

QUETTA VOICE

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Alvi tells Dar to approach parliament for higher taxation instead of promulgating ordinance



6 doctors sacked, no compromise on provision of health facilities: CS Balochistan

BPSC: an unprecedented decision, if implemented

Syed Ali Shah

Indeed, it would be an unprecedented decision if the provincial government empowers Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) to recruit employees from grade-5 to 17. There has always been a black mark over Balochistan regarding the sale of jobs. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo deserves appreciation for taking this hard and politically difficult decision since all ministers and MPAs always strive to recruit their own blue-eyed in government departments.

Action should match words

The important question is still. Action should match the words of Chief Minister Balochistan regarding the BPSC decision. Undoubtedly, recruitment through BPSC would wash away the black dot of corruption and ensure better governance in the province. This would also help recruit competent and deserving youth to serve the province in the future irrespective of creed, color, and political affiliation.

As per a well-placed officer in the Balochistan government, currently, over 30,000 posts of employees are lying vacant. Only in the Balochistan higher education department, the number of lecturers and professors posts is over 1000. Similarly, in secondary education in Balochistan, over 10,000 posts of teaching staff/teachers are lying vacant.



BPSC act empowers the government to increase the number of members

Yes, the existing manpower and the members at the BPSC are not in a position to conduct tests and interviews for all grades. However, the BPSC act 1989's section 3 allows the provincial government to increase the number of the members from present 8 and establish new branches of the commission in the divisional headquarters of Balochistan. This would also be easy for candidates to apply in their nearest branches and appear in tests and interviews. Financially, it is also economical for the government. The provincial government would not need to pump extra resources to run the system.

Sindh and Punjab are the best examples and they can be approached with regard to the establishment of BPSC branches in interior Balochistan. It is not only the responsibility of the Chief Minister rather all political parties should play their role in this regard to pave the way for good governance in Balochistan.

6 doctors sacked, no compromise on provision of health facilities: CS Balochistan

Health Desk:

QUETTA: The Balochistan government dismissed six doctors from service for their failure to ensure their presence at the place of their duties. The dismissal orders were issued on the directives of the Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili on the recommendations of the concerned deputy commissioner. CS Balochistan chaired a high-level meeting, which reviewed the performance of the health sector on Tuesday morning.

Disciplinary proceedings were initiated against the 57 delinquent officers, and the CS took to the social media network Twitter and



announced the decision. Show cause notices were issued to 40 doctors for not attending their hospitals and doing their jobs, Mr. Uqaili said. "No compromise over the health sector", the CS warned.

He said action would be taken against the employees failing to perform their duties.

On this occasion, the health secretary also presented the draft policy regarding post-graduate doctors. Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Aqeeli said that there will be no compromise on the provision of health services. Action should be continued against the doctors guilty of negligence. He said that additional allowance should be given to the postgraduate doctors who are doing duty in remote areas. It was decided to review the training and post-graduate doctors should have at least three years of placement in their respective areas.

Alvi tells Dar to approach parliament for higher taxation instead of promulgating ordinance

President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday advised Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to approach parliament regarding the government's plan to raise additional revenue through taxes instead of promulgating an ordinance.

Pakistan is battling an economic crisis which has seen inflation rocket up and forex reserves dwindle to critical levels. Last week, the central bank said its reserves had dropped to \$2.9 billion, enough to cover less than three weeks of imports.

The country desperately needs the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to finalise the ninth review of the loan programme it entered with the global lender in 2019, paving the way for the release of a



\$1.2 billion tranche that will also unlock inflows from other bilateral and multilateral sources.

But an agreement with the IMF has been pending since October last year as the two sides have not been able to reach a consensus in talks that have largely centred around an

economic reforms agenda focusing on the energy sector and exchange rate liberalisation.

Last week, an IMF delegation held talks with Pakistani officials for 10 days in Islamabad and left without a deal, saying virtual talks would continue. Web Desk

Fitch downgrades Pakistan's rating citing 'worsening liquidity, policy risks'

Global rating agency Fitch on Tuesday downgraded Pakistan's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating (IDR) to 'CCC-' from 'CCC+', citing further worsening in liquidity and policy risks along with pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

The drop comes four months after Fitch revised down the ranking to CCC+.

The agency did not assign any outlook since typically it does not assign outlooks to sovereigns with a rating of 'CCC+' or below.

Fitch said that the downgrade reflected a further sharp deterioration in external liquidity and funding conditions, along with the decline of foreign exchange (FX) reserves to "critically low levels".

"While we assume a successful conclusion of the ninth review of Pakistan's IMF (International Monetary Fund) programme, the downgrade also reflects large risks to continued programme performance and funding, including in the run-up to this year's elections. Default or debt restructuring is an increasingly real possibility, in our view," said the New York-based agency — one of the three major global rating agencies.



The agency said that FX reserves were only about \$2.9 billion on February 3, or less than three weeks of imports, noting that it was down from a peak of more than \$20bn at the end of August 2021.

"Falling reserves reflect large, albeit declining, current account deficits (CADs), external debt servicing and earlier FX intervention by the central bank, particularly in 4Q22, when an informal exchange-rate cap appears to have been in place.

"We expect reserves to remain at low levels, though we do forecast a modest recovery during the remainder

of FY23, due to anticipated inflows and the recent removal of the exchange rate cap," the agency said.

It said another factor for the rating downgrade was the large refinancing risk with external public debt maturities in the remaining fiscal year amounting to over \$7bn, adding that they would remain high in the next fiscal year as well.

The agency also noted that although the CAD was declining, it could widen again.

"The narrowing of the CAD has been driven by restrictions on imports and FX availability, as well as by fiscal tightening, higher interest rates and measures to limit energy consumption.

"Reported backlogs of unpaid imports in Pakistan's ports indicate that the CAD could increase once more funding becomes available. Nevertheless, exchange-rate depreciation could limit the rise, as the authorities intend for imports to be financed through banks, without recourse to official reserves. Remittance inflows could also recover after they were partly switched to unofficial channels in 4Q22 to benefit from more favourable exchange rates in the parallel market," the agency explained. Web Desk

2 policemen injured in a hand grenade attack in shalkot Quetta

Staff Reporter

At least two policemen were injured in a hand grenade attack in Quetta's Shalkot area on Tuesday night.

Police sources said the unknown accused lobbed a hand grenade at policemen and two policemen were injured in the attack. The injured policemen were rushed to the Bolan Medical Complex hospital for medical treatment. Police reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway. The attackers sped away on their motorcycle after the attack. Security was tightened after the attack in the area.



2 killed in Wadh Khuzadar

From Our Correspondent

At least two people were killed in a firing incident in Wadh Tehsil of Khuzdar district on Tuesday.

Levies sources said armed accused opened fire and killed two people in Wadh. The assailants sped away on their motorcycle after the attack.

The victims belonged to the Sheikh tribe. The tribesmen blocked Quetta Karachi highway against the incident. Passengers remained the worst sufferers of blockades of road. The highway remained blocked for the last 16 hours. Levies and senior administration officials reached the spot and held negotiations with protesters. The officials assured the protesters that the killers would be arrested and brought to justice. Subsequently, the protester reopened the road for traffic and the traffic was resumed after more than 18 hours on the Quetta-Karachi highway.



Digital power of attorney facility for overseas Pakistanis launched

In a major breakthrough for the diaspora community, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday inaugurated the "Global Launch of the automation of the Power of Attorney" for overseas Pakistanis at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.

In his remarks on the occasion, Bilawal — who is also chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) — described the sought-after move as the realisation of a major initiative to facilitate overseas Pakistanis. He also congratulated all those who worked hard to help make the project a reality.

The legalisation of power of attorney had been a longstanding demand of the Pakistani diaspora and will facilitate those who have to travel long distances from different cities and



far-off places to the missions, the minister said, adding that this automated system would

reduce costs and minimise hassle by providing attestation services at the doorstep.

According to an official statement issued by the foreign ministry, "The automation of power of attorney was initially launched in November 2021 as a pilot project in 10 Pakistan Missions/Sub-Missions" in the United States and the United Kingdom. Now, this service will be available to all the Pakistani diaspora living abroad globally."

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Syed Hussain Tariq, Secretary Foreign Affairs Asad Majeed Khan, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Chairman Muhammad Tariq Malik and others were among the attendees of the ceremony.

QUETTA VOICE

'Killer Highways' claim more lives than terrorism in Balochistan

The deadly highway accidents have claimed more human lives than terrorist incidents in Balochistan, Pakistan's least developed province. Fatal road accidents are almost the order of the day in Balochistan, which covers half of the country in terms of area. It is a common notion that the day dawns with a traffic accident in the province.

Especially, Quetta-Karachi highway, which is commonly called the "killer highway" continues to claim precious human lives. Much has been said and written about this. But with no effective response from the authorities to bring an end to the deadly accidents. At least 41 people were burnt to death when a passenger coach fell into a ravine near the Bela area of district Lasbela Balochistan.

Balochistan Govt fails to implement recommendations of JIT
The Balochistan government has formed a joint investigation team (JIT) to probe into the incident. Although, the provincial government failed to implement past JIT's recommendations in this regard.

Two JITs led by the then Commissioner Kalat Division, Bashir Ahmed Bangulzai submitted thorough reports about the causes and prevention of deadly traffic accidents on Quetta-Karachi highways and other highways across Balochistan.

Causes of accidents as per the JIT report filed by Mr. Bangulzai after 15 passengers were burnt to death in Kan Mehtarzai district Killa Saifullah.

Causes of road accidents
1: Reckless driving 2: Overspeeding 3: Overloading 4: Narrow and poor roads 5: No timely repair and maintenance of roads by NHA 6: No signals 7: Overloaded marble trucks on Quetta-Karachi highway 8: Passenger buses carrying petrol and diesel 9: Drivers using drugs 10: No Fire extinguisher in buses 11: Absence of Motorway Police

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has already inaugurated the dualization of the Quetta-Karachi highway. However, the pace of work is extremely slow. With this pace, the dualization work cannot be completed for the next two decades. The federal and provincial governments should make sure timely completion of the dualization work from Karachi to Chaman on a war-footing basis.

The Balochistan government should also ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the JIT reports.

Austerity by the rich

By Khalid Bhatti

Another austerity drive is on the cards as Pakistan tries to strike an agreement with the IMF for the release of a \$1.2 billion tranche. The country desperately needs the IMF aid to stabilize its fast depleting foreign reserves and avoid sovereign default. The foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) have touched a historic low of \$2.9 billion, making the country face a severe shortage of dollars.

The IMF delegation has shared the memorandum of economic and financial policies (MEFP) with Pakistani officials after several rounds of tough negotiations. Both sides are expected to sign a staff-level agreement (SLA) in the coming days.

The MEFP is a key document that describes all the conditions, steps and policy measures to be implemented to get a bailout package. Pakistan has agreed to take steps and measures to reduce expenditures and increase revenue. It has also agreed to impose additional taxes through a mini-budget, taking steps to erase circular debt for the energy sector. This will include an increase in electricity and gas tariffs and in the policy rate.

The ongoing economic crisis has intensified

despite tall claims by the economic managers of the coalition government that everything is under control. The bleak situation has forced the government to accept the harshest conditions of the IMF, which are likely to hit the working and middle classes the hardest. Energy will become more expensive and food inflation is likely to rise to new historic heights.

Instead of taking the difficult decision to tax the wealth of the rich and bring the wealthy into the tax net, the government has decided to choose the easy road of taxing the poor. The people of Pakistan are once again going to pay the price of the crisis that was never caused by them.

The present financial crisis is a result of the flawed economic policies imposed by the ruling elite to protect their economic and class interests. It is caused by the failed policies of neoliberalism and free market. The ruling elite is responsible for the sorry situation we are in, but the working class will pay the ultimate price.

Pakistan has agreed to impose Rs170 billion worth of taxes. The government will further increase diesel prices in March and April to achieve the target of petroleum development levy on diesel to Rs50 per litre. The government

will also drastically cut the annual development budget. The IMF is demanding a significant increase in the prices of gas and electricity as soon as possible.

To fulfill the IMF condition, the government has already dropped the petrol bomb on the people with a Rs35 per litre increase in one go. This has come at a time when Pakistanis are already facing the historic-high inflation of more than 27 per cent. The proposed measures will add more economic pain and misery for the people.

The coalition government has failed to provide much-needed relief to ordinary people. And instead of reviving the economy through radical reforms, the government has decided to burden the lower middle and working classes even more, forcing people to keep on paying for the failures and mistakes of the ruling classes. Austerity is not the solution to severe problems like poverty, unemployment, falling incomes and rising prices. The austerity policy was introduced as part of the neoliberal economic order that was established in the 1980s. The neoliberal economic model was an ideological drive to the "biggest and most dramatic redistribution of power and wealth" from the state to billionaires and from working

Tourism: The Neglected Sector

Muhammad Asghar Harifal



Pakistan is cited as one of the countries blessed with strategic locations connecting extremely important geographical regions of Central and South Asia. Historically speaking, the dividends of geography did accrue and they included the fortification of security by enlarging the security apparatus with the help of western powers and economic progress of a few decades, albeit ephemeral in nature. The country was the cynosure of Western attention from its origin thanks to its location. In the decades of the sixties, eighties and, later during the period of the so-called war against terrorism, Pakistan played a crucial role owing to its location. The security compulsions of the western countries, led by America, turned out to be aligned with Pakistan's security concerns in the region, leading to trusted relations of cooperation.

Pakistan's predominant traditional security predilection has seriously come under strain

Pakistan is again the hub of changes but, this time, not as the traditional fire-arm battleground, but challenged by growing economies and information technology bewildering advancement, defining states' power. With the end of the last Afghan war in the neighbourhood and seismic political changes at the world chessboard, metamorphosing the world from a unipolar to a multipolar world, Pakistan's predominant traditional security predilection has seriously come under strain. More distinctly, one of Pakistan's neighbours and most trusted ally has turned into the second most robust economy of the world challenging the traditional sole power of the world. While another neighbour, although not friendly, is shaping itself into one of the 'top five world economies. A country's power is now measured with different yardsticks; compelling the internal power repositories to share the power cake with institutions having responsibilities of economic development and information technology promotion. These two sectors are purported to lead all others towards the prosperity of the country.

Pakistan has once been a hub of tourists

Pakistan, a forex-starved country, can use tourism as one of the instruments for rejuvenating the economy and building an image of a progressive country. Tourism is one of the sectors that will define the country's image, and it serves as a barometer for all other fields underpinning the progress of the country. The flip side of tourism is that it is too timid to lead; it shows in the last

when all other sectors have reassured their performance. Tourism flourishes when the institutions are less interfering in people's lives and efficient enough, while the society is tolerant of faiths, living styles, dress codes and values of others. Pakistan, undoubtedly, has drifted apart and, for now, is not in that position neither in terms of society or institutions. The encouraging aspect, however, is that improvement in the former helps the latter fall in place leading to change. The ray of hope is that Pakistan has once been a hub of tourists and recourse to the same course is not far from an impossibility.

Gwadar Cricket Stadium

Balochistan is 43% of Pakistan and its tourism promotion will have an incredible impact on the country's image, attracting visitors from all over the world. Not only that Balochistan has a bigger land-mass, but it is also badly affected by the war in Afghanistan and political alienation is manifest from the unrest of the last several decades. Pakistan's tourism revival strategy must not only begin from Balochistan, the resource allocation for tourism must have this province as a priority, with the share equal to its size. Tourism promotion is not only vital for wider national development, the spectre of terrorism pervading the whole province, in particular in the coastal tourism potential region, can be tackled with the help of tourism promotion.

Diversity in Balochistan's tourism



Balochistan tourism is characterized by diversity in the fields of tourism. It has a landscape, incorporating all the individual distinctions, all other provinces pride in. Balochistan has ecotourism potential having high mountains of Sulaiman with Takht-e Sulaiman peak, Kirith, Zarghon, Toba Kakari and several others. It has vast deserts of Jhal Magsi and Kharan. Balochistan contiguous countries have utilized deserts for tourism attraction by providing desert stays and desert sports activities. The Jhal Magsi jeep rally is a thrilling event, albeit circumscribed to a few scions of the affluent class, as the poor can neither afford to participate in it nor have developed the attraction for it. With economic activities being generated, the composition and frequency of these unique



Beautiful view of Hanna Lake Quetta attracts tourists

Countries like Egypt, Israel, India and China have utilized cultural heritage to attract tourists generating sizeable forex. Balochistan has Mehargarh, older than all other archaeological sites of Pakistan. The site utilization for tourism purposes will attract visitors from Europe and neighbouring countries. The site development is undertaken by the government of Balochistan and, hopefully, will contribute to the economic development of the province.

Sindh is known for the tourism potential of the coast, with 220 km coast dwarfs before the 770 km coast of Balochistan. Balochistan coast has not only the potential to become the hub of economic activities, but it can also turn into a Dubai for tourists for its clean beaches, sparse population and extremely pleasant weather in winter. Water sports like jet skiing, parasailing,

The Shela Bagh Khojak tunnel in the mirror of history

Balochistan's Hindu religious site of Hinglaj has huge potential to attract Hindu pilgrims from India. The recent unconfirmed reports of Indian Premier, Mr Narendra Modi planned visit, in the aftermath of a purported thaw in relations, underline the religious tourism opportunities in the province utilizing Hinglaj temple.

The Balochistan tourism sector is marred by the same malaises characterising Pakistan's tourism blight but with more intensity and frequency. When Pakistan institutions doddered, Balochistan's ones caved in. Security or insecurity, for that matter, defined every decision; the same turned into priority and from the same down flew everything. Any mishap was enough for one institution to take up the role of another, instead of reforming the existing one. The

kayaking/canoeing and skiing are some of them attracting economic activities, unparalleled in any part of Pakistan. Cruise travel along with the hotel and restaurant industry will flourish contributing to job opportunities and leading to the alleviation of violence-prone tendencies in the area. The European and other cold areas tourists will find another avenue for winter tourism.

Cultural potential utilization experience by India, China and Japan can be replicated in Balochistan. Balochistan's pristine, unstinted cultural diversity in the form of cultural treasures of the coastal area, influenced by Africa across; the central Brahvi region; the Naseerabad basin; North Balochistan and the eastern tribal strip are huge sources of cultural tourism.

policing, even in the capital city, has regressed to an unprofessional and traditional element of state management. Multi agencies working for one role under different hierarchical commands define the state structure.

The other way around is the solution: Jobs, education, healthy life, tolerance, human rights respect by state institutions irrespective of one's crime, people friendly institutions, especially at airports, all are components of national security as well as tourism.

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There can be no economic miracle in Pakistan!

Dr Moonis Ahmar

When Ishaq Dar took 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 and escaped from 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 the 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 PTI-PAT sit-in in Islamabad in 2014, but he managed to deal with that crisis. This time the situation is different 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 — and that too with a razor thin majority.

The existential threat to the coalition government 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 predicting 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 governance, 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 shatter work ethics. Nations are not built by

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 happen 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 of 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 happen unless our leadership has eight qualities in theory and in practice: hard work, integrity, brilliance, vision, commitment, dedication, planning, and wisdom. Looking at the other models of success, particularly in developing world, one can learn from former Singaporean PM Lee Kuan Yu, former Malaysian PM Mahathir Muhammad, former Chairman of Chinese Communist Party Mao Zedong and Nelson Mandela, the founding president.

Looming threat of climate change in Pakistan

Muhammad Jehangir Kakar



Pakistan is threatened with the challenges of climate change. Be it global standing or regional vulnerability caused due to climatic threats, Pakistan is on crossing the red line. This is so alarming as much as it is so interesting. Is there someone looking after climate change at the provincial or federal level in Pakistan? There is none!

Ministry of Climate Change at the federal level is downplayed to act only as a regulator and one that has the technical capacity to still maneuver only into the limitations of checking the quality of ambient air.

Similarly, at all the provincial levels, there are environmental protection agencies that look after the conformity of environmental regulations in various sectors contributing to certain types of pollutions. These provincial agencies act as regulators and with a stick they enforce the environmen-

tal laws which cater for only a limited version or a speck of what forms the big idea of climate change. At the provincial levels like at the federal level, there is no agency that is technically sound, composed of such professionals and equipped with such facilities as to counter the grand horror of climate change.

No climate change data being collected at the provincial level

As for the data and statistics, there is as much fragmentation and silos-approach as much it is in the intergovernmental coordination mechanism. The question is not of the dearth of amplexness of data however it is how the data is made meaningful. Not at any provincial-level one could ensure that any climate-oriented data is being collected. The aforementioned agencies only ensure the quality of air by recording the various gaseous emissions in the ambient air. The Pakistan Metrological Centers throughout the country pick up conventional weather data by various means but is hardly translated into making a meaningful statement on where we stand on climate change.

As for policies, laws, rules and regulations,

we are more affluent than the developed nations. When it comes to drafting policies, odes are worth writing to our expertise but when given to see them on the ground being implemented, only darkened eulogies are symphonized at shrieks ad infinitum. The laws are being multiplied each day and have become as difficult as to remember the exact number of laws on one single sector.

The National Climate Change Policy 2012 remains a document of the past being pushed to nullity though it was the vital document that elevated the Division of Climate Change to a Ministry level yet the promising implementation never has come off until this date. Though a devolved subject yet the NCCP grants the legitimacy to the Ministry of Climate Change to wreathe all the provinces together in one garland of beautiful working and legal integration to manage the national issue of climate change.

The Climate Change Act 2017 was another move towards climate consolidation that promised to establish the Pakistan Climate Change Authority, Climate Change Council, and Climate

Change Fund all of which were last time seen in 2017 when the said Act was passed. The vision 2030 remains a virgin vision thus far.

Ministry of Climate Change must realize that it is the organization at the federal level entirely responsible for catering for climate change affairs. The integration of such a central body with the provinces would be the next challenge given to over politicization of everything. Climate is something which should not be made political though globally it is something which has become an element of political decisiveness as in the Biden-Trump thaw.

Nature and nurture along with the potential of Pak-Met office and reach are to be integrated and enhanced fully at the federal and provincial levels with the climate change organizations so formed above. The data and statistics need to be enhanced and made up to the mark as being internationally acceptable with proper transcriptions and applications of data. A lot must be done to keep the generalists away from making any decisions and calling the shots and the professionals are given the entry who have both the capacity and the legitimacy.

Sindh issues release orders of Ali Wazir MNA from Karachi jail

KARACHI: Sindh Home Department has issued orders for release of Ali Wazir MNA from Karachi Central Jail. Provincial home department has ordered the jail authorities to ensure release of Ali Wazir.

Police at the request of Sindh police in connection with an FIR registered against him and others at Sohrah Goth police station of Karachi. The MNA from South Waziristan's NA-50 Ali Wazir and 10 other accused were arrested over an anti-state speech in Karachi. The police claimed the lawmaker's arrest in three other cases registered by the Karachi police. He is currently being

kept at Karachi's Central Prison. Ali Wazir was acquitted by a Karachi anti-terrorism court in the first case and was granted bail in the three other cases. The Peshawar High Court had granted bail to Ali Wazir last month in a sedition case registered against him in Charsadda district. The court had also stopped the police from arresting the lawmaker in other cases. INP



MUZAFFARABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan chairing a meeting regarding anti-terrorism measures and security of foreign nationals in Muzaffarabad.

PPP leadership decides against contesting NA by-elections

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided against contesting the upcoming by-elections on the National Assembly (NA) seats, accepting the proposal tabled by Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). According to details, the decision to boycott the upcoming by-elections was taken during PPP's parliamentary board meeting, chaired by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The participants of the meeting were divided over the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) proposal, sources claimed. During the meeting, the party's senior leaders opined against contesting the elections. However, sources claimed, the meeting decided in principle to boycott the by-polls and let the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) fight against no one. The candidates - who were nominated to contest the polls - were taken into confidence. It is pertinent to mention here that by-polls on 33 NA seats would be held on March 16.

According to details, the decision to boycott the upcoming by-elections was taken during PPP's parliamentary board meeting, chaired by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Sources told ARY News that the meeting was attended by Yousuf Raza Gilani, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Nair Bukhari, Farhatullah Babar, Makhdoom Ahmed Mehmood, Faryal Talpur and candidates of the by-elections. The participants of the meeting were divided over the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) proposal, sources claimed. During the meeting, the party's senior leaders opined against contesting the elections. However, sources claimed, the meeting decided in principle to boycott the by-polls and let the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) fight against no one. The candidates. INP

Elimination of export subsidies to help industry become competitive: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has heavily relied on export subsidies to prop up industries and increase exports, but at the cost of competitiveness. The International Monetary Fund has asked the authorities to remove these 'unstable' subsidies as part of its new conditionalities for Pakistan to be able to put the stalled loan programme back on track. In this respect, the likely removal of such subsidies is seen by many as a means of increasing competitiveness and productivity. Dr Omer Siddique, a senior research economist at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), told WealthPK that the elimination of export subsidies would help make industries more resource-efficient. "The move will help create a level playing field for all industries, which will foster competition within the domestic market."

He said though the subsidy elimination might present short-term challenges, industries must find ways to improve product quality, develop a comprehensive export marketing strategy, and enhance their technical knowledge in order to succeed in the global market. According to him, subsidies are provided to specific industries and not the whole sector. "Ending government subsidies will have a significant impact on the economy, both in terms of increasing competitiveness and improving fiscal stability." The PIDE researcher pointed out that a number of key sectors, including textile, leather and tanneries, sports products, food processing, logistics, automobiles, fertilizer, and engineering were heavily reliant on government subsidies, which was stifling private sector growth and discouraging innovation. He said by removing these subsidies, industries would be forced to find new innovative ways to remain competitive, thus leading to a more productive overall economy. "Reduced spending on subsidies can be redirected to address more pressing needs, such as infrastructure and social services."

Omer Siddique emphasized that in the absence of subsidies, industries must continuously improve their efficiency in order to thrive in the face of increased competition. "By doing so, they will not only benefit themselves but also contribute to the overall growth of the economy," he added. In order to support the growth and competitiveness of the five export-oriented industries of textile, leather, carpet, surgical, and sports goods, the government has allocated a substantial subsidy of Rs100 billion in electricity tariff, fixing the price at Rs19.99 per unit for the current fiscal year 2022-23. Muhammad Zeeshan, another research fellow at PIDE, told WealthPK that elimination of export subsidies was a crucial step in boosting competitiveness in international trade. He added that with the elimination of these subsidies, firms would be forced to become more self-sufficient and adopt new strategies for success, resulting in a more dynamic and resilient private sector. Moreover, he said the elimination of high import tariffs would provide more affordable access to intermediate and final consumption items, both for firms and consumers. He said that the government implemented its import policy through the self-regulatory organisation (SRO). INP

Farooq Rehmani pays tribute to Ghulam Muhammad Bulla

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, has paid a rich tribute to noted Kashmiri Hurriyat activist, Ghulam Muhammad Bulla, on the eve of his 48th martyrdom anniversary. According to Kashmir Media Service, Ghulam Muhammad Bulla of Sopore area of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir was tortured to death in Central Jail Srinagar on the night of 15 February, 1975. He was buried

by the Indian police in Sopore without informing anybody to hide the crime they had committed behind the fortified walls of the Srinagar prison. Muhammad Farooq Rehmani in a statement issued in Islamabad, today, said Ghulam Muhammad Bulla's only "sin" was that he had participated in a strong anti-India-Abdullah Accord, which rejected the Kashmiri freedom movement and plebiscite for Jammu and Kashmir by again bringing to power Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah after remaining in jail for over a decade. He said, the

accord of 1975 further paved way for eroding important political and constitutional guarantees to IIOJK, as promised in 1947. He maintained that the Accord shook the entire IIOJK and people came out of their homes from every part of the occupied territory to protest against it and the murder of Ghulam Muhammad Bulla added fuel to fire, making the Indian establishment nervous everywhere. "Today, when we remember those times of brutality and martyrdom of a young patriot of Kashmir. INP



Quetta, Civil Secretary Officer Association President Abdul Malik Kakar, Bereaved Grand Alliance Chairman Takri Abbas Mengal, Dad Muhammad Baloch of EPCA, Younis Zahri and other bereaved family group photo in celebration of the decision of the Kota Committee.

New Zealand national state of emergency owing to heavy flooding

WELLINGTON: Residents have been forced to swim to safety from flooded homes in New Zealand after Cyclone Gabrielle lashed the country's north. The country announced a national state of emergency on Tuesday after the storm's devastation - just the third time in its history it's done so. The storm has caused extensive damage across the North Island - washing away roads and bridges and flooding suburbs. Officials said at least 225,000 people were without power on Tuesday. Nearly a third of New Zealand's 5.1 million population live in the affected storm regions - which includes Auckland, the largest city. The storm's damage has been most extensive in coastal communities on the far north and east coast of the North Island - with spots like Hawkes Bay, Coromandel and Northland among the worst-hit. Marcelle Smith, whose family lives in a cliff front property in Parua Bay on the east coast of the North Island, told the BBC she had fled with her two young children inland on Monday night to higher ground. Her husband remained behind to set up protections for the house. Some embankments set up had already been washed away and they were still battling wild weather on Tuesday. "We are trying to do everything we can to protect what we have put our lives into. It's man versus nature at this point," she told. Local media reported that some residents in Hawkes Bay had to swim

through bedroom windows to escape as waters flooded their homes. Residents in the area have been warned they could be without power for weeks. Aerial pictures of flooded regions also showed people stranded on rooftops waiting to be rescued. The vast scale of the damage includes uprooted trees, bent street lights and poles, and row after row of flooded homes. INP

Students suffer as KU teacher observer complete boycott of classes

KARACHI: The Karachi University Teachers' Society (Kuts) boycotted teaching and administrative affairs in the morning and evening for the selection board schedule. According to the details, the general body meeting of the Karachi University Teachers' Association was held at the Arts Auditorium under the chairmanship of the President of the Association, Dr Saleha Rehman. The staff demanded the release of the complete selection board schedule of the 2019 advertisement, requested the chancellor to withdraw the management's case against the appointments in the Department of Mass Communication and the immediate release of salaries of January of these teachers. The meeting decided that if the demands are not met by Friday, a press conference will be held, and the dismissal of the Sheikh-ul-Jamia and the director of finance will be demanded. "If a complete schedule of the 2019 selection boards wasn't released by Friday, we will hold a presser (on the campus) and demand resignation of the vice chancellor and the director finance, tated the resolution unanimously passed by the house. It is worth mentioning here that the prevailing crisis at the Karachi University (KU) worsened on Monday when a Kuts general body meeting gave the deadline and decided that teachers would boycott Karachi University Teachers' Society (Kuts) boycotted teaching and administrative affairs in the morning and evening for the selection board schedule. According to the details, the general body meeting of the Karachi University Teachers' Association was held at the Arts Auditorium under the chairmanship of the President of the Association, Dr Saleha Rehman. The staff demanded the release of the complete selection board schedule of the 2019 advertisement, requested the chancellor to withdraw. INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Jaffarabad invites sealed percentage rates based on Composite Schedule of Rates, 2018 Govt. of Balochistan and non-schedule items on prevailing Market Rates from interested Contractors/Manufacturing Firms for the works mentioned below:- Bid Security 2% (in Shape of CDR), Time limit 30-06-2023 for each work.

S.#	NAME OF WORKS	E/COST	T/FE	BID SECURITY
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME CAISER UMRANI BAROON KHIRTHAR PSDP NO.5546 (DISTRICT JAFFARABAD)			
i)	Civil Work TSE No. 222302242453	65,46,205/-	1500/-	1,30,924/-
2.	WATER SUPPLY SCHEME WITH SOLAR SYSTEMAT VILLAGE JONSAL HIJWANI PSDP NO.5557 (DISTRICT JAFFARABAD)			
i)	Civil Work TSE No. 222302242483	65,46,205/-	1500/-	1,30,924/-
3.	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME VILLAGE YASEEN ABAD PSDP NO.5560 (DISTRICT JAFFARABAD)			
i)	Civil Work TSE No. 222302242503	65,46,205/-	1500/-	1,30,924/-
4.	INSTALLATION OF WATER PIPE LINE AT JHAT PAT CITY PSDP NO.5441 (DISTRICT JAFFARABAD)			
i)	Civil Work TSE No. 222302242533	37,37,526/-	1500/-	74,750/-
5.	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER COURSE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME VILLAGE MOULABAKHSH DASHTI PSDP NO.5555 (DISTRICT JAFFARABAD)			
i)	Civil Work TSE No. 222302242573	1,98,08,474/-	3500/-	3,96,170/-
6.	REHABILITATION OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME KASHMIRI KOT PSDP NO.5188 (DISTRICT JAFFARABAD)			
i)	Civil Work TSE No. 222302242583	2,11,87,126/-	3500/-	4,23,750/-
7.	INSTALLATION OF WATER FILTER PLANT AT GOTH SHEHZAD KHAN CHANDIO AND GOTH AZMAT KHAN JAMALI U/C SATHI PSDP NO.5440 (DISTRICT JAFFARABAD)			
i)	For Village Goth Shehzad Khan Chandio			
ii)	Const: of Raw Water Tank TSE No. 222302242613	12,04,497/-	650/-	24,100/-
iii)	Supply & Installation of Ultra Filter Plant TSE222302242633	25,79,899/-	1500/-	51,598/-
8.	CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGE TANK, PROVIDING & INSTALLATION OF FILTER PLANTS AT VILLAGE FAREED KOT U/C TAJ PURAND JAVED ABAD U/C HAFEEZABAD PSDP NO.5544 (DISTRICT JAFFARABAD)			
i)	For Village Fareed Kot			
ii)	Const: of Raw Water Tank TSE No. 222302244013	12,04,497/-	650/-	24,100/-
iii)	Supply & Installation of Ultra Filter Plant TSE No. 222302244053	25,79,899/-	1500/-	51,598/-
9.	Const: of Raw Water Tank TSE222302244123	12,04,497/-	650/-	24,100/-
ii)	Supply & Inst: of Ultra Filter Plant TSE222302244123	25,79,899/-	1500/-	51,598/-

Procurement shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders:- The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Jaffarabad invites sealed bids /tenders from eligible contractors/firms/manufactures /authorities licensed by the Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category C6 and having valid NTN, Sales Tax, BRA, specialization in EE-04, CE-06, CE-05, CE-04 and above, for the mentioned schemes Civil Works. Furthermore, the Solar System and Ultra Filtration Plants of Mentioned Schemes are invites sealed bids /tenders from the reputable Dealer Distributor having Three Last Year Work Orders which Hold (Thirty Millions): Goods Declaration Slip, Shipment Documents & its verification Letter, having valid NTN, Sales Tax, BRA and PEC license till June 2023 with Specialization code CE04, ME06, EE04, EE05 and EE11 for the whole or single item work which will be completed in stipulated time. If any bidder not fulfilled the requirements are not eligible, the committee have authority to reject the Bidder. The details are given below: Eligibility Criteria - Minimum three assignments of value not less than estimated cost and Turn over of value not less than estimated cost. Method of Procurement:- Single stage, Single envelope. Bid Security:- The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit of amount specified above in the name of undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents :- The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of bidding document fee (non refundable) (amount mentioned above) through Green Chalan C-02725-02 PHED (Revenue Receipt) deposited only in National Bank of Pakistan Dera Allah Yar Branch. (The NIT & Bidding Documents can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk Issuance of Tender Documents:- Tender forms/documents will be issued to the bidders/contractors on publication of Notice in newspapers on presentation of requisite documents. Last date for submission :- The tenders should be submitted on 28.02.2023 till 01:00 P.M at the office of the undersigned. Tender Opening :- All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 02:00 P.M (in case of public holiday announced by the Government (due to any reason), the tender will be opened the next working day at the same time and venue). Tender committee reserves the right to change the quantities or cancel/reject any or all offers without assigning any reason. Address:- Public Health Engineering Division Jaffarabad at Dera Allah Yar. Phone No.0838-510036 Fax No.0838-510362 Email: xengphed4037@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION JAFFARABAD AT DERA ALLAH YAR

PRQ No.2368/13-02-2023

نوٹس نیلامی (Coal & others minerals, Sand Gravel Bajri)۔ نیشنل ایئر پورٹ اتھارٹی پاکستان، اسلام آباد۔

نمبر نام	مکان	تاریخ	تاریخ	تاریخ	تاریخ
01	پاک فہر 4 ہلال سہم	27-02-2023	3:00 بجے	9 بجے	4 بجے
02	پاک فہر 8 ہلال سہم	27-02-2023	3:00 بجے	9 بجے	4 بجے
03	پاک فہر 9 ہلال سہم	27-02-2023	3:00 بجے	9 بجے	4 بجے
04	طریق ترستی معدنیات	14-03-2023	2:00 بجے	9 بجے	12 بجے
05	طریق ترستی معدنیات	16-03-2023	2:00 بجے	9 بجے	12 بجے

PRQ No.2392 13-02-2023

World response at Geneva moot evidence of Pakistan's successful foreign policy, Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Tuesday the success of the Pakistan's foreign policy was evident by the recently held Resilient Pakistan Conference in Geneva where various countries assured support to Pakistan after devastating floods.

Last month, the multilateral and bilateral donors pledged over \$10 billion in aid to Pakistan in order to support the South Asian country to overcome the devastation caused due to the floods.

Addressing the 42nd Specialized Diplomatic Course for the officers of Foreign Service of Pakistan at Foreign Service Academy in Islamabad, he said the foreign policy had been guided by national interests, pragmatism, constructive engagement and amicably managing divergences and maximizing commonalities of interests.

The foreign minister said the government was arduously working for the betterment of relations with all international partners, state broadcaster reported.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnessing Pak Navy's Multinational AMAN Exercise 2023 in the Arabian Sea.

Pakistan has become a banana republic: Fawad

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader (PTI) leader and ex-federal minister Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday stated that country has become a banana republic where there is no rule of law. "No nation can progress until the rule of law prevails for everyone, he added.

This 'powerful mafia' is taking the country to the point of no return," he said while talking to the media persons. Responding a question, he viewed that filing a seditious case against a Senator and ex-finance minister Shaukat Tarin is ridiculous and reprehensible which indicates that Pakistan has become a banana republic.

He started "if someone says that the agreement with the IMF is wrong in respect of Pakistan's interest and we should prevent it from happening in every possible way, then the question is how it treason or rebellion?"

It was worth mentioned here that earlier Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that after completing the inquiry against Tarin, FIA had sought permission to arrest Tarin and the government has given permission to arrest him. On the other hand, Tehreek-e-Insaf leader (PTI) leaders are reacting strongly to the filing of a seditious case against Shaukat Tarin. INP

PM to witness int'l joint naval exercises in Karachi today: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will visit Karachi today Tuesday to witness the ongoing international joint naval exercises being organized by the Pakistan Navy.

In a tweet, the minister said that naval forces of more than fifty countries were participating in the joint naval exercises. The main objective of these exercises to be held after two years was to develop an effective joint strategy against pirates, terrorists, drug and arms smugglers, she added.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that besides witnessing the demonstration of joint action against pirates, the prime minister on a day-long visit would also observe other naval exercises and the professional skills of the forces participating in the exercises. INP

LHC moved to seek order for president to announce Punjab election date

LAHORE: A petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court (LHC) seeking an order for President Arif Alvi to announce a date for elections in Punjab. The petitioner has made the federal government, the president, Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman, and interim governments respondents in the case. The petition argued that the high court in its Feb 10 order had remarked that election should be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the assembly. It said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was reluctant to announce a schedule despite the LHC orders. The petitioner pleaded the court to issue an order under Article 48, 58 and 224 of the Constitution and Section 57 of the Election Act for the president to announce a date for elections as the ECP was running away from its duties. He also sought disciplinary action against the Punjab governor and ECP for defying the court order. On Feb 10, the LHC had ordered the electoral watchdog to hold elections in the province in 90 days of the dissolution of the assembly. Justice Jawad Hassan had pronounced the reserved verdict on plea filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking orders for the Punjab governor to immediately announce a date for an election in the province. The court had also instructed the ECP to promptly declare the date for the election of the provincial assembly with the notification that specifies the reasons behind the decision after consulting with the governor. INP

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elections as the ECP was running away from its duties. He also sought disciplinary action against the Punjab governor and ECP for defying the court order.

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The court had also instructed the ECP to promptly declare the date for the election of the provincial assembly with the notification that specifies the reasons behind the decision after consulting with the governor of Punjab, who is the province's constitutional head. INP

APHC, LFK send batch of emergency aid for Turkey, Syria quake victims

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) on behalf of the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir has sent its first batch of emergency assistance to Turkey and Syria for relief and rescue operation.

In a press conference in Islamabad, today, the leaders of both organizations expressed their condolence with the people of Turkey and Syria.

Talking to media Ghulam Muhammad Safi introduced Syed Ali Gilani Rescue and Relief Organization, and he stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir can well understand the pain and agony of their brethren in Turkey and Syria. "Although we don't

have much resources to aid people in such a devastating calamity but remaining silent is also not an option," he further said. We have already sent our aid there and will inform you once we arrive there.

APHC-AJK Convenor Mehmood Ahmad Sagar while talking to media said that APHC in collaboration with Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) have decided to work together in this relief and rescue operation in the earthquake hit region. "Our people, including students from both parts of Jammu and Kashmir, are already on the forefront of relief and rescue operation in Turkey," Sagar added.

Sheikh Abdul Mateen, General Secretary APHC-AJK, and Imtiaz Wani Information Secretary also speak on the occasion. INP

UJC announces to support APHC strike call in IIOJK on Today

MUZAFFARABAD: The United Jihad Council (UJC) has announced to support the strike call given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on February 15 against the brutal measures being taken by Modi-led fascist Indian regime.

The UJC in a statement issued in Muzaaffarabad said India is committing the worst violation of human rights by taking away lands of Kashmiris and demolishing their houses in the name of anti-encroachment drive in the territory.

It said India is punishing the Kashmiri people for demanding freedom, although the struggle of the Kashmiri people is in line with the agenda of the United Nations. It said the fascist government of Narendra Modi is using bulldozers as a weapon against the Kashmiri people and destroying the houses,

properties and other structures of common citizens.

The Modi government is forcibly evicting the Kashmiris from their lands and attempts are being made to destroy the Muslim identity of the occupied territory.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister SAFRON, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood and SAPM Hamid Haroon in a group photo with PIMs and CDA USAR teams during their departure to Syria from Islamabad International Airport.

Referring to the changes taking place at the international level, Bilawal Bhutto said this necessitates a foreign service equipped more with the skills and capacities to comprehend and adapt to the current day geo political and geo economic realities.

He said it was imperative to adopt new tools and technologies which could act as a force multiplier for shaping and disseminating narratives, identifying opportunities for economic linkages and markets for exports as well as improving services for Pakistanis residing abroad.

He said Pakistani diplomats were expected to be skilled navigators of electronic, print and social media in order to protect, promote and sustain national narratives. He said the diplomats had a great responsibility to enhance Pakistan's strategic space in the international arena. The foreign minister was confident that the Foreign Service Academy will continue to produce outstanding diplomats who will uphold the tradition of excellence in representing Pakistan on the global stage. INP

Pakistan fast becomes world trade hub through Gwadar port: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is fast becoming an international trading hub through Gwadar port, as it provides significant economic benefits to importers and exporters through highly efficient operations, advanced cargo handling, substantial storage areas for all types of cargo, and extensive ancillary facilities.

Talking to WealthPK, Adnan Khan, a research associate at the Centre of Excellence, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said that changing geopolitical conditions had shifted alignment patterns from politics to economy. "Economic security is becoming the topmost priority among national security preferences around the world. China is leading this sphere by forging and strengthening its economic relations with countries around the world, including Asia, to speed up economic development."

He said Pakistan would have to create links and generate wealth to lessen the challenges and pressures posed by enhanced economic activities within the region and beyond.

Adnan Khan said, "Gwadar has the potential to realise the long-cherished goal of enhancing trade links between Pakistan and Central Asian countries. The port is designed specifically to serve the needs of China and Central Asian countries."

He informed WealthPK that there had been an influx of import cargoes at the Gwadar port recently as three vessels, each carrying 90,000 metric

tonnes of urea, had arrived at the port. "This influx of cargo shows an increased economic activity is going on in Gwadar region, creating job opportunities and boosting the local economy."

He further said that to become an international trading hub, Pakistan needed to make significant investments in its infrastructure to support the growth of the port and its related industries. "This will include investments in transportation, communications, energy infrastructure, and human capital development. The country will also need to address logistic challenges to ensure that the port is accessible and secure for foreign investors and traders." The CPEC's Centre of Excellence research associate said that the incumbent government was committed to bringing Balochistan on a par with other parts of the country. "The issue that is causing a great deal of concern in Balochistan is the lack of power supply. Recently, the National Transmission and Dispatch Company completed a 29-kilometre-long double-circuit transmission line from Polan area of Iran to Gwadar," he added.

"With the construction of the transmission line, Pakistan's transmission system has become capable to evacuate an additional 100MW of Iranian electricity to various parts of Balochistan. Furthermore, there are two other important energy projects: a 320MW China Hub Coal Power Project, and a 300MW coal-fired power project, in the province." INP

Dania Shah secures bail in objectionable video leak case

KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) on Tuesday granted bail plea to Dania Shah in a case related to leaking objectionable video of her late husband Aamir Liaquat Hussain. The FIA cyber crime circle Karachi arrested the former wife of Aamir Liaquat Hussain, Dania Shah, from Lodhran in the obscene video leak case in December 2022. The SHC while accepting bail of late Aamir Liaquat's wife against surety bonds of Rs200,000, ordered police to release her from jail.

It is pertinent to mention here that the late televangelist Aamir Liaquat Hussain's widow Dania Shah challenged her arrest in the SHC in an objectionable video case on Jan 19 last month.

She stated in her petition that the FIA had illegally arrested her and it did not fulfil the legal requirements despite the submission of replies to the agency. In December last year, the FIA arrested former wife of late televangelist Aamir Liaquat Hussain - in an obscene video leak case. It was learnt that Hussain's daughter sought action from the FIA against Dania Shah for making obscene videos of Aamir Liaquat Hussain viral on social media. INP

Shahbaz Gill challenges rejection of acquittal plea in IHC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former SAPM Shahbaz Gill on Tuesday challenged in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) the sessions court decision to reject his acquittal plea in seditious case. In the petition, the PTI leader pleaded the court to declare Islamabad district and sessions court ruling null and void and acquit him in the seditious case.

Gill has made the federation respondent in the case. A district and sessions court in Islamabad fixed February 27 for the indictment of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former SAPM Shahbaz Gill in a seditious case. Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Supra rejected Gill's acquittal plea and decided to indict him in seditious INP

Pakistani rupee makes sharp gain against us dollar

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee on Thursday appreciated against the US dollar in the interbank market, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) report.

In the interbank market, the rupee closed at Rs267.34 appreciating by 2.10 against the dollar. The greenback had closed at Rs269.44 a day earlier.

The currency has depreciated by 23.3% during the ongoing fiscal year against the greenback. The US dollar has gained over Rs30 in the interbank market since the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan

(Ecap) removed an unofficial cap on the exchange rate.

The rise is attributed to the resumption of \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) stalled for months. The lender and Pakistan moved closer to the revival of their loan programme as Islamabad has agreed to several conditions including increasing energy prices and improve tax collection, as demanded by the IMF. In the interbank market, the rupee closed at Rs267.34 appreciating by 2.10 against the dollar. The greenback had closed at Rs269.44 a day earlier. INP



ISLAMABAD: A Parliamentary delegation of Ivory Coast, led by the President of the National Assembly of Ivory Coast Adama Bictogo, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

74 nomination papers for by-election accepted

PESHAWAR: Out of the total of 76 nomination papers filed for by-election on 8 vacant National Assembly constituencies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa scheduled on March 16, 2023, 74 nominations have been accepted, said a spokesman of the Provincial Election Commission (PEC) here on Tuesday.

He said that during scrutiny, the nomination papers of Shaukat Bilal Khan, an aspiring candidate from NA-17 Haripur were rejected due to lack of filing income tax returns while the nominations of another aspiring candidate Abdul Rasheed from NA-43 Khyber were rejected on the grounds of not completing two years of the post-retirement. Appeals against the acceptance or rejection of nominations could be filed with the concerned Appellate Tribunal till February 16, 2023, which will decide them till February 20, 2023. The revised list of candidates would be issued on February 21, 2023 while nomination papers can be withdrawn till February 22, 2023, which will be followed by the issuance of the final list of candidates on February 23. INP

February 23, 2023 and election symbols will also be allotted to them. Polling in these 8 National Assembly constituencies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be held on March 16, 2023. These seats were declared vacant due to the resignations of the PTI legislators. He said that during scrutiny, the nomination papers of Shaukat Bilal Khan, an aspiring candidate from NA-17 Haripur were rejected due to lack of filing income tax returns while the nominations of another aspiring candidate Abdul Rasheed from NA-43 Khyber were rejected on the grounds of not completing two years of the post-retirement. Appeals against the acceptance or rejection of nominations could be filed with the concerned Appellate Tribunal till February 16, 2023, which will decide them till February 20, 2023. The revised list of candidates would be issued on February 21, 2023 while nomination papers can be withdrawn till February 22, 2023, which will be followed by the issuance of the final list of candidates on February 23. INP

Gadoon Textile earns Rs1.8b profit on Rs26bn sales in 1HFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Gadoon Textile Mills Limited posted a sales revenue of Rs26 billion in the first half (July-Dec) of the ongoing fiscal year 2022-23.

The company made a gross profit of Rs3.3 billion and net profit of Rs1.8 billion on its sales in 1HFY23.

The textile firm is listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange with the symbol of GADT under the textile spinning sector.

With a market capitalisation of Rs6.2 billion, GADT is currently the third largest firm in Pakistan's textile spinning sector. Incorporated as a public limited company in 1988, the primary function of GADT is production and selling of bedding products and yarn.

In the 1HFY23, GADT reported gross profit and net profit ratios of 13.02% and 6.97%, respectively. Its earnings per share (EPS) stood at Rs64.92 during the period under review.

In the first quarter (July-Sept) of FY23, GADT posted a revenue of Rs12

billion and gross profit of Rs2.1 billion on its sales value. The company reported a net profit of Rs1.2 billion and EPS value of Rs44.42.

The company reported gross profit and net profit ratios of 16.46% and 9.68%, respectively, during this quarter.

However, in the second quarter (Oct-Dec) of FY23, the company's gross profit and net profit dropped to Rs1.2 billion and Rs574 million, respectively, on total sales of Rs13 billion.

The gross profit and net profit ratios came out to be 9.73% and 4.34%, respectively. The EPS value in 2QFY23 stood at Rs20.5.

Gadoon Textiles Mills Limited raised Rs70 million in market value over the first half of fiscal year 23.

However, in the first quarter of this fiscal, the company's market value dropped 10%. The firm started the quarterly trade on market value of Rs7.1 billion and ended the quarter on Rs6.4 billion. INP