

QUETTA VOICE

Email address: dquettavoice@gmail.com

Saturday 21 January, 2023

Https:// www.quettavoice.com/

ABC Certified

Quettavoice



Tourists throng towards Hanna Lake Quetta after snowfall



Nation needs to cast their votes with responsibility, diligence: President

Polio workers campaign despite snowfall harsh weather in Pishin

Health Desk

Images and videos of the polio workers engaged in the anti-polio campaign despite heavy snowfall and harsh weather in the Pishin and Killa Saifullah districts of Balochistan province. Polio workers including men and women walk on heaps of snow to administer polio drops to children under the age of five years.

Images obtained from the emergency operation cell (EOC) and health department

In images obtained from the emergency operation cell (EOC) and health department, female polio workers are walking close to mud-walled houses in Barshore area of the Pishin district to provide anti-polio drops to the children.

Polio workers walking over snow as tractors are busy in clearing the road: Photo provided by the EOC



An anti-polio campaign was kicked off in Balochistan

An anti-polio campaign was kicked off in Balochistan like in other parts of the country to eradicate the crippling virus. Thousands of polio workers are involved in the campaign to make it a success. Despite heavy snowfall and harsh weather, the polio workers and the health department kept continued the anti-polio campaign in most parts of northern Balochistan.

Balochistan has been polio-free for the last two years

Balochistan has been polio-free for the last two years and there are no environmental samples so far. Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili had vowed to eradicate the crippling virus from the country's largest province in terms of area.

Blast targets Jaffar Express near Mach 8 passengers injured

Imran Sumalani

A blast targeted the Jaffar Express in Balochistan's Kachhi district near Mach on Friday.

ensure better treatment for the injured by the blast. The CM vowed that the miscreants involved in the attack would be brought to justice. The train service



Levies sources said eight passengers were injured in the attack.

Two seriously injured in the blast were rushed to the Combined Military Hospital Sibi for medical treatment.

According to initial information, eight people were injured as a result of the blast. The injured were rushed to the hospital for medical treatment.

Levies sources said the blast damaged two bogies of the passenger train. Levies and frontier corps personnel reached the spot and cordoned off the area.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo strongly condemned the blast and directed the deputy commissioner Kachhi to reach the spot. He directed the health department to

between Balochistan and other parts of the country was suspended in the aftermath of the blast that targeted the passenger train. The blast also partially damaged the track.



Floods affectees still in need of support: CM told German Ambassador

News Desk

Flood-affected people of Balochistan are still in desperate need of support and the government has no resources to cope with climate change. These views were expressed by Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddos Bizenjo during his meeting with German Ambassador Mr. Alfred Grannas.

The meeting discussed the effects of climate change and issues related to their control. Chief Minister briefed the ambassador about the damages caused in Balochistan by the floods as a result of climate change.

"The government has not yet been able to solve the damage caused by the flood", CM Balochistan stated. It is hoped that the international community will implement the declarations of cooperation made for relief and rehabilitation.



The meeting also discussed the promotion of investment

Various issues of mutual interest including the promotion of investment were discussed in the meeting. Chief Minister briefed the German Ambassador regarding the Riko Diq project, Gwadar Port, and investment opportunities in various sectors in Balochistan.

Balochistan is a unique region with its geographical location and long

coastline, alternative sources of energy, and precious minerals, CM stated. There are vast opportunities for investment in Balochistan Reko Diq project is the best example of this, Mr. Bizenjo added.

German investors will be attracted to invest in Balochistan and the German government will provide support to Balochistan in the preparation of skilled manpower and other sectors such as health, German Ambassador mentioned.

The Ambassador also stated that Balochistan is very suitable for the development of alternative sources of energy and we will promote cooperation in the energy and water sectors. Balochistan will also be given priority in Germany's development program for Pakistan, Mr. Alfred added.

Tourists throng towards Hanna Lake Quetta after snowfall

Syed Ali Shah Manan Mandokhail

Hundreds of tourists including women and children thronged towards the beautiful Hanna Lake Quetta after the first snowfall of the winter season. Quetta and most parts of northern Balochistan received heavy snowfall and rainfall during the last two days. Snow and rainfall have turned the weather cold and people preferred to be confined to their homes.

However, once a deserted lake was filled with rain water after a long time and tourists rushed towards the site with its natural beauty. "We are here to enjoy the cold and pleasant weather", Muhammad Ajmal Kakar, a tourist from the Muslim Bagh area of the Killa Saifullah district said. Like Kakar, scores of tourists were roaming the lake to enjoy pleasant weather after the snowfall.

Clean cold water attracts tourists

Clean cold water attracts tourists from across Balochistan and other parts of the country. "I am coming here after five years", Arsalan, a young man from Karachi said. Arsalan had traveled from Karachi along with four other young-



sters from Karachi to Quetta to witness the snow and visit Ziarat and Hanna Lake. "We are planning to visit Ziarat tomorrow", Arsalan informed. Mountains around Hanna Lake had worn a white carpet, which increased its natural beauty and attracted tourists from across the country. Images and

videos of the lake filled with clean blue water went viral on social media. Crowds of tourists could be seen in the lake enjoying the first snowfall of the year.

No basic facilities at the lake: Tourists complain

However, tourists complained about the lack of basic facilities inside the lake. "What a beautiful natural beauty but not a single facility", Muhammad Jaffar, another tourist from the Pishin district of Balochistan lamented. Jaffar had brought all family members in a van to witness Hanna lake filled with clean water after a long time. The British colonial rulers had constructed the Hanna Lake in 1894 to maintain the water table of Quetta, promote tourism, recharge ancient springs in the nearby mountains, and promote agriculture in the city. Migratory birds from Russian Siberia also used to come to the lake in the winter season. But that is no more the case because of hunting and lack of water in the lake.

Nation needs to cast their votes with responsibility, diligence: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said that the nation to select their representatives who were capable of taking smart and speedy decisions and had the capability to oversee their timely and accelerated implementation has to cast their votes with utmost responsibility and due diligence.

"Elections and voting provides the citizens with the opportunity to carefully choose their representatives so that they could provide quality leadership and put the country on the path of progress, prosperity and development."

These views were expressed by the President while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the

National Centre of Industrial Biotechnology at the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, on Friday. Former Pro-Chancellor of the University and Former Minister for Agriculture Punjab, Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi, Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman, also addressed the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, President Arif Alvi said that there was no dearth of ideas in Pakistan rather we were facing an abundance of them, however, Pakistan lacked the institutions, relevant laws and supporting policies to keep pace with changes happening in the world at a lightning-



speed and implement wealth-generating ideas in the country. He said that Pakistan needed to develop intellect-based highly responsive institutions and systems capable of making smart decisions and keeping pace with the developed countries which would help generate products and services which could be readily accepted in the international markets.

The President said that despite Pakistan being an agricultural country, it, unfortunately, suffered from malnutrition and a shortage of agricultural commodities, however, it had the potential to be self-sufficient and export food surplus to other countries. This, he

said, could be achieved by developing creative and innovative agriculture processes and techniques which in the developed world had led to the development of high-yielding crops requiring minimum inputs. He called upon the research institutions of the country and the agriculturists to learn from the best global agricultural practices and combine them with indigenous research to produce high-yielding seeds and crops, besides adopting cost-effective vertical farming and hydroponic agricultural techniques to substantially increase the agricultural output of the country. The President underlined

that Pakistan received abundant water through rains and snow, which was sufficient to meet the country's needs and could also be saved for future use. He said that Pakistan needed to communicate and transfer current agricultural knowledge and optimized techniques to the farmers at the grassroots level, besides promoting water-efficient means of irrigation to help transform centuries-old cultivation and irrigation methods prevalent in our country. This, he added, would not only help the country in achieving self-sufficiency but would also help improve the life and livelihood of Pakistan's farmers. INP

Pakistan, Russia agree to sign few agreements for promotion of cooperation in diverse fields

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Russia have agreed to sign few agreements for promotion of cooperation in diverse fields. The announcement to this effect was made by Minister for Economic Affairs Division Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at the concluding session of Pakistan-Russia Intergovernmental Commission in Islamabad on Friday.

Instead of poor, billionaires get support packages in Pakistan: Dr Murtaza

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr. Murtaza Mughal on Friday said that support packages are offered to billionaires in Pakistan against the support packages given to poor in western countries. In a statement issued here on Friday, he was of the view that the sole purpose of packages doled out to the rich is to increase their fortunes on the cost of the poor. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the countrymen are always told that packages given to industrial, agricultural, stock market or real estate sectors are necessary for national development which is contrary to the facts. There was no concept of tax amnesty schemes in civilized countries, but every government in Pakistan provides an opportunity for the rich to whiten their black money, he added.



LAHORE: Head of Pakistan Muslim League Zia-ul-Haq (PML-Z) Ijaz ul Haq addressing a press conference regarding social activists Sardar Zufiqar Ali Khan join PML-Z party in Provincial Capital.

ANF recovers huge cache of narcotics in multiple raids

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered drugs and hashish worth billion of rupees in multiple raids across the country. The ANF received tip-offs that a huge quantity of drugs had been secretly stored in various areas of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). ANF teams conducted multiple raids across the country following this information. In Islamabad, the raid was conducted near Java Chowk where 200 drug-filled pills had been recovered. The pills had to be supplied to students of educational institutes in the capital. In Balochistan, 100 kilograms of drugs hidden in an under-construction building in Gwadar were seized by ANF. The stock was to be smuggled abroad, stated ANF officials.

Rupee can't be stabilized in presence of broken economy: Rasheed

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has said that rupee can't be stabilized in presence of the broken economy. In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that oil price freeze by the former government and efforts to stabilize the rupee and bring down the value of the dollar by the incumbent government has damaged the economy and annoyed the IMF. Shahid Rasheed Butt that even after the failure of the experiment to bring down the value of dollar artificially, the same policy is being followed which is surprising.

wise the government will have to repay the loans through fresh borrowing, he added. He said that the former rulers damaged the economy by freezing the price of fuel for the sake of popularity and now the current rulers are busy trying to destroy the country's economy by freezing the price of the dollar while the people are suffering the consequences of both policies. Many politicians are neither willing to give importance to the country's interest nor to the economy, but focusing on their ego which is damaging the country, he observed. INP

Five Jhelum girls go missing in week

JEHLUM: Five girls were allegedly abducted in different incidents in Jhelum during a week police sources said on Friday. The girls were 17 to 20 years old, police said. Alisha, Saira Salim, Pakeeza, Kareena, and Asma were among the kidnapped girls, they added. The police announced a reward of Rs50,000 for the recovery of Pakeezah, 20 Jhelum District Police Officer (DPO) Dr Fahad said that two suspects had been arrested and investigation was underway. "All the girls will be recovered soon," he pledged. INP

Sindh University bus sprayed with bullets; driver dead

KARACHI: Unidentified people on Friday opened fire on a point bus of Sindh University Jamshoro at City Gate in Hyderabad, killing driver of the vehicle. The dead body of driver Ghulam Ali was shifted to Civil Hospital for further lego-medical action. No student was present in the bus when the firing incident took place. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the driver's killing. INP

Number of Covid critical patients drops in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The number of critical patients dropped as Pakistan posted 21 more Covid-19 infections with no death during the last 24 hours, showed the statistics released by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on Friday morning. According to the NIH data, the death toll in the country remained the same at 30,640 whereas the number of total infections now rose to 1,576,147 after adding the fresh 21 cases. During the last 24 hours (Thursday), 3,627 tests were conducted throughout the country whereas the positivity ratio shot to 0.58 percent. The number of patients in critical care stood at 09. Chinese turn to traditional remedies to fight Covid. As Covid-19 rips through China's vast population, making millions sick and fuelling a shortage of drugs, many are turning to old-school traditional medicines to battle the aches and pains of the virus. President Xi Jinping has promoted traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) since the start of the pandemic, while health officials have hailed its "important role" in fighting the coronavirus. INP



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Ministry of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Pakistan Faisal Karim Kundi, Second Secretary of Cultural Office of the Embassy of China Xing Lijun and Luqman Ali, Owner of a local restaurant along with others cutting the cake of upcoming Chinese New Year 2023 in Federal Capital.

Book of Pakistan in the eyes of geologists published in China

BEIJING: A book entitled "Pakistan in the Eyes of Geologists", a scientific monograph led by China-SCO Geo-sciences Cooperation Research Center, was published by Geology Press. According to a Gwadar Pro's report, the book is divided into six parts, which took the Chinese and Pakistani teams three years to complete. The teams include China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, the Geological Survey of Pakistan, Bahria University, Chang'an University, Xi'an Liangji Yuhe Brand Culture and Creative Co., Ltd., China Huaye Duddar Mining Co., Ltd., China Metallurgical Group Resource Development Co., Ltd. and other Chinese-funded enterprises in Pakistan. From the perspective of geoscientists, it describes the natural scenery, geological evolution, mineral resources, and highlight projects of northern Pakistan all the way to the south, with Karakoram, China-Pakistan Friendship Highway as the main line. Epitomizing Chinese geoscientists serving the construction of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and supporting overseas investment and cooperation of mining enterprises, it introduces the history of China-Pakistan geo-science cooperation over the past ten years with a combination of graphics and text. Dr. Zhang Huishan, co-author of the book said, "Geology is one of the key areas of cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Practical cooperation between China and Pakistan in mineral resources and mountain hazards will further promote local economic development and build a closer China-Pakistan community of a shared future."

SHC told Centre withdrew notification about Sindh islands control

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has withdrawn its notification regarding taking control of the Sindh islands. The Sindh High Court on Friday heard a petition challenging the notification of the federal government to take control of the Sindh islands. At the outset of the hearing, the assistant attorney general told the court that the term of federal government's ordinance was expired. He said the ordinance was issued on Sept 2022 and it was lapsed on Jan 3, 2023. The AAG said that the federal government withdrew its notification and he submitted a copy of the withdrawn notification to the court. With this, the Sindh High Court disposed of the case. In his petition, the plaintiff stated that the federal government had taken control of Baddu and Bundal Islands in Sindh. He contended that the islands belonged to the province and the federal government could not take control of them. INP

New rains spell to enter Pakistan from Today

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has said that a new rains spell will enter into Pakistan through Balochistan which will grip the upper part of the country. Due to new rains spell, rain-thunderstorm followed by snowfall over hills is expected at isolated places in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, north Punjab and north Balochistan. Temperature in Islamabad and Gilgit recorded on Friday morning was five degree centigrade, Lahore 12, Karachi 15, Peshawar 10, Quetta 02, Murree -02 and Muzaffarabad 08 degree centigrade. Meanwhile, the PMD has forecast cloudy weather with chances of rain for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and snow is expected in Srinagar, Leh, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian and Baramulla, cloudy with chances of rain in Jammu. Temperatures recorded Srinagar, Pulwama and Shopian on Friday morning was one degree centigrade, Jammu 09, Leh -11, Anantnag and Baramulla 02 degree centigrade. INP



QUETTA: A health workers is administering Polio drops to children during Polio Campaign.

China's support helps Pakistan to cut oilseed imports: Experts

BEIJING: China continues to help Pakistan to cut its oilseed imports amid economic challenges, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. As Pakistan has been confronted with severe economic challenges especially after massive countryside floods, with the shrinking foreign exchange reserves, the country's various imports are putting additional financial strain. Statistics from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) show that in FY2021, Pakistan's imports of soya beans, whether or not broken, reached about \$1.145 billion, a strong growth of about 50% year-on-year, exhibiting the country's urgent demand for soybeans. However, in the first quarter of FY2023, Pakistan's soybean imports were \$269 million, down about 18% year-on-year, which may have been affected by the decline of the country's foreign exchange reserves. Soybean production should be adequately considered by Pakistan because of the country's dependence on imports of soybeans. Lack of high-quality seeds, high-yielding planting patterns and machinery restricting Pak soybean production "We are dependent on imports. It is very expensive which causes increase in the price of feed. INP

Saudi loan conditions alarming for country's economy: Mian Zahid

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said instructions of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan for initiating reforms before obtaining a loan is alarming for the country. In a statement issued here on Friday, he said Pakistan urgently needs loans to run its economy but the need for economic reforms to achieve self-reliance cannot be denied. Policy of overdependence on imports has played a major role in the devastation of the economy, he added. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the people should not be deceived by policymakers who put the blame for the economic disaster on external factors. Attributing the events happening in different parts of the world cannot absolve the policymakers of their responsibility. The veteran business leader said that the reason for Pakistan's recent problems is the pandemic followed a super cycle in prices and Russia's attack on Ukraine and recent floods. However, nothing was as damaging for the country as the endless greed of nobility which has pushed the country to the brink, he added. Pakistan has taken loans from the IMF 23 times and the country was facing difficulties in payments for the thirteenth time since 1988, but despite this, there has been no clear change in policies. PPP has knocked on the doors of

the IMF six times, PML-N has borrowed from IMF four times, General Musharraf twice and PTI has done this once and this process continues. The country has been suffering from the worst political and economic governance for decades, power theft, line losses, gas theft, nurturing of failed government institutions, circular debt, agriculture crisis, energy policy, export neglect and dependence on imports has bankrupted a prosperous country, he observed. The business leader noted that the elite who are busy plundering the country's resources with both hands are strongly opposed to reforms in any sector including the economy and no government has the courage to challenge them. Billions of rupees were wasted in the name of reforming the tax system in the last 70 years, but still, the tax collection is hardly ten percent of the GDP, which is shameful. The situation of health, education, energy, production and other important sectors are not different. INP

EXTENSION OF DATE OF SUBMISSION & OPENING OF TENDERS. Refer to the tenders published in National dailies on Friday, 6th January, 2023 vide PRQ No.1796/05-01-2023 and on the BPPRA website with the TES Nos. TSE-222301212543, TSE-222301212643, TSE-222301212673 & TSE-222301212593. The date of submission and opening is hereby extended till 27th January, 2023. Other conditions will remain the same.

TENDER NOTICE. The Executive Engineer (Roads) Communication Works, PP&H Department District Hub invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. TSE-222301226083. S.NO NAME OF WORKS ECOST T/FEED BID SECURITY 1 CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE 350 RFT VC PROTECTION 9,295,606 1,500/- 2% WORKAT BAGHAR NALAABDULLAH GOTH GADANI DISTRICT LASBELA (REVISED WORK). Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan/Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 6,506,924 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years, showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE02, CE10(I) (General Civil Engineering Works), CE01-(I) (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure). Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 09 February, 2023 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 09 February, 2023 till 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 01:00 PM Address: Behind Allied Bank MAIN RCD ROAD TEHSIL HUB DISTRICT HUB Phone no: 0853363462 0853363122 Email: jamalkhan0345@gmail.com

Upper Balochistan frigid in sub-zero temperatures

QUETTA: Upper Balochistan is still receiving snowfall which has again disrupted several link roads in Chaman Kozak Top, Muslim Bagh, Ziarat and other upper areas in the province. Besides this, rain on Friday soaked many areas in Punjab including Lahore and Gujranwala, making weather nippy. The roads in Chaman which were cleared for traffic a few days ago, have again been closed due to heavy snowfall. Quetta Chaman Highway has been closed for traffic owing to heavy snowfall in Chaman Kozak Top. Besides this, Muslim Bagh Ziarat, Chaman Sheela Bagh, Khawaja Imran Khanzuzai and Toba Achakzai roads have been shut after these areas received severe snowfall and rain. There are reports that many people have been trapped in Chaman Toba Achakzai, Toba Kakri, and Ziarat Luiband. Apart from this, many plain areas of Punjab which were in the grip of cold and dry weather for the last several days, received showers on Friday. The rain has added to the chill. The upper areas of the country are already receiving sleet and snow.

The silver snow has covered the whole of Murree giving it a spectacular white look. According to the Meteorological Department's forecast, rain with thunder and lightning is expected at a few places in Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, North Punjab and North Balochistan and snowfall in the mountains on Friday. The Met Office has predicted that westerly winds are affecting North Balochistan which will cover the upper areas from January 21 (night) and will continue intermittently till January 25. However, the weather in the last 24 hours has been extremely cold and dry in most parts of the country. However, rain was recorded at a few places in Balochistan, Upper Sindh and South/Central Punjab. Highest rainfall (mm): Baluchistan: Gwadar 25, Jiwan 21, Panni 17, Turbat 11, Kalat 08, Panjgur 07, Quetta (Samingli 03, Sheikh Manda 01), Zhob 05, Sindh: Jacobabad 03, Sukkur 01, Punjab: 01 mm rain was recorded in Khanpur. The minimum temperature recorded today: Astur, Leh, Skardu minus 12, Kalam minus 10, Gopur minus 09, Bagrot minus 07, Malam Jabba minus 06, Ziarat, Parachinar, Deer minus 05 and Saydu Sharif recorded minus 04 degrees Celsius. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation Nikolay Shulgihin in narrow format meeting on the 8th Session of IGC.

Pakistan highly values multifaceted ties with US: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that Pakistan greatly values its multifaceted relationship with United States and desires to further expand the friendly ties for mutual benefit of the two sides. This was stated by the Chairman Senate in a meeting with US Ambassador Donald Blom during a reception hosted in honour of the envoy at his Islamabad's residence on Friday. The dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest, bilateral collaborations and development in the region during the meeting. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani thanked the US government for its cooperation and collaboration with Pakistan in various fields and appreciated the role of US government in providing much needed support to the Pakistani flood affectees. He also emphasized on increasing trade links, enhancement of bilateral relations in different sectors. He said that the multilateral nature of relations between Pakistan and the United States spans across decades. He appreciated the assistance provided by USAID to the flood affectees of Balochistan province. He said that the community development work in the remote areas of Balochistan in collaboration with USAID is commendable and more needs to be done in this regard.

The Chairman Senate emphasized on strengthening Pakistan-US bilateral trade and economic relations and said that cooperation in health, education and climate change and other fields is need of the hour. The US is Pakistan's largest trading partner and Balochistan is emerging as an attractive destination for investment due to the Gwadar port. US investment in Gwadar and other areas of Balochistan will be welcomed. He said that the Pakistani community in US is playing an active role in politics and various other fields. He said that Pakistan diaspora in US is acting as a bridge between the two sides. During the meeting, the importance of promoting institutional support and the need to increase parliamentary exchanges was emphasized. Chairman Senate described the American cooperation as very important in view of the current economic situation of Pakistan. Chairman Senate also mentioned Reko Diq project. He said that US investors would be welcomed to interact with Pakistani counterparts to explore new avenues for investment. Speaking on the occasion, American Ambassador Donald Bloom said that USA will continue to help Pakistan to deal with natural disasters and that the United States attaches special importance to its relations with Pakistan. He also thanked Chairman Senate for warm welcome and reception. INP

SBP seeks details for clearance of stuck-up containers

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has sought details of stuck-up imported containers at the ports on Friday. The development follows a meeting held with the Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmed at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI). The Karachi Chamber has requested members of the Business & Industrial Community to provide all the required details to KCCI through an online e-form, the statement released by the chamber said. According to a statement issued, all the data collected will subsequently be forwarded to SBP so that the stuck-up containers could be released at the earliest possible time. Thousands of containers packed with essential food items, raw materials and medical equipments have been held up at Karachi port as the country grapples with a desperate foreign exchange crisis. A shortage of crucial dollars has left banks refusing to issue new letters of credit for importers, hitting an economy already squeezed by soaring inflation and lacklustre growth. INP

Railways announces to resume Green Line Train operations

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Friday announced the resumption of Green Line passenger train operations from Islamabad to Karachi from January 27. Taking to Twitter, the minister said that the Green Line train, equipped with new coaches, will start operations on January 27. The minister also inspected the coaches of train. The train is comprised of two AC parlor, five AC business, six AC standards, and four to five economy class coaches which will facilitate the passengers on the route. The minister also directed the official concerned for reducing the travel time of the Green Line from Lahore to Karachi to less than 20 hours which would restore the confidence of the passengers in the national railways. "It has also been decided to provide the best travelling facilities in the Green Line train including the provision of high-quality food and keeping the ticket price at an affordable level. Besides, a separate LCD will be installed on each seat of the AC Parlor to let passengers enjoy favourite videos through headphones," said Railways official. It is pertinent to mention here that the Green Line Train was scheduled to start operations on December 20 last but due to some financial and other issues, it would now start operations from January 27. INP

KP CM seeks report into terrorist attack on police in Khyber

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan took notice of the terrorist attack on the Takhta Beg check post on the Peshawar Torkham highway in the Khyber district on Thursday night in which three policemen were martyred. Mehmooh Khan has asked the KPK Police Chief for an immediate inquiry report on the incident. He directed the immediate deployment of additional police personnel in the area. The CM condemned the incident and reiterated that the sacrifices of the martyrs would not go in vain. He said that anti-state elements could not shake the resolve of the nation, security forces and police to wipe out terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations by carrying out the such cowardly attack. He prayed patience for the bereaved families to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude and early recovery of injured police officials. He directed the best medical treatment of the injured. INP

Govt restores previous status of PMDC

ISLAMABAD: The government has restored the previous status of the Pakistan Medical Council (PMC) after receiving assent of the President of Pakistan on Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Act, 2022 sent by the Parliament. According to spokesperson of the council, after official signing of gazette notification, the PMDC bill has become now fully functional. He said that now all matters of the PMDC will be handled as per the guidelines given in the passed bill which was signed by the President of Pakistan to reconstitute the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council in order to establish a uniform minimum standard of basic and higher qualifications in medicine and dentistry. It is pertinent to mention here that the Joint Session of the parliament (Majlis-e-Shoora) passed the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Bill, 2022 on December 20, 2022. The bill was returned and raised objections by the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi for further amendments. MNA Dr. Mehreen Razaq Bhattu from Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) presented the bill to reconstitute the Medical and Dental Council in Pakistan (The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Bill, 2022). As per the commencement Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Act, 2022, shall stand dissolved and the Minister-in-charge of the Division shall look after the affairs of the council till the constitution of the new council under this act is elected by the council. The Minister-in-charge of the Division shall exercise the powers of the council during the transitory period. INP

'Imported govt' finding escape routes from elections, says Mussarat Cheema

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Mussarat Jamsheed Cheema said on Friday the coalition government in Centre was attempting to evade elections. In a tweet, the former member of the Punjab Assembly said it was being speculated that the tenure of the assemblies could be extended, which she described as "completely unconstitutional." "We will force them to hold general elections in April," she said and lashed out the "imported government" for doing nothing except removing their cases in last nine months. A day earlier, PTI Chairman Imran Khan warned the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), saying he had a "trump card" and plenty of choices to put his political rivals to the test. Speaking to senior journalists in Lahore, the deposed premier took a dig at Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman, alleging that by omitting to include the election date in the summary sent following the dissolution of the assembly, he had breached the constitution. Recounting the demand of the elections, Mr Khan said if the polls will not held, the country will have to face a Sri Lanka-like situation. Berating Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Mr Khan held the financial czar responsible for the economic woes. Making his claim on the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Mr Khan said serious voices were being heard regarding vandalism within the PML-N. He also chided the PML-N for "inherent politics," saying former party leader Chaudhry Nisar was the first to raise the voice against dynastic politics. Mr Khan also made it clear that there was no plan to stage a protest, even if the date of general elections was not announced. INP

Sindh Education dept decides to sack 40 ghost teachers

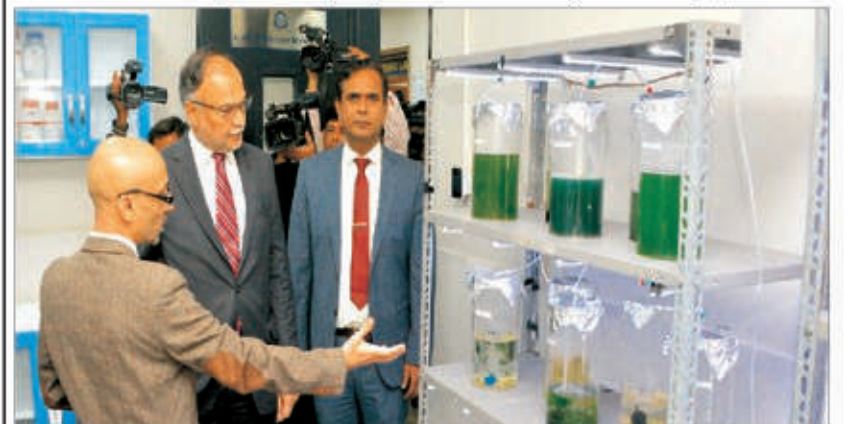
KARACHI: The Sindh education department has decided to sack 40 ghost teachers. According to the Sindh education department, 40 teachers including staff and clerical department employees will be sacked. The sacked teachers include 17 junior school teachers, 8 higher school teachers, 4 guards, 1 junior clerk and 1 lane assistant. A show-cause notice was issued to these 40 ghost teachers. Upon no response, the education department decided to strip them of their posts. Earlier, the Sindh education department has sacked eight ghost teachers in the province. Akbar Leghari, eight teachers, residing abroad, were sacked from their services. The teachers who were sacked from their services were receiving salaries for the last 2 years. The secretary further said Taluka education officers across the province are highlighting the ghost teachers. The secretary warned of strict action against the ghost teachers. It was worth mentioned here that Sindh High Court had already directed the provincial education authorities to expeditiously pursue the issues of absconding and ghost employees to their logical conclusion and weed out what it called all such transgressors from the education system. The SHC also directed the secretary of the education department and director general of the Sindh Child Protection Authority to inform it about establishment of helplines and deployment of the Child Protection and Management Information System as well as the ongoing anti-beggar campaign. On that hearing education secretary submitted that 1,645 teachers had recently been identified as delinquent/absconders and 1,481 show-cause notices issued so far and such proceeding would be finalised by Dec 31. INP

PTI in contact with JI for Karachi LG set-up: Ali Zaidi

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President Ali Zaidi stated that his political party is in contact with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), however, it will not make an alliance with the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to form local government (LG) in Karachi. While talking to a private TV channel programme Ali Zaidi said that PTI gave a clear policy that it will not make an alliance with the ruling PPP to form LG set-up in Karachi. He said that four PTI candidates were declared winners after the recounting of votes in four union councils (UCs). He alleged that the use of state machinery was not hidden from the people in the recent LG polls. Zaidi said that JI ran a strong election campaign in Karachi. He added that PTI categorically rejected the results of the Karachi LG polls. "We are in contact with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and we will not disappoint the Karachiites." In a relevant development, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman stressed upon the political parties to work together for the development of Karachi. Speaking to a programme Hafiz Naeem noted that no single political party can solve the issues of Karachi alone, stressing upon them to work together for the development of metropolis. In response to a question, the JI leader reiterated that matters can move forward if Pakistan People's Party (PPP) accepts his party's mandate. "We demanded to stop the rigging that was being done in the pretext of recounting of votes," he said, adding that PPP delegation also assured to look into the matter of Returning officers (ROs). INP

KP Police prepares to cope with terrorism via latest 'Thermal Sights'

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police has accelerated the efforts to cope with terrorism through latest Thermal Weapons Sights. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police in this connection has purchased and dispatched 40 Thermal Weapon Sights. Sources said that the provincial police was preparing to purchase 600 more Thermal Weapon Sights soon. According to Inspector General (IG) KP Moazzam Jah Ansan, in various incidents in Dera Ismail Khan and Bannu, terrorists were targeted through Thermal Vision at night time. The IG KP further said that through fitting Thermal Sights on any gun, enemies could be easily sighted at night through 'Heat Signature'. Sources said that the US Army when withdrew from Afghanistan left latest weapons worth INP



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, visiting the new Research Centres, at Dow Medical College, Ojha Campus.

PTI in contact with JI for Karachi LG set-up: Ali Zaidi

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President Ali Zaidi stated that his political party is in contact with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), however, it will not make an alliance with the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to form local government (LG) in Karachi. While talking to a private TV channel programme Ali Zaidi said that PTI gave a clear policy that it will not make an alliance with the ruling PPP to form LG set-up in Karachi. He said that four PTI candidates were declared winners after the recounting of votes in four union councils (UCs). He alleged that the use of state machinery was not hidden from the people in the recent LG polls. Zaidi said that JI ran a strong election campaign in Karachi. He added that PTI categorically rejected the results of the Karachi LG polls. "We are in contact with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and we will not disappoint the Karachiites." In a relevant development, Jamaat-e-

Former AJK President Sardar Anwar Khan laid to rest

MUZAFFARABAD: Former President Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Major General (R) Sardar Anwar Khan was laid to eternal rest with full state honour after his funeral prayers were held at Rawalpindi Race Course Ground on Friday. He was passed away yesterday after brief illness. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir police force and Pakistan Army presented guard of honor to his funeral before burial while funeral prayer was attended by Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, Acting President Chaudhry Anwarul Haque, Chief Justice AJK Raja Saeed Akram Khan besides other leaders, his relatives and friends. The AJK Prime Minister laid a floral wreath on the grave of the deceased and prayed for the elevation of his ranks. He said that the deceased was a strong voice of the state, his professional services on the military front were unparalleled. The AJK PM said that the services of late Sardar Anwar Khan for the state and its people would be remembered for a long time in the annals of Kashmir history. "Sardar Anwar Khan made himself a national leader by his personality and principles and his actions," the PM said. Deputy Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Intiaz Shaheen, Political Advisor Sardar Iftikhar and others were present on the occasion. INP



ISLAMABAD: Students of English debate competition pose for group photo with Chief guest Harris Khaleeq in a ceremony held at Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/2.