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# UETTA VOICE

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Police officials involved in baton-charging Islamabad Aurat March have been suspended: Sanaullah



A levies man martyred another injured in Kharan attack

# PTI says worker killed in police crackdown in Lahore following imposition of Section 144

The PTI said on Wednesday that one of its workers was killed in Lahore as police launched a crackdown on those participating in the party's rally following the imposition of Section 144.

The party, which had decided to kick off its election campaign today, had planned to take out a rally from Zaman Park to Data Darbar. PTI Chairman Imran Khan and other leaders were also expect. other leaders were also expected to be in attendance.

However, the party later decided to dedicate the demonstration to the judiciary and postponed the launch of its can-

postponed the launch of its can-vassing drive until Saturday.

Prior to the start of the rally,
the Punjab Home Department
had asked PTI leaders to take
"extra precaution", saying that
such public gatherings in the
face of security threats were
"not advisable".

#### Section 144 imposed in Lahore amid "threats"

hortly after, the government had proceeded to impose Section 144 in Lahore. Officials had also taken scores of PTI workers into custody for violating the ban and used water cannons in an effort to disperse them which had led the PTI chairman to call off the

In a tweet after calling off the rally, Imran said that party worker Ali Bilal was "mur-dered by Punjab police".

"Shameful, this brutality on unarmed PTI workers who were coming to attend an election rally. Pakistan is in the grip of murderous criminals," he said, adding that the party would file cases against the Punjab inspector general, the Lahore capital city police officer (CCPO) and others for "murder".

In a second tweet Imran

In a second tweet, Imran shared a video of Bilal, adding that it showed that the PTI worker was alive while being transported to the police sta-

"So he was killed while in police custody — such is the murderous bent of the present regime and the Punjab police,"

#### PTI claims police violence led to worker's death

Imran later said he wanted the party's district presidents and office bearers across the country to offer funeral prayers in absentia for "our martyred

When asked to comment on the incident, the Lahore CCPO's Public Relations Officer (PRO) Syed Mubashir had initially said he had "no

Later, he told Dawn.com that as per the available information, "this is an accident".

The Lahore Capital City Police said: "Eleven police personnel, including two DSFs (deputy superintendent of police) [and] one SHO (station house officer), were injured due to the violence of PTI workers."

ers."
It added that one "seriously injured policeman is in critical

condition."
Meanwhile, PTI Secretary
General Asad Umar vowed that Bilal's killer would be "brought to justice one day". "The use of force has now reached such a level that the sons of the nation are being martyred," he tweet-

ed.
Awami Muslim League leader and PTI ally Sheikh Rashid also strongly condemned the alleged murder. "The PDM (Pakistan Democratic Movement) and Punjab caretaker government have crossed all limits of fascism and cruelty," he said.

#### Imran Khan berates interim Punjab government

PTI chief Imran had called off roday's rally after police had launched a crackdown on party workers. "Stop everything. We are not taking out the rally that we were supposed to as, I am saddened to say, that all the moves they (the government) are making are aimed at running away from elections.

"They are trying to ensure that

"They are trying to ensure that chaos spreads and that is why I'm saying to my workers to finish it, we will not carry out the rally," he said in a video address.Imran alleged that the government had launched a crackdown on PTI workers not for the sake of law and order but in an effort to avoid conducting elections in the province."We cannot give them (government) any excuse [to delay the elec-tions]," the PTI chief, again calling on party workers to return to their homes. "They picked up and took away our people today as well — around 100 workers — for what reason?" he asked Web Desk

## Balochistan police leave for Lahore to arrest **PTI Chief** Imran Khan

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA:Balochistan police left for Lahore to arrest the Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran

Khalil Kakar, a resi-dent of Nawa Killi had submitted an application at the police sta-tion accusing the PTI Chief of inciting 'hatred' against state



Khan. "Yes, a police team left for Lahore to arrest the former premier", a senior police official told Daily Quetta Voice via telephone. He requested anonymity because of the

sensitivity of the matter. The Bijli road police station in Quetta had reg-istered a first information report (FIR) against the PTI Chief on an application of a citizen.

Former Prime Minister wanted by Quetta Police

institutions.

"The former PM is now wanted by the Quetta police", the official said, giving no other details about the number of the police party and their location.

The Federal Interior Minister.

Rana

Minister, Sanaullah announced a few months back that the former premier would be kept in the Mach Jail if arrested. So far, there was no word about the arrest of the former premier by the Balochistan govern-

## Inclusion of Women in Digital Economy project on cards in Balochistan

Sheikh Razzaq

Quetta: The Balochistan government is all set to start the "Inclusion of Women in the Digital Economy" project, said Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Parliamentary Secretary of Law, Science, and Information Technology here on Wednesday.

In a message issued here on the eve of women's day, the parliamentary secretary of information technology said that a project called Inclusion of Women in the Digital Economy will soon be started to equip the women of Balochistan with IT skills making them economically strong and financially independent.

Women's access to digitalization will reduce the gender-based gap



mittee, the handout concluded.

"This program of teaching digital skills to women will help in women's access to digitalization and will reduce the gender-based gap in the IT sec-

She noted that for greater access of women to technology programs in Balochistan, efforts are being made on viable projects that will prove effective for the economic development of women.

The parliamentary secretary emphasized the need for making womenfolk more empowered as the said project will provide basic skills of digital financial services and it can lift a large number of women out of the poverty

Still, a lot needs to be done for women's empowerment: Dr. Rubaba

A levies man martyred another

"Although many steps have been taken for the betterment of women in Pakistan, still a lot of work needs to be done in this regard," she said, be done in this regard, expressing her satisfaction that women's issues are now discussed openly in the media while legislation

regarding women is also improving.
She further noted that women's participation in the political process has increased, whereas civil society is seen to be more active in raising voices for women's rights.

Dr. Rubaba said the provincial government is committed to providing maximum opportunities to the women of Balochistan. The efforts of the government will prove fruitful, and they will yield positive results in

### 897 doctors to be appointed on contract basis in Balochistan

Health Desk

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has decided to recruit 897 doctors on a contract basis to improve health services in remote parts of the province. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir

Quddus Bizenjo approved the sum-mary sent by the health department for the appointment of doctors on a contract basis, an official handout issued here on Wednesday said. The vacancies of the doctors

include medical officers, lady medical officers, dental surgeons, spe-cialists, professors, and assistant professors. All the newly appointed doctors would be posted in rural Balochistan, the handout men-

The new doctors on the contract would not be posted in any big gov-ernment hospitals rather they



# Ibrar Ahmed

Unknown accused opened fire and mar-Unknown tyred a levies person-nel and injured another one in Balochistan's district on

Wednesday. Levies sources said unknown accused attacked a levies check post at Dali located in Washuk Kharan road As a result of the attack, one levies personnel was martyred and another sustained injuries. One attacker was also injured when levies retaliated.



terrorist was not arrested and he escaped along with other attackers. The number of attackers could not

However, the injured levies personnel was rushed to nearby hospital for medical treat-

Levies and administration officials reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went under-

# Police officials involved in baton-charging Islamabad Aurat March have been suspended: Sanaullah

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Wednesday that police personnel involved in baton-charging the participants of Aurat March — a public demonstration held annually in various cities to mark International Women's Day — in Islamabad had been suspended. In a tweet, the minister said "other persons responsible for misbehaviour" were also being identified and proper action would also be taken against them.

In an earlier tweet, the interior minister had vowed that "strict legal action" would be pursued against those responsible for the "mistreatment" of citizens participating in the march
Sanaullah said he had taken strict notice of the behaviour meted out

to the participants of the march, adding that the Islamabad police chief had been summoned regarding the matter. One of the march's organisers, Punjrush, explained what had happened during the rally, saying that transgender persons were performing when police charged at the protesters, causing some of them to get

"Then they started pushing us so we started to push back [...] and then they started fighting and we started fighting and it just got confus-

ing," she said.
Separately, Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman also condemned
the Islamabad police's action against citizens participating in the march.



"The Islamabad police had no business baton-charging a small peace-ful procession," she tweeted after a video of a police official pushing a female participant back emerged online. "It is the women holding laathis that need to be pushed back, not pro-gressive women. Sad to see this happening. I will seek an inquiry," she

In another tweet, she strongly condemned the violence, adding that she had sought an inquiry on the incident. "There is no excuse for this. That too on International Women's Day. This is not what we fought for and will not tolerate it," she said.

The minister added that the incident had been brought to the attention

The minister added that the incident had been brought to the attention of the interior minister.

"One day, just one day of the year our women, our courageous, talented but oppressed women, want to march and we find ways to disrupt it. What's wrong with us?" asked PML-N's Miftah Ismail.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) also condemned the use of force by the Islamabad police. It said it was also concerned about reports that religious organisations were trying to hinder women from taking part in the march. "Women have as much right to peaceful assembly as any citizen. The police are supposed to provide security to assembly as any citizen. The police are supposed to provide security to the marchers, not to resort to violence against peaceful demonstrators," the commission said. Web Desk

# QUETTA VOICE Editor Asim Khan Balochistan Education Sector

# Plan, Go beyond words

Much has been said about the Balochistan Education Sector Plan (BESP) 2020-25 on the official level and among the academia and international donor agencies. Undoubtedly, some officers of the education department and donor

agencies. Undoubtedly, some officers of the editication department and donor agencies deserve appreciation for preparing the Plan.

The estimated cost of the five years BESP is Rs. 72 billion as per the data shared with journalists during a function in this regard in Quetta the other day. Attractive banners, books, and brushers with the best paper quality were given to the participants of the function held at Quetta's luxury hotel. As usual, very few individuals bothered to read the information in bags given to them by organizers of the function.

The Secondary Education Department had prepared the BESP 2020-25 in collaboration with European Union, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and UNICEF. Thanks to these organizations for extending support to the Balochistan government in improving the quality of education. Nevertheless, these international donor agencies should also go beyond words and ensure sustainable efforts to improve the state of education in Balochistan.

Most of the teachers, parents are unaware of BESP 2020-25

When educationists, academicians, bureaucrats, ministers, and representatives of donor agencies were addressing the BESP function, parents and teachers in remote remained unaware of the Plan. This daily asked some teachers and parents about the BESP 2020-25. They simply said, "What is this?".

Subsequently, the target group is unaware of the BESP 2020-25 and the multibillion rupees spending on the Project. Most of the speakers spoke about the quality of education. In reality, speaking about the quality of education is like daydreaming in Balochistan, lagging behind other provinces of the country in terms of key social indicators.

Over 6,000 schools with one teacher in Balochistan
The education minister Naseebullah Marri lamented that 70,000 teachers and the quality still low. Palvasha Jalalzai, the education specialist of UNICEF put some critical questions about the one-teacher one-school, teachers training in

To be very precise, the government and donor agencies should come out of Quetta's only luxury hotel and mobile teachers, parents, political people, media, and religious scholars at the district level to improve the state of education in

# Crimes against logic

In August 1985, at a conference in Havana, Fidel Castro laid out the facts and figures and indeed the mathematical impossibility of the Third World ever being able to repay its external debts (\$335 billion at the time, close to \$11.1 trillion

**EDITORIAL** 

today) Today, compounding interest and debt servicing payments combined with the mechanisms unequal exchange and the peripheral economic structure of most Third World countries, ensure that for every dollar Western countries give to smaller nations (as 'aid' and investment), more than three actually goes out through interest payments, profit repatriation, multinationals

and multinationals' accounting gymnastics.

It is in light of these facts then, that Castro advocated for the cancellation of Third World debt by building an international united front of popular classes. An audacious aim no doubt, but cious aim no doubt, but one based in a very sober realisation of the intractability of the debt problem within the current architecture of the

world economy.

Whatever one may think of Castro or the ideal of Third World unity, one need only cast a cursory glance over the commentary sparked by the IMF programme renewal in Pakistan to be struck by the general poverty of imagination in our own economic dis-course. For the most part, we have the usual chorus of voices advocating for a further liberalization of markets (an antidote apparently to breaking up 'cartels'), easing the pathways of 'Foreign Direct Investment' (FDI). and promoting export-oriented industrialisation as a means of shoring up foreign reserves and solv-ing perennial balance-of-payments issues. In short, the aim is to shift the economy from one that is import-dependent and consumption-focussed to that which is export-ori-ented and productionfocussed.

There are some important proposals here, of course – not least the demand to increase the state's woeful revenue generation through generation through increased taxation, incentivizing investment in productive sectors, and taming the perennially-expanding security behe-moth. Additionally, the IMF have burnished their pro-poor credentials, by advocating for targeted subsidies for the poor while increasing taxes on the rich. Needless to say, subsi-

dies to the poor do not alter the basic architec-ture of IMF prescriptions. And there is hardly a commentator in the mainstream, a couple of honourable exceptions notwithstanding, who -

even while advocating a velvet touch to the iron fist of market reforms have questioned the programme's basic prescrip-tions. Here, evidence is trumped by dogma and, as Yanis Varoufakis evocatively put it, "crimes against logic" are perpetuated by the high mandarins of global financial management and neoclassical economics with their advocacy of liberalization and marke-tization.

Take, for example, the advocacy by all and sundry of promoting FDI and export-focussed industrialisation Assuming that FDI will lead to greater industrialisation (which is not guar-anteed), what is not considered here is the form this is likely to take. In most developing coun-tries, FDI has created 'enclave economies' pockets of 'development and industry, often in un-taxed and scarcely regu-lated "special economic zones" (SEZs), which have little upstream and downstream linkages with the wider regional or national economy. national economy. Geared towards global value chains and markets, firms in such enclaves are subject to global meas-ures of profit and competition, and therefore bank on the 'comparative advantage' of unemployed/underemployed workers in smaller countries. Inevitably, this is a

further incentive for local employers, intermediaries, and the state that facilitates them to indulge in a veritable 'race to the bottom' when it comes to wages and labour stan-dards.

Such restricted forms

of development and industry form no produc-tivity-enhancing linkages between different sectors of the local economy of the local economy while competing at the global level through labour arbitrage': a regime whereby the free flow of capital leads to workers being forced to compete with each other across a global wage divide.

FDI-induced and

FDI-induced export-focused industri-alization also often lead to capital-intensive forms of industrialisation, of industrialisation, which are geared towards reducing labour costs. This is even while the production of technology and ownership of patents remains firmly ensconced in core countries. While such capital-intensive forms of industrialization (and associated services sector) can absorb a layer of skilled and semi-skilled labour, it does not lead to broad-based and sustainable labour absorption requirement for a country like Pakistan with mas-sive levels of un- and

under-employment. The case of India is instructive: its share of labour-intensive (versus

capital-intensive) mer-chandise exports has fall-en by almost half in the en by almost half in the last two decades while issues of low-aggregate investment, insufficient demand and employment continue to persist in the general economy. Thus, capital-intensive forms of industrialization and investment further exacinvestment further exacerbate the problem of enclavisation. They lead to extroverted and disarticulated economies – those geared towards ful-filling the needs of the global market (with all its fluctuations and pres-sures), while resulting in narrow forms of develop-ment nationally; few link-ness between different ages between different sectors such as local agri-culture, industry, and services, and large sur-plus populations. Narrow forms of devel-

By Ayyaz Mallick

opment thus neither solve the issue of decent employment for broad masses of labour, nor are they particularly sustain-able or equitable. The travails of Bangladesh, a much-touted success story of export-oriented development, are a case in point. Its labour stan-dards led to the biggest industrial disaster in history (Rana Plaza), while an economy exposed to the vagaries of global fluctuations has led this poster child of neoliberal success to yet another IMF programme last year.Similar pitfalls may be highlighted.

# Tales from the Mountains

Pakistan are amongst the most beautiful parts of our planet. Here, nature can be witnessed in all its might and glory. The remoteness of this region has added to its mystique and aided in the conservation of the environment to some extent. But this isola-tion has also caused more hardships for the inhabitants of this land and has hindered

its development.

UNDP has been very active in the northern parts of the country, including Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the Gilgit Baltistan province. Its interventions have focused on the ventions have focused on the environment, disaster risk reduction, environmentally friendly tourism, empower-ing the people, and providing them with livelihoods.

The drastic changes in the climate are wreaking devastation on glaciers the world over and Pakistan is no exception. The melting glaciers create lakes that can overflow, and cause tremendous devastation to lives and

property. To prevent this from happening a project by the name of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF-I) was initiated a few years back by the Adaptation Fund. Now, with an investment of 36.9 million dollars by the Green Climate Fund, GLOF-II is being implemented across the two

provinces In addition to climate change, the increase in the human population has also adversely affected the envi-ronment. To reverse the effects of deforestation, thousands of poplar and fruit-



bearing trees including cher-ry, apple, and apricot have been planted all over the northern areas.

These interventions have been managed through the Improvement of Central Karakoram National Park Karakoram National Park (CKNP) project (funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and Government of Italy), and the Pakistan Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme— implemented through World implemented through World

Wide Fund for Nature and Snow Leopard Foundation.

Improving the living con-ditions of the people has had primary importance in UNDP's efforts. The provision of clean drinking water is a very important aspect of these efforts. Numerous water treatment and purification plants and hydro-ram pumps have been installed and water supply schemes have been put into place in various

These initiatives of CKNP and CCAM-II projects have been funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Government of Italy, and the Global Water Challenge (CocaCola Foundation).

Tales from the Mountains The author is an international award-winning writer, and photographer, currently working as a consultant for UNDP Pakistan

# Ethics and politics

ast August, the FBI raided former US president Donald Trump's resort home in Florida They searched for and confirey searched for and con-fiscated a large number of classified documents that were in the former presi-dent's possession and that he had refused to turn over to the National Archives as

required.
This was followed by the expected reactions from both political parties - Republicans condemning the unprecedented raid on a former president's home and Democrats criticizing the former president's refusal to turn over the

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

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

ence to laws or ethical

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Life after abrogation of **IIOJK's autonomy** Mehak Arshad

In 2019, BJP revoked the special status of then Jammu and Kashmir, and illegally integrated it with India. I was studying in India at the time while my family was in Kashmir. Due to the communication blockade, I was not able to connect with them for

a very long time. I still remember how difficult it was for me to live far from home and not hearing back from my family. The history of India, Pakistan and Kashmir may be intertwined but such stories remain at

the very heart of it.
It all started after partition. The British did not divide the princely states since they were ruled by princes. In fact, they never had proper con-trol over these states to begin with. To solve this issue, India creat-ed the 'Instrument of Accession' that allowed the princely states to accede to India. Most of the princely states acceded except Jammu and Kashmir. The region was different from other princely states as it was Muslim majority by population, most of whom wanted to accede to Pakistan but was ruled by a Hindu king named Maharaja Hari Singh. The king

neither acceded to India nor Pakistan and decided to remain independent. After doing so, Pakistan tried to enter its territried to enter its territory to take control. In
order to defend his
state, the Maharaja
asked India for military help but India
only agreed to help if
Jammu and Kashmir
acceded to India. The
Maharaja signed the Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession' on 26th October, 1947. This day is considered as a 'Black Day' for the Kashmiris. 'Instrument

Resultantly, the war led to the division of the state into two regions. Around onethird of the territory was taken by Pakistan and the rest acceded to India. Later in 1962, China took the Aksai-Chin area of Jammu and Kashmir thereby

Kashmiris.

making it
a tripolar dispute
between India,
Pakistan and China.

Since the accession of Jammu and of Jammu and Kashmir was not acceptable by the people, the Indian government gave it special status. In the Presidential order of 1954, Article 370 and 35(a) were drafted in the Constitution of India to guarantee this special status. Article 370 was drafted in Part XXI of the Indian Constitution with the title of "Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions" It

guaranteed special status and power to Jammu and Kashmir to have their separate Constitution, a state flag, and autonomy of internal administra-tion, defence and com-munication. Article 35(a) of the Indian Constitution, allowed the state legislature of Jammu and Kashmir to define their people as the states "permanent residents." All the residents had a state subject or a resident proof which gave them fun-damental rights, citi-zenship, right to own and buy a property in the state. As a result of this article, anyone outside the region couldn't purchase property in the state. On 31st October 2019, the parliament of India gave the order of reorganising Jammu and Kashmir into two was union territories -Jammu and Kashmir was one and Ladakh

was the other.
In their 2019 election manifesto, BJP promised to remove the Articles 370 and 35(a) to end terrorism and integrate Jammu Kashmir with Many scholars and claim that the removal

of these Articles happened with the inten-sion to change the demography of the

region. Since the removal of these articles, the leg-islative framework of the region has started to change. For exam-ple, in colleges 50% of seats are reserved just for Indians. Such changes have angered the locals as they feel neglected in their own land. Post 2019, the Indian government claims that everything is 'normal' in the region and since then large number of Indians have started visiting. However, visiting. However, despite the changes, insurgency still exists Almost every day we hear about encounters and attacks in various parts of the region. The vicious cycle still continues Since the continues Since the accession of Jammu and Kashmir was not acceptable by the people, the Indian government gave it special status. In the Presidential order of 1954, Article 370 and 35(a) were drafted in the Constitution of India to guarantee this special status. Article 370 was drafted in Part XXI of the Indian

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# Double standard?

n January 24, Twitter took down links to a two-part BBC documentary

titled 'India: the Modi Question', at the behest of the Indian government. The docu-mentary presented the role Narendra Modi - the then chief minister of Guirat - played in the 2002 massacres in his state. About 2000 people, mostly Muslims, were

reportedly killed.
Coming from the BBC, it was a well-researched production. YouTube also quickly followed suit, making it difficult though not impossible -to access the films. The BBC documentary tracks "Mr Modi's career-long efforts to demonize India's 200 million-odd Muslim" minority, report-

ed 'The Economist' It appears that Elon Musk's free speech absolutism only goes so far. The BBC is not exactly known to be some extremist fringe outfit, and yet it was effectively silenced with cooperation from US social media sites. Just a few days later, BBC offices in India were raided by Indian tax authorities, pursuing alleged tax law violations - an often-used tactic to silence unwanted opposition. "After silenc-ing critics at home, Narendra Modi goes after

foreign media", read the headline from a recent editorial, also in 'The Economist'. In a similar move in 2020 Amnesty 2020, 2020, Amnesty International, a highly respected human rights organization, was forced to close its operations in

India after its bank accounts were frozen. While media and civil rights organizations criti-cal of autocratic govern-ments often find them-selves under pressure from authorities, such actions are hardly expect-ed from democracies, certainly not one that is often held up as sharing values of freedom and free speech with the democratic nations of the West. Yet, it is the total silence and lack of criticism by the world's leading democracies including the US that raises disturbing questions. Do

ing the US that raises dis-turbing questions. Do democratic countries really operate with a dou-ble standard when it comes to adhering to principles of civil rights and free speech? As we reach the one-

year anniversary of the Russian invasion Ukraine, opposition to Russian actions continues to be loudly led by the US and our Western allies. "This is a fight between democracy and autocra-cy," US President Biden has often said. It is estimated that this year Ukraine has received well-deserved and sorely needed military aid close to \$100 billion.

A February 24 vote in the UN General Assembly called on Russia to immediately withdraw from all occu-pied territories pied territories in Ukraine While the vote was nonbinding, it forced every UN member country to take a stand on this unjust and cruel war.

And once again many large countries such as India, South Africa, China, Pakistan and others abstained from voting

By S Qaisar Shareef against Russia. In all, 39 countries abstained or voted against the resolu-tion. Over the past year, countries representing over half the world's pop-ulation have been reluctant to openly condemn

the Russian invasion.

People in the US often ask the question: why would any of these coun-tries refrain from condemning open aggression against a UN member country? The answers, of course,

are complex. Countries are trying to look out for their economic interests or are compelled out of necessity to not antagonize Russia as the country has vast amounts of oil, gas and grains to sell. But a deeper answer could be that there is a feeling among many of seeing a double standard at play. Many wars and calami-ties have been barely noticed, but a war in Europe is expected to get sympathy from across the world.

While atrocities com-mitted by the Russian forces in Ukraine are condemned - as they should be and as has been documented by organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International - reports by these same organizations about human rights viola-

tions against Palestinians living under occupation have been largely ignored. This war, one hopes, will end in the nottoo-distant future and the suffering of the Ukrainian people will ease. The people and the govern-ment of Ukraine will receive much-needed assistance to rebuild their shattered country

### **ECC allows PASSCO to** procure 1.8 MMT wheat at Rs.3,900/40kg

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here on Wednesday approved wheat procurement target of 1.80 million metric tons (MMT) at the rate of tons (MM1) at the rate of Rs.3,900 per 40 kilogram by Pakistan Agricultural Storage & Services Corporation (PASSCO).

According to press statement issued by the finance ministry, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator

Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over the ECC. Ministry of National Food Security and

Research had submitted a summary on fixation of PASSCO's wheat procurement targets for the year 2023 and presented details on the public wheat stocks, projected release of wheat from PASCO's stocks and carry forward stocks at the start of new food year. the start of new food year on 01-04-2023.

Considering the situa-tion, additional demand of wheat from PASSCO's stocks by Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan, minimum level of carry forward stocks and prevailing pricing trend in the local

wheat market, the ECC approved the recommen-dation of the ministry to assign wheat procure-ment target of 1.80 MMT @ procurement price of Rs. 3,900/40kg. Further the ECC direct-

ed the ministry to form a committee to review the wheat usage, proper wheat usage, wheat storage mecha-nism/Silos in the country and present its findings to the ECC in 15 days. The ECC also consid-

ered a summary of Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination and granted Technical Supplementaryl INP

# Women worst victim of Indian state terrorism in IIOJK

Islamabad: International Women's Day, the miseries and vic-timization of the Kashmin women at the hands of Indian troops, police, paramilitary and agencies continue unabataed in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir According to a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service on the occasion of the International Women's Day, thousands of women are among 96,181 people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have been martyred by Indian troops, paramilitary and police personnel since January 1989 till date. At least, 682 women have been martyred by the troops since January 2001 2001

The report pointed out that the unabated Indian state terrorism rendered 22,958 women widowed. The Indian forces' personnel molested/ disgraced 11,256 women. It said that Kunanposhpora mass rape and Shopian double-rape-and murder of 17-year-old Aasiya Jan and her sister-in-law Neelofar Jan as well as gang-rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl, Aasifa Bano, of Kathua are glaring examples of

Indian forces' personnel. The report said that thousands of women lost their sons, husbands, fathers and brothers in the occupied territory who were subjected to custodial disappearance by Indian appearance by Indian troops. As per the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons, more than 8,000 Kashmiris went missing in custody during the past 34 years, it added.

The report revealed that thousands of school boys and girls were also

boys and girls were also injured by the pellets fired by Indian troops and police personnel while over a hundred including over a hundred including 19-month-old Heeba Jan, 2-year-old Nusrat Jan, Ulfat Hameed (17), Insha Mushtaq, Ifrah Shakoor (17), Shakeela Bano, Tammana (11), Shabroza Mir (16), Shakeela Begum (35) and Rafia Bano (31) lost their eye-sight due to pellet inturies.

Four-year-old Zuhra Four-year-old Zuhra Majeed was hit by pellets in her legs and abdomen after her family was tar-geted by Indian police outside their home in Qamarwari in Srinagar on

A 17-year-old Ulfat Hameed, a Class 10 stu-dent from Baramulla said,

"I used to teach sewing and tailoring to girls in my village, but not any-more. Because of the injuries, I could not write

my class 10 board exam".

A police constable and
Special Police Officer
(SPO) in July 2021 gang
raped a minor Dalit girl in Dansal area of Jammu.

The report said that the world community must wake up to contain sexual violence being perpetrat-ed by Indian forces in HOJK.

The report said that over two dozen women including Hurriyat leaders and activists like Aasiya Andrabi, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen, Insha Tariq Shah, Saima Akther, Shazia Akhter, Afrooza, Aisha Mustaq, Hina Bashir Beig and Aasiya Bano were facing illegal detention in the jails of IIOJK and New Delhi's infamous Tihar Jail. They are being victimized only for representing the right-eous demand of right to self-determination and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The report further pointed out that womenfolk are among the major-ity of the Kashmiris suffering from multiple psy-chic problems.Online



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Ameer Engr Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman talking top media.

# Pakistan, Indonesia agree to enhance economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Indonesia here on Wednesday agreed to extend full support to enhance bilateral economic cooperation between both the

countries.
During a virtual meeting.
Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Finance Minister of Indonesia, Ms Sri Mulyani discussed avenues of mutual cooperation in the economic and financial sectors to strengthen bilateral

According to press statement issued by finance ministry, Special Assistant to Prime Minister, on Finance, Tariq Bajwa, Chairman Securities and

Pakistan (SECP), Akif Saeed and senior officers from the finance division attended the On the occasion, Dar high-

lighted profound historical and brotherly relations between the two countries and shared that Pakistan attaches great impor-tance to its relations with

He expressed satisfaction over the magnitude of economic and trade and investment cooperation between the two countries.

The Indonesian Finance Minister emphasized deep rooted bilateral relation between both the countries and exchanged views to strengthen bilateral economic and trade relations with Pakistan.

She also shared various economic reforms introduced by the Indonesian government and steps taken for achieving sustainable economic develop-ment During a virtual meeting. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Finance Minister of Indonesia, Ms Sri Mulyani discussed avenues of mutual cooperation in the economic and financial sectors to strengthen bilateral According to press statement issued by finance ministry, Special Assistant to Prime Minister, on Finance, Tariq Bajwa, Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).INP

#### Imran Khan to stop spreading chaos & anarchy

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin telecommunication syed Affin Ul Haque on Wednesday said former Prime Minister Imran Khan was spreading chaos and anarchy in the country to achieve his political motives. "The general election will be

held in time and you will get a chance to prove your popularity. Just stop it for now and let the people of Pakistan live peacefully... enough is enough Khan Sahib," the minister said while taking exception to the PTI leadership's behavior especially after the removal of its government in April 2022.

Addressing a news confer-ence, Amin said Imran Khan should show some patience and

consult genuine workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) before taking any decision. Imran Khan was confused and unable to take any decision and due to this confusion, the future of entire country was at stake, he

He said Imran Khan needed to adopt a clear and categorical policy so that the political and democratic process in the coun-try could move forward. The country had already been facing political and economic crises and that too was due to wrong economic policies pursued by the PTI government during its

The minister said Imran Khan came into power with a promise to provide 5 million houses and

10 million jobs to the masses, but he failed to do so during his four-year government tenure which was marred by corruption

and economic turmoil.

He said the country's aviation industry bore billions of rupee losses just due to one statement of Imran Khan's cabinet members on the floor of house regarding the pilots. Wheat and sugar crises were among the other blunders of Imran Khan's government which failed to pro-vide relief to the masses especially in Karachi Imran Khan did not spend a single day in Karachi from where his party secured 14 seats in the last general election, he said, adding nothing substantial relief was given to the masses.INP

## Five wheat smuggling bids foiled

RAWALPINDI: The authorities concerned of Food Department Rawalpindi and Police are monitoring district exit points 24/7 to control wheat smuggling and man-aged to foil five bids here on Wednesday and recovered 1,621

According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Potohar Division police conducted raids in different areas and round-ed up five accused namely Naseeb Badshah, Ayaz, Azam Shah, Fazal

and Sarfraz on recovery of 1,621 wheat and flour bags.

He informed that the accused were trying to illegally ship out wheat and flour out of Rawalpindi division.

wheat and flour out of Rawalpindi division.

He said, the Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi and City Police Officer were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids.INP

#### Islamabad High Court (IHC) **Dismisses Plea Against Aurat** March

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday dismissed a petition against the permission of 'Aurat March' after declaring the same as nonmaintainable.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq announced the verdict which was earlier reserved after hearing arguments from the petitioner's

Petitioner's lawyer Nazakat Hussain Advocate said that the state's religion was islam as per the Article-II of the constitution. He said that the district administration Islamabad had also ignored the Article-16 while granting the permission of the said march.

He said objectionable sentences used to be written on placards carried by the marchers The chief justice remarked that whether the con-stitution had not given right of march to the citizens. The lawyer said that the law had imposed some restrictions in freedom of assembly, adding that such activities were not allowed an Islamic

After hearing arguments, the court first reserved its judgment and later dismissed the case INP



QUETTA: National party central; leader Muhammad Ramzan along with ex MPA Yasmeen Lehri addressing a press conference.

#### Sahir Ludhianvi was remembered on 102nd birth anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Legendary poet and lyricist Sahir Ludhianvi was remembered on his 102nd birth anniversary here Wednesday for his stirring poetry that res-onated deeply with young people, as well as his literary contribu-tions to the film indus-

Ludhianvi is considered one of the most prominent poets of the progressive movement and his unique ability to blend romance and protest in his writing helped give a new direction to the movement's poetry.

Born in Ludhiana in 1921, Ludhianvi was named Abdul Hai and grew up in his maternal home after his mother separated from his

ISLAMABAD

Hurriyat

Speakers at a seminar organized by the All

Conference Azad Jammu

and Kashmir (APHC-

AJK) chapter in Islamabad, today,

expressed serious con-

cern over the atrocities committed by Indian

troops on women in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The seminar organized by the APHC-AJK at its

father due to a custody dispute. Ludhianvi attended Malwa Khalsa school, where he developed a passion for poetry, and later enrolled at Government

College, Ludhiana. In 1944, Ludhianvi published his first collection of "Talkhiyan," poetry, which quickly became a best-seller. He later moved to Lahore and became the editor of Adab-e-Latif, a popular literary magazine, as well as other publications.

Ludhianvi's friend invited him to write a song for the film "Azadi Ki Rah Par," which led Ludhianvi to move to Bombay to pursue a career as a vricist.

He eventually found success working with

The speakers said the Kashmiri women are

bravely facing the worst Indian brutalities. They

deplored that the Indian

forces' personnel were

using rape as a weapon of

war to subdue the resolve

of the Kashmiri women

Kunanposhpora mass rape and rape and murder of two women in Shopian

Speakers of APHC-AJK seminar express concern

over Indian atrocities on women in IIOJK

composer SD Burman, and the duo went on to produce many memo-rable songs for films. Ludhianvi's expansive range of poetic motifs is unmatched, and his political, romantic, psychological, and rev-olutionary poetry con-tinues to resonate with

readers today. Ludhianvi's contributions to literature and film industry the earned him numerous awards, including the Padma Shri in 1971, the Soviet Nehru Award in 1973, and the Filmfare Award for Best Lyricist in 1964

Today, Ludhianvi's legacy lives on through his timeless poetry and the enduring impact he made on Indian literature and culture.INP

have been subjected to

forced disappearance by Indian troops and police

since 1989. The speakers said

Indian troops have blind-

ed hundreds of Kashmiri women and girls with pellet guns. Many women including Hurriyat lead-ers and activists like

Aasiya Andrabi, Naheeda Nasreen and Fehmeeda

Sofi remain lodged in dif-ferent jails of IIOJK and India, they said.

The speakers paid rich tribute to the Kashmiri women who have ren-

dered unparalleled sacri-fices in the Kashmir free-

## **PAC Urges Politicians** Not To Criticize

National Institutions ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee PAC) on Wednesday urged the politicians and other individuals not to criticize and mock the national institutions for personal motives and advantages.

PAC Chairman Noor Alam Khan, chairing the meeting, said the parliamentarians in United Kingdom (UK) and United States of America (USA) never ever level allegations and criticize their supreme institutions.

He urged the politicians belonging to various political parties to contribute their services to promote and project soft image of the country interna-

The chairman further directed that nobody should blame and criticize the country's supreme institu-tions. "The PAC has written a letter to relevant authorities of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to brief about the matter in the up-coming meeting," he added. The PAC directed the authorities concerned of the

Culture Division to hold a workshop to educate their staffers about rules and regulations for smooth functioning of official business.INP

#### **India committing worst** state terrorism in IIOJK: Mishal Malik

ISLAMABAD: Mishal Malik, wife of Jailed Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik on Wednesday lamented that India was committing the worst state terrorism and violence against millions of Kashmiri innocent Women including young girls in the Indian illegal-ly occupied Jammu and

Kashmir (IIOJK). Sashmir (IIOJK).

She expressed these words on the occasion of International Women's day being celebrated today across the world including Pakistan.

Talking to a private news channel, she said women's suffering had been doubled in IIOJK

women's suffering had been doubled in HOJK due to the consequences of the latest India offensive, as they have been

sure on India to give the

Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

Mahmood Ahmad Saghar, Meher-un-Nisa, Syed Yousuf Naseem, Sheikh Abdul Mateen,

Benazir Khan, Raja Khadim Hussain, Sheikh

Abdul Majid, Qazi Imran, Zahid Ashraf, Dawood Yousafzai and

Imtiaz Wani The seminar organized by the APHC-AJK at its office on the

occasion of International Women's Day, today, was presided over by the Convener, Mahmood

Convener, Mahmood Ahmed Saghar while for-

Benazir

Published by Asim khan at C-7 Kabir Building Printed at AlSaeed Printing Press Mando Khail Plaza Mission Road Quetta

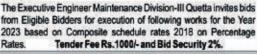
The speakers included

enduring hard and com-plicated living conditions. She said that besides sexual violence, the Kashmiri women had been suffering psycholog-ical and physical horrors at the hands of brutal Indian troops. "Day by day, conditions of Kas hmiri women in HOIK

hmiri women in IIOJK are going from bad to worse," she added INP



TENDER NOTICE



Name of Work/s DEMOLISHAND REHABILITATION OF GOVT 34,338,000/-BOYS H/SCHOOL BRWERY ROAD, QUETTA

TSE-222303264843 Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed Assignment of similar nature of work. Turnover of at least 24,036,600 PKR amount in 5 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 27 March, 2023 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 27 March, 2023 till 11:00 AM . Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under- signed at 12:00 PM Address: Office of The Executive Engineer Maintenance Division-III Email: QA4543@bppra.gob.pk

PRQ No2832/8-3-2023

MAINTENANCE DIVISION-III QUETTA



QUETTA: Mulana Wali Muhammad Turabi addressing a press conference.

## 2200 women trained on different vocational skills

MUZAFFARGARH: Qasr-e-Behbood, a facility working under the umbrella of the social welfare department, has so far trained 2200 women on different vocational skills to help them earn a livelihood in a dignified manner.

This was stated by Qasr-e-Behbood's manager at a ceremony organized to celebrate international women's day where Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Abbas Sherazi

acknowledged women's role in nation-building as pivotal and of paramount

importance
Speaking at the ceremony as chief guest, DC said, last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) had advised people to treat women

with respect. He high-lighted the need for taking advantage of skills and talent of women for economic development.

He said, women in Muzaffargarh district Muzaffargarh district were active in almost all spheres and promised steps to facilitate INP

#### TENDER NOTICE

Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. The Executive Engineer-Road, CW, PP&H Department District Kech invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates:-Tender Fee Rs.2000/-

S.# Name of Work

1- REHABILITATION/CONSTRUCTION OF 263,550,000.00 BLACK TOPPING OF ZUBAIDAJALAL ROAD 111 KM (VARIOUS PORTIONS) DISTRICT KECHTSE-222303265323

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 184,485,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-3 and above (Upto 500 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), CE01-(i) (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure ). Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 27th March, 2023 till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Executive Engineer-Road CW,PP&H Department District Kech Phone No.: - 03242555109 Fax No: 0852-412011 Email: executiveengineerkech@gmail.com

PRQ No2827/8-3-2023

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-ROAD CW, PP&H DEPARTMENT. TURBAT

#### as examples. The speakers said the Indian soldiers have martyred husbands of thousands of women in fake encounters in IIOJK, rendering them widows. They said there are thousands of women who office on the occasion of International Women's Day, today, was presided over by the Convener, Mahmood Ahmed Saghar while former Deputy Speaker of AJK dom movement. They appealed to the UN, OIC mer Deputy Speaker of AJK Legislative sands of women who have no information about their husbands who Legislative Meher-un-Legislative Assembly, Meher-un-Nisa, was spe-Assembly, Nisa.INP and the international community to put pres-

The ceremony was attended by a large number of women representing various segments of the Society

mostly belonging to the academic sector.

Speakers underlined the importance of the role of women in all sections of society and said, "No

healthy society can emerge without the vibrant role of woman in different capacities, especially as a responsible mother, sister, and daughter bearing due intellect in different fields of their respective choic-

Speakers strongly condemned the continued trag-ic incidents of molestation including rape and killing of innocent Kashmiri women by the Indian occupa-tional forces in bleeding India illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir (IIOJK) in the wake of the

increased acts of state terrorism for their "offense" of launching struggle for the liberation of the motherland from Indian forced and unlawful rule.

Speakers called upon the United Nations (UN) and international human rights organizations to immediately intervene to stop the Indian atrocities against innocent Kashmiris including women, in

The celebration of the day reminds to promote and raise awareness about the equal importance and sta-

tus of women folk, at par with male members, at all times in society – since the importance of the role of lady members in any of the society could not be set aside and the equal rights, dignified status, respect and honor of women was imperative in all respect, the speakers observed.

# BRI created 420,000 jobs, lifted 40 million people out of poverty: Chinese FM

BEIJING: In the past decade, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has galvanized nearly \$1 trillion, launched over 3,000 cooperation projects, created over 420,000 jobs, and lifted 40 million people out of poverty, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said here at a press conference on the sidelines of the first session of the 14th National

He said that the Belt and Road Initiative has attracted the participation of over three-fourths of countries in the world and 32 international organizations

"Ten years after its inception, BRI has created an array of national landmarks, livelihood projects, and milestones of cooperation", he said according to Gwadar Pro.

"The China-Laos Railway helps make land-locked Laos a land-linked country. Luban Workshops help young people in over 20 countries acquire vocational skills.

The China-Europe Railway Express has completed more than 65,000 freight services, serving as a health train delivering medical supplies during the pandemic", he further specified.

This year, China will host the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. "We will take this as



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with Arif Ur Rehman, Managing Director, Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim Limited (FFBL), at the Finance Division.

#### PEMRA imposes ban on coverage of PTI rallies

LAHORE: Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) on Wednesday imposed banned on coverage of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rally.

PEMRA issued a notification on Wednesday [March 08] and imposed a ban on the PTI election rallies on all satellite TV channels with immediate effects.

sateme I v Chamlels with Immediate effects.

In this regard, PTI vice president Fawad Chaudhry stated on his social media platform that, "Media has been banned to cover police brutality on protestors, Punjab is under East India Company and Mohsin Naqvi new Gen Dair of Punjab."INP

#### Two more tests positive for coronavirus in Rawapindi

RAWALPINDI: Two more people were diagnosed with Coronavirus dur-ing the last 24 hours, raising the dis-trict's tally of confirmed cases to 47,772

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Wednesday, the infected cases included 44,125 from Rawalpindi and 3,647 from other districts.

Among the new cases, one of each case had arrived from Rawal town and the Rawalpindi Cantonment area. "Presently, four confirmed patients are quarantined at homes while no one at any district health facility", the report

The report further said that 7,006,011 people, including 44,790 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive

launched on March 10, 2021. In addition, District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 261 samples were collected, out of which 259 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.76 per cent.INP

#### Police Issue 44,952 General Verification Certificates In 2023

ISLAMABAD: Police facilitation centres of Islamabad district facilitated the citizens with different services and issued over 44,952 character cer-tificates in 2023, a police spokesman

According to police, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan has directed to ensure maximum facilitation and services to citizens with the main objective of minimizing the gap between public

and the police.

Police facilitation centers, the source said, received 45,458 applications for general police verification certificates during the ongoing year.

As many as 44,952 certificates were issued to far.

issued so far. The applicants have to bring original NICs for general police verification certificates. Residential proof or rental agreement is produced in case of local address is not mentioned on NIC of address is not mentioned on

NIC of an applicant.
Police mobile facilitation vans along with police stations are also providing various services while facilita-tion centers are working in various sectors including F-6, G-10/4, H-11, Bani Gala, Swan Garden and Khanna. The source said that well-trained

staff has been appointed at facilitation centers who are providing the best services to Pakistani nationals and foreigners. Such steps would improve the trust of the people in the police, he added INP

#### KP Governor 'fails' to announce date for election

PESHAWAR: Pakhtunkhwa governor Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday failed to announce the election date in KP.

The consultative meeting between the governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was

held in Islamabad to determine the date of the polls in the province.

The meeting did not yield any results as the KP governor and the ECP failed to determine the date of the elections, the sources said. They fur-ther said the INP

#### ANF recovers over 97 kg drugs in four operations; arrests two

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered over 97 kg drugs while conducting four operations and arrested two accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that ANF foiled a

bid to smuggle drugs from Quetta to Punjab and recovered 50 kg charras from the possession of a drug smuggler resident of Faisalabad

In another operation at Port Qasim, ANF recovered 43 kg charras and one kg Ice drug booked for Dubai. The drugs were concealed tactfully in machinery.

The spokesman informed that in the third operation, a raid was conducted in Faisal Town Lahore and ANF managed to net a female drug trafficker resident of Toba Tek Singh on recovery of 3.6 kg

Ice drug.
In the fourth operation, ANF recovered 150 grams of weed

from a parcel booked for America at International Mail Office, Sialkot Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added. He informed that ANF foiled a bid to smuggle drugs from Quetta to Punjab and recovered 50 kg charras from the possession of a drug smuggler resident of Faisalabad. In another operation at Port Oasim. another operation at Port Qasim. ANF recovered 43 kg charras and one kg Ice drug booked for Dubai. The drugs were concealed tactful-

ly in machinery.
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#### NADRA' playing pivotal role to empower women in digital age: Chairman

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Database Registration Authority, Tariq Malik Wednesday said that NADRA was playing a pivotal role to empower Pakistani women in the digital age by ensuring their social, economic and political rights and providing them with computerised national identity

cards (CNIC).
"NADRA is the only organisation that has provided equal opportunities to the women to get higher seats and be a part of the organisation", he said while talking to the PTV news. In this regard, 204 females officers have been made in-charge of NADRA

registration centres. A number of initiatives have been taken for social, political and economic empowerment women, he said, adding, the gov-ernment is determined to mainstream women's issues in its poli-

"CNIC has been made mandatory to get registered in voters list and vote casting, he said, adding, women's right to vote can only be ensured by having a copy of CNIC. He highlighted that with public awareness NADRA was providing technical advice about gender equality and empower-

ment of women.

He said NADRA had set up 19
women-only centres and 222
mobile registration vans across the country, adding, women drivers, security guards and female staff were being appointed in NADRA offices.INP

#### WMC holds student-enrollment ceremony for MBBS, **BDS** fresh sessions

ISLAMABAD: Watim Medical & Dental College (WMC) on Wednesday held a ceremony to enroll students in its fourth session of Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and for the 7th batch of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)

Dental Surgery (BDS). Former AJK Secretary Health Hormer AJK Secretary Health Major General (Retd.) Tariq Hussain was the chief guest and President of AJK Central Bar Association Raja Aftab Ahmed participated in the event titled "White Coat Ceremony" as a guest of honor.

A large number of pacific

A large number of people, including parents of the enrolled students, WMC faculty members, College Chairman Prof. Dr Abdur Rasheed Mian, Principal WMCR Prof. Dr Major General (Retd.) Muhammad Ahmed and Principal WDCR Prof. Dr Mohtada Hassan

also attended the ceremony. The college has enrolled around 100 students for MBBS and 50 for

BDS classes.

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest Major General (Retd.) Tariq Hussain said stepping into the field of medicine and dentistry was an important milestone in the lives of the students.

He said this White Coat Ceremony indicated that the students were entering a profession

dents were entering a profession that was 'honourable' by all that was means, advising future doctors always remain polite and kind to patients."Doctor-Patient relationship is of prime importance. When you talk to a patient, took yourself in his place, think and feel his/her

pain and the agony from which he or she suffering," he said. After becoming a doctor, Tariq Hussain asked the students never to ignore the family and attendants of the patients because they were also going through the same agony and pain."Don't expect the behavior of a normal person from patient or attendant because INP

Responding to a question on the so-called "debt trap", Qin said, "China should be the last one to be accused of the so-called debt trap Data show that multi-lateral financial institutions and commercial creditors account for more than 80 percent of the sovereign debt of developing countries. They are the biggest source of debt burden on developing coun-

an opportunity and work with relevant parties for more fruitful outcomes from the Belt and Road cooperation",

Particularly last year, the unprecedented rapid interest rate hikes by the US have led to massive capital outflows in many countries and worsened the debt problems in the countries concerned". He told the audience that China has been making efforts to help the countries in distress, and is the biggest contributor to G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI). 'China will continue to participate constructively in the resolution of international debt issues. Meanwhile, we call on other parties to act together and share the burden fairly. When parties sit together and talk things through, there will be more solutions than problems", he added INP

#### 'International Women's Day' observed in AJK

MIRPUR (AJK): Like the rest of the world, 'International Women's Day' was also observed in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) on Wednesday. The purpose of celebrating the day is to ensure due empowerment, safeguard equal rights and digni-fied status, and maintain high respect, bonor, and

fied status, and maintain high respect, honor, and dignity of the women folk at par with the opposite gender in all segments of society. Special ceremonies including walks, seminars,

and symposiums were observed across AJK in con-nection with the day with the resolution to maintain the equal rights and status of the females who have reached about 51 percent of the total population of the country irrespective of any discrimination of gender besides maintaining their respect, honor, and dignity to ensure the maximum utilization of the tal-ent and abilities of the women folk for the betterment and uplift of the country and the nation.

The day is observed on March 8 every year since the year 1900 across the globe in light of the charter under the manifesto of the United Nations (UN) to highlight the importance of women's role in society.

highlight the importance of women's role in society. Several ceremonies were also held to celebrate Universal Women's Day under the auspices of various local NGOs of Women and the state-run women's development institution.

Addressing a gathering at Azad Kashmir Radio Mirpur complex, held on Wednesday to mark the day, the speakers including Producer Khushbakht Jameel, seasoned educationist Soniya Khan, Aaliya Syed, eminent women cricket coordinator, banker Madhya Syed and others highlighted the role model of eminent women social workers engaged in serv-

of eminent women social workers engaged in serv-ing the ailing humanity besides the uplift of the women in different sectors of life on self-help basis.

Pakistani rupee loses ground against us dollar in interbank

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee depreciat-ed against the US dollar in the interbank market on Wednesday after witness-ing a slight recovery in

the past two sessions.

According to the State
Bank of Pakistan (SBP),
the Pakistan rupee weakened by Rs 1.26 against
the dollar in the interbank trading to close at Rs 279.12 against the previ-ous day's closing of Rs 277.86

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 278.2 and Rs 281 respectively INP

#### Sindh govt announces to launch FM channel

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to set up FM radio chan-nel for the swift dissemination of accurate infor-mation about any emergency situation, including traffic accidents and ter-rorist activities.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the provincial information lepartment Minister Information Sharjeel Inam Memon in the chair.

The meeting was attended by Information Secretary Nadeem-ur-Secretary Nadeem-ur-Rehman Memon, direc-tors Muhammad Yousuf Kabooro, Imtiaz Joyo, Hassan Asghar Naqvi and others INP

PEMRA ban: LHC judge rescues himself from hearing Imran khan's plea

LAHORE IORE: Lahore Court's (LHC) Shahid Bilal on Wednesday High Justice Hassan on Wednesday recused himself from hearing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's plea challenging PEMRA's ban on airing his speeches.

Justice Shahid Hassan referred the matter to the LHC chief Justice, requesting to fix it to another bench.

Former prime minister Hassan

Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan had challenged the PEMRA notification to ban his live speeches tele-cast in LHC.INP

## They added that the role of women in the progress and prosperity and uplift of any nation and the country could be primarily imperative side by side with the male members of the society.INP Maryam Nawaz demands court martial of Faiz Hameed

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) senior vice president Maryam Nawaz has demanded the court martial of former DG ISI Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Retired Faiz Hameed. Talking to media persons, Maryam Nawaz alleged that Faiz Hameed had played role in toppling the PML-N government for two years and backing PTI chief Imran Khan's government which brought destruction to the country.

She said that Faiz Hameed must see

She said that Faiz Hameed must see his court martial for his unconstitutional role and exemplary punishment should be given to him.
Maryam Nawaz also declared chief

justice Saqib Nisar 'the biggest criminal of the nation'. She alleged that Saqib Nisar had imposed a 'characterless per-

The PML-N chief organiser claimed that the nation cannot see development and prosperity without witnessing the exemplary punishments of such charac-

Maryam added that Nisar's statement indicated that he is still active. She said that the nation knows about his [Saqib Nisar] deeds regardless of how many lies he would tell everyone.

She said that every individual will have to pay the price of the unconstitu-

tional move.

The PML-N senior vice president claimed that the 'Vote Ko Izzat Do' movement spread awareness amongst the nation which gave the biggest dent to the hybrid governance system.INP



KARACHI: Activates of Jamaat e Islami women wing hold rally in conection with Aurat Azadi March.

#### Women backbone of our family system, society, country & economy: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said the women were like the backbone of our family system, society, country and

economy in every sphere of life. In her special message on International Women's Day, the federal minister paid her tribute to the women

across the world in general and of the country in particular.

Sherry Rehman said, "I pay my respects and congratulations to the brave, hardworking and valiant women of Pakistan, including the women of the world."

The purpose of celebrating this day was to encourage women, recognize their rights and spread awareness among people regarding the equal status of women, she added.

"49% of Pakistan's population consists of women. Women across the

country should have access to health, education and other basic facilities and

an environment of equality," Sherry Rehman said.

The Minister said on this day the women in the country were not demanding more, rather asking for their human, constitutional and legal rights. Women, she said should get their rights and status according to the constitution and law so that they could lead a socially and economically digni-

"This day symbolizes the "struggle" of women. I request all my countrymen to avoid prejudices regarding this day,"

Sherry Rehman said.

The Minister dedicated this day to the country's workers, labourers and flood-affected women, and urged the countrymen to also dedicate this day to women belonging to different sectors of their home, neighborhood, society and country.

"Lets appreciate their hard work, efforts and achievements," Sherry Rehman said INP

#### CPEC recognized by WB as offering enormous opportunities to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is recognized by WB as offering enormous opportunities to Pakistan.

It has proved itself as a vital econom-

ic tonic to Pakistan by administrating those development booster shots that are revamping its infrastructure, energy, export, trade, transportation, agriculture, employment, medicine, IT, mobile technology and many more, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday With these booster shots, during the last 10 years, more than 30 projects generating direct and indirect 200,000 jobs have been completed and 200,000 jobs have been completed and more are in different phases of development, setting a tone for sustainable economic progress. Besides, more than 6,000 MW of electricity has been injected into the national grid, 809 kilometers of highway have been built and 886 kilometers of transmission lines have been installed first time in the history of Pakistan CPEC has also earned recogni-Pakistan.CPEC has also earned recogni-tion from the World Bank Report entitled "The Web of Transport Corridors in South Asia" "With investments in road, railways and ports, the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC) offers enormous potential for Pakistan to boost its economy, reduce poverty, spread benefits widely and help those likely to be affected by the new trade route, the World Bank Report says. CPEC has to be analyzed as per its

impacts and performance setting aside traditional prejudices. One thing that must be kept in mind by doomsayers is that CPEC is not a remedy for governance weaknesses, system hiccups, political instability, bureaucratic redictions and correction. Such bidgests tapism, and corruption. Such hideous dynamics are the creeping root cause behind Pakistan's limping economy.

Since its inception ten years ago, CPEC has transformed Pakistan's infrastructural landscape. According to the Ministry of Energy, by October 2022, 11 projects with a total capacity of over 6,370 MW have been completed, and an HVDC Transmission.INP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik in a group photo with participants of workshop on Local Needs Gap Analysis and Framework of Remodeled National Disaster Preparedness and Response .