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'Who brought terrorists back?' asks PM Shehbaz



Subsidised seats in QIMS increased from 23 % to 35 %

Maryam holds 'cabal of 5' responsible for country's woes as PML-N kicks off reorganisation tour

PML-N Senior Vice-President Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday held a "cabal of five" responsible for the coun-

five" responsible for the country's current predicament as she kickstarted a reorganisation tour to shape her party's narrative, days after her return to the country following a nearly four-month sojourn in London.

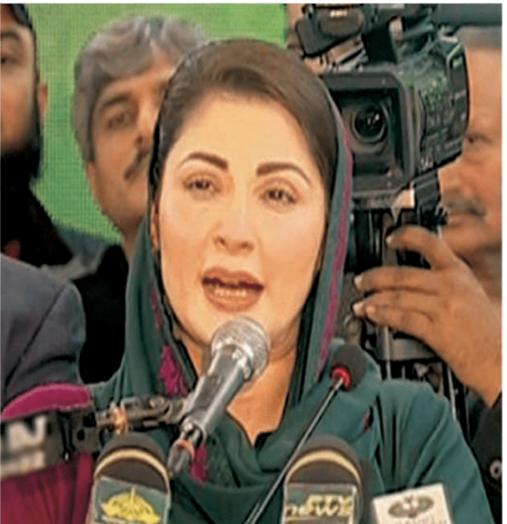
Among the "cabal", she said, were PTI Chairman Imran Khan, former chief justices of Pakistan Saqib Nisar and Asif Saeed Khosa. She did not name the other two, simply referring to them as the two "crutches" of Imran. of Imran

A cabinet member told last month that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif had tasked some senior party leaders to start working on framing a 'complete chargesheet' on Imran and those of his facilitators in the actablishment (a former perm) establishment (a former army chief and two ex-spy chiefs) and the judiciary (a former chief justice) so that the entire party could target them in uni-son during the Punjab election campaign.

Why The Country come to a point where it take difficult decisions

Addressing a workers' con-vention in Bahawalpur today, Maryam said it was necessary to understand why the country had come to a point where it had to take difficult decisions.

She said people should be grateful that the country had returned from the precipice of a disaster after four years under the PTI, adding that, otherwise, the "cabal of five had made



five had remained [in power]."
She said the "cabal of players and amateurs" had wrecked the economy and launched "suicide attacks" on it. plans [to rule] for the next 12 years".
"Imagine what would have happened to Pakistan in the next 12 years if the cabal of

Maryam said she would name and share pictures of the cabal and they would be made or the dam guy (Nisar) or Imran

or his two crutches". She alleged that the quintet She alleged that the quintet looted the country together day and night. "Someone was taking diamond rings, someone was taking plots, someone was making money through the land, someone was sending money to Dubai and someone made a house on several hundred kanals in Chakwal," Maryam added.

This is the party's responsibility to save the country from the lot

The PML-N leader said that it was her party's respon-sibility to save the country from the lot.

On the issue of rising terrorism in the country and Monday's Peshawar blast, Maryam said the PML-N had eliminated militancy in the country and questioned why it was cropping up again.

It was cropping up again.

In an apparent reference to former Inter Services Intelligence chief Faiz Hameed, she questioned why the one whom Imran called his "eyes and ears" and who was posted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had "opened doors for terrorists". She said if the person who was Imran's "eyes and ears" had focused "eyes and ears" had focused on his actual job, Pakistan would not have to see the conditions today.Web Desk

Gwadar to be developed as a smart port city with international standards

News Desk

Gwadar would be developed as a smart port city with international stan-Chief Secretary

provincial officials includng Chairman GPA Pansand Khan Buledi, DG GDA Mujib ur Rehman Qambrani joined the meet-ing through a video link. On this occasion, the



Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqailli stated during a meeting on Wednesday. "The Gwadar will emerge as the most important port in the region", Chief Secretary added.

These views were expressed by Abdul Aziz Uqailli while presiding over the progress review meeting of Gwadar meeting of Development Development Projects.
Additional Chief Secretary
(home) Planning and
Development Hafiz Abdul
Basit, Secretary Local
Government Dosthain Government Dosthain
Khan Jamaldini, Secretary
Energy Bashir Ahmad
Bazai, Secretary PHE
Saleh Muhammad Baloch,
Secretary Information
Hamza Shafaqat, Secretary
Implementation Abdullah
Khan participated in the
meeting

Additional Secretary Power Division Arshad Majeed, Federal and

participants of the meeting were given a detailed brief-ing on the progress of the development projects, elec-tricity supply from Iran, drainage to connect Gwadar to the National

Grid and other projects. The chief secretary said that the work on Shiznake should be accelerated to ensure supply of clean water to Gwadar. The improvement of educational institutions and provision of necessary facilities for the people of Gwadar is being ensured and the ben-efits of these mega projects are being passed on to the people, CS Balochistan added.

The meeting was stated that the supply of electrici-ty from Iran will be provided on February 10, while the project to connect Gwadar to the National Grid will be completed by the end of March

Masses brace for more misery as inflation races to 27.6% in January

inflation accelerated to a constraints and a signifi cant surge in the prices of petroleum products and stagnant as well as shrink-

ing incomes.
Consumer prices rose 27.6% compared to 13% in the same month of last year, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Wednesday. This is the highest year-on-year infla-tion after May 1975 when the median rate clocked in

On a month-on-month basis, inflation remained elevated, jumping 2.9% as nearly 6,000 containers are



stranded at ports, including which has lingered above

thousands of tonnes of poultry feed ingredients that pushed chicken prices to a record earlier this year. The inflation rate —

coalition government curtailed imports — has been aggravating due to the log-jam of containers.

the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which monitors prices in the wholesale

by 28.53% in January com-pared to 24% in the same villages and cities skyrock-

the overall inflation rate recorded an increase in both the urban and rural areas. The inflation rate in urban areas surged 24.4% in January and rural areas soared 32.3% over the same month of the last year. In January last year, the inflation rate in urban areas was 13% meanwhile, in rural areas it stood at

Analysts expect the inflation rate to increase further amid the impact of the recent rupee depreciation and increase in the price of petroleum prod-

In January 2021 food inflation for villages and cities clocked in at 11.8% and 13.3%, respec-

The non-food inflation rate was recorded at 15.6% in urban areas and 20.9% in rural areas compared to 12.8% and 13.9% in the same month last year.

Core inflation — calcu-lated by excluding food and energy items — rose 15.4% in urban areas and 19.4% in rural areas during the month under review, reported the national data collecting agency. Web

Subsidised seats in QIMS increased from 23 % to 35 %

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddoos Bizenjo Quddoos Bizenjo approved the subsidized seats of Quetta Institute of Medical Sciences (QIMS) on a summary sent by the health department to increase from 23 to 35 percent in the eleventh batch. The Chief Minister also approved the provision of up to 80 percent of tuition fees for

medical students The provincial government will release addi-tional funds of Rs 61.675



Minister also sanctioned funds for the printing and free supply of textbooks from Class Montessori to Class XII. These measures are a reflection of the academic

'Who brought terrorists back?' asks PM Shehbaz

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday came down hard on the "institu-tions and politicians" responsible for peace talks with terrorists, cautioning that the menace could spread to other parts of the country if immediate steps were not taken.

he remarks come days after a ghastly suicide blast rocked the city of Peshawar, claim-ing the lives of at least 101 citizens — mostly police officers. Over the past few months, terrorism has been rearing its head again in the country, especially in KP and

Addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet on Wednesday, the premier said that citizens from Peshawar to Karachi had questions about the resurgence of terrorism in the coun-

try.
"Terrorism is rearing its head again," he said. "The question is who brought them back." Everyone is asking who brought them back. What happened? [...] How can peace be destroyed? How can Khyber Pakhtunkhwa go back into the hands of ter-



Criticising the decision to enter into dia-logue with militants and resettle them during the previous regime, he asked, "Who said they have laid down their arms and will con-tribute to the country's growth and develop-

He urged his cabinet to discuss the "burn-

ing issue" thoroughly, calling for introspec-tion."I don't think there is anything more important to discuss in this meeting," Shehbaz said, adding that whatever he had stated was public knowledge and nothing

It is pertinent to mention that on Tuesday lawmakers in the National Assembly regret-ted the decision to enter into dialogue with militants and resettle them in the country dur-ing the previous PTI regime, calling it a "faulty," move which was "never endorsed" by parliament. NFC Award for KP

During the meeting, the premier also responded to allegations levelled by the former KP government regarding the unfair distribution of funds under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

Last year in December, former KP chief

minister Mahmood Khan along with others had rebuked the coalition government for depriving their people of their rightful share by withholding funds. Web Desk

million as a subsidy to Murad Baloch appointed honorary Consul General Germany for Balochistan

News Desk

The German govern-ment appointed Mir Murad Baloch as the honorary consul general Germany for Balochistan. The German Ambassador in Pakistan, Alfred Grannas took to the social media network Twitter and announced the appointment of Mir Murad Baloch as the honorary consul general for Balochistan. "Mir Murad Baloch

will be now our man in Balochistan", Ambassador said Murad Baloch is a well-known social



active civil society mem-bers in Balochistan. Mr. Baloch is a well-known businessman and also served as the Vice-President of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industries. He is the son of former Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Hakeem Baloch. He belongs to the Panjgur district of Balochistan.

'Not in power anynmore': Imran Khan castigates govt for shifting blame over rising terrorism

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan Wednesday slammed the government for shift-ing blame over rising terrorism and berating his party for its policy towards the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP).

The government has claimed it was the PTI government's policy to negotiate with the TTP that eventually led to the outlawed group's

In November last year, the TTP ended its ceasefire and increased attacks — majorly on security forces — especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the government and armed forces youing to fight and armed forces vowing to fight



cide blast in Peshawar's Police Lines area mosque — that killed at least 100 people and injured over 200 — shook the nation, leading to severe flak on the incumbent government and its responsory criti-

cism on the PTI. "I am not in power anymore. Had I been in the government, then I would have been answerable," the PTI chief hit out at the centre during his address to the nation, while

also claiming that terrorism was under control during his tenure. The PTI chief, while also mentioning that he wasn't responsible for terrorism and rising inflation, said that he was devastated over the attack in Peshawar Web Desk

PSL match in Quetta: Police detain and interrogate 397 suspects

Staff Reporter

Police and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted joint search operations in various parts of Quetta and detained 397 suspects prior to the fast-approaching Pakistan Super League (PSL) match. "All suspects were detained and interrogated prior to the PSL match", a senior police officer told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the

The CTD and police conducted search operations on the instructions of Balochistan Police Chief, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh. Search operations were conducted in Sariab road, Saddar, Quidabad and other parts of the city. The Balochistan govern-



ment has evolved a comprehensive security plan to make sure of foolproof security measures for the upcoming PSL match in the provin-

PSL match is scheduled to be held in the Ayub Stadium Quetta. This is

for the first time in the history Balochistan that such a mega sports event is being conducted here. Thousands of policemen have been occurrence of any untoward incident on the eve of the PSL match.

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. 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.

tion in the US has

A future of innovation

Rapid socio-economic development is now only possible if national innovation policies are direct-ed at the development export of high-tech products. For Pakistan to progress, we need to change tracks quickly and try to tap into our real wealth - our children. Our key areas of focus should include information technology, next generation genomics, new materials, energy, regenerative medicine, minerals, and advanced agriculture.

the information technology field, artifi-cial intelligence (AI) is already having a fast growing impact in vari-ous sectors. It is finding use in medical diagnosis, financial forecasting, self-driving cars, etc, and replacing humans in repetitive tasks. It is estimated that the market size of Al will be about \$16 trillion within five years. Other technologies in this field include blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT) and 5G/6G

6G networks are expected to be much faster than 4G or 5G technologies and are likely to support applications such as virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR), instant communications, perva-sive artificial intelligence

Blockchain is a decen-tralized digital ledger that

is used to record transactions in a secure and transparent way. It has the potential to disrupt many industries, including supply chain management, finance and voting sys-tems. Blockchain can also be used to create a decentralized digital cur-rency that will ensure faster, cheaper and secure transactions. Another fast-emerging area in the information technology field is that of Internet of Things (IoT). This is a network of connected devices that can communicate the data with each other and share it. This technology has already begun to impact many industries such as transportation, manufacturing, healthcare. IoT enabled devices vehicles in real time, monitor and control manufacturing processes and monitor the remotely

health of patients. The next generation of mobile networks will depend on 5G and 6G technologies. They pro-vide much faster internet speeds with lower latency. This will have a huge impact on many indus-tries including telecommunications, gaming, vir-tual reality, and remotely controlled surgery. 6G networks are expected to be even more diverse than their predecessors and are likely to support applications, such as vir-tual and augmented reality, instant communications, pervasive artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things (IoT). Another fast-develop-

ing area is that of genomics It is being used in medicine to develop precision medicine that considers the individual's genetic makeup. This has resulted in the development of targeted therapies for various diseases such as cancer. Thus, individual mutations in cancer patients can be identified and drugs then used to target those patient-spe-cific mutations. The cific mutations. The advent of gene editing tools is allowing diseasecausing genes to be spiced out, and such techniques promise to cure genetic diseases. Researchers have also succeeded in using genomics in agriculture

to identify those genes that are associated with desirable traits such as disease resistance or higher yields. This has led to the development of genetically modified crops that can better survive conditions of environmental stress and have resistance against pests. Genomics has also led to improved breeding of livestock, cows that produce more milk, grow faster and are resistant to diseases. Researchers have also identified genetic markers in humans that make them more prone to certain dis-

dedicated research center named after my father - the Jamil ur Rahman Center for Genomics Research is located in Karachi University and equipped with state-of-the-art facil-

Another area is that of regenerative medicine. Anti-ageing compounds have been developed that can slow down the process of ageing, and this is a hot area of current research. Stem cell technologies are being developed to cure heart, lung, kidney, and eye diseases. An excellent laboratory focused on stem research has been established in the Dr Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Molecular Medicine and Drug Research, located within Pakistan's premier research institute, the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) at the University of Karachi.

The field of new materials is disrupting the manufacturing sector. It has seeped into various sectors such as those related to automobiles, space engineering, bio-medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and a host of other fields. Lightweight composites and advanced steels are being exten-sively used in the auto-mobiles industry as they result in improved fuel efficiency and reduced e m i s s i o n s

By Atta-ur-Rahman Metamaterials' that have the strange ability of bending light are being used for stealth purposes to make objects such as tanks, airplanes and sub-

marines invisible.
Carbon fibres and ceramics are finding wide use in aircraft and space craft because of their increased strength and lightweight nature. In the construction industry, self-healing concrete and shape-memory alloys are being used in the building industry as they lead to improved strength and customer and in the self-healing industry as they lead to improve a strength and customer and in the self-healing industry. sustainability of structures. Nanotechnology has come to the fore in a big way and graphene as well as carbon nanotubes are being used in the electronics industry because of the resulting improvement in devices such as smartphones and laptops.

An excellent centre for nanotechnology research. The Latif Ebrahim Jamal Nanotechnology Center, has been established in the ICCBS, and it is carrying out ground-break-ing research in nano pharmaceuticals biological improved biological activity and lower toxicity than the currently available Biodegradable polymers and hydrogels are being widely employed in the medical field. New smart materials that can change colour, shape or function are finding use in the tex-tiles industry.

By S Qaisar Shareef

In 2022 the population of China declined for the first time in decades. It is now estimated that India may have surpassed China, becoming the most populous country in the world.

China has now started to suffer the consequences of its decades-long child policy. demographic impact may take generations to correct. Some are projecting a real risk now that the Chinese economy may never catch up to the size of the US economy.

Western Europe has also been sufferfrom similar declining birth rates, partly due to high cost and difficulty of prime minister of Japan has also noted that for Japan to remain a robust, growing economy, its birth rate must increase

The US continues to grow its population and economy. A close look at the racial breakup of the US population shows that growth in the working-age popula-

been greatly driven by immigration and higher birth rates immigrant among families. Immigrants have a high percent-age of working-age people, and birth rates among them are higher than the genpopulation's. Estimates suggest that new immigrants have accounted for 70 per cent of the growth in the American labor force

over the past decade. This trend has continued to ensure that the US remains a younger country compared with Western Europe and So, what is it that continues to make

the US an attractive country to immigrate? Some of the answers are obvious: economic opportunities the US offers are at the top of the list. But there is much more than that. recent Despite

debates within the US about the desirability of having a large immigrant population (legal as well as undocumented), America remains a country built by immigrants. Around 13.6 per cent of the American popula-tion, over 43 million residents, are foreign

America's ability to absorb and pro-ductively employ such large numbers of immigrants adds to its resilience. Also, the fact that the country has the world's best educainstitutions tional also attracts some of the brightest from the globe, of whom across many become permanent residents. Even if the US immigration system is not the easiest to navigate, it does provide a path to permanent residency to many. This is especially true for those with the highest level of education. Their contribution to the US economy and society is instance, one-third of the faculty at Harvard is foreign

However, absorbing large numbers of immigrants has its challenges. Among them is the complexity of assimilating immigrants who may come from cultures and lan-guages very different from the US. Former

US president Donald Trump famously wanted to exclude immigrants countries he considered 'subpar', to put

it gently. Since 2017 - the year he assumed office - net legal immigration to the US has been down. He "put sand in the gears of the [legal] im migration process", reported The Economist' magazine. A study by the University of California, Davis says: "as of 2022 America is missing 1.8 million workingage foreign legal migrants relative to its past trend." This remarkable drop in immigration has contributed to the current tight labour market. The country has two job openings every looking for a job. Given the size and

diversity of the US, it is able to attract and absorb people from all corners of the world who can then find areas within the country where they can feel at home. According to the 2020 census, about 41 per cent of the US population is

including about 19 per cent Hispanics, 6 per cent Asians, and 13.5 per cent African Americans.

Freedom can be an overhyped word often used to describe the core of American life. While democracies man have similar freedoms, I feel the US allows immigrants to practice their faith and enjoy their cultural heritage more easily than most. Over generations, immigrants tend to e c o m e Americanized', even as they enrich the mainstream culture of their new homeland through their cuisine, music and so on. I believe the allure

America will remain for the foreseeable future, and immigrants will continue to find ways to come here. As their contributions become more and more visible to all, their acceptance will also continue to grow.

The writer is a freelance contributor based in Washington Website: www.sqshareef.com/

Ethics and politics

ast August, the FBI raided former US president 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 adherence to laws or ethical

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

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-

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 reg-ularly 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

affairs

parliamentary

often witness the anger of various committee mem-bers 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 in 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 costpublic 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 government 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 neigh-bourhoods 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 cap-italists to show up at fac-tories 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

come almost impossible for a low-income per-son to participate in poli-tics, 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 gathering in Davos, Switzerland for an in-per-son meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion. financial inclusion.
Thanks to protests and
new research, however,
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
vears of a global pandem-

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

ers.
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 tiest 2 percent for those at just 2 percent for those

million small-scale farm-

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 low-and 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-congratuations." 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 deliv-ered 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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Zardari can sue me; I stand by my statement: Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said that he stands by his statement about Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chair-man Asif Ali Zardari, saying that the former president can file a defamation case against

Talking to senior journalists at his resi-dence, the PTI chairman stated that he stands by his statement, wherein he accused former pres-ident Asif Ali Zardari of

financing a terrorist group to assassinate him.

Imran Khan also wel-Imran Khan also welcomed the defemation case filed by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), saying that he stands by his remarks about Asif Ali Zardari. While answering a question regarding assembly dissolution, PTI chief said that "dissolving assemblies was the best strategy which

the best strategy which pushed PDM govern-ment to a dead end." "If the assemblies were not dissolved, the general

elections would not have taken place," he added.

He warned that the constitution will be vio-lated if the caretaker governor failed to con-duct election within 90 days. He added that the party's election cam-paign will be started with full strength after his last medical checkup.It is pertinent to mention here that PTI chairman alleged that former president Asif Ali Zardari was among four people who were planning to kill him INP

Pakistan needs to tap the potential of blue economy: Mian Zahid

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group President Pakistan, Pakistan Businessmen Intellectuals Forum, and Industrial Karachi Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain economy of consists of marine transport only. Global maritime has said that Pakistan needs to tap the potential of blue economy to develop its economy.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, he said that the blue economy refers to social and economic development by using the seas and oceans while protecting the marine envi-ronment and linked communities.

ian Zahid Hussain said that blue economy includes fisheries, aquaculture, marine transportation, tourism, marine coastal welfare, and other coastal and marine matters.

Farming plants and marine life, and fishing provide seventeen percent of animal protein to the entire human population, he

The business leader said that blue economy also includes marine and offshore wind energy, seafood industry, tourism, and exploitation of oil and gas reserves in the sea, but the present major part of Pakistan's blue

trade accounts for US\$2.5 trillion and Pakistan exports seafood worth only 430 million dollars annually, which is plagued by various problems. Old and outdated fishing methods that do not protect the lives of fishermen, he informed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan needs to equip its workforce with modern training, methods, tools, skills, and corporate culture to take full advantage of the blue economy,

Pakistan must adapt to international standards and benefit from global demands for seafood export. Port Qasim Authority and Karachi Port Trust are

government-run entities that earn hundreds of billions of rupees, but this is likely to increase substantially.

If Pakistan can use its ports for trade with landlocked Central Asian states, this sector can be revolutionized while Gwadar can be developed as a hub for transshipment, ship repair, and shipbuilding. Gwadar

immense potential for fisheries and aquaculture which needs to be exploited as port expansion will change the condition of the local people and boost the maritime industry which needs serious efforts. Mian Zahid Hussain said that there are 529 species of fish in Pakistan, of which 230 are freshwater fish and the remaining 296 marine fish. Pakistan has immense maritime potential and opportunities which are yet to be fully realized. According to global trends, prioritizing the blue economy has become important.INP



KARACHI: Sindh Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon launched the pink

Rice bags sent for flood victims being sold in Larkana

LARKANA: The Sindh authorities have failed to take action against the alleged misuse

of the relief items donated to the flood victims of the province. According to details, the rice sacks donated by foreign aid for the flood victims were being sold in the local market.

A note, "These items are not for sale", is printed on the bags of rice. The administration is unable to take action against the accused rice sellers. It is pertinent to mention here that over 1.5 Lac victims of unprecedented floods in Sindh

have still been homeless.
Sources said that 1,562 Lac flood victims in Sindh has been displaced, six months after the deluge that inflicted huge losses to Pakistan's economy and every

walk of life. "Around 7.238436 flood-hit

persons of the province have returned to homes so far", sources said. "Sindh's 32,097 sources said. "Sindn's 32,09/
flood victis have been staying at tent cities and villages," accord-ing to sources. "Sindh's 3614 flood affected persons have been in flood camps."

During the relief operation 3.730560 mosquito nets was dis-tributed among flood victims in Sindh sources said.

Sindh, sources said.

According to sources, 3891 medical camps was set up in flood-hit areas of Balochistan, where 9.7 Lac patients was treated. "Diarrhea, gastroenteritis, malaria and cases of respiratory diseases has been reported." diseases has been reported in these areas," according to

Floodwater still standing in various areas of Sindh and Balochistan. The water could not be completely discharged

from flood-stricken areas and still standing in several districts including Khairpur, Sukkur, Badin, Sanghar, Jamshoro, Umarkot, Dadu, Qambar-Shahdadkot, Mirpur Khas, Shaheed Benazirabad and Naushehro Feroz districts. It is pertinent to mention here that pertinent to mention here that over 1.5 Lac victims of unprece-dented floods in Sindh have still been homeless.

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Govt assures IMF team of hike in power tariff

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has assured the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team of a hike in the power tariff, sources said.

The government will increase the power tariff by Rs 6.79 per unit and it will increase stepwise

in the next five months.

The power division briefed the IMF team about the plan to reduce the circular debt by increasing electricity prices and preventing power theft and line

In the ongoing month, the power tariff will increase up to Rs 4.46 per unit under quarterly adjustment. In February the tar-iff will hike by Rs 3.21 per unit. In March and June, the power tariff will increase by Rs .69 and Rs 1.64 per unit respectively.
Earlier, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have begun talks on a ninth review of \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF).
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) kneed lists of the second control of the second control

Fund (IMF) shared lists of pre-requisite actions and told Pakistani authorities in plain words that Islamabad will have to move towards implementing all demands for reviving the stalled Fund programme.

IMF has asked Pakistan to take all required actions that could pave the way for striking a staff-level agreement and releas-ing of \$1 KP governor doesn't propose poll date in letter to ECP Haji Ghulam Ali asks Commission to hold consulta-

tions with political parties and security agencies to finalise any date In the ongoing month, the power tariff will increase up to Rs 4.46 per unit under quarterly Rs 4.46 per unit under quarterly adjustment. In February the tariff will hike by Rs 3.21 per unit. In March and June, the power tariff will increase by Rs. 69 and Rs 1.64 per unit respectively.

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words that Islamabad will have to move towards implementing all demands for reviving.IN

Pakistan inflation rises to 48-year high of 27.55pc

KARACHI: Inflation has risen to a 48-year high in crisis-hit Pakistan, where the International Monetary Fund is visiting for urgent talks, according to data released on Wednesday by the country's statistics bureau.

Inflation in January was recorded at 27.55 percent, the highest since May 1975, with thousands of containers of imports held up at Karachi port.

The country's economy is in dire straits, stricken by a balance of payments crisis while it

of payments crisis while it attempts to service high amounts of external debt.

The world's fifth-biggest population has less than \$3.7 billion in the state bank — enough to cover just three weeks of imports.

On Tuesday, an IMF delegation arrived in Islamabad to revive negotiations over a stalled bailout package with the government.

package with the government, which has so far held out from meeting the global lender's tough conditions.INP

Punjab polls: Governor cites security, asks ECP to consult stakeholders

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman has asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to consult stakeholders for a date to hold elections across the

date to hold elections across the province, citing economic and security issues in the country.

According to details, the Punjab Governor penned down a letter to the electoral watchdog, asking the body to consult stakeholders for a date to hold elections across the

or to hold elections across the province.

In the letter, Baligh-ur-Rehman noted that the Punjab Assembly (PA) was dissolved according to the Constitution and Law. Referring to holding polls across the province, he said, the country was currently witnessing economwas currently witnessing econom-

was currently witnessing economic and security issues.

In separate letters to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) former Parliamentary leader Usman Buzdar and PA Speaker Sibtain Khan, the governor assured that his office would fulfill the constitutional requirements and responsibilities

sibilities.
"The Election Commission will play its role on the issue of polls date", Punjab Governor said, mentioning that he had written a letter to the electoral body in this regard INP

KARACHI: Pink bus exclusively for women moving after Sindh Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon inugrating

Pak-US partnership vital for transformation to renewables: Envoy Masood

Says govt committed to ensure transparency, accountability in utiliza-

tion of flood assistance WASHINGTON Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Masood Khan has said that the USAID, State Department and Pakistan are coordinating to develop projects that would benefit people directly and would launch a new program for climate adaptation

and risk mitigation. He said that the United States can help Pakistan in transforma-tion to renewables, especially wind and solar

power.
Addressing a webinar
on "What Pakistan's
Climate Crisis Means for
the World" organized by
prestigious US thinktank Quincy Institute for
Responsible Statecraft,
Mascood Khan said that Masood Khan said that

transformation to renewables was important for adaptation and embracing new technologies that would help the country build resilience to respond to the future disasters. He said that Pakistan's

top priorities post floods period included recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. "Within these three clusters, our priorities are to restore lives and livelihoods; create economic oppor-tunities; ensure social protection and rebuild damaged infrastructure," he added.The Ambassador thanked the U.S. government for not only providing an assis-tance of US\$ 200 million

for flood affectees but also using its convening

power to garner support for the flood affected

people during International Conference

on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva. Masood Khan said that the projects pledged

by international finan-cial institutions and multilateral banks during Geneva Conference were aimed at poverty alleviation and building new infrastructure in critical sectors such as health and education. He expressed the hope that continued commitment towards those projects, engagement of community at grass roots level and effective monitoring mechanism would help ensuring expeditious

implementation. The Federal Government of Pakistan and all the provincial governments are firmly committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in utilization of flood assistance,'

38 professional beggars nabbed in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: As many as 38 professional beggars were arrested during crackdowns in various areas of the city on Wednesday.

The incharges of anti-beggar squads in line with directives of CPO Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari launched crackdowns against beggars at traffic signals, markets, outside business centres and other localities of Rawalpindi.

During separate actions 38 professional beggars were nabbed who were being investigated after registering separate cases against them at concerned

CPO Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari lauding the performance of anti-beggar squads has said that these professional beggars besides causing disruption in flow of traffic also result in road acci-

He urged the citizens to discourage the professional beggars to improve flow of traffic and bring betterment in the society.INP

January 2023 turned out to be the deadliest month since July 2018: Report

ISLAMABAD: The first month of 2023 became the deadliest month since July 2018 as the militants carried out 44 attacks killing 134 people and at least 254 injured in January. According to statistics released by an Islamabad-based independent think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), the pattern of terror attacks contin ued. At the same time, the security forces foiled many attacks by arresting at least 52 militants, mainly from Punjab, and killing 40, mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Although the number of terror incidents slightly declined in January, the fatalities increased by 139 percent, mainly due to the Peshawar Police Line suicide blast. In January, overall, two suicide bombings were recorded, one in Peshawar and the other one in the Khyber tribal dis-trict of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to PICSS data, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained the most affected province during January, where not only the militant attacks increased from 17 to 27, the resultant deaths increased INP

Sheikh Rashid moves **IHC** against police notice issued over allegation against Zardari

R A W A L P I N D I: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed chal-lenged a police notice issued to him in a case related to allegations against former president Asif Ali Zardan in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

A day earlier, the former interior minister was asked to appear in the Aabpara police station in the capital city on Wednesday for explanawednesday for explana-tion after a complaint was filed against him for allegedly accusing PPP co-chairman of hatching a plot for the assassina-tion of PTI Chairman

Imran Khan. The capital police in a statement on Tuesday also claimed that Mr

Ahmed had retracted from his allegation against the former presiallegation dent.
They also warned the

senior politician of legal action for defying the In the latest develop-

ment, the AML chief has filed a petition against the police notice in the high court through his counsel Sardar Razzaq, Naeem Haider and Intazar Hussain. He pleaded the IHC to declare the notice

rull and void as it was issued illegally.

Taking to Twitter, Mr Rashid endorsed Imran Khan's claim that Mr Zardari wanted to kill him adding "There are him, adding: "There are serious threats to the life of Imran Khan". He said the PDM wanted to

minus the PTI chief from

He said data of 16 ministries was scrutinised and the government had resorted to awkward tac-tics after failing to find anything against him. He claimed police were try-ing their best to arrest

In a media talk outside the IHC, he also lashed out at the government for economic crisis in the country. He demanded that the conditions placed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the revival of the loan programme should be made public.He also hit out at the government for its attempt to occupy his residence, adding: "Lal Haveli is my personal property".INP

work. Earnest Money 4% and Tender Fee Rs. 2000/-

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Loralai invites sealed tenders Form (as per Schedule B and A) E/COST

21.409 M

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NAME OF WORK 1. EXTENSION OF RODLIN FLOOD CHANNEL MERGING INTO MAIN JUNCTION N ALADISTLORALAI(PKG-I) TSE-222301235893

on the Composite Schedule of Rates 2018 Government of Balochistan from int

EXTENSION OF RODLIN FLOOD CHANNEL MERGING INTO MAIN JUNCTION NALADISTLORALAI(PKG-II) TSE-22230123963

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014, BASIC ELIGIBILITY: The Firms must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal in relevant Category, relevant discipline and with specialized codes of CE-04 / CE-04 Irrigation only valid registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN and BRA), where applicable including five years' work experiences & Bank Statement (Turnover). Firms (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in Relevant Category and relevant discipline. Valid Registration with Income Tax/ Sales Tax Department NTN, & BRA). The detail Technical Criteria is attached in bidding documents. Authorized Representatives of company will only be allowed, having a specific Authorization letter for the Schemes mentioned above (The Authorization letter/ deed must be provided on Non-Judicial Stamp Paper Valuing Rs. 100, duly attested by first class Magistrate). As per BPPRA rule 25 sub rules (3) only one bid can be submitted against one NTN. Detail Financial Soundness with required Turn Overgiven as per criteria specified in the Bidding Documents. Under taking on judicial stamp paper that the firm was never black listed by any Government / Semi Government Organization. Rate analysis in case of rate offered below estimated cost must be submitted with financial bid. Bank Guarantee OR CDR in case of rate offered below 10% of the total cost must be submitted with financial bid. As per BPPRA rule 25 (sub rule 4 amended rule) conditional bid shall not be entertained. All the term and conditions specified / mentioned in the bidding documents will be applicable on the whole bidding process. Projects of similar nature (similar nature projects i.e Channel Completed over last 05 years. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single stage One envelope procedure. BIDDING/TENDER DOCUMENTS: ISSUANCE: The Firms having registered with PEC in relevant category & relevant discipline can obtain the bidding Documents from the address mentioned below on production of green challan form an amount mentioned above (nonrefundable) deposited through Government Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from website of BPPRA, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till 21" February 2023, at 12:00 PM. The Firms who obtain Bidding documents by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to produce deposited green challan form of above-mentioned fee. Earnest Money as mentioned above should be submitted in the form of Call Deposit from a scheduled Bank, Dead line of Submission: The bidding Documents duly filled and attached with copies of supporting documents must be delivered in seale envelopes by hand to the address mentioned below on or before 21" February 2023, at 12:00 PM. Opening: The technical bid will be opened on 21st February 2023, at 1:00 PM. before procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives/agents. And their finical bid will be retained and only successful bidders will be called invited trough courier for opening of financial bid. The financial bid of disqualified bidders will be returned unopened. Place of issuance and submission will be:-Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Loralai. Bid Validity Period: Ninety

PRQ No.2216/01-02-2023 🚭 www.dpr.gob.pk. 📝 @dpr_gob 👩 dpr.gob 👍 @dgpr.balochistan

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION LORALAI

Rupee depreciation, inflation, oil price hike exposed weak economic policies: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has said that runaway inflation, record retreat of the rupee against the dollar and oil price hike have exposed the weakness of the economic policies.

Due to the eroding rupee, wrong policies and oil price hikes in the international market, the price of oil will have to increase again soon, he said. In a statement

issued on Wednesday, Shahid Rasheed Butt said that our socalled economists would have been exposed earlier if such a severe financial crisis had come a few years ago in the country. He said that if we

look at the statements

of economic experts

should have been the

last two

Pakistan

in the

decades.

developed most country in the world. but the reality is the opposite. This shows that

these economic experts are actually artists who take loans and give benefits to the elite and comfort the people with reassuring statements.

The former ICCI president said that twenty-three IMF twenty-three programs prove that

the ruling elite is not

able to run the coun-

try and that only

international institutions can do that. He said that if the

shipping companies blacklist Pakistan, it could be more harmful than a nuclear attack on the country. The country is in need of an economic emergency like never before, but if the politicians do not have time to think for the country. Shahid Rasheed

said that our policy-

makers lack the abili-

ty to take timely

decisions. Pakistan has delayed the decision to buy oil from Russia for more than a year and now it will not get oil at the price that India, Saudi Arabia, and other countries get because Russia is now in a much better position.

The opportunity to get cheap oil has also been missed while the IMF program has also been delayed by several months which unforgivable crimes, he said.INP

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100 MW to Gwadar: all works to be completed in 15 days: QESCO

ISLAMABAD: More than 0.4 million people in Gwadar will be relieved of appalling power woes as all electrification and configuration work for receiving 100 MW Iranian electricity to power up Gwadar will be complet-

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday, the project cost approximately Rs. 500 million. Gwadar City, Gwadar Port, Free Zones, and Gwadar District will have access to electricity beginning March 1st. All electrification works consist of the installation of a double circuit 132 KV transmission line from Kalatu (Pakistan city) near Gabd-Remdan (Pak-Iran border) to Jiwani Grid Station, erection of around 70 power polls, evacuation, foundation concreting and backfilling foundations, earthling and civil works.

Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), operating as a power distribution company and dealing with the power supply system, National Transmission National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) have collaborated to complete the project.

power supply system, National Transmission National Transmission and Dispatch Company (1926) and laborated to complete the project.

According to a QESCO official, infrastructure has been completed on the Iranian side for many years. Infrastructure was also ready from Jiwani to Gwadar, according to him. "However, transmission line equipment from the Pakistan-Iran border area of Kalatu near Gabd-Remdan to Jiwani was missing," he added.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Karachi citizens protest against 'non-supply of gas'

KARACHI: The citizens of Karachi's Baldia Town held a protest on Wednesday outside the head office

on Wednesday outside the head office of Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) against the non-supply of gas for the past several months. According to details, the residents of Karachi staged a protest outside the head office of Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC), claiming that they were suffering from a non-supply of gas for the past eight months.

supply of gas for the past eight months.

The residents recorded blocked the road in protest, leading to heavy traffic jams around the Expo Center. The protesters said that they will continue protesting until the gas is restored.

Meanwhile, SSGC General Manager assured the protestors that the gas will be fully restored by 6 pm tomorrow.INP

BOAJK launches SBTF to promote business activities

MUZAFFARABAD: Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has launched a unique credit scheme "Small Business Trade Finance" (SBTF) to promote business activities in the state of AJK. Bank's Chairman Board of Directors, Khan Abdul Majid Khan, who is also Minister for Finance Cooperative & Inland Revenue and

Cooperative & Inland Revenue and President/CEO Mr. Khawar Saeed inaugurated the scheme.

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chambers of Commerce and Industries Syed Sabir Hussain, President Anjuman Tajaran Mr. Sohail Shuja, bank officers and other repre-sentatives of the business community

were also present on this occasion.
Under SBTF, the Bank will provide loans up to 5 lakh rupees to the small businessmen and entrepreneurs of the region while loans will be given to the trader community on very easy terms and minimum markup with fastest processing and 100% life & stock

insurance

According to the BOAJK spokesman, before launching the SBTF, valued customers benefit from loan schemes like Advance Salary Loan, Gold Loan, Housing Finance, Personal Loan, Car Financing, Personal Loan, Car Financing, Motorcycle Loan, Home Appliances, SME, Micro, Commercial, Tourism Development, Healthcare etc. Socioeconomic development is accelerating

Apart from this, with the support of the AJK Government, Board of Directors, especially the Chairman, the supervision and guidance of the President/CEO Mr. Khawar Saeed, the hard and team work of the staff, and the support of the customers, the bank is exceeding its targets.INP

Three robbers held with arms, looted valuables

SUKKUR: The police arrested three robbers with arms and looted valu-ables after an exchange of fire here on

A case was registered against the detained robbers and investigations were underway INP

PTA degrades Wikipedia services for not removing sacrilegious contents

ISLAMABAD: Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has degraded the Wikipedia services in the country on account of not block-

ing/removing sacrilegious contents. It's worth mentioning here that Wikipedia was approached for blocking/removal of the said contents by issuing a notice under applicable law and court order(s).

An opportunity of hearing was also provided but the platform neither complied by removing the blasphemous content nor appeared before the Authority.INP

Ministry of Planning considers open access to PSDP data

ISLAMABAD: Governance Innovation Lab under The Ministry of Planning. Development and Special Initiatives has taken a major step towards making information about the 750-billion-rupee development expenditure of Pakistan recessible to the presser

accessible to the masses.

A new portal will be created to provide real-time information

provide real-time information about the allocation, release, and progress of every PSDP project through a graphical interface. All approved PC1s will be available and accessible on the portal, and the Ministry has estab-lished a Champions of Reforms (COR) Network to seek input from citizens in reviewing and from citizens in reviewing and evaluating project proposals under PSDP. This unprecedented move will ensure greater returns on investment by making sure that the PSDP reflects the aspirations of the citizens Expert opinions gathered dur-

ing the evaluation process will be included as a special section in the

Executive Summary of PC-1 that is presented at the CDWP, making all stakeholders accountable to the citizens of Pakistan and enhancing the transparency and effectiveness of PSDP. Both the Ministry's and independent experts' opinions will be reflected in the PC1s and dis-cussed in the CDWP meetings.

cussed in the CDWP meetings.

This digitization initiative is a major step towards making the PSDP allocations more accountable and accessible to the public, and the Ministry of Planning. Development and Special Initiatives is proud to lead the way in this effort. These suggestions were discussed in the roundtable conference organized by the GIL during which Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal makes a bold move towards greater transparency in development expenditure at the development expenditure at the Round Table Conference on the Digitisation of the PSDP. With the digitisation of PSDP, the federal government aims to provide citi-zens with in-depth information on all PSDP-funded projects INP

Consultation workshop held for implementation of National Water Policy

ISLAMABAD: Council of Resea Resources (PCRWR) in collabora-Resources (PCRWR) in collabora-tion with International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan and Federal Flood Commission (FFC) organized a National Level Consultation Workshop on Draft National Water Conservation Strategy and stock-taking assignments for the implementation of National Water Policy and launching of water quality research outcomes in the qualify research outcomes in the form of four key reports.

The workshop held at the NCBI Auditorium, PCRWR Head Office on Wednesday was attended by representatives from various fed-eral, provincial departments and UN agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, CEA/Chairman FFC, Ahmad Kamal highlighted the salient features of national water policy and briefed about the goal of national water policy and the need for the

Pakistan development of the strategy in Water Addressing the aud Muhammad Ashraf stressed the need for water conservation in all water use sectors and the basic idea for developing the strategy. He also described the complete process of development of this document. Country Representative, IWMI Pakistan, Dr. Mohsin Hafeez briefed the audience about the purpose and expected outcomes of the stocktaking initiatives. He also highlighted that the data received from the stakeholders will be helpful in the development of a baseline for the effective implementation of the national water policy 2018. Secretary PCRWR, Dr. Hifza Rasheed elaborated the outcomes and key findings of the PCRWR research reports. Chief WASH UNICEF Mr. Haile Gashaw appreciated the efforts of the organizations involved.INP

PM Shehbaz Sharif to inaugurate K-3 nuclear power plant today

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will arrive in Karachi on a day-long visit on Thursday during which he will inaugurate Karachi Nuclear Power

Plant Unit-3 (K-3) and will address the ceremony also.

K-3 is the second NPP in Pakistan with the generation capacity of 1,100 MW and its addition to the national grid is expected to help reduce electricity tariff in the country.

The plants have been developed

with the Chinese support.

K-3 is one of the two similar

NPPs located near Karachi. The
other one, named K-2, was inaugurated by former prime minister Imran Khan on May 21 last year.

The groundbreaking of both the units (K-2 & K-3) of the project was performed by then prime minister Nawaz Sharif in November

2013.
The construction of K-2 and K-3 was started in August 2015 and May 2016, respectively, after approval of the Pakistan Nuclear

Regulatory Authority (PNRA).

K-3 is the second NPP in Pakistan with the generation capacity of 1,100 MW and its addition to the national grid is expected to help reduce electricity

The plants have been developed with the Chinese support.

K-3 is one of the two similar NPPs located near Karachi. The other one, named K-2, was inau-

other one, named K-2, was maugurated by former prime minister Imran Khan on May 21 last year. The groundbreaking of both the units (K-2 & K-3) of the project was performed by then prime min-ister Nawaz Sharif in November 2013 INP

ernment is playing its role in bringing the ancient cultural heritage INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal expressing his remarks on Digital PSDP Round Table conference.

It is expected that the remaining procedures and formalities will be completed in 10 to 15 days, and the project will be inaugurated on March 1st, ensuring a stable and low-cost 100 MW power supply from Iran to Gwadar. "Initially the transmission lines were single circuit with configuration of three conductors for the three phases. Given the outlook of the new project, transmission lines are a double circuit configuration with six conductors (three phases for each circuit).

When greater reliability is required, double circuits are used. This mode of transmission allows for the transfer

When greater reliability is required, double circuits are used. This mode of transmission allows for the transfer of more power over a given distance. As a result, transmission is less expensive, requires less land, and is considered ideal from an ecological and aesthetic standpoint, "he explained.

It is a new electricity infrastructure connecting Iran's Polan city to Kalatu Gabd-Remdan, Jiwani, and Gwadar, through which Gwadar will receive 100 MW from Iran. It is the closest to the Iranian border, which is only 40 kilometers away. Old power infrastructure is also available from the Pak-Iran border Panjgur to Gwadar, providing around 40-70 MW. However, due to the long distance of around 400 kilometers from the Pak-Iran border to Gwadar, the share of other districts of Makran division, power losses, and power outages, Gwadar is always plunged into darkness because it does not receive regular and stable power. INP

President emphasises Ulema's role in social reform, discouraging extremism

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday called upon the Ulema and Mashaikh of the country to play their role in bringing positive social change, discouraging extremism, terrorism and

The president, talking to a delegation of the Ulema Mashaikh Yakjehti Council of Pakistan (UMYC), that called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, urged their role for inculcating ethical and moral values in society, promoting the conservation of resources, national solidarity, religious tolerance, and inter-faith harmony and

peace.

The president urged Ulema to play their role to eliminate extremism, terrorism and sectarianism by highlighting the true teachings of Islam in the light of the Quran, Sunnah and Ahadith of the Holy Prophet

He said that the challenges of terrorism and militan-cy in Pakistan required a comprehensive action plan coupled with concerted efforts on the part of the Ulema in the areas of counter-extremism and counter-

President Alvi said that it was the responsibility of religious scholars to disseminate the true teachings of Islam among the people, especially the youth of the country, to bring in social reforms, and promote virtue, ethics, and morality in society.

He said that Pakistan could achieve progress and its rightful place in the comity of nations through disciplinations.

rightful place in the comity of nations through disci-pline, persistence, moral righteousness, and promoting social justice.

Ammara

Athar

becomes first

female DPO

of Attock

ATTOCK: Attock gets first female District Police Officer (DPO) as

Inspector General Punjab Police Dr. Usman Anwar on Wednesday posted lady police officer SSP Ammara Athar as DPO of

the district Attock while her predecessor Fazal Hamid has been asked to

ing expertise of the female officers are also being utilized with maxi-

mum opportunities of decision making positions in the bureaucracy as par with their male col-

leagues.
The newly joined DPO

Attock Ammara Athar belongs to 36th Common

Training Group with graduation of Business

Administration. She has

already served as SSP Operations, Multan, SP

Security and Additional

SP Investigation along with operational charge in

She also served as the first lady DPO in the his-

tory of the Punjab while holding the positions of DPO Bahawalnagar in

2018 and Sargodha in 2019 as well. She was also awarded with the

Eisenhower Fellowship of America (Women

America (Women Leadership Award) in 2015 in recognition of her contributions towards humanity and peace in the world. Her father Rana

Aabid Saeed was also a police officer who served as Additional Inspector General of Police.INP

Musical Night,

Mehfil-e-

Mushaira

organized at

Gandhara

Festival 2023

R A W A L P I N D I : Pothohari Musical Night and Mehfil-e-Mushaira was organized by Punjab Arts Council at Gandhara Festival 2023.

Festival 2023.
Director of Arts
Council Wagar Ahmed
was the special guest of
the musical night during
which Naeem Hazarvi,
the famous singer of
Pothohar, enthralled the
audience by singing beautiful songs. Speaking on
the occasion, Wagar
Ahmad said that the gov-

the occasion, Waqar Ahmad said that the gov-

Lahore Police.

The president said that Ulema should make concerted efforts to remove divisions from society, and should promote unity and solidarity within the country.

He said that youth should be educated on tolerance, the said that youth should be educated on tolerance.

forgiveness, and peace as these were the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The president said that Islam emphasized the conservation of resources and avoiding wastage. The Ulema should also help promote moderate, responsible and sustainable conservation of resources. ble and sustainable consumption of resources, especially fuel and energy, through their Friday sermons in the mosques. He said that the challenges of terrorism and militancy in Pakistan required a comprehensive action plan coupled with concerted efforts on the part of the Ulema in the areas of counter-extremism and counter-terrorism.

President Alvi said that it was the responsibility of religious scholars to disseminate the true teachings of Islam among the people, especially the youth of the country, to bring in social reforms, and promote virtue,

ethics, and morality in society.

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forgiveness, and peace as these were the Sunnah of the
Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).INP

Stakeholders should find out permanent solution of terrorism: Minister

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor on Wednesday said the stakeholders should find out a permanent solution to terrorism.

Condemning the Peshawar blast in the strongest terms on the floor of National Assembly, he proposed that parliament, government, religious and political leadership and national security institutions should sit together and chalk out an authentic plan other than the military operation in the affected

join his new assignments of SSP Special Branch Rawalpindi.
Police sources said, in line with the policy guidelines of the Punjab government, the crime fighting expertise of the female officers are also The minister went on to say that the previous operations had brought bad impacts on the local people and they could not get back to normal life, socially and economically yet. Any other operation could increase death and destruction by manifold in the affected areas, he added.

Terming terrorist activities an international conspiracy against Pakistan, he said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was badly affected by the scourge of terror-ism for last two decades. He said the blast in the mosque was

a serious issue as a large number of religious scholars had paid a huge price on the war on terror till then.

He said the quarters concerned should ascertain the factors behind all this fuss in the province and opt for a solution on long term basis.INP



LAHORE: Special Assistant to PM Atta Ullah Tarar talking to media.

Pharmacies to provide free medicines will be named "Aap Ki Pharmacy"

LAHORE: The Punjab caretaker government on Wednesday announced free provision of medicines in the pharmacies and Outpatient Departments (OPDs) of all public hospitals across the province.

The Caretaker Health Minister Dr Javed Akram said that the pharmacies to provide free medicines will be named as "Aap Ki Pharmacy".

He added that the provision of free medicines will start from hospitals in Faisalabad, which will then spread to Lahore and other

Dr Javed also said that a highlevel meeting was held under the chairmanship of Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi, in which the proposal for implementation of "Patient System"

reviewed to make operations of government hospitals paperless meeting,

Information Technology Board (ITB) Chairman Syed Bilal Haider briefed about the "Patient Management System" and said that it would be first implemented in 15 major hospitals of Punjab. Under this system, the depart-

ments of emergency, gynecology and pharmacy of hospitals will be connected, following which the data of patients will be available in every government hospital.

The data will be including details of patient arrival, treatment initiation, tests, procedures and other.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi issued instructions to take necessary steps for the implementation of "Patient Management System". INP

China expresses firm support to Pakistan's fight against terrorism

ISLAMABAD: China is deeply shocked by and strongly condemns a deadly attack at a mosque in Pakistan's

morthwest Peshawar city, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said. "We express our deep condolences for the loss of life in the attack and extend sympathies to the injured and the bereaved families," Mao told a press briefing in Chinese capital Beijing.

She said China firmly opposes terrorism in any form and firmly supports Pakistan's efforts in fighting terrorism, defending national stability, and protecting people's lives.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan separately issued a statement to

Pakistan separately issued a statement to denounce the terrorist attack. "Embassy of China strongly con-

demns the terrorist attack at the mosque in Peshawar. We feel deeply grieved and pay our deepest condolences to the families of victims and injured of the

tragedy," the statement added

According to media reports, the Monday blast has killed at least 100 peo-

ple and injured 221 others. China is deeply shocked by and strongly condemns a deadly attack at a mosque in Pakistan's northwest Peshawar city, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said.

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