Even the CPEC projects selected by Pakistan have not so far increased our ability to There was no

'game changer'.

Economic partners no longer take us at our word. In over a year, end-less discussions with the have borne little fruit. All commitments to the IMF are now 'prior action' because we have lost their trust. Even traditional partners, China and Saudi Arabia, are reluctant to help. They know that this patient is addicted to life support.

The key question that needs to be asked by eco-

nomic planners is where we want the economy to go from here. What kind of an economy Pakistan aims to have in five, ten or even fifty years. Specious talk about wanting to be a knowledge economy or a producer of high-tech goods does not cut it if we do not put in the needed hard work and investment into these

Political capacity too is fragile. With elections in

ast August, the FBI raided former US pres-

a few months and the people dizzied by prices and taxes, the back and forth in the commitments made to the IMF shows

the government's quandary. This is the cumulative effect of the inability of successive governments to offer a serious vision for the economy. Expediency economy Expediency and special interests are no substitute for strategy. It is time to get serious. Bluster can no longer

work as policy, nor as negotiating strategy. We must have a plan not just to exit the present crisis, to exit the present crisis, but also to put the economy on a surer footing for the future. While taking the difficult measures to restore the IMF programme, the government must look at the future. The restored IMF programme will only see us through another year or two. And it will further increase our debt. What happens next?

We may like to weigh

We may like to weigh the pros and cons of seek-ing external debt relief. Both the IMF and G20 have established mechanisms for doing so. Decision-makers must decide on which is best. I do not recommend debt rescheduling, as that merely postpones servic-ing while increasing lia-

The money saved must go to paying back the remaining debt at a faster rate and investing to

By Humayun Akhtar Khan increase the productivity of the private sector. Gradually, new debt should be for projects only, such that the economy essentially needs for

growth and exports.

We have not seen pro-longed periods of growth. The economy will not grow by targeting just a few firms or sectors. Overall demand must increase. For that, the income and purchasing power of the majority of our neonle must increase.

our people must increase. Even within the present constraints, we must find ways to increase private investment. They do not have to be in large indus-

Entrepreneurship at all levels must grow, espe-cially small and micro industries. The latter's need for capital, technology or energy is not high and suits the economy's present circumstances.

Small firms bring a lot of value. They are presently operating in an unhelpful governance cli-mate. To facilitate their growth, they must have government support. An economy prospers when consumption and produc-tion increase. With proper help these small firms will boost production and increase purchasing power. They could sow the seeds of future large firms. Increasing income at the micro level would help growth in demand for the large industries.

Time for an election

By Mosharraf Zaidi

The polycrisis in Pakistan rages on Urgent questions agitate the con-dition of the Pakistani. A sovereign default may not be imminent, but an exis-tential economic crisis has raged for months, perhaps years - depend-ing on who is measuring what. How long before economic difficulties economic cause major social unrest

The dissolution of the Punjab Assembly means that an already frayed federal compact could be tested more severely than at any stage since the 7th NFC Award and the 18th Amendment. How much dissonance provinces and across the federation can the existing system bear before subnational narratives and movements emerge as key variables in gover-

The terrorism of the TTP has surged in recent weeks. Can the country continue to send its soldiers and police personnel in harm's way without a coherent, politically feasible counter terrorism

strategy in place? Significant chunks of post disaster reconstruction remain pending from the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 floods. Will the reconstruction of the damage caused by the cli-mate change induced superfloods of 2022 fol-low a different trajectory?

Afghanistan is relatively stable after nearly four decades, but short periods of stability there have always produced long

periods of instability. Will the Taliban be able to sustain their control over Afghanistan's territory in a manner that eventually leads to the end of terrorist sanctuar-

ies in that country? Saudi Arabia is chang-ing rapidly, and for the better. Does the millenni-

al leadership of Pakistan's most vital strategic partner have the appetite to continue deal-ing with the dysfunction the dinosaurs of the Pakistani military and civilian elite?

China has responded to the domestic pressures that the strict Covid-19 lockdown in there had generated by opening up to travel. Suddenly there hope that economic growth forecasts could be revised upward. Will a once-again growing China revert to the pre-pandemic laissez faire infrastructure financing binge in countries like Pakistan?

There isn't an obvious right or wrong answer to any of these questions. Many of the determinants of these questions lie outside the jurisdiction of Yet there is one thing common to them all They are substantial questions. Can a weak and internally contradictory government, scared of its own shadow, try answer such questions?

Not even a little bit.
Pakistan has been aching for a free and fair election since 2018. The only way the country has any chance at tackling these questions is by conducting a truly free and

fair election. Only a gov-ernment with a fresh mandate – even if such a mandate is conjured up through a coalition – can attempt to tackle these challenges. Absent the public's renewed confipublic's renewed confidence through an elec-tion, there is no version of Pakistan that will work

Of course, an election and a new mandate, even a thumping majority, do not guarantee that the resulting government will be able to tackle these questions capably. But they will be able to tackle them the way they want, the way the Pakistani wants. Since 2018, the decision of the military leadership to install a government of its own liking in Islamabad has meant that elected civil-ian leaders have neither the full agency to sink or swim on their own, nor the liability to be answerable for their decisions.

Imran Khan's populari-ty after losing the vote of no-confidence in 2022 is not easily explicable or replicable, but it is not entirely drawn from his charisma nor the appeal of Khan's lies about a global anti-Khan conspir global anni-Khan conspir-acy. It is also not hinged on the anti-military tone that Khan adopted after being dumped by his once-upon-a-time patrons. What does explain some of Khan's appeal since 2022 is that he very clearly aligned all his weaknesses with the military leadership and all his strengths as his

own.
It seems unlikely that
the PML-N or PPP can
pull off such sophisticat-

ed and effective political messaging in the weeks and months to come - but there should no doubt about their attempts to do so in the not-too-distant future. Both PDM members will attempt to distance themselves from the cool shade of the military's bosom under which they currently reside. This is a manoeuvre both parties have honed over decades, and one that Khan has masterfully taken from under

their noses. The military may have gotten too used to having all power in Pakistan flow to it and through it. Things that feel good are easy to catch and hard to quit. Claims of the military being neutral or having dissociated from poli-tics were clearly greatly

exaggerated.
All of these factors make an early and immediate general election even more imperative. No one in Pakistan should be more keen for a free, fair and credible general election than the military – so it can rid itself of the stench of the post 2016 era and the mistakes of 2018, 2022 and everything before, during and after. But as ever there are vultures and parasites lined up from here to eternity, ready to argue against the most obvious way for-ward for the country. Three of the arguments merit dismantling, early and often.

The first and most frequent argument against an immediate election is the one used by many that are understandably con-

vinced that absent a PTI victory, Imran Khan will refuse to accept the out-come of any election. This is true and has been proven in 2013. But what happened in 2014 was more important. Khan camped out, kind of, at D Chowk - and he huffed and puffed as is his wont but he could not blow this house down. An eleclegitimate Nawaz Sharif survived the triple threat of Tahirul Qadri, Imran Khan and the invisible hand of Pakistani politics. Winners aren't whiners. Hold a free and fair election. The loser won't have the correction to the correction of the loser won't have the correction to the correction. the capacity to

destabilize or undermine a real winner - just like 2014. Besides, if Khan is not going to accept any-thing but a victory, then holding an election in October 2023 or holding it in April 2023 will make no difference. Hold the election. As soon as pos-

The second argument against an immediate announcement of elections is that the country and its economy aren't stable enough for an election. But this was true a year ago, and the economy has gotten worse since then. Yes, Shaukat Tarin lined the Finance Division with landmines, but Ishaq Dar is doing the same. The economy can-not recover without difficult decisions that require the electorate's mandate. The desperate retired uncles arguing otherwise as they salivate at the prospects of an unelected

ing over Pakistan.

cabal of technocrats takence to laws or ethical

Ethics and politics

norms has become a disap-pearing commodity in US politics, as it has been in so many other countries. Shortly after the conclu-

ident Donald Trump's resort home in Florida. They searched for and confiscated a large number of classified documents that were in the former president's possession and that he had refused to turn over to the National Archives as required.
This was followed by the expected reactions

from both political parties - Republicans condemning the unprecedented raid on a former president's home and Democrats criticizing the former president's refusal to turn over the documents. And now it has been revealed that lawyers have

found classified documents marked "top secret" in offices used by Joe Biden while serving as vice presi-dent, as well as at his home. As expected, the political brouhaha has hit very high decibels. Both matters - Trump and Biden's possession of clas-sified documents - are under investigation by the Department of Justice. Biden claims to not have any knowledge of such documents in his former office, while Trump had asserted his authority to keep whatever he wanted. "I could declassify whatev-er documents I wished", therefore everything I had was declassified, he has asserted. As for Biden, at a minimum this represents careless handling of sensi-

tive material. The Department of Justice having to investigate two presidents is quite unprecedented. It appears that in recent years adher-

sion of midterm elections last November, the country found out that George Santos, newly elected Republican Representative to the US Congress from New York, had lied about just every important aspect of his background. His education, work experi-ence, his faith, and what his family has endured over generations were all fabricated. How he man-aged to lend \$700,000 to his campaign is under investigation for possible campaign finance viola-

Yet, the fact that the newly elected representative has fabricated his entire life story isn't the most shocking part of the story. What is truly shock-ing is that Santos' Republican Party led by the newly elected Speaker doesn't feel Mr Santos should have to resign. The Republican majority in the House of just four seats must be protected at all

The last several years in American politics have shown that the super wealthy and super powerful may just be above the law, and, that adherence to laws and norms of behavior are somewhat voluntary. In many cases there are simply no means of

enforcing compliance.
This week Donald
Trump's real-estate organization was fined \$1.6 million for tax fraud, the largest fine allowed by New York State law. Donald Trump has not been personally implicated, but his chief financial

officer has received a fivemonth prison sentence. Trump has brushed off the entire episode by simply calling it "politically moti-

vated. While these are clear acts of unethical behaviour. there are other examples of violation of laws and even the American constitution that have been allowed to slide. In 2016, then leader of the Republican majority in the Senate Mitch McConnell decided he would not allow then pres-ident Obama to fill a seat in the US Supreme Court that had become vacant. When Obama nominated a candidate to fill the seat, as stip-ulated by the Constitution, the Senate leader simply ignored it, leaving the Supreme Court one seat short for almost a year. Leader McConnell cited his constitutional right to

not give the presidential nominee a hearing. Article II, Section 2 of the US constitution states that the president shall appoint justices to the Supreme Court "with advice and consent of the Senate." Whether such "advice and consent" could include the right to simply refuse to consider a duly nominated justice is for legal scholars to argue

Last but not least, the former president tried to overturn the results of the 2020 election by coming up with a twisted theory of election fraud. He wrongly asserted the vice president had powers to refuse to certify the results. Even his instigation of a riot that resulted in several deaths and the sacking of Capitol Hill in January 2021 has so far not resulted in any consequences for him.

Growing discontent

By Abdul Sattar

Interacting with people has always been one of the main components of the art of ruling. In India, the panchayat system in villages ensures that people from the ruling class regularly interact with the ruled. In modern democracies like the UK, local parliamentarians invest their energies in schemes that appease their voters. They also prefer to meet their constituents by regularly visiting their con-stituencies and sparing some time for those who vote them into power.

In the past, Greek city states, including Athens, used to have a mecha-nism that could help them learn about people's sen-timents. Even Sparta, which was dictatorial in nature, had crafted some principles that would enable them to have firsthand knowledge of peo-

ple's feelings. In Pakistan, there has been a lack of interaction between the ruling elite and the people. Many parliamentarians prefer to stay in federal and provincial capitals, provincial capitals, enjoying luxuries of life in elite housing societies and upscale neighbour-hoods. It is true that they show up at the funerals of some focal notables in their constituencies, but mostly they remain away from their native towns and only bother to meet their voters at the time of

elections. These politicians do not have proper offices in constituencies to meet their voters and learn about their prob-lems. After becoming public representatives, they completely ignore their voters who come in droves to cast their votes and help them win.

Our prime ministers, who should be in the upper and lower houses of parliament to answer the questions of public representatives, find excuses to avoid these sessions. It is true that some former prime ministers did attend the ses-sions, but it is also a bitter truth that most of them frequently offer excuses to remain absent from such gatherings. For instance, former

prime minister Nawaz Sharif was criticized by a number of critics for giving less time to parlia-ment during 2013 and 2017. He reportedly attended 63 days during his tenure after which he disqualified. Nawaz's nephew Hamza Sharif attended only 31 sessions. His younger brother Shehbaz Sharif was criticized for skip-ping various sessions of the Punjab Assembly despite being the leader of the house During the same term,

the political rival of the Sharifs, Imran Khan, also had the lowest attendance in parliament. During the 2013-2018 term, he attended only 20 National

Assembly sessions out of the total of 465. Not only do prime min-isters and chief ministers love to ignore parliamen-tary sessions, but federal and provincial ministers also follow in the foot-steps of their political

mentors when it comes to attending legislative ses-sions. Many ministers and advisers spend their time in different countries, attending various conferences or accompanying the prime minister as a member of the dele-

Those who monitor

parliamentary affairs often witness the anger of various committee members over the absence of ministers and advisers. It seems that members of our ruling elite are not only indifferent to the problems of their con-stituents, but are also accustomed to skipping the meetings held to discuss such problems. This indifference prompts them to come up with anti-people policies. Their development schemes and social proj-ects indicate that they cater to the needs of the select few. They seem to have less awareness about the issues being faced by the people. For instance, since

1988, the country may have witnessed hundreds of development and infrastructure projects, and most of these projects were designed in a way that led to the demolition of numerous slums and low-income areas.

From the Lyari Expressway and Gujjar Nullah affectees and farmers around Ravi in Lahore to victims of the Mirani dam Balochistan, millions of people have either been displaced or their liveli-hoods destroyed because of these projects. Due to anti-encroachment drives, thousands of peo-ple lose their sources of employment every year. It is amusing that authorities never pay attention to elite schools or expensive hotels or thousands of private-property owners who encroach upon costly public land. The ruling elite still plans to launch such schemes that will largely affect the poor residents of various local-ities. We are yet to see if those who have encroached railways land will be evicted or not when the railway upgrade projects are carried out in the next few years. But why do sections of

our ruling elite demon-strate such nonchalance towards ordinary people' The answer lies in lack of interaction between the rulers and the ruled. There was a time when sections of the elite would send their siblings to low-cost schools, public universities and ernment colleges where rich people would get an opportunity to interact with students from differ-ent financial backent grounds. But with the rise of gated communities and ultra-modern housing societies, such interaction has come to an end.

Elite and posh neighbourhoods have their own schools and higher education institutions which are affiliated with foreign education institutions. Small markets and ven-dors outside these areas used to be one of the ways connecting the rich of the country to veg-etable sellers or shopkeepers. With the rise of shopping malls, such

interaction is also over. Most factory owners in the past would visit their manufacturing plants, interacting with their employees. Now with the rise of modern technology, the owners can monigy, the workers can informed to workers through CCTV or any mobile application. The fall of trade unions, which used to protest against harsh working conditions or non-acceptance of their demands, has also reduced the need for capitalists to show up at factories and talk to workers Most politicians from

the bottom layer of social stratification made it to parliament through student and trade union poli-tics. Jehangir Badar, Iqbal Haider, Taj Haider, Mairaj Muhammad Khan and others were involved in either trade unions or student politics. Our rul-ing elite has weakened trade unions and banned

student organizations deliberately. Consequently, it has become almost impossible for a low-income per-son to participate in politics, and entering the Pakistani parliament has now become just a dream for ordinary people. It is no wonder then that an overwhelming majority of our lawmakers in provincial assemblies and parliament are million-aires and billionaires. And these people serve

the same class.

If our politicians want to consolidate democratic traditions, they need to reconnect with the people and interact with them.

Inequality and hunger By Chuck Collins

eginning on May 24, the W o r I 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 participants will not be able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth during the pandemic.

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 billionaires 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 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 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."
"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

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

skirts of the elite com-pound in Davos itself.

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Flour smuggler among eight held in Hassanabdal

HASSANABDAL The police arrested eight outlaws including a flour smuggler, six gamblers and recov-ered smuggled flour, stake money and liquor during separate actions here on Tuesday. ASI Mazhar Hussain

said that during snap checking at Jhari Kass check post in Saddar police station Hassan Abdal, 60 bags of 10kg smuggled flour was recovered and a flour

smuggler Saeed Khan s/o Waheed Khan hail-ing from Haripur was

The police during patrolling near Burhan railway station GT Road recovered 10 Road recovered 10
litres liquor from a
drug peddler
Muhammad Arif s/o
Jehandad Khan.
On a tip-off, the
police raided a gambling den in Chakra
Abkra area in suburbs

Abkra area in suburbs of Hassan Abdal and

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

Separate cases were registered against the detainees at concerned police stations and

Prudent resource management must to end regional disparities: analysts

ISLAMABAD Region al disparities and uneven development in Pakistan are the areas of particular 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.

Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Centre of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR), said while talking to WealthPK that inequality among

inequality among provinces, at the district level, and between the rural-urban areas has con-

sequences. 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 differ-ences between urban and rural development levels cause shortcomings for balanced and high-quality development," he said

"To achieve sustain-able economic growth, it is necessary to achieve balanced development, as well as the efficient allo-

between rural and urban areas. The development of rural areas is imperaor tural areas is impera-tive to accelerate Pakistan's economic growth," he underlined. Dr Adnan Rafique, Political Scientist and Public Policy Analyst at the Planning

Planning told the Commission, WealthPK that Pakistan's four provinces are unequal in terms of area, population, and economic and social development. He said the geographi-cal structure of Pakistan identifies that most of the

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.

political instability.
"The concerns of the smaller provinces are further exacerbated by the lack of balance in the fed-eral development spendthrough the annual Sector Development Program

(PSDP), and in grants given to provinces," he

Dr Adnan mentioned that the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives recently launched a five-year (2022-27) project comprising special development initiatives for 20 poorest districts across Pakistan at Rs40 billion. These 20 districts are selected based on scores in the Multidimensional in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which include 11 Balochistan districts, five Sindh districts, three Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts, and one Punjab district. More districts are included from Balochistan and Sindh

due to massive damages
caused by recent floods.

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



PESHAWAR: A vendor displaying Perfumes on footpath to attract customers at

Effective monitoring can help improve performance of field staff: Commissioner

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan said that 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.

He said the target set for establishing Dehi Markaz Mall which so far has been achieved till 98% should be made to 100%. Out of 107310 blocked khewats, 105800 have been unblocked so far. He directed that remaining 1510 should be unblocked as soon as possible.

In this meeting held at commissioners

In this meeting held at Commissioner Office

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

Commissioner Rawalpindi Saqib Manan directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure one-dish and time restric-tions in marriage halls under the Marriage Act and to share price checking and performance reports of actions against viola-tors of marriage halls with the Commissioner's office on a daily basis. On this occasion, while 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

FIRs and 186 arrests have been made against the violations reported during 20,646 raids, besides a fine of Rs.30,39,500. While briefing about the Annual Development Schemes, it was informed that mega projects which will be revolutionary for Rawalpindi are given preference to initiate them INP

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 Sadig Public School was also held at Governor House which was presided over by Dr. Raheel Siddiqui. The educational matters were discussed in the meeting. meeting. The Governor Punjab shared his vision with the teaching commit-tee. 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

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

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 the meeting, the Board of Governors the control of the same proposed the same control of the same proposed the same control of the same contro

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, infra-structure and financial matters within the school.

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 formu-

la 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 government.INP

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

Labour & 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 work-ers 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 microfinance "Akhuwat".

Addressing the business com-munity 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 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 facili-ties to the workers", he added The Secretary Labour also

announced to form consultative committees of FCCI and concerned departments to check alleged harassment of small fac-

tory owners in addition to redressing complaints regarding maladministration of PESSI and WWF. He further said that the minutes of the meeting would be shared with the FCCI to resolve the industrialists' problems according to the ground reali-ties. He also assured to notify the committees and give repre-sentation to FCCI in the BOGs of PESSI and WWF on top pri-ority basis Earlier Dr. Sajjad Arshad Senior Vice President introduced Faisalabad and FCCI and said that 8,000 members belonging to 128 different trades are affiliated with this elected trade body of Faisalabad. He was critical of global meltdown and political uncertainty and said that industries are facing the brunt of the crisis with minimum layoffs of workers.INP



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

Revocation of IIOJK status must for talks with India: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Prime finister's Special Minister's Representative Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Muhammad 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.

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 govemment should stop atrocities against Kashmiris and to resolve all issues.

Minister move towards negotiation

Shehbaz Sharif expressed a unanimous stance of the government and nation in an interview with Al Arabiya channel," he said adding, "Wars are not the solution of issues as they could only be resolved through dialogues permanently

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 sta-

He said the stance of Saudi Arabia and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on 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. In response to a ques-

tion, he said Islam did not allow forced conversion and marriage as Pakistan's Ulema, Mashaykh, and religious scholars had issued 'Fatwa' on this very

He also termed the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding forced conversion and marriage against reality. He made it clear that

there was no concept of forced conversion and marriage in Islam and the complaints, in this regard, had decreased to a great extent in Pakistan.

He proposed that the Office of the United High Nations Commissioner should conduct a thorough and impar tial investigation as some institutions and non-governmental organizations only spread this kind of propaganda for their vested interests.INP

foiled, five held with 1415 bags flour RAWALPINDI: The police and food depart-ment in joint actions foiled two flour smug-

Flour smuggling bids

gling 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



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

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

ISLAMABAD: Mercur y, which is also some-times called quicksilver due to its liquid metallic appearance, is widely used in different industrial segments in Pakistan. A principal source miner-al 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 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 coopera-tion of the Australian government.INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

account (C03136) (verified by the District Accounts Officer). Bid Security 2% TSE-222301223153

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 (Z2022.0479)" from interested contractors/firm with the Bid Security @ 2% of estimated cost/offered 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 Challan in a head of

INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM IN DISTRICT DUK! UNDER THE PROJECTAGRI PROD THROUGH WATER MANAGEMENT SCHEME IN UC

WAHVI-I, WAHVI-II, SHARQILUNI, GHARBILUNI, PALOS KALAN, THAL CHUTIALI, THALSHARQI, THAL GHARBI DUKI. PSDP 2022-23 S.NO. 130

Procurements shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: a. Presence in Active Tax Payer List b. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan c. Balloch is tan Revenue Authority Registration is required d. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work e. Turnover of at least 17,550,705/- PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. f. Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(v) (Irrigation Only), CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), EE11(ii) (Solar Energy). g. Income Tax Registration certificate is required. h. The Bidding Firm must submit Audit Report / Audit Balance Sheet of FY 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22. I. The bidding Firm must submit Company's latest Bank Account Statement or Bank Credit Line Certificate. j Bidder has to submit tender fee on original green challan k. The Bidding Firm must be Authorized Dealer Distributor of reputed Solar Panel (Chinese Brand). I. The bidder must submit income tax return of taxation year 2022. Method of Procurement: Single Stage-Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security (2%) in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee (Bank's certificate is mandatory) in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be downloaded from BPPRA website. Bid Validity Period: 90 days. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication, during office hours of any working day. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders should be submitted on 01-02-2023 till 10:00 AM Sharp at the office of the undersigned. Tender opening: The Technical Proposals will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM. Stamp Duty: The successful bidder must submit the Stamp Duty in shape of Judicial Stamp Paper or Special Adhesive Stamps as per policy. Address: Office the Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management, Duki. Note:- The Tender Opening Committee/Bid Evaluation Committee reserves the right (Delegated by the BPPRA Rules 2014) that either accept or reject any or all the offers/quotations prior to the acceptance of a bid. a) The Contractor/Firm not qualifying the basic eligibility criteria will not be entertained in the bidding process. b) The bidder / firm should quote all the rates in BOQ's otherwise the bidding would be consider as non-responsive, c) As per policy, the Procuring Agency reserves the right to increase or decrease quantum of work. Contact No. 3337795803

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR AGRICULTURE ON FARM WATER MANAGEMENT DUKI

Oversight of poultry sector vital to prevent financial losses: expert

ISLAMABAD: Screeni ng and surveillance of the poultry sector is vital to prevent financial and production losses and to improve access to inter-national markets, said Dr S Murtaza Hassan Principal Andrabi. Officer at Agriculture Scientific National Research Centre

(NARC) Considering the fact that poultry diseases are one of the major causes of economic and production losses in poultry farming, it is extremely important to be aware of the prevailing health issues of poultry in the areas of concern, he told

WealthPK 'Poultry health, and production are several factors that challenge the future growth of the industry. Due to these challenges, the poultry sector faces economic losses," he

He said chicken is one of the most popular meats, and eggs are one of the best sources of pro-tein since they contain all nine essential amino

Therefore, it is important to protect and enhance the livelihoods of diverse groups of poul-try keepers as well as stakeholders in the poul-

value chain as a whole," he said.

Dr Murtaza said that in addition to promoting economic development and stakeholder livelihoods, monitoring pro-grams also aim to protect health and improve mar-ket access for poultry

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 improv-ing the health and welfare of their poultry," he said. In order to achieve these broad aims, it is important to identify dis-eases that are most likely to affect animals and to provide data in order to assess animal health ini-tiatives."The animal husbandry commissioner is responsible for screening and oversight of poultry diseases. Following the passage of 18th constitutional amendment. provinces now have com-

plete jurisdiction over the surveillance of poultry diseases and they have their own reporting sys-tem," he pointed out. Dr. Murtaza said 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 تلاش گمشدگے

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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

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.

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 cooper-



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

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.

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 on that was 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

On Senator Shahzad Wasim's question, Shahadat Awan said an irrelevant question had been asked. "If a written question is submitted according to the

National exchequer suffers Rs 1.226b due to discos' performance

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday expressed seri-ous concern over electricity distribu-tion 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 the due to the efficient distribution, Discos' including Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO), 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

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: APHC-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 Kashmir dispute in the local and international media.

According to Kashmir Media
According to Kashmir Media
Service, talking to a delegation of
Jammu and Kashmir Community
Overseas Saudi Arabia that called on
him at the APHC-AJK office in
Islamabad, today, Mehmood Ahmad
Saghar informed the delegation about
the eviction of Kashmiri Muslims 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 APHC-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 APHC Coordinator of Jammu and Kashmir community Overseas Raja Parvez Ahmed, Vice Chairman Raja Muhammad Riaz, Sardar Kamran Azam, Raja Muhammad Zareen Khan and Khalid Gujjar. INP Kashmir.

Center helping Balochistan youth to acquire skilled based education under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is providing better opportunities to the youth of Baluchistan especially that of Gwadar to acquire modern educa-tion 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 train-ing in various engineering disci-plines. The objectives of the proj-ect also include the development and generation of technical know-how in the field of precision mechanics, instrument technolo-

gy, 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 pro-

vide 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, Gwadar.
Collectively, these institutes will lay the foundation of a skilled Gwadar. The people of Gwadar are the main/fundamental stakeholder of the Port City of Gwadar. Their participation in the operation & management of the deep-sea port, participation in industrial and commercial businesses, and urbanization processes is key to all long-term.INP

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 Karim 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 Faisal Kundi mentioned that Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal had also dis-tributed 50,000 wheelchairs for the terror victims under the leader-

ship of Zamurd Khan. Over eight million deserving families are benefiting under the Benazir Kafaalat program Rs. 13 billion released for Educational

stipends for children registered in schools of deserving families.

An extra stipend of Rs 500 is given so that girls could also be sent to school. The aim is to gradually alleviate the poor from poverty by providing soft loans and training so that they can become self-sufficient and find good jobs BISP BoD decided to good jobs.BISP BoD decided to include Transgender Community in the Kafaalat program under BISP, who can benefit from the financial assistance under INP

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-c-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), both of which have 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 interview

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 Talibanled government that taking on all of these groups was in its immedi-

"Now we have we have a situation in Afghanistan where the Taliban need to be convinced to deal with all of the terrorist move-ments 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

In addition to TTP and BLA, he 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 combatation 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 bal-

ance 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

Pakistan needs strategy to benefit from free trade agreements: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan should devise an effective strategy to improve the trade balance and get maxibenefits 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

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 barri-

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

er 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 Pakistani products 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-relat-ed restrictions, I think a major turnaround will happen for Pakistani pro-ducers. I hope that Pakistani producers, exporters, and manufac-turers will come here and explore this wonderful market'

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

The Commercial Counsellor shares that Pakistan business opportunity conferences and tri-lateral 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

Looking back to the past year, Mr. Ghulam Qadir acknowledged it has been a difficult year for the global economy. In spite of this, break-throughs 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 Jan-Sept 2022 Pakistan's rice exports to China crossed the historical figure of one million

We are also finalizing trade protocols for daily products and meat prod-ucts. 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-com-merce So, we are sensi-tizing our Pakistani exporters and manufacturers to come to China and use the wonderful facilities provided by the Chinese and provincial governments for ware-housing, rent-free offices, and all the rest of other facilities", he told CEN.

Joint ventures will continue being encouraged to help move Pakistani prod-ucts 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 set-up 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 Mitsuhiro 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 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".

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

"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 Masafa' 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

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 Rochi-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

Drugs in 11 operations and arrested seven persons involved in drug smug-gling 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



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