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PM Shehbaz orders immediate restoration of Wikipedia



Transmission test of 100 MWs from Iran to Gwadar completed

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# Over 2600 dead as powerful earthquake jolts Turkey and Syria

News Desk

Earthquake of magnitude 7.9 struck central Turkey and northwest Syria affecting millions of people

Over 2600 people were dead and thousands injured when a powerful earthquake jolted various cities in Turkey and Syria on Monday morning. A major earthquake of magnitude 7.9 struck central

magnitude 7.9 struck central Turkey and northwest Syria affecting millions of people. The quake, which hit in the early darkness of a winter morning, was also felt in Cyprus and Lebanon.

"I have never felt anything like it in the 40 years I've lived," said Erdem, a resident of the Turkish city of Gaziantep, near the quake's epicenter, who declined to give his surname. "We were shaken at least three times very strongly, like a baby in a crib."

Death toll around 1,651 in Turkey, more than 700 in Syria

More than 1,651 people have been killed and thou-sands were injured in Turkey and Syria after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit southern Turkey early Monday.



Rescuers are now frantically searching for survivors after the powerful quake shook the region, causing multiple aftershocks and

multiple aftershocks and sending tremors as far away as Lebanon and Israel.

Videos widely shared on social media show women and children running from the collapsed buildings chanting slogans of Allah o Akbar (God is great). Videos show high buildings collapsing. The Hue and cry of the victims can be heard. The earthquake has sent shock waves across the globe with people fearing aftershocks.

Rescuers hunt for untold numbers trapped in rubble

"We were shaken like a cradle. There were nine of us at home. Two sons of mine are still in the rubble, I'm waiting for them," said a woman with a broken arm and injuries to face, speaking in an ambulance near the wreckage of a seven-storey block where she had lived in Diyarbakir in

southeast Turkey.
In Turkey, the death toll stood at 1,498, the disaster agency said. At least 968 people were killed in Syria, according to figures from the Damascus government and the United Nations.

Poor internet connections and damaged roads between some of the worst-hit cities in Turkey's south, homes to mil-lions of people, hindered efforts to assess and address the impact

Temperatures in some areas were expected to fall to near freezing overnight, worsening conditions for people trapped under rubble or left homeless. Rain was falling on Monday after snowstorms swept the country at the weekend.

#### Highest death toll from an earthquake in Turkey since 1999

It is already the highest death toll from an earthquake in Turkey since 1999, when a tremor of similar magnitude devastated the heavily popu-lated eastern Marmara Sea region near Istanbul, killing more than 17,000.

Historic disaster and the worst earthquake to hit Turkey since 1939

President Tayyip Erdogan, who is preparing for a tough election in May, called it a historic disaster and the worst earthquake to hit Turkey since 1939, but said authorities were doing all they could. "Everyone is putting their

heart and soul into efforts although the winter season, cold weather and the earthquake happening during the night makes things more dif-ficult," he said.

# Over 300 buildings constructed in violation of Earthquake code in Quetta

Syed Ali Shah

In Quetta, over 300 shopping malls, markets, plazas and shops have been constructed in violation of building code. The British rulers had fixed 30 feet height for all buildings in the aftermath of the dead-liest earthquake of 1935 that razed the mountains-ringed city to the ground.

Most of the buildings have been constructed against the code of Earthquake in quetta ed in the heart of Quetta city, with no proper check by the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (QMC) during construction work. "We have currently taken action against 40 building owners", Muhammad Qasam, the Chief of QMC's anti-encroachment cell told the daily Quetta Voice.

Building code has been violated by highly influential people and they have also greased the palm of QMC's architect-engineer responsible for passing maps of plazas and shops in the city prior to any construction work. Geologists warn of high-intensity earthquakes in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan in the future. "Quetta is located in a red-zone when it comes to the earthquake", Dr. Din Muhammad Kakar, a well-known geologist

Quetta and almost all parts of Balochistan are prone to natural disasters in general and



earthquakes in particular. Keeping in view the future dangers of earthquakes, the Britians immediately fixed the building code in Quetta to avoid future human losses in the case of any natural calamity. During English era, people strictly followed the building code. However, gradually, its violation started with no check on the part of the concerned quarters."If you have money, you can pass map for construction", Haji Salam, a well-known businessman lamented. Tall buildings have been constructed in congested streets and roads of the city, having no parking and other basic facilities. It is very difficult for pedestri-ans to walk in those streets as they are always crammed with people. "QMC is gradually taking on all influential people", Qasam claimed During the last two decades, earthquakes have caused human and property losses in Ziarat, Awaran and Mashkail towns of

### PM Shehbaz orders immediate restoration of Wikipedia

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday ordered the immediate restoration of popular online ency-clopedia Wikipedia that was banned by the telecom regulator last week for not "blocking/remov-ing sacrilegious content". Wikipedia is a free, crowd-sourced, editable online encyclope-dia often used as a starting point by millions across the world for basic information.

information.

On February 4, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) banned Wikipedia for not "blocking/removing sacrilegious content" within the 48-hour deadline given in a move that was widely condemned

Prior to the ban, the PTA had degraded Wikipedia services coun-trywide for not complying with its directives.

A handout issued today by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), a



copy of which is available with Dawn.com, said that the matter was placed before the premier.

The statement said that the prime minister then constituted a committee comprising the law, economic affairs and information ministers for "preliminary examination of the

It added that the committee held a meeting during which the mem-bers of the committee highlighted how Wikipedia was a useful website supporting the "dissemination of knowledge and information for the public, students and the acade-

Blocking the site in its entirety was not a suitable measure to restrict access to some objection-able content," the PMO statement said. "The unintended conse-quences of this blanket ban, there-

Based on the body's recommendations, PM Shehbaz ordered the immediate restoration of the website and also constituted a separate cabinet committee headed by IT Minister Aminul Haque and comprising the law, information, commerce, and communication minis-

The PMO handout defined the cabinet committee's terms of refer-ence, saying that it would "review the suitability" of the PTA's move to block Wikipedia.Web Desk

# Transmission test of 100 MWs from Iran to Gwadar completed

News Desk

The test to transmit 100 Mega Watts of electricity from Iran to Gwadar was successfully completed. The test-ing was conducted by National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NDTC) after complet-ing the transmission line for importing more than 100 megawatts of elec-tricity from Iran.

On the instructions of the Prime Minister and the Energy Minister, NTDC completed the project within the stipulated period. It has been testing of the transmis-



sion system, the supply of more than 100 megawatts of electricity to Gwadar will start in

the next few days. The completion of the project will improve the

The governments of Pakistan and Iran signed an agreement in June 2022 to supply 100 megawatts of additional electricity to meet

Gwadar's power needs.
Prime Minister
Shahbaz Sharif, during
his visit to Gwadar last year, directed the concerned authorities to complete the project in a short period of time. Gwadar relies on imported electricity from Iran and the con-struction of the 132 KV line will connect the coastal city to the national grid for the

# All Parties Conference on terrorism rescheduled for Feb 9: information minister

Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that the government has rescheduled the All Parties Conference (APC) in Islamabad — called to discuss important challenges being faced by Pakistan — for February 9, Thursday.

She did not mention why the meeting originally slated for February 7 was moved

In a tweet, the information minister said that a joint strategy to combat terrorism and other challenges faced by the government will be discussed in the meeting. The National Action Plan will also be reviewed. Aurangzeb added that the entire political and national leadership of the

country has been invited to the moot.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had decided to convene the multi-party. moot last week in a move that was seen as significant development amid rising political temperatures in the country.



The invitation for the meeting was also extended to PTI chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, which was formally delivered to party leaders Pervez Khattak and Asad Qaiser by former speaker

and federal minister, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

However, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry has claimed that the PTI has not received an official invitation for the conference yet.

The All Party Conference comes as the country is facing an uptick in terrorist activity. On January 30, a suicide bombing at a mosque in Peshawar Police Lines area claimed the lives of at least 101 people, mostly police officials.

ic front. Foreign exchange reserves have gone down to \$3.09 billion,

At the same time, the country is also facing trouble on the econom-

which analysts say covers less than three weeks of imports.

The country is locked in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to release much-needed money under a stalled bailout programme. A successful outcome with the IMF would also help to release money from other platforms that are looking for a greenlight from the lender. Web Desk

### Balochistan prone to natural disasters

Balochistan, the country's largest province in terms of the area is prone to almost all types of natural disasters. Quetta, the provincial capital and various parts of the sparsely populated province have suffered natural disasters including drought, floods and earth-quakes during the last one and half decades.

A recently mild earthquake measuring 5.4 on reactor scale in the province's Washuk district near the Iranian border is yet to send any alarm bells in the power corridors. The tremors felt a couple of days ago in the wee hours damaged around 300 mud-walled houses in Killi Sajid area of Basima tehsil of Washuk district.

The provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) announced sending relief goods to the displaced people. Fortunately, no human loss was caused when earthquake tremors jolted one of the backward areas of the province since people were sleeping outside their rooms owing to scorching heat.

The earthquake has almost gone unnoticed as no provincial minister or any high-level government official has visited the area to meet the earthquake survivors and people dis-

placed. The media too gave cold-shoulder to the damages.

Torrential rains also claimed 13 lives in Dera Bugti, Jhal Magsi, Jaffarabad and other districts of Balochistan. 907 houses were damaged, 3 water dams burst, 2 bridges and 10 communication roads were also damaged as a result of heavy rainfall. Similarly, floods in Naseerabad, Jaffarabad made half a million people homeless and destroyed over 2,000

A strong earthquake in Pakistan's one of the famous tourist areas i.e. Ziarat killed over

200 and injured more than 300 on October 29, 2008. In April 2013, an earthquake in Mashkail near Pak-Iran border killed dozens and injured over 100. In September 2013, a powerful earthquake measuring 7,7 on the reactor scale killed 328 people in Balochistan's Awaran. Thousands were displaced when the powerful tremors jolted the area.In 1935, the deadliest earthquake razed the entire Quetta city to the ground. After the earthquake, the British rulers introduced a building code, which fixed 30 feet height for buildings in the city. For some time, people followed the code. But, gradually, people violated the code and constructed more than 300 tall buildings, plazas, shopping malls, markets in the heart of Quetta city. Based on past experiand looming future threats of natural calamities, the Balochistan government needs to chalk out a comprehensive strategy to cope with any emergency situation. The scale of the natural calamities cannot be predicted at this point in time. However, what is human-ly possible that should be done. We have to learn a lesson from Japan, Turkey and other

countries when it comes to earthquakes and other natural calamities.

Mere providing relief goods, tents and blankets do not offer any solution rather a comprehensive strategy needs to be made to tackle future situations. Building code in Quetta city, which is located in the earthquake sensitive zone should be implemented strictly. Populations living in floods danger zones or water-ways should be evacuated and settled in safer places. Above all, the PDMA should go beyond distributing relief goods and the authority should engage geologists, environmentalists and researchers to analyze, assess and review future climate dangers to sensitize policymakers.

# Balochistan floods: The tale of pain and destruction

Abdul Shakoor Khan

**EDITORIAL** 

month after being A month after being shifted to a newly- con-structed home, 50 years old Saeeda Bibi, along with her two sons and daughters in law had to make a midnight escape from the flood that submerged the entire locality in the Nawa Kili area of Quetta city on the last day of monsoon's eighth

spell.
"I was scared all the time and never thought that I, with open eyes will witness the perishing of my home that my husband built with hardearned money," she recalled the night when her neighbor knocked at their door asking to immediately vacate the house as gushing water of deluge had started washing away homes in the suburbs of the main city.

This house was com-pletely washed away by floods in Malik Town Nawan Killi Quetta Saeeda's husband con-

structed house after his retirement

Bibi Saeeda is the wife of Mohammad Ashfaq, a retired Deputy Director of Education Department who after receiving gratu-ity and benevolent fund his retirement, had constructed his own house on a small piece of land after spending years in rented houses.



"Carrying the Holy Quran, I stayed for a while in the backyard of my home, with my eyes towards sky, praying to Almighty Allah, to save our house and family," she narrated the saga of a nightmare with tears in her eyes.

her eyes.
"We have been listening that floods had
wreaked havoc in green
belt of the province, but in the history of Quetta, we had not seen such a disaster as inflicted by recent spells of mon-soon," she added.

This heart-touching story of Saeeda Bibi per-haps helps understand the miseries of those bearing the brunt of devastating flood with their houses and valuables inundated under knee-deep water.

Technical staff engaged in clearing of the highway in Bolan highway in Bolan Balochistan: Photo taken

from social media Balochistan faced the brunt of floods

Balochistan province, having the title of almost half of Pakistan had badly suffered from the eight monsoon spells, over-whelming in magnitude and severity. It swept away the kith and kin of the survivors, their cattle,

houses and crops.
"It was unprecedented We had never even thought of such a disas-ter," said 70 years old Abdul Ali, a resident of the Pashtoonabad area in Quetta. "I spent my life here. We came across many calamities. But, it

was disastrous."

He appealed to the federal and provincial governments for early relief as hundreds of thousands of people were forced to stay under the open sky direly needing food and

Management Authority Naseer Ahmed Nasar that non-stop heavy downpours, uncon-trolled waves of water and gushing hill torrents had so far claimed around 250 lives with thousands injured and displaced. Agriculture sec

The catastrophe left some 61718 houses dam-aged, 145936 livestock dead and about 190 thousand acres of agriculture land badly affected.

The loss only incurred to the agriculture sector of Balochistan is estimated as Rs 98 billion," said Director General Director General Agricultural Balochistan Abdul Wahab Kakar. "The flood has damaged

crops, orchards, 15800 tube wells, ponds and solar systems on an area of 190,000 acres. Lasbella, Naseerbad, Bolan, Jaffarabad,

Sohbatpur, Kachi, Jhal Magsi, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Sibi, Quetta, Pishin, Qila Abdullah, Qilla Saifullah, Lorali, Harnai, Zhob were some of the worst affected dis-

Hundreds of families of Naseerabad division have taken refuge along the highways as their houses are still sub-merged in the flood water receding very slowly. Meanwhile, the federal and provincial govern-ments, jawans of Armed Forces, NDMA, Frontier Constabulry and civil society organizations have accelerated the relief operation, daring the challenging situation due to collapse of road infrastructure, connecting highways and bridges.

Balochistan discon-nected from rest of the country for more than a

Balochistan is almost Balochistan is almost cut off from Punjab, KP and Sindh provinces due to the collapse of bridges on Quetta-Zhob-Dana Sar-Dera Ismail Khan road; Quetta-Loralai-Dera Ghazi Khan; Quetta-Khuzdar-Karachi; and Quetta-Sibi-Jacaboad and Quetta-Sibi-Jacaboad roads

Although, the authorities have partially restored the Quetta-Karachi highway, yet the people have been advised to avoid unnecessary

"My family is stuck in Dera Murad Jamli area of Naseerabad due to damaged infrastructure and I am helpless to reach there and bring them along,"

Razaq, a government official in Quetta said. It is yet another dilemma that most parts of the province are without gas, electricity, internet and cellular services.

#### Food security in danger By Shafqat Kakakhel

As defined by the forld Food Summit World Food "food security (1996),exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The UN Food and

Agriculture Organization (FAO) has further elaborated the four key dimensions of food security. Availability of food means availability of sufficient quantity of food of appropriate qual-ity supplied through domestic production or imports (including food aid). Food access means individuals' resources for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. The utilization of food means utilization through adequate diet, clean water, sanitation, and healthcare to attain a state of nutritional wellbeing where all physioneeds Food stability means the ability of a population, household, or individual to have access to sufficient food at all times.

Since the beginning of the global discourse on climate change in the mid- 1980s, increasing attention has been paid to the likely conse-quences of climate change for food security, especially in the Global South. This is because all the impacts of global warming and anthropogenic climatic variability adversely affect one or more key dimensions of food security.

The impacts of climate change documented by climate scientists

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established in 1988 to assess climate change trends, their drivers, and impacts as well as responses to alleviate the effects, are relevant for Pakistan. The major impacts are noted

Higher surface and ocean temperature in the Arctic causing rising sea levels inundate coastal regions and island states, damage human settle-ments and salinate fresh water thereby threatening farming and fishing and forcing farmers and fishers to seek alternative homes and livelihoods. This is referred to climate-induced migration. The vulnerability of

thousand kilometre long coastline in Sindh and Balochistan to rising sea level as well as coastal storms and rains caused by sea level rise has been corroborat-ed by the physical erosion of coastline and growing number of climate migrants. Food production, livestock sector and fisheries in the coastal regions have reportedly suffered mounting loss and damage. It is imperative to

gations in order to assess the magnitude of the problem.

More frequent, longer

lasting, and more intense extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, cyclones and storms, and heatwaves damage water courses and irrigation infrastructure such as beadworks, barrages, bridges, dam reservoirs, lakes and ponds, and wetlands as well as standing crops and live-stock. They also damage wetlands and mangrove forests. During the past five decades, the number extreme weather events has increased exponentially Superfloods such as those in 2010 and 2022 have caused huge loss and damage, making the agriculture, food, and livestock sector the most climate vulnerable economic sector in Pakistan. The prolonged droughts during 1996-2002 had severe negative effects on our agriculture, food. and livestock sector an overall socio-economic growth.Rapid melting of snow and ice in the Himalaya-Karakoram-Hindukush mountain glaciers initially cause flash floods and glacial lake outburst floods and after the erosion of glacier mass will cause declining supply of water to the rivers fed by the glaciers. The Indus River Basin depends for ice of the HKH glaciers. There is disruption of the timing, duration, and intensity of the twice-

yearly monsoon winds causing precipitation in summer and winter leading to floods and droughts. The monsoon rains are vital for supplementing river flows in the Indus Basin and sustaining lakes and wetlands as well as recharging the Indus aquifer, our most reliable water storage.

Increased evapotrancaused by spiration temperature, higher heatwaves, and droughts drastically reduce surface water stored in dam reservoirs, lakes, and watercourses.

change Climate induced floods and droughts degrade the land soil and cause increased insect-pest and other disease infestation They also affect milk production and poultry.

The cumulative effect of all climate change reducis a net of freshwater tion resources. While the reduction cannot be predicted in precise quantitative terms, some studies mention a decrease of 25-30 per cent in the flows of the Indus Basin Rivers. The critical dependence of our agriculture on perennial irrigation due to our predominantly hot and humid weather and our mainly arid soil and extremely low average

level of 200 -290 cm. highlights the acute vulnerability of our food production and security to the effects of climate

Pakistan's food security is also threatened by the adverse effects of the higher temperature on the quantity and quality of crop yields due to the shorter growth season Some studies have mentioned reduction of crop yields by as much as 50 per cent in an extreme

climate scenario. Economic development and poverty eradication initiatives are major victims of the physical loss and damage caused by climate induced events such as superfloods. Pakistan Floods

Post- Disaster

Needs Assessment' published in October 2022 by the Ministry of worsen. Planning, Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan and compiled by ministries of the government of Pakistan in collaboration with the Development Asian Bank, World Bank, EU and the UN agencies facilitated by the UNDP, comprehensively describes the sectorwise loss and damage caused by the June-August superfloods. It mentions that Pakistan's poverty rate is estimated to increase by 3.7 per cent to 4 per cent, pushing between 8.4 million and 9.1 million people into poverty. inflationary

# Burning down the house By Ammar Habib Khan

time saves nine. do not like stitches. We deliberate whether a stitch is even required, or

what if we don't stitch at all, and maybe the problem will magically solve itself We look back at the past, and see many people

who also hadn't stitched in time, and we ask them again what to do. As we do not like to retire, we bring the same people again to do the exact same thing that they did two decades back, and get the same disastrous results. Like clockwork, we do not stitch, and the situation continues to

Economic policy in Pakistan hasn't evolved in the last three decades. Our policymakers continue to make decisions that tenance of the economy The same decisions that have pushed the country over the edge time and again. The current economic crisis, which started as a balance of pay-ments crisis, could have been easily solved through the right stabilization measures. A perpetual political crisis coupled with the inability to take sound economic decisions catapulted a balance of payments crisis into a potential hyper-

resulting in rampant food inflation, historically high interest rates, and a complete breakdown of supply chain.
To maintain the illu-

sion of a strong Pak rupee, the government embarked on administrative controls to manage the price at which the Pak rupée trades against the US dollar. Such administrative measures meant prioritizing energy and food imports, while rationing supply of foreign currency to other industries. As industries were not allowed to import, whether to produce goods for local consumption, or for exports, gradually they depleted existing inventory fevels. The inability to import effectively meant that they did not have sufficient raw material to pro-

duce goods, and either sell them locally, or export them. came to a halt, layoffs started happening across the board, with many daily wage earners losing jobs in a historically high inflationary environment. As production of goods halted, so did economic output, and collection of taxes, resulting in an economic squeeze, and tax collection that couldn't even mimic inflation levels. Lower tax collection meant higher budgetary deficits, which meant more borrowing by the government. As the gov-

ernment continues to run its affairs largely on bor-rowed funds, the equilibrium interest rate also

continues to increase.

The administrative controls instead of making things easier, actually made the situation much worse, just to maintain an illusion of a strong Pak rupee. The policymakers prescribing administra-tive controls probably do not ever consider unin-tended consequences of their actions. Price controls are a favourite tool of politicized economic managers, a tool that has never yielded a positive outcome ever.

Modern supply chains are complex. Each finished product would require hundreds of inputs. The absence of even a single input can potentially lead to an unfinished product. We may consider the exam-ple of a trouser that may manufacturer in Pakistan. We may have the fabric, yarn, dyes, and every-thing else that is required, but if a zipper is not available (because it is imported), the trouser remains unfinished, and cannot be exported.

The inability of economic managers to appreciate the complexity of supply chains has led to a total disaster, due to which there is a shortage of many goods in the country, even if they are locally produced.

# There can be no economic miracle in Pakistan!

over half of its water

assets on the orderly

melting of the snow and

hen Ishaq oath as federal finance and revenue minister more than a week ago, there was an instant depreciation in the rate of the dollar versus the rupee; rise in the stock exchange index; and reduction in the prices of petroleum products. Does it mean that one person, who has twice earlier served as federal finance minister escaped Pakistan five years ago because of corruption charges, can cause an economic miracle? Is there any rational basis of Dar's claim to fix the economy by stabilising the exchange rate, lower the interest rate and mitigate inflation?

Moreover, the meager \$8 billion forex reserves just enough to pay for only three weeks of imports, is another cause for concern. It will be nothing short of a miracle if Dar is able to have a paradigm shift in the economy because of harsh realities that will not allow the country to escape from the inevitable. In the ongoing fiscal year, Pakistan has to arrange \$40 billion external financing. This is besides the \$20 billion worth of losses the recent floods have inflicted Artificial appreciation of the rupee against major currencies will not work because of high demand of the dollar for imports

and for other purposes. In today's Pakistan, miracles to salvage the economy are certainly not going to happen because of ground realities which are highly unfavorable. Neither the IMF nor the World Bank or the

friendly countries will come for the rescue of Pakistan because the country is constantly requesting donors to waive loans and provide more financial resources in order for it to avoid a financial default. Even in recent devastating floods, the country has not received substantial amount of financial assistance unlike in the case of the 2005 earthquake. Trust deficit and rampant corruption tend to discourage donors from providing cash assistance. Images of floods and the forceful appeal of the UN Secretary General to help Pakistan in this moment of crisis failed to bring positive results. Under he circumstances, Dar's taking up the economy is a major test case for the PML-N led coalition

government. Things were also difficult when Dar took over as finance minister in 2013 because of the PTIsit-in in Islamabad in 2014, but he managed to deal with that crisis. This time the situation is because Pakistan's economy is in dire straits and a country of 222 million people with a conglomeration of internal and external threats along with the devastation caused by the floods cannot have a smooth sailing for Dar despite his so-called magical skills. In 2013, the PML-N enjoyed a two-thirds mandate; but in 2022, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is heading a coalition of around a dozen parties that too with a razor thin dozen parties - and majority.

The existential threat to the coalition govern-ment in the shape of Imran Khan is real, and it will be difficult for the PML-N "financial wizard" to lead a paradigm shift in the economy. The threat of famine following massive floods looms large and the government has meager resources to import food items in order to prevent a crisis situation. With all economic indicators predict-ing a hopeless situation, what magic wand is Dar going to wave to fix the issues which tend to aggravate the country's political and economic situation!

One needs to analyse three major realities which will continue to undermine Dar's "mystic" skills for an economic turnaround. First, the reality of corruption, nepotism, bad gover-nance, absence of rule of law and lack of accountability needs to be taken seriously. Miracles never happen when the country is unable to deal with issues which seriously work ethics

mere words or rhetoric but must eradicate the culture of corruption and nepotism. How can a country be pulled from the brink of an economic disaster when it lacks the motivation, integrity and planning on the part of those who matter? Dar cannot let miracles

happen because his hands are not clean, as well as of many others who hap-pen to be his coalition partners and frontrunners of his own party.
Constant begging from
donors and friendly
countries will not help
because the elitist culture Pakistan is totally oblivious of ground realities pertaining to serious political and economic crisis. Artificially reducing prices and appreciation of rupees versus the dollar would be counterproductive and generate further crisis.

Second, no economic miracle is going to hap-pen unless our leadership has eight qualities in the ory and in practice: hard work, integrity, brilvision, commitment, dedication, planment, dedication, plan-ning, and wisdom, Looking at the other models of success, partic-ularly in developing world, one can learn from former Singaporean PM Lee Kuan Yu, former Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohammad. former Mohammad, former Chairman of Chinese Communist Party Mao Zedong and Nelson Mandela, the founding Dr Moonis Ahmar

president of post-apartheid South Africa. Other models of success are found in the UAE, Qatar, Muscat and Oman. Since the inception of Pakistan, leadership vac-uum and the lack of qualities essential to successfully run a country is a

bitter reality. Whether in civilian or in military control, Pakistan failed to emerge as a role model in good governance, rule of law and sound work ethics. Laziness, incompetence, dishonesty, fraud and cheating became acceptable norms which miti-gated Pakistan's rating in human development index, corruption percep-tion Index and human security Deterioration of quality of life of people in terms of absence of clean and safe drinking water for all, quality and compuleducation, housing, public transport and hygienic food are major challenges. When people at the helm of affairs are hated because of their

ble and qualified.

back. corruption and nepotism, how can Pakistan put its own house in order? Third, miracles will not happen unless there is culture of merit in Pakistan.When decisions are made on the basis of vested interests and likes ings. and dislikes, the country can never emerge as a successful state. Erosion of merit has a long history in Pakistan which eroded the trust of capaas an omnipotent entity enjoying complete impuni

# Transcending limits

moments warrant introspec-tions and reflection. The contemporary pandemic-ridden world seems to be at the crossroads. The prevailing onslaught of Covid-19 against humankind calls for a comprehensive contemplation on what went wrong in our quest for modernisation. The pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented crisis, the likes of which the world has not seen since World War II. Rather than viewing it as a traditional fleecing event, we need to mull over the lessons the pandemic is trying to teach us. When deliberating, one may be forced to conclude that something is wrong with what we have been doing. We shouldn't be oblivious of an inevitable principle: one gets what one gives. When we harm nature, nature harms us

istoric

Among all creatures, humankind is high up the evolutionarily ladder due to unmatched cognitive abilities and intellectual prowess. These intellectual abilities were inherently aimed at distinguishing good and evil, and regulat-ing life on earth in a manner that benefits not only humans but their surround-Paradoxically humans have outstepped and outreached their assigned authority and overestimated themselves

ty of all their activities

Rather than running the affairs and utilising the intellect and bounties in a just and sustainable manner, men have badly embezzled with nature's resources at the cost of destruction of other forms of life and of natural ecosystem. The recently released UN IPCC's terrifying sixth assessment report on the anthropogenic destruction of global climate is but a single instance of mankind's high-handedness against their surrounding environment. Even men didn't spare his fellow beings.

A few in the world hold

majority of the wealth the result: millions of people are currently consumed by poverty, hunger and disease. The rich-poor divide widens as time passes by Global poverty and widescale inequality are on the rise. Laws are made and broken for and by the rich, while the poor remain entangled in them. Merciless pogroms are a norm. The week dies of being preyed and consumed by capitalist predators. The tyranny against and persecutions of the weak, and the atrocities of rulers over their subjects have surged as time passes by. The growing scourge of terrorism and extremism, rising populism and demagoguery, and fascist politi-cal leadership is the new normal. Mass adulteration, hoarding, black-marketing, organised crimes, cheating, manipulating exploitating

Ali Hassan Bangwar become common traits of our culture.

There is an ever-rising trend of flattery and hypocrisy, while everything remains centered around material success. Morality, ethos, empathy and compassion are all considered as outdated notions. One might wonder how is NASA even think-ing of colonising Mars if we have utterly failed to learn to live peacefully on earth despite being here for millenniums. Though heinous acts may go unattended or

unpunished by our judicial system, we must realise the earth has its own system of justice. Floods, droughts, forest fires, heat waves, tsunamis, epidemics, earthquakes, torrential rains and violent volcanic eruptions are just a few of the consequences that have come about due to our actions. COVID-19 among other cataclysms questions the sustainability of the existing global order and the underlying principles of globalisation. The pandemic has given humankind the opportunity to rethink and reform existing socio-political and economical orders in line with principles of egalitarianism, eco-friendlessness, compassion and empathy. Rather than wasting resources on weapons, we must utilize it for the underprivileged, the poor and the weak. Since we have already prospered materially, we now need to invest in humanity if we want to shield ourselves

### Country needs solidarity now, Imran Khan not ready for it: Ayyaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD: PML-N senior leader and All Parties Conference (APC) convener Ayyaz Sadiq has said that coun-try needs solidarity at present and Imran Khan

is not ready for it. He said this while talk-

ing to media men here Monday.

He went on to say the PTI allegation regarding invitation for APC i s

He held he has extend-ed invitation to Pervez Khattak, Asad Q aisar and Ijaz Shah for APC

during his meetings and contacts with them. I said to these leaders to convey this invitation to Imran this invitation to Imran Khan too." we have not sent invitation in writing to any one. We invited them through meeting or by telephone.

The allegation by PTI on not extending formal invitation to participate in the APC is based on falsehood.

It is good if former

It is good if former speaker National Assembly does not talk of attitudes, he said adding PTI has done every thing

during his meetings and contacts with them. I said to these leaders to convey this invitation to Imran Khan too. "we have not

### Al-Ghazi Tractors revenue up 73% to Rs26bn in 9MCY22: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited's revenue increased 73% to Rs26 billion in the first nine months of calendar year 2022 from Rs15 billion in the corresponding period of 2021, whereas the company's cost of sales rose by 86% to Rs21 billion from Rs11 billion during the two

comparable periods.

Despite growing import costs resulting from higher global commodity prices and less favourable local currency archange rate the cross

favourable local currency exchange rate, the gross profit of the company increased 31% to Rs4 billion in 9MCY22 from Rs3 billion in 9MCY21.

The profit-before taxation during 9MCY22 increased to Rs3.8 billion from Rs3.1 billion in 9MCY21, showing a growth of 23% year-on-year.

However, the profit-after taxation decreased 1% to Rs2.1 billion in 9MCY22 from Rs2.2 bil-lion in 9MCY21, reports Wealth PK

WealthPK Throughout the period under review, the compa-ny continued to operate in a challenging economic and business environment as the economy slowed due to devastating floods, policy contraction, and efforts to tackle fiscal and external imbalances.

Despite these challenges, the company pro-duced 19,008 tractors and sold 18,891 of them in the first nine months of CY22 compared to pro-duction of 12,547 units and sales of 13,759 units over the same period in CY21.

Earnings growth analy-

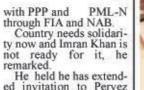
The earnings per share of the company kept increasing from 2019 onwards and stood at Rs51.03 in 2021.

As the government has begun post-flood rehabil-itation efforts with sup-port from the UN and other donor agencies, the company is optimistic about the sales of its tractors. The business now focuses on enhancing the quality of its products and working to increase its market share.

Industry comparison
Pakistan Cables
Limited, Millat Tractors,
Pak Elektron Limited,
and Hino Motors are
regarded as rivals of Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited.

The price/earnings (PE) ratio of Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited stands at 5.38 with its market value clocking in at Rs15.6 bil-

Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited is not overvalued when compared to its rivals, while Millat



not ready for it, he remarked.

He held he has extended invitation to Pervez Khattak, Asad Q aisar and Ijaz Shah for APC during his mentions and sent invitation in writing to any one. We invited them through meeting or by telephone INP

Tractors is the most over-

Profitability
The net profit margin and gross profit margin of Al-Ghazi Tractors
Limited serve as indicators of its profitability.
Both the profits kept fluctuating from 2018 to 2021, but remained in the positive territory.
Al-Ghazi Tractors
Limited was incorporated

positive territory.
Al-Ghazi Tractors
Limited was incorporated
in Pakistan under the
Companies Act, 1913
(now Companies Act,
2017) as a public limited
company in June 1983.
The company is principally engaged in manufacture and sale of agricultural tractors, generators, implements, and
spare parts. It also pro-

spare parts. It also pro-vides irrigation solutions.

The company is a sub-sidiary of Al-Futtaim Industries Company LLC, UAE.

Despite growing import costs resulting from higher global com-

modity prices and less favourable local currency

exchange rate, the gross

valued business. Profitability

# Quetta: A meeting of metropolitan officers is being held under the chairmanship of Administrator Quetta Jabbar Baloch and also Officers of all departments are present. Containers of goods from China on way to reach

ISLAMABAD: A number of containers of goods needed for Pakistan are on their way to reach Khunjerab Pass, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Khunjerab Pass on the China-

Pakistan border is a strategic point on the Karakoram Highway, which links China's northwest Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region with Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan

region. The Chinese side has agreed to Pakistan's request for the tem-Pass and the facilitation of cus-toms clearance for supplies from Jan 30 to Feb 10, 2023.

The Customs works round the clock to facilitate customs clearon January 30, 11 loaded containers carrying goods urgently needed by the Pakistani side such as auto parts, polyester cloth, garments, utensils, roll caper and tape arrived at Sost and tape arrived at Sost

Khunjerab Pass

It is pertinent to mention that Khunjerab Pass is temporarily open from Jan 19 to 20 for the first time this year to transport

first time this year to transport goods from China to Pakistan. During this period, a total of 40 vehicles transported \$15.9916 million worth of goods including machinery, cloth, walnuts, hard disks, etc. Khunjerab Pass on the China-Pakistan border is a strategic point on the Karakoram

Highway, which links China's northwest Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region with Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan

region.

The Chinese side has agreed to Pakistan's request for the temporary opening of the Khunjerab Pass and the facilitation of customs clearance for supplies from Jan 30 to Feb 10, 2023. The Customs works round the

clock to facilitate customs clear-

On January 30, 11 loaded containers carrying goods urgently needed by the Pakistani side such as auto parts, polyester cloth, garments, utensils, roll paper, and tape arrived at Sost Dry Port.INP

#### Abolish the ministries of law, information if every thing has to be done by court: IHC

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has given time to ministries of information and law till Friday February 10

in connection with electronic media legislation.

The petitions filed by High Court Journalists Association (HCJA) and others on legislation for electronic media came up for hearing before IHC bench led by Chief Justice (CJ) Amir Farooq Monday.

Amir Farooq Monday.
Information secretary Shahira
Shahid and law secretary
appeared in the court.
The CJ IHC while expressing
displeasure over the attitude of
ministries of law and information remarked there is time till

tion remarked there is time till next Friday. Do it what you can do otherwise he will give deci-sion. If you cannot do it then I

to Parliament in 1996

SC dismisses petition

to dissolve CII ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday dismissed the petition filed to dissolve the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII). Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umer Atta Bandial, a two-member bench of the apex court heard the petition filed for The petitioner Advocate Khawaja Ahmed Hussain was of the view that under the Article 230(4) of the Constitution, the Council had to review the laws of country under teachings of Islam. The Council considered the past laws under Islamic teachings and in this connection the CII had presented detailed report

He further stated that the Federal Shariat Court

can now review the future laws in the light of Islamic teachers. Therefore, after presentation of

report in the Parliament, the CII should be dis-solved, he maintained. The SC bench after hearing

Chief Justice Umer Atta Bandial in his observation stated that the CII was a constitutional institutions to review future laws of the country in the

Karachi Assistant

Commissioner

Hazim Bangwar

insists he is male

KARACHI:Newly-appointed Assistant Commissioner of North Nazimabad Karachi Hazim

Bangwar has shut down all the troll and said that he is

He also added that being called a woman should not be an insult. He said: "These are misconceptions and some misunderstanding. Let me clear something that

never have I ever held colorful flag. I hadn't associated

myself with any organization. A lot of people are accus-

ing me of being transgender or even a woman. No, I am

male. The fact that you called me a woman and used it as an insult, however, offended me. Such a charge did

not offend me personally. However, I thought they

were disrespectful to moms, sisters, working women

and female officers. You are indirectly reinforcing the

stereotype that being a woman or being third gender is

woman. That is a bit unfair. Although the charge is untrue, I feel awful for the mothers, sisters, and trans-

"These charges didn't bother me since I am not a

neither transgender nor a woman. "I am male

both parties dismissed the petition.

light of Islamic teachings. INP

Information secretary told the court when court gives direc-tives we will do work according

the court gives directives then you will do the work... if it is so then I will write whatever I have to write. Then no should

set up another ministry to give information to information ministry. Media is being called 4TH pillar and government is not ready to give basic rights to the journalists. These journalists are stake holders. They move tribunal for one lac rupees if they are nal for one lac rupees if they are not paid salary. No such forum was existing for the journalists of electronic media. The Additional Attorney General (AAG) requested the

court to give them some time. I will inform the court after obtaining directives.

The court remarked " I am going to retire in 1931. Should I give date till that time. If parliament and executive do their job then these things will not come here. Information secretary told the court PEMRA sees electron-ic media matters.INP

#### Filing of nomination papers on 8 vacant NA constituencies of KP begins

ISLAMABAD: Filing of nomination papers for by-polls on eight vacant National Assembly (NA) constituencies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa began

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa began on Monday According to the Election Commission of Pakistan, candidates will be able to file their nomination papers by Wednesday.

The initial list of all candidates would be published on Thursday which will be scrutinized by Monday. Polling for the by-polls on eight National Assembly constituencies will be held on 16th of next month. It was worth mentioned here

be held on 16th of next month. It was worth mentioned here that the ECP had earlier announced a by-election on 8 vacant National Assembly seats of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The vacant National Assembly constituencies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa included NA-4 Swat, NA-17 Haripur, NA-18 Swabi, NA-25 & NA-26 Nowshera, NA-32 Kohat, NA-38 D.I. Khan and NA-43 Khyber. These seats were declared vacant after acceptance of the resignations of the ance of the resignations of the PTI legislators by the Speaker National Assembly.INP

#### Sindh cabinet approves Rs22b to finish development projects

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah the Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah the meeting of the provincial cabinet held in Karachi on Monday during which approval was given for releasing 22 billion rupees to culminate the 243 development projects work on which was stopped due to floods. Extending the scope of Rapid Response Force to all parts of the province and establishment of a Crowd management unit ment of a Crowd management unit was also approved during the meeting. It was also decided in the provincial cabinet meeting that Sindh police will provide security to the Sindh House. The Sindh cabinet also approved release of an amount of eleven million rupees for registration and other related works of 75 acres. INP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the foreign military officers currently undergoing training at Command and Staff College, Quetta, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

#### Faisal expresses reservations over absence of Infor Minister in committee meetings

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of Senate Standing Committee on Information Broadcasting Senator Faisal Javed on Monday expressed serious reservations over the continued absence of the Minister for Information and Broadcasting in the

committee meetings. The chairman of the committee said that the representatives of the rel-evant journalistic and media organizations/bod-ies will be invited to the committee meeting to look into the problems faced by the journalists and after hearing the views of all the stakeholders, a plan of action will be formulated to deal with the threats to the well-being of the journal-ists and the freedom of

Senate Committee Information Broadcasting was on Monday at Parliament Lodges with Senator Faisal Javed in Chair.

PTV officials gave a detailed briefing to the committee on the issue raised by Senator Fida Muhammad regarding the approval of service struc-ture of PTV news corre-spondents recruited on contract basis in 2015/16.

MD PTV apprised the committee that news correspondents were recruited on contract basis while there were no approved permanent positions available in PTV News. The matter was referred to the HR committee of PTV, recommendations of which were presented in the PTV board meeting held four days ago. Decision has been

taken by the board to reg-ularize the services of these news correspon-dents and they will be The meeting of the

regularized soon after the are compiled.

Committee instructed to keep the Committee and Senator Fida Muhammad informed about all the details in this regard. Issue of delay in payment of pension to the employees of Radio Pakistan was discussed in detail in the committee. DG Radio Pakistan told the commit-tee that Radio Pakistan needs about six and a half billion rupees annually for expenses and currentgetting four and a half billion rupees. Due to the shortfall of two billion rupees, the institution is facing difficulties in paying the pension and medical bills of the

employees. The chairman of the committee said that the pension payment of poor retired employees should be the first priority.INP

to it.
The court remarked " abolish

the court remarked abouts the ministries of law and information if every thing has to be done by the court. Then it is said that the courts interfere in the affairs of executive. The reason for it that executive does not do respective job. You are saying if

complain.

The information secretary told the court we did not know this proceedings is continuing in

The court remarked " I give order to information ministry to



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf along with Zahid Akram Durrani Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly presenting shield dot Nacem Arshard Security Assistant on his farewell ceremony at Parliament house.

#### Rashakai SEZ to start operation in March as construction advances

Islamabad: Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will start operation in March as construction advances, Gwadar Pro

reported on Monday.
According to the report, it a sunny day on the Rashakai SEZ project.
With a white helmet on, Engr. Samee Ullah is on his routine inspection of the project site with Chinese Chinese colleagues, reviewing daily progress and discussing possible on-site electricity-related

The Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a flagship project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), jointly devel-oped by Chinese and Pakistani companies. A spokesperson from CRBC Pakistan, the

Chinese undertaker of the told China Economic Net (CEN) that construction work of the first phase of the Rashakai SEZ will be completed in March.

The spokesperson noted an important part of Rashakai SEZ Phase I construction is power transmission and transformation, and that construction work is in full construction "The

work is nearing comple-tion. This is our achievement and a moment of excitement for all project team," said Engr. Samee Ullah, electrical engineer and external affairs director at the Rashakai SEZ project and recipient of the award for outstanding Pakistani staff in CPEC projects 2022.

In his role, Engr. Ullah is mainly responsible for overseeing the construc-tion of a 132kV grid station and 11kV distribution network Rashakai Economic Zone.

At the initial stage, the power transmission and transformation work hit snags due to inadequate information about the local power grid, causing a delay in the compilation of the System Study Report, which required a detailed plan of project design and construction.

However, Engr. Samee Ullah quickly stepped up to the challenge after joining the project team in May 2021. "I collected and studied a large amount of project data, and actively discussed with the project team on the response plan using my own learning and experience," Samee Ullah told CEN proudly, "I also worked closely with the local INP

#### gender community."INP Pros and cons must be considered before promoting EVs: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Electric vehicles (EVs) have grabbed customers' atten-tion in almost all developed countries, and peo-ple in Pakistan are also awaiting the arrival of this technology. Leading economists

and automotive experts are of the view that Pakistan needs to consider all issues and concerns ahead of promoting EVs as expensive vehicles will be an additional burden on the import bill. To switch consumers towards EVs, the western governments lucrative announced monetary incentives to motivate the public to adopt these vehicles ahead of shifting from conventional petroleum and gasoline vehicles. "Amidst prevailing economic difficulties in

Pakistan, importing vehi-cles, either EVs or alter-nates, may be a difficult exercise," said Dr Ahsanul-Haq, Senior Economist at Pakistan

Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). Dr Ahsan told WealthPK that the western world is shifting towards EVs on account of visible challenges of global warming and cli-mate change. He said that owing to the availability of cheap electricity through solar and wind turbines, Pakistani users are taking interest in EVs simply being the latest trends in the automobile markets worldwide.

World's leading EVs giant Tesla is made suc-cessful owing to the lucrative monetary subsidiaries announced on part of the governments of the US and Canada to make the vehicle afford-

make the vehicle affordable for the consumers.

"From a Pakistani's point of view, major drawbacks of EVs include expensive cost and limited driving mileage, and to address these issues, EVs manufacturers in western facturers in western

established countries their free-of-cost charging facilities to make products attractive for consumers. On the other side, any such factor has yet to become a priority of potential importers and users of EVs in users of Pakistan," Dr Ahsan pointed out.

Few days back, the government while announcing the national energy conservation plan vowed to introduce electric bikes in the country citing \$3 billion fuel import bill solely for motorcycles annually in the country.

Dr Ahsan suggested that contrary to luxurious

EVs, small vehicles like rickshaws and motorcy-cles, if replaced with electricity driven vehi-cles, will surely benefit the lower-income segments of society.

Pakistan's fuel import bill can be reduced if fuel-based vehicles are converted to electricity charged vehicles, and charged through solar A senior official from the Ministry of Industries

and Production told WealthPK that foreign car manufacturing companies regularly increase prices. The import of car parts is causing increase in import bill.INP



HYDERABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecom Syed Aminul Haque addressing during the inauguration ceremony of New Digital School, construction and organized by Telecom Foundation at

# Pakistan Oilfields net profit increases 60% in 1QFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Oilfields Limited's revenue from sales increased 32% to Rs17 billion in the first quarter of the ongoing financial year 2022-23 (1QFY23) from Rs13 billion over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

The gross profit of the company increased 63% to Rs11.6 billion in 1QFY23 from Rs7.1 billion record-

ed in 1QFY22

The company posted a net profit of Rs8.4 billion in 1QFY23 compared to a profit of Rs5.3 billion over the corresponding period of FY22, showing a positive growth of 60% year-on-year. The increase in profit is primarily the result of a 26.3% increase in the average price of crude oil, an increase in US dollar rate against the rupee, higher interest income from higher deposits and interest rates, and exchange gains on bank deposits, which have been partially offset by higher exploration costs due to charging for dry well costs and lower sales volumes of crude oil and gas compared to the same period of last year, shows an analysis of the company's finances conducted by WealthPK.

Performance in 2021-22

During the fiscal year 2021-22, the company's gross sales went up to Rs58.4 billion from Rs39.5 billion in FY21, posting a massive increase of 48% year-on-year.



LAHORE: Mian Marghoob Ahmad former member of the Punjab Assembly calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Lahore.

#### Gang of robbers busted, Rs1,50,000 cash, arms recovered

PATTOKI: The police busted three-member gang of robbers, recovered looted cash worth hundreds of thousands rupees and arms from their pos-

Talking notice of surge in crimes, SHO City police station Pattoki, Saqlain Bukhari and picket incharge Farhan Bhatti along with police team launched crackdown against crimi-

During operation, three-member robber gang comprising Tahir alias Tahiri, Shabbir and Abdullah was apprehended with 1,50,000 rupees looted cash and three pistols. The detainees hailed from Mandianwala Chak No. 19 of Pattoki.

The police seized the recovered

The police seized the recovered cash, arms and after registering a case have started investigation. INP

#### Women dispute claims life of youth

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Armed accused gunned down a youth over women dispute here on Monday and

escaped the scene.
Police said that Bilal and his cousin
Ramzan was returning home after
closing their shop located at Chashma Adda and on the way they reached Wandha Ferozi Khel area of Dera Ismail Khan, culprit Asif Saleem s/o

Allah Bux opened firing at them.

As a result of firing, Muhammad
Bilal 34, was killed on the spot while his cousin escaped narrowly. The vic-tim was in dispute with attacker.

The body was shifted to hospital for postmortem and police after register-ing a case against the murderer started raids for his arrest.INP

#### Pakistani govt, people to stand with Turkiye, Syria in these testing times: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of life and proper-ty due to earthquake in brotherly countries of Turkiye and Syria.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said, "Every Pakistani is sad on the tragic loses. We stand with our brothers and sisters in these testing

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani further said that the parliament, government and people of Pakistan express soli-darity with both the countries.

He wished speedy recovery to those injured in the tragic incident. Chairman Senate also expressed sympathies with those who lost their dear ones in the natural calamity.INP

#### PU & PNWC sign MoU to promote research projects, organized academic activities

LAHORE: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Punjab University and Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC) on Monday to promote joint research projects and organize several academic activities. The MoU in program of the contract of the contrac ic activities. The MoU signing ceremo-ny held in the committee room of Punjab University Vice Chancellor office was attended by PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Commandant PN War College Maritime Centre of Excellence, Lahore Rear Admiral Javaid Iqbal, Deputy Commandant, Commodore Ehsan Ahmed, PU Director External Linkages Dr Sobia Khurram and others. According to the agreement, the parties will not only promote joint research projects but also start short courses PU and Pakistan Navy War College will jointly organize seminars, conferences and exchange delegations of teachers and researchers. Addressing the event, Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar said that the role of Navy was important in making national defense impregnable. He said that the martyrs.INP

#### IMF nudges govt on PIA, urges solid deficit reduction plan

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund has advised the government to take compact measures to reduce the deficit of billions of rupees which the government-owned entity

the government-owned entity Pakistan International Airline is suffering, it surfaced on Monday. The global lender has suggested to the Government of Pakistan to chalk out a solid plan to turn the state-owned entity into a profit-making concern by reducing its deficit. According to sources in the PIA, the IMF team proposed to increase the income of the national flag carrier in order to improve its financial health.

They said that the PIA's total financial deficit has exceeded

They said that the PIA's total financial deficit has exceeded Rs400 billion. The IMF mission led by Nathan Porter is currently in Pakistan and his holding talks with the government. The talks began on January 31 with the Pakistan side headed by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar for the ninth review of the \$7 billion bailout package. The cash-strapped

Pakistan is seeking an IMF lifeline to save the nation from economic collapse. After the first round of technical talks between the IMF team and the Pakistani government concluded on Friday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif observed that the lender was imposing conditions that were 'beyond our wildest dreams'. He said the IMF delegation was giving Finance Minister Ishaq Dar a tough time. "Our economic challenges at this moment are unimaginable. The conditions we have to fulfil are beyond our imagination." Pakistan is seeking an IMF lifeline beyond our imagination." However, he acknowledged that

the country had no choice.

During its technical level talks, the IMF mission chief demanded clear action to bridge the daunting fiscal gap between 2 to 2.5 trillion rupees. The lender has set several conditions for resuming the bailout, including an increase in power tariff, restoration of unrepower tariff, restoration of unre-stricted imports and raising the petroleum development levy on diesel INP

#### US Cargo train derails, cause hazardous gas leak

WASHINGTON: A cargo train derailed in the midwestern make the white plastic PVC sive fire and triggering the release of small amounts of vinyl chloride, a hazardous

chemical, officials said. No injuries or fatalities were reported after around 50 cars of the 140-car train came off the tracks late Friday near the Ohio-Pennsylvania state border. The Norfolk Southern train was shipping cargo from Madison, Illinois, to Conway, Pennsylvania, when it derailed in East Palestine, Ohio.

Ten of the cars that derailed carried hazardous materials, including five with vinyl chlo-ride, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the lead federal investigating agency, said in a tweet Saturday night. Vinyl chloride, a colorless gas, is deemed car-cinogenic by the US National

United States, sparking a mas- pipes commonly used in plumb-"We have not confirmed that vinyl chloride has been released other than from the pressure release devices' installed on some cars, the NTSB tweet said. The devices relieve a buildup of pressure in the tanker cars to prevent explosions. Several explosions were heard as the cars continued to burn into Saturday. "It's an active fire scene," said NTSB board member Michael Graham. Officials asked anyone living within a one-mile (1.6-kilome ter) radius of the scene to leave They also enforced a shelter-in-place order for the entire town. "We cannot stress enough that

Palestine's town manager wrote in a letter posted Facebook IND

#### AIIB in collaboration with PIDE launches fourth AIIF Report

Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) launched AIIB's fourth Asian Infrastructure AllB's fourth Asian infrastructure
Investment (AIIF) Report
Moonshots for the Emerging
World: Transforming State
Capacity and Mobilizing Private
Sector Toward Net Zero.
In his opening address, Vice
Chancellor PIDE Dr. Nadeem UI
Hague welcomed the chief must

Haque welcomed the chief guest Pakistan Federal Minister for Energy Musadik Malik who then delivered the key note address

In his presentation, the AIIB's Chief Economist, Erik Berglöf shared the key findings of the report with those present Addressing the event, Minister Energy Musadik Malik said that

we understand that the contribu-

tions toward net-zero transition

development, he added.

achieved faster economic growth in the past and achieved higher level of development, but it came at a higher cost, in terms of polluting the world and environmental degradation. He said that as a result of higher economic growth, the benefits were mostly reaped by the developed economies today, but the costs, in terms of environmental degradation and climate change, was borne by the whole planet. INP

come from each and every economy, since we are in it together, but there should also be a realization that this transition should be just in nature. We cannot simply start counting carbon emissions from today and start asking every economy to decarbonize at the same rate, irrespective of the level of

The federal minister said that some economies in the world



QUETTA: Junior Teacher Association Balochistan President Muhammad Yousaf addressing a press conference.

The gross profit for FY22 stood at Rs34 billion, 57% up from Rs21.6 billion in FY21. The profit-after-tax for the year went up by 94% to Rs26 billion from Rs13.4 billion in FY21. A 70.3% increase in the average price of crude oil, a 16.2% increase in the price of gas, notional

exchange gains on bank balances and greater income on bank deposits as a result of higher deposits and profit rates all contributed to the increase in profit. Earnings Per Share

The EPS of the company showed mix trend during recent years. In FY19, the EPS was Rs59.44, which dropped to Rs47.14 in FY21. However, the EPS showed massive growth and stood at Rs91.37 in FY22, showing the company's surging profits due to healthy business.

About the company
Pakistan Oilfields is incorporated as a public limited company. The company is principally engaged in the exploration, drilling, and production of crude oil and gas in Pakistan. Its activities also include the marketing of liquefied petroleum gas under the brand name POLGAS and the transmission of petroleum. The company is a subsidiary of Attack Oil Company Limited, UK, and its ultimate parent is Coral Holding

# Senate Body on delegated legislations visits MoL, briefed on various issues

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on delegation legislations head by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani visited the Ministry The of Law on Monday during which it was briefed on various legislative matters and functioning of

the ministry.
Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator
Azam Nazeer Tarar welcomed the delegation upon its arrival at the ministry.

The senate body also made a tour of the library maintained by the ministry. It unanimously confirmed the minutes of last committee meeting held on January 11, 2023. Furthermore, the Committee deliberated on the matter relating to institutions/organizations created under the Resolution. On the occasion Cabinet Division officials apprised the committee that not a single institution is currently working under the cabinet division which has been created through Resolution and the concerned matter falls under the domain of Establishment Division. The Chairman Committee inquired as to what is essential criteria for establishment of any institution under a Resolution and from where these institutions draw their powers. Officials of Establishment Division informed that these institutions establish as and when required by ministry for any concerned matter and they were empowered to make their own rules under the

Govt should show positive attitude if sincere for dialogue, says Asad Qaiser

ISLAMABAD: Pakista n Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) central leader and ex-speaker National speaker National Assembly (NA) Asad Qaiser has stated that PTI is ready to set aside all differences for durable peace in country but for this sitting government must show positive atti-

tude towards political opponents.
While responding to the government's invitation of All Parties Conference (APC), he said that government representatives invited me on about to participate in the resentatives invited me on phone to participate in the APC. "This is not a proper way at all to invite someone for the participation in APC' he reiterated. "We already know that country is facing number of problems and there is a need for unity among all need for unity among all ranks" he said. He said in this regard is unconstitutional and undemocrat-ic. "Government should improve its behaviour first before inviting politi-cal opponents to APC, he reiterated INP

Court directs petitioner to submit more documents in plea against second JIT

LAHORE:The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday directed the petitioner to submit more documents in the plea against the second Joint Investigation Team (JIT) formed by the federal government to probe the attack on PTI chairman Imran Khan in Wazirabad.

Wazırabad.
As per details, a twomember bench of Lahore
High Court (LHC) headed
by Justice Ali Baqir Najfi
heard the plea filed by
PTI leader Dr Yasmin
Pachid

Rashid. The counsel of the petirecord of Punjab JIT is with the anti-corruption department and JIT has summoned several personalities. The first JIT has almost completed the has almost completed the investigation and the second JIT is constituted with bad intentions the federal government, the plea stated. The court was requested to declare the requested to declare the Centre's JIT invalid.Ea rlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) challenged the federal government's for-mation of a second joint investigation team (JIT) to investigate the attack on former prime minis-

policy guideline of ministry. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani questioned as to now many institutions currently exist which have been created under a Resolution and what is major difference between the institution created under a resolution and the one created through statue. In reply to that, Officials apprised that approximately 400 such institutions have been mentioned in Dr. Isharat Hussain report.

The Chairman Committee directed the estab-The Chairman Committee directed the establishment division to provide the list of organizations created under a Resolution with the copy of latter. However, the matter regarding the Sub-Ordinate legislation of selected attached departments of Federal Education Ministry was deferred till the next meeting due to absence of officials. Moreover, the senate body was also briefed about the current status of two Sub-Committees of Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation. The Chairman Committee recommended the Chairman's of Sub-Committees to hold the committee meeting and conclude the hold the Chairman's of Sub-Committees to hold the committee meeting and conclude the pending matters at earliest. The meeting was attended by Senator Keshoo Bai Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani, Secretary for Ministry of Law and Justice Raja Naeem Akbar and other senior officers of Cabinet Division and Establishment. Establishment attendance.INP Division

#### China lodges representations with U.S. after unmanned airship shot down

BEUING: Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xie Feng lodged solemn repre-sentations with the U.S. embassy in China over the U.S. use of force to attack China's civilian unmanned air-shin.

According to a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on Monday, Xie stressed that the entry of the Chinese airship into U.S. airspace due to force majeure was totally unexpected and accidental, and that the ins and outs of what happened are crystal clear and clearly do not allow room for distortion or smearing. However, the U.S. side has turned a deaf ear to all of this and overreacted by insisting on the abusive use of force towards the civilian airship that was on route to leave U.S. airspace, Xie said. This act has seriously violated the

spirit of international law and interna-tional practice, he said. "What the United States has done severely impacted and States has done severely impacted and undermined the efforts and progress made by the two sides to stabilize China-U.S. relations since the two countries' leaders met in Bali, Indonesia," Xie said. He said China firmly opposes and strongly protests against this, urging the U.S. side not to take further actions to harm China's interests and not to ungrade or expand tensions between the upgrade or expand tensions between the countries. The Chinese government is closely following the development of the situation, and will resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the Chinese company concerned and safeguard China's interests and dignity, and reserves the right to further react in response to this matter.INP



member delegation of the Command & Staff College Quetta as a part of the inland study tour, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

### Pakistan Embassy enters into partnership with Qyer to promote tourism

BEIJING: The Pakistani Embassy in Beijing has entered into a strategic partnership with a travel sharing plat-form, Qyer, to promote the stunning tourism offerings of Pakistan to the

This collaboration is aimed at maximizing the impact of the China-Pakistan Year of Tourism Exchanges 2023, which promises to be an exceptional showcase of Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and scenic beauty.

The year-long digital campaign will be an in-depth exploration of the diverse aspects of Pakistan, including its breathtaking landscapes, vibrant culture, diverse cuisines, joyful festivals, and treasured heritage.

Through Qyer's vast network of travelers, Pakistan's tourism poten-tial will be showcased to a wider audience, creating greater awareness and interest among Chinese tourists.

China has helped transform Pakistan's tourism by building road infrastructure under the framework China-Pakistan Economic

This year, with recent policies aimed at resuming outbound tourism for Chinese citizens and promoting Pak-China year of tourism. China is expected to play a crucial role in revitalizing Pakistan's confidence in tourism promotion, as the country was once a primary source of tourism for the rest of the world.

Since its establishment in 2004, Qyer has served over 100 million travelers, making it the leading travsharing platform in the region. With this partnership, the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing and Qyer aim to further elevate the profile of Pakistan as a premier tourism destination for

#### Fauji Fertilizer posts record Rs109bn revenue in CY22: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) revenue from sales clocked in at Rs109 billion in calendar year 2022, the highest during the last five years, reports WealthPK.

In CY21, FFC reported a sales revenue of Rs108 billion.

The company's gross profit value.

The company's gross profit value increased to Rs40 billion in CY22 from Rs38 billion in CY21.

FFC reported a gross profit ratio of 36.62% and a net profit ratio of 18.33%, respectively, in CY22. The earning per share value in CY22 stood at Rs15.76.

FFC Profitability - Horizontal Analysis

Analysis The gross sales value reported by FFC in CY22 was the highest of last

a 3.2% growth in revenue as its revenue stood at Rs105 billion in FY18,

five years From CY18 to CY22, FFC showed but witnessed a decrease in CY19 and CY20. The company's revenue jumped in CY21 to Rs108 billion. A continuous increasing trend has

A continuous increasing frend has been observed when the company's gross profit value from CY18 to CY22 are graphed. Over the last five years, FFC sustained a gross profit increase of 43% from Rs27 billion in CY18 to Rs40 billion in CY22.

The company reported a gross profi-

The company reported a gross profit of Rs27 billion in CY18, which went up to Rs30 billion and then Rs31 billion in CY19 and CY20, respectively. The company reported a gross

profit of Rs38 billion in CY21, which increased to Rs40 billion in CY22. FFC's earning per share (EPS) value remained at Rs14.83 on average during the last five years. However, the highest of all time EPS value was reported in CY21 at Rs17.21. The EPS, however, dropped to Rs15.76 in CY22.INP