

QUETTA VOICE

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Khalilzad does not speak for Biden administration: US State Dept official



IMF wants external financing commitments fulfilled to release funds, says PM Shehbaz



Green buses to be on roads within 3 months: CM Balochistan

Balochistan protests against Islamabad for delayed release of funds

Syed Ali Shah
 QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo has directed the Chief Secretary Balochistan to make sure of the launching of the green bus service in the provincial capital within three months. The CM took notice of the news item published in the Daily Quetta Voice the other day. "Green buses would be on roads of Quetta within the next three months", a well-placed official at the Chief Minister's Secretariat told this scribe. This would ensure the provision of decent traveling facilities to the citizens of Quetta, he said.



Balochistan Transport department purchased 8 buses initially to operate them to Bellili and Sariab in the first phase

The Balochistan Transport Department purchased eight buses to provide decent traveling facilities to the masses of Quetta. Initially, the department proposed purchasing 100 buses for the city. After thorough deliberations, the government decided to only purchase 8 buses because of the congested traf-

fic and other administrative problems in Quetta city. Citizens of Quetta remained deprived of decent traveling and they are forced to travel in the outdated old local buses to reach their destinations. Launching the green bus service was one of the long-standing demands of the masses of Quetta.

Staff Reporter

The Balochistan government has expressed serious concern over the delayed release of funds by the federal government under the Federal Public Sector Development Program (FPSDP) to the province. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo chaired a high-level meeting, which reviewed the pace of development projects under the provincial and federal PSDFs on Tuesday. Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Hafiz Abdul Basit, Finance Secretary Qambar Dashi, Chief Minister's Principal Secretary Imran Gichki, and other relevant officials also participated in the meeting.



Minister said that every constitutional and legal procedure will be adopted to protect the constitutional rights of the province. While giving a briefing on the progress of the development projects of the current financial year on behalf of the Planning and Development, the meeting was told that according to the budget calendar, the preparations for the development program of the next financial year have started. It has been done by the Finance Secretary to the meeting on the financial situation Briefing on the release of development funds, the Chief Minister directed to speed up the repeated assurances of the timely completion of projects, the announcements should be implemented in any case.

Every constitutional and legal procedure would be adopted: CM Bizenjo

The Chief Minister said that the Ministers of Planning and Development and Finance held meetings with the Federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal and Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on the repeated assurances of the timely completion of projects, the announcements should be implemented in any case.

Widening and construction of Sariab Road to be completed by May this year

Construction of Sariab Road and other projects would be completed within a very short span of time. The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili has also directed the concerned officials to ensure the completion of the Sariab Road by May this year. CM Balochistan has strictly directed to make the buses functional, the official stated. Although he said that the previous government had not prepared a proper feasibility report with regard to the launching of the green buses. There was no proper Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding the launching of the project, the official mentioned.

Cabinet approves bill aimed at curbing CJP's powers to take suo motu notice, constitute benches

The federal cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill aimed at curtailing the chief justice of Pakistan's (CJP) powers to take suo motu notices and constituting benches of the Supreme Court. The cabinet summary, available with Dawn.com, for the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, said the exercise of original jurisdiction by the apex court under Article 184(3) of the Constitution was a "subject of discussion by various forums". A day ago, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhal of the Supreme Court (SC) had called for revisiting the power of the "one-man show" enjoyed by the chief justice, saying that the country's top court could not "be dependent on the solitary decision of one man". The two had made the remarks in a detailed dissenting note released on Monday hours after the SC took up the



PTI's plea challenging the postponement of elections in Punjab. For the top court's March 17 verdict regarding holding elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where the two provincial assemblies have been dissolved. The two judges said the suo motu proceedings regarding the provincial elections stood dismissed by a majority of 4-3 and contended that the CJP did not have the power to restructure benches without the consent of the respective judges. Earlier today, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hailed the dissenting note as a "ray of hope" during his National Assembly speech and called for relevant legislation in its wake. Regarding the constitution of benches, the bill passed by the cabinet today states that every cause, matter or appeal before the apex court would be heard and disposed of by a bench constituted by a committee comprising the CJP and the two senior-

most judges. It added that the decisions of the committee would be taken by a majority. Regarding exercising the apex court's original jurisdiction, the bill said that any matter invoking the use of article 184(3) would first be placed before the abovementioned committee. "If the committee is of the view that a question of public importance with reference to enforcement of any of the fundamental rights conferred by Chapter 1 of Part II of the Constitution is involved, it shall constitute a bench comprising not less than three judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan which may also include the members of the committee, for adjudication of the matter," the bill reads. On appealing any verdict by an apex court bench which exercised Article 184(3)'s jurisdiction, the bill said that the appeal will lie within 30 days of the bench's order to a larger SC bench. Web Desk.

IMF wants external financing commitments fulfilled to release funds, says PM Shehbaz

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) wants external financing commitments fulfilled from friendly countries before it releases bailout funds, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday. The lender has been negotiating with Islamabad since early February to resume \$1.1 billion in funding held since November, which is part of a \$6.5 billion bailout agreed in 2019. The funding is very critical for Pakistan to unlock other international financing avenues to avert a default on its obligations with its central bank reserves falling to as low as to cover hardly four weeks of imports. "Now we are being told that the commitments from friendly countries have been fulfilled and God willing



United Arab Emirates, have made commitments to help Pakistan fund its balance of payments. An agreement would be signed once a few remaining points, including a proposed fuel pricing scheme, are settled, an IMF official said on Friday. Sharif had earlier announced the government's plan to charge affluent consumers more for fuel, with the money raised used to subsidize prices for the poor, who have been hard-hit by inflation. In February it was running at its highest in 50 years. The IMF's resident representative in Pakistan, Esther Perez Ruiz, said earlier that the government had not consulted the fund about the scheme. Web Desk.

Gujrat ATC cancels Rana Sanaullah's non-bailable arrest warrants in terrorism case

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Gujrat on Tuesday cancelled Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's non-bailable arrest warrants in a terrorism case lodged against him at Gujrat's Industrial Area police station in 2022. The Gujrat police had registered a terrorism case against Sanaullah on Aug 25, 2022, on the complaint of a local leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), Shaikh Shaikzai Aslam, for allegedly threatening the judiciary and government officials in his speeches



on April 15, 2021, and Jan 29, 2022. The police had quashed the case and submitted a report to the

into non-bailable arrest warrants when the minister failed to show up on the March 7 hearing. Accountability Judge Rana Zahid presided over the hearing today in which the interior minister's arrest warrants appeared as well. "I could not come to the court on the previous hearing due to government-related engagement," Sanaullah said. The judge subsequently cancelled the interior minister's non-bailable arrest warrants and ordered him to furnish a surety bond of Rs50,000. Web Desk.

Khalilzad does not speak for Biden administration: US State Dept official

State Department Spokesperson Vedant Patel has clarified that former US envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad did not represent the country's foreign policy and did not speak for the administration of President Joe Biden. Patel's statement came in response to a question asked during a press briefing on Monday (March 27) about Khalilzad's recent statement regarding the political situation in Pakistan. Earlier this month, Khalilzad — who had served as the special envoy for Afghan reconciliation under both the Trump and Biden administrations — had said that Pakistan was "underperforming and falling far behind" India. Pakistan faces a triple crisis: political, economic, and security. Despite great potential, it is underperforming and falling far behind its archrival, India. It is time for serious soul-searching, bold thinking, and strategising," he had remarked. The former US ambassador had also criticised Pakistan for jailing its political leaders — particularly hinting at the recent police



attempts to arrest PTI Chairman Imran Khan — and had proposed "two steps" to deal with the country's challenges the first being to set a date for general elections in early June to "avert a meltdown". Commenting on the matter in the press briefing today, Patel said that Khalilzad was a private citizen. "Any social media activity or comments or tweets that you might see, those are done in his private capacity and do not represent US foreign policy, and he does not speak for this administration," he stated in response to another question regarding the political "chaos" in Pakistan, the spokesperson responded that any implication of violence, harassment or intimidation had no place in politics. "As we do with our partners all around the world, we encourage all sides in Pakistan to respect the rule of law and allow the people of Pakistan to democratically determine their own country's leadership pursuant to their own Constitution and laws," he added Web Desk.

Hanna Urak, lush green valley attracts tourists from across Pakistan

Editor Asim Khan
Humiliating removal of 4 VCs in Balochistan

In a humiliating way, four vice-chancellors of public universities in Balochistan were removed by the Governor/Chancellor the other day. Although, violations of laws and rules are nothing new in Balochistan, the country's least-developed and resource-rich province.

Without any inquiry or investigation, the VCs of the University of Balochistan, Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Lorala University, and LaSabella Science and Marines University were removed from their positions.

Tenure of two VCs was about to expire
The sources within the Balochistan Government cited the expiry of the tenure of the two VCs as the main reason behind the removal. However, the two VCs' tenure was scheduled to be expired in September and October this year.

As per the Balochistan Universities Act 2022, the Governor has no power to remove VCs in such a way
As per the Balochistan Universities Act 2022, the government can initiate an investigation against any VC in the case of corruption, moral corruption or gross abuse of power. The government can only remove the said VC if allegations are proven against him. The Act clearly states that the VC has to be given the opportunity to defend himself against the allegations.

Whereas, Governor Malik Abdul Wali Kakar removed all with a stroke of a pen without any investigation.
Recently, there have been no prolonged tenures of the VCs like Dr. Farooq Ahmed Bazi remained the VC for 17 years of the BUITEMS. He had to be changed. We have only an objection over the humiliating way, he was removed. There had to be a dignified and respectable manner for the removal of a teacher. Yes, there were allegations of nepotism and favoritism against Mr. Bazi.

Question marks over the capacity/credibility of SBK for recruitment of teachers
The sources within the government also questioned the capacity of VC Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University. There were repeated allegations against the VC SBK. Nevertheless, the VC SBK managed to meet the Governor and brief him about her university.

The SBK has also been given the task to recruit 9000 teachers. Repeated complaints came in the process of recruitment by candidates about the SBK. Most of the institutes are skeptical about the credibility of the SBK and demand the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) conduct the recruitment process. National Party, a key Baloch nationalist party, has also demanded of the government to conduct tests and interviews through BPSC.

Teachers' posts should be given to the BPSC
No issue if agriculture posts are filled through departments or SBK. There has to be a compromise over the issue of children of the province. The government has given the task to appoint teachers. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo should also translate his words into action in this regard.

When man first began to expand his horizons, the Almighty, his top three desires have been for flowing water, blowing air, flowering flora, and pleasing scenery. Historic Hanna Urak Valley, Quetta is home to all four of these elements. One has the impression that he is enjoying life in the hereafter and that Allah has given him a piece of land as the prize for his good acts while sitting beside the crystal clear water that cascades down from the enigmatic rugged mountains.

Urak valley, a picturesque landscape surrounded by rugged mountains

Urak Valley, a place of picturesque landscape surrounded by uneven mountains in the Quetta district of Balochistan province, has a population of 15,000.

The Hana Lake, which was established by the British, in Balochistan, Urak Valley, which is 20 kilometers from Quetta. The end of it has a small waterfall. The road to the entry to the nearby Wali Tangi Dam.

It is the central home of the Pashtun Kakar tribe, who are renowned for their kindness, bravery and hospitality. High-quality apple trees are grown here, and they are exported to a number of nations.

Daily 15,000 to 20,000 tourists visit Hanna Urak

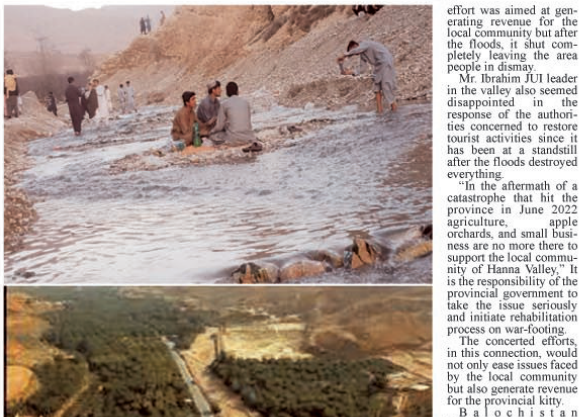
Hanna Urak Valley now has the distinction of being the only tourist point in the province with an average daily visits of between 15,000 and 20,000 tourists. The most visits have ever been recorded at any of Balochistan's tourist points.

According to Mr. Muhammad Yunus, the chief of the Hana valley, "around fifteen to twenty thousand people from all over the world, including the United Kingdom and parts of Balochistan rush to Hanna Urak Valley daily to observe the natural beauty. We have a deep connection to the place, and we always abide by the golden rules of hospitality when visitors arrive in our valley. You cannot avoid visiting Hanna Valley at least once if you are in the province. Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan."

"We are tired of tough daily schedules", tourists

"Tired of our busy schedule and daily routine, we spare time and visit Quetta to experience the beauty of the valley," Usman Ansari, a resident of the Landhi area of Karachi said. The environment is pleasing; the people are friendly unlike some of the people of northern areas of the country where not only prices of the commodities are high, but the tourists are charged per gallon.

Amcer Hamza Sarangazi, narrating the history of the valley said that before Pakistan came into being, our ancestors had inked MoU with the British rulers regarding the provision of water to the valley. The British Army stationed at Hanna Urak, the British government was charged per gallon. However, he noted that after the Independence of Pakistan, elders of the valley including Malik Nisar Khan, Malik Taj Muhammad, Haji Abdul Rahim Sarangazi and others met the then governor and agreed to continue



Urak Valley, a place of picturesque landscape surrounded by uneven mountains in the Quetta district of Balochistan province, has a population of 15,000.

The recent flash floods destroyed 75 percent of apple orchards and agricultural land, swept away road and other infrastructure, Mr. Yunus landlord of Hanna said. As road infrastructure has perished, it takes two hours to reach the Hanna valley from the entrance which used to take 30 minutes, he said lamenting that despite the passage of eight months, neither compensation to the victims were given nor steps were taken to restore the damaged infrastructure. "We are on our own, established small hotels, swimming pools, parks, and other edible spots to attract the tourists," The

As ill luck would have it, like other parts of the province, floods in 2022 caused havoc in the Hanna Valley as well.

Secretary of Tourism and Culture Manzoor Hussain said Balochistan tourism is characterized by diversity in the fields of tourism.

Balochistan has been specially blessed in terms of tourism. There are beautiful sites and I request people from the north and outside Pakistan to visit Balochistan and enjoy the beauty of nature and ensure investment in Balochistan tourism. "The resource allocation for tourism must have a government of Balochistan priority, he said adding that the government is trying to equip the picnic points with all sorts of facilities. He said special heed to Hanna Urak and other tourist points in the province. Balochistan's rich history and the distinction of being the most popular tourist destination in Balochistan. The government must address the problems affecting the local population and initiate a number of tourism initiatives in order to revive tourism in the region.

Mirror, mirror on the wall...

By Kamila Hyat
The time has come when we must ask the question: Is our nation in a mirror or a wall?

Beyond the mirror, there are really no answers, but analysis putting forward a variety of opinions, some arguing that after three years of political hardship caused by inflation, unemployment and other issues, the country will boom back and make a full recovery. Others are less optimistic and believe there is a sense of hopelessness and despondency across the country.

So, we asked the mirror if it is lost, the answer is not clear. Much depends on what future we have envisaged. Do we have any hope that there will be some sense of responsibility, and an end to the childish bickering and refusal to discuss matters together despite the immense potential of the country? We cannot say how much we are witnessing at the present time. We cannot say how much we are depending on the IMF and its ability to mobilize diplomatic opinion from the IMF. We have had to live with the reality that the next three years, at the very least, are bound to be difficult ones with us dependent on help from the outside. How much we are depending on the IMF and its ability to mobilize diplomatic opinion from the IMF. We have had to live with the reality that the next three years, at the very least, are bound to be difficult ones with us dependent on help from the outside. How much we are depending on the IMF and its ability to mobilize diplomatic opinion from the IMF.

It's all about power and energy crisis

Pakistan's power and energy crisis has reached crisis proportions. The power sector's circular debt of Rs2,377 billion compared with Rs1,400 billion in 2019. The power sector is a Rs60 billion payable to PSO speak various names of management and the unsustainable structure of power-and-energy-sector governance.

Our power sector structure is flawed – a combination of inefficient generation, sourcing, defective transmission and distribution system, poor bill recovery and demand management mechanism. The failure to plan a balanced energy mix, including an optimal mix of renewables and thermal-based and compels us to keep the sources has resulted in a disproportionate reliance on thermal-based sources of power generation is 58 per cent. The planning failure has also contributed to the present situation.

Supply side planning in Pakistan was predicted an ambitious program of generating 158 per cent growth. The lack of industrial development put paid to all optimistic projections of power consumption, resulting in a perennial imbalance between demand and supply. The total installed capacity of 43,775MW in Pakistan unfortunately has a negative impact of this imbalance is an increase

in the cost of power generation, which, for political reasons, is not passed on to end consumers and keeps piling up in the shape of circular debt. Combined with poor bill recovery and transmission and distribution losses, the volume of recurring debt keeps rising. Also, the demand side is not satisfactory. On the demand front, Pakistan needs the actual base load of 8,000MW. Due to sea-pumping, the demand often rises to 30,000MW.

It is safe to say that Pakistan uses costly power generated mostly through imported fossil fuels to cool wells and power plants at subsidized rates. This indeed is an inefficient way of using costly electricity. Not only is the temporary demand in summer spikes to 30,000MW, the solution is to use demand management – which is avoided to keep constancies happy. There could be several measures to reduce the over-capacity issue, and one of those is to increase our industrial capacity so that the present base load could be taken up from domestic sources.

The present arrangement of spending \$30 billion on capacity payments to IPPs for maintaining the capacity that political reasons, is not passed on to end consumers and keeps piling up in the shape of circular debt. Combined with poor bill recovery and transmission and distribution losses, the volume of recurring debt keeps rising. Also, the demand side is not satisfactory. On the demand front, Pakistan needs the actual base load of 8,000MW. Due to sea-pumping, the demand often rises to 30,000MW.

It's all about politics

Our politicians are deeply and inherently divided. Our judiciary is divided. Our state institutions are divided. Our journalists are also divided. We have divided along political lines. Red alert, we are divided like never before. Someone intelligent once said, "It's all about politics." Politics is where the story really begins. Our democracy-loving politicians do not consider each other as democratic rivals. They are all democratic competitors. They all want to send their opponents to disease-infected prison cells. They want to annihilate each other and obliterate one another.

Here's a proven formula: a formula that has also stood the test of time: political instability results in economic stagnation, unemployment, and inflation. Political stability results in economic growth, employment, and deflation. Here's a proven formula: a formula that has also stood the test of time: political instability results in economic stagnation, unemployment, and inflation. Political stability results in economic growth, employment, and deflation.

Pakistan excuses itself from attending US democracy summit

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has chosen not to participate in the democracy summit taking place in Washington this week, opting instead to engage with the United States on a bilateral basis to encourage democratic values. The virtual summit, led by the United States, China and Turkey have not been invited to the summit.

The issue of Pakistan's participation in the Second Summit for Democracy in the US had been under discussion for some time, particularly because it could potentially upset its all-weather

United States. Under the Biden Administration, this relationship has widened and expanded substantially. We remain committed to further solidifying this relationship for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region," the statement said.

Explaining the rationale for not taking part in the summit, the FO said Pakistan had not been part of the summit process that commenced in 2021 and required countries to make certain commitments. INP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Tajikistan Faizal Ahmad Ramar, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Fazal Cloth Mills' sales increase, but profits fall in HFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Fazal Cloth Mills sales increased 27% to Rs36.49 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year 2022-23 (1HFY23) from Rs28.7 billion over the same period of last year, reports WealthPK.

After deducting depreciation cost of Rs865 million, the company reported an after-tax profit of Rs1.075 billion (pre-tax profit of Rs1.88 billion) in HFY23 as opposed to an after-tax profit of Rs3.13 billion (pre-tax profit of Rs3.35 billion) in HFY22 with Rs797 million depreciation cost.

The company produced earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of Rs4.77 billion in HFY23 compared to Rs5.23 billion in HFY22.

Performance in 2021-22: During the fiscal year 2021-22, the company's gross sales leapt to Rs65.4 billion from Rs58 billion in FY21, posting an increase of 25% year-on-year. The gross profit for FY22 stood at Rs11.2 billion, 40% up from Rs8 billion in FY21.

Xi's Moscow visit setting example for cooperation between major countries

Islamabad: Pakistani officials and experts have termed Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Russia significant and looked forward to deeper cooperation and improved bilateral ties between the two countries as well as their greater contributions to world development.

In an interview with Gwadar Pro, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed called Xi's visit to Moscow an assertion of China's more assertive, proactive and confident role in global affairs, following up on China's historical, successful mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia,

which has totally rattled and shaken the West. Political economist and CEO Asian Institute of Eco-civilisation Research and Development Shakeel Ahmad Ramar termed the meeting very significant globally as well as bilaterally.

He said, "on bilateral fronts it shows that two great powers can co-exist in peace, as neighbours, and can pursue the dream of sustainable development and peace, without creating any conflict." On the global front, the meeting indicates that the world is no longer unipolar. The world has become multipolar, and the process has accelerated

Circularity Gap Report urges Pakistan to focus on food safety, energy efficiency: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: In its Circularity Gap Report 2023, the Circularity Gap Reporting Initiative (CGRI) has urged Pakistan to focus on food safety, energy efficiency, and industry to improve its economy.

The report states that if the current levels of material consumption are not altered, the planetary boundaries of freshwater consumption, stratospheric ozone depletion, and atmospheric aerosol loading may overshoot sometime in the future.

Food on the table for its people. The average need of a healthy diet is 2600 calories per day. Pakistan needs to shift from meat, fish and dairy to fruits, vegetables, nuts and cereals.

The report by the global think-tank has categorised the countries of the world into Build, Grow and Shift countries. Build countries are those which are low-income, low on Human Development Index (HDI), and struggle to meet the basic needs of health and education. Pakistan falls in the Build category.

As for bio-diversity loss, climate change, land system change, and chemical pollution, they have already overshoot their limits and are threatening the balance of the essential systems of the planet Earth.

Also, Pakistan needs to reuse waste in the development of infrastructure with special emphasis on prioritising the use of cement and steel. INP

Police arrest 14 for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted 14 accused for possessing illegal weapons.

According to a police spokesman, Rattar of Pirwahai, Rwp Cantt, R A Bazar, Race Course, Civil Lines, Taxila, Saddar Wah, Jattic Dhanial, Rawat, and Alar Syedan police rounded up 14 accused named Muhammad Umar, Asmatullah, Shaheel, Saib, Farwad, Arslan, Babar Nawaz, Nasrullah, Faisal ur Rehman, Numan, Rizwan, Ibrahim, Ghulam Sarwar and Safer Ali and recovered two 9mm pistols, nine 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession.

The SSP said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against the lawbreakers and operations against aerial firing and illegal weapon holders would continue. INP

PM, NA Speaker discuss legislation, political situation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Tuesday discussed the legislative agenda and its significant role in the country's progress, prosperity and administrative affairs.

Condition to bring CNICs to utility stores withdrawn

ISLAMABAD: The condition to bring CNIC for buying the subsidized items at Utility stores withdrawn on Tuesday.

Digital tech to help transform fisheries resources: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's fisheries sector faces uncountable problems because of poor management and lack of technical and operational advancement. The country needs digital tools with a vision to enhance trade and promote the protection and conservation of marine environment for future generations, said Dr. Faiz Muhammad, Assistant Professor at the Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology, University of Karachi while talking to WealthPK.

The coasts of Pakistan are inhabited by many commercially important species of shrimps, crabs, lobsters and fish. There are about 70 species of fish, namely Spangled Emperor, Red Snapper,

the nation over the past years. So, data on fisheries resources is essential to formulating plans and strategies for conservation and management of the fisheries.

He said involving the fisheries staff and fishing communities in data collection will significantly contribute towards bridging the knowledge gaps, improving our understanding of fisheries abundance in the coastal areas and protecting and conserving the marine environment. In this regard, the WWF-Pakistan with the support of Engro Foundation has created the first-ever Mobile Application for Fisheries Data Collection in Pakistan, which now needs to be mainstreamed at the policy level. INP

IUUI placed among 51-100 universities globally in subject-based QS rankings

Islamabad: International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) has been named as one of the world's top universities and placed among 51-100 in the subjects of Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies and first time it placed at 351-400 in Mathematics across the world in the latest edition of the world's most consulted university rankings QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) by subject, according to the recent data released by the QS management.

Earlier, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) was ranked on 241 position in QS Asia University Rankings 2023 as well as IIUI was placed at 48th position in QS Southern Asia University Rankings 2023 by QS.

Govt should take strict action against hoarders, brokers: ICICI

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Tuesday said if the government wants to control the prices it will have to bring hoarders and big brokers to the book.

In a statement, Butt said all the provincial governments form special teams and take action against the influential hoarders the prices will fall immediately but the politicians will not let it happen.

Butt said at the advent of Ramadan, a new wave of inflation has come across the country as the prices of flour, rice, pulses, and various types of vegetables have been increased and the price of fruits has been increased by two to four hundred percent.

The continued increase in the price of necessities proves the weakness or collusion of the administration, he observed. INP



QUETTA: A view of traffic struck during iftar time in provincial capital.



QUETTA: A worker busy in baking bread in a traditional oven (tandoor) for customers.

China-led AIIB to support Pakistan and other most vulnerable countries: Jin Liqun

Islamabad: "While liquidity continues to tighten, we need to help those countries that are insolvent. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) stands ready to support the world's most vulnerable countries, and we have increased our multilateral assistance to the countries including Pakistan."

In addition, we are considering post-earthquake support for Turkey," said AIIB President Jin Liqun, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Tuesday.

During the China Development Forum 2023, Jin said that the international community is confronted with multiple risks and challenges. Prolonged high inflation,

tight labour markets and spillover effects from the global commodity price increases are likely to keep central banks tightening monetary policy all over the world.

"At the same time, supportive policies during the pandemic have led to higher government debt, overshooting in risks, and bond prices falling globally," said Jin.

For those developing countries, higher uncertainty means a change in investors' risk tolerance. Jin believes that amid such pessimism, more investment is needed, especially in the first quarter. The development bank will continue to firm up infrastructure financing conditions for long-term economic growth,

NESTLE's revenue cranks up to Rs41.5bn in 4QFY22: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Nestle Pakistan Limited's revenue cranked up to Rs41.5 billion in the fourth quarter of the Fiscal Year 2022 compared with Rs37.1 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The gross profit, likewise, registering a 13.17% increase during the 4QFY22, reached Rs11 billion from Rs9.6 billion in the corresponding period of 4QFY21.

The profit before tax shot down by 10.01% to Rs4 billion in 4QFY22 from Rs5 billion in 4QFY21.

The after-tax profit decreased to Rs3.66 billion in 4QFY22 from Rs4.6 billion in 4QFY21.

Despite the challenging situations, the company managed to retain its creditability as a consistent supplier to the Pakistani market.

International palm oil prices dropped by over 24% in the 1st quarter. This price drop resulted in a fall in local oil prices. In addition, the

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to this office tenders published in daily Newspaper vide PRO No.2875/10-03-2023 dated: 11-03-2023 and PRO No.2876/10-03-2023 dated: 11-03-2023

The said tenders are hereby amended/updated upto 03-04-2023 due to ambiguous Evaluation Criteria and the date of technical Bid Opening will be 03-04-2023. All the bidders who submit their bids earlier should submit their bids again on amended evaluation criteria. All the other terms and conditions will remain same.

Executive Engineer, Buildings P&P Department, District, Duki

PRO No.3112/28-3-2023



BANGKOK: Chairman NDMA Lt General Inam Haider Malik heading sideline meetings at UNDRR during 10th annual meeting of Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD).

President calls for expansion of Pak-Tajikistan trade, economic ties

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Ali on Tuesday called for expansion of trade and economic relations with Tajikistan and said that steps should be taken to enhance trade and investment cooperation with Tajikistan for the mutual development of the two brotherly countries.

The president said this while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Tajikistan Muhammad Saeed Sarwar who called on him at Aitwan-e-Sadr.

The president mentioned that Pakistan had deep historical and cultural linkages with Tajikistan and Pakistan wanted to build enhanced, result-oriented and sustainable engagements with all the Central Asian States under its "Vision Central Asia" policy.

He underscored that Pakistan remained committed to strengthening political, economic and energy connectivity with the Central Asia and that the CASA-1000 energy project was an important component of this strategy, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president asked the ambassador to work for improving Pakistan's image, besides expanding trade, energy,

and commercial relations with the host country.

He underlined the need for establishing academic linkages between the educational institutions of both countries, adding that Pakistan was offering online and distance education through the Virtual University of Pakistan and Allama Iqbal Open University. Pak-Tajik students could benefit from it by getting access to their educational content. The president also stressed upon the need for highlighting the anti-minority and anti-Muslim policies of India as well as the atrocities being committed by the Indian Security Forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The president congratulated Muhammad Saeed Sarwar on his appointment as Pakistan's ambassador to Tajikistan and urged him to work for further cementing bilateral relations with the brotherly country of Tajikistan. The president said this while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Tajikistan Muhammad Saeed Sarwar who called on him at Aitwan-e-Sadr. The president mentioned that Pakistan and Tajikistan and Pakistan wanted to build enhanced, result-oriented and sustainable engagements with all the Central Asian States under its "Vision Central Asia" policy. I.N.P.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif address the National Assembly session.

Govt contemplates legislation to limit CJP's suo motu powers

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has contemplated legislation to bar the suo motu powers of the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP).

The federal government decided to go for immediate legislation under judicial reforms which would bar the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) from solely exercising the suo motu powers. Media reports said that the new legislation will stop CJP from solely using the suo motu powers, moreover, it will also modify the law regarding petitions against the suo motu notices. It was learnt that the government is mulling to give powers to the full court for taking suo motu notice.

It added that the government is also considering to change law for the constitution of Supreme Court (SC) benches. I.N.P.

Nepra likely to jack up power tariff by Rs 6 per unit

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is likely to increase the electricity tariff by Rs6 per unit on account of two month fuel adjustment (MFA) for K-electric consumers.

According to details, the federal government has filed a petition with NEPRA seeking a hike in electricity tariff by Rs6 per unit under fuel monthly adjustment.

The power tariff will increase by Rs4.45 per unit on account of monthly fuel adjustment (MFA) and Rs 1.55 on the previous year's MFA. The decision to increase the power tariff is to maintain the power tariff and the additional recoveries will be made in June this year. I.N.P.

Rana Sanaullah denies issuing life threat to anyone

GUJRANWALA: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday said, he did not issue life threat but talked of the political existence.

He was talking to media in Gujranwala today after attending hearing of a case against him in an anti-terrorism court (ATC) here.

Interior Minister said that Imran Khan and democracy could not walk side by side. "His political being should be removed from Pakistan's politics with the power of vote," Sanaullah said.

Federal minister said that Imran Khan being given bail on wholesale. "He should be made accountable for using insulting language against judiciary and political opponents," he said.

He said general elections will be held on 8th October this year simultaneously in the four provinces as well as in centre under the caretaker setup. I.N.P.

Man shot dead in Soddar area

RAWALPINDI: A man was shot dead and three others were injured in a firing incident at Hathi Chok in Soddar area of Rawalpindi Cantt on Tuesday.

A police spokesman said according to initial reports, some unknown gunmen resorted to firing, killing Azam Khan on the spot and injuring fired and injured Raja Sajid, Haider Shah and Abu Bakr.

The superintendent of Police (SP) Potohar Malik Tariq Mehboub said evidence was collected from the crime scene. Investigation was underway from all angles, and the accused involved in the incident would be arrested and brought to justice, he added.

Police Officer Syed Khalid Mahmood Hamdani took notice of the firing incident and directed the SP Potohar for the early arrest of the accused. I.N.P.

Punjab CM resents untoward incidents at flour distribution centres

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided opening of the free flour distribution centres in Punjab from 6:00 in the morning.

A meeting chaired by Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi today fixed opening time of the free flour distribution centres at 6:00am. The ministers, secretaries will perform duties in various districts for three days. They will visit flour distribution centres to monitor the situation," Mohsin Naqvi has said.

"DPOs and deputy commissioners will also be present at centres in the morning," he said.

Caretaker CM also directed for deployment of additional police force at flour distribution centres to avoid untoward incidents. Naqvi expressed assurance over stamped and hustling incidents at flour centres in Sahiwal and other cities of the province. He directed authorities for better management of crowds at Atta centres.

The people should be guided and advised through public announcements to stand in queues," caretaker CM said. The session chaired by the Chief Minister was briefed that around 13.2 million flour sacks have been distributed across Punjab so far.

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Free flour distribution under PM's package continues in merged districts

PESHAWAR: Like other districts of the province, the free-of-charge flour continued in all seven merged tribal districts under the Prime Minister's package.

Free of cost atta (flour) was being provided to hundreds of thousands of underprivileged tribal people in Khyber, Bajaur, Mohmand, Orakzai, Kuram, North Waziristan and South Waziristan tribal district where special distribution centres and mills were established by the district administration.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bajaur Faiz Muhammad visited flour distribution centres and flour mills at Khan where he inspected the distribution process.

He checked the standard, weight and record of the flour and directed the relevant authorities to simplify the distribution process for quick dispersal of the commodity to deserving people during the holy month of Ramadan.

The ADC also directed the relevant authorities to provide free flour to elderly people, persons with disabilities and women on a priority basis. The counters were set in these districts in collaboration with the National Database Registration Authority and Districts Administration.

He said, Three bags of flour may be provided to each family simultaneously to save their time and transportation costs during the holy month. Over one million people would be benefited from the PM landmark free atta programme in the country including KP. The tribal people thanked Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for the provision of free atta to them during Ramadan and expressed the hope that the pro-people project would continue after Ramadan ul Mubarak in KP. I.N.P.

Anti-corruption Punjab summons Buzdar over graft charges

LAHORE: Anti-corruption Punjab has summoned ex-chief minister Usman Buzdar over construction of Buzdar House on the state land.

Anti-corruption department has served notice to the former PTI chief minister of Punjab to appear on March 30.

The anti-graft body has charged Usman Buzdar of illegal construction of the state land in Fort Monroe valuing hundreds of million rupees. The former CM is accused of construction of his Buzdar House at two Kanal encroached state land.

Buzdar is charged of illegal use of authority and encroachment of two kanal commercial land in connivance with government officials. Anti-corruption Punjab has also called concerned revenue officials with a notice and demanded the land record.

Usman Buzdar is charged of encroachment of the state land with forged documents and inflicting loss to the national exchequer. Recently, an accountability court (AC) barred the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) from arresting former chief minister Buzdar in assets beyond means case after hearing arguments of the counsel. The court granted interim relief to former chief minister Punjab till February 27 and restrained the bureau from his arrest. It is pertinent to mention here that the NAB Executive Board approved the recommendation of NAB to launch an investigation against Buzdar in assets beyond the means. I.N.P.

Pakistan committed to solidifying ties with U.S. for regional peace, stability: FO

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Tuesday said Pakistan remained committed to further solidifying its relationship with the United States for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Responding to media queries regarding the invitation by the U.S. to attend the Second Summit for Democracy, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said Pakistan has not been part of the Summit process, which commenced in 2021 and required countries to make certain national commitments.

"The Summit process is now at an advanced stage and therefore, Pakistan would engage bilaterally with the United States and co-hosts of the Summit to promote and strengthen democratic principles and values and work towards advancing human rights and the fight against corruption," Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra said.

"We value our friendship with the United States. Under this Biden Administration, this relationship has widened and expanded substantially," she said.

The FO spokesperson said this month, the nation is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Constitution which is the fountain of a democratic polity in Pakistan. I.N.P.

She said, "We are thankful to the United States and the co-host countries for inviting Pakistan to attend the Second Summit for Democracy being held on 29-30 March 2023."

"As a vibrant democracy, the people of Pakistan are deeply committed to democratic values, and generations of Pakistanis time after time have upheld their faith in democracy, human rights, and fundamental freedoms," she said.

"We value our friendship with the United States. Under this Biden Administration, this relationship has widened and expanded substantially," she said.

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Govt's debt for budget support exceeded Rs 2000 billion: SBP report

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) report said that the government's debt for budget support has exceeded Rs 2000 billion.

As per details, the state bank of Pakistan said that the government debt for budget support has exceeded Rs 2000 billion. The State Bank figure shows that the government has taken Rs 2260 billion from July to March while Rs 1987 billion was borrowed from commercial banks.

In the latest SBP report, Last year, in the same period the amount that the government borrowed from banks was Rs 535 billion. The companies also took a Rs 248 billion loan, this amount was Rs 911 billion last year. I.N.P.

Minister appeals CJF to form a full court bench to hear petitions regarding elections

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Farar on Tuesday appealed to Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial to form a full court bench to hear petitions regarding elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He made the appeal while speaking to media outside the Supreme Court before the hearing of a petition filed by the PTI over delay in elections. He said three major parties of the ruling coalition PMU, PPP and JUI-F had decided to become a party in the case, adding the petitions in this regard would be submitted in the apex court.

Speaking about the detailed dissenting notes of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhal in the case regarding Punjab election date, he said they vindicated his stance that the suo motu case was dismissed by 4-3.

He further said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was not bound by any decision, adding that the institution was discharging its duty under Article 218 (3) of the Constitution. He further said it was not his job to give legal advice to the electoral body.

A day earlier, the apex court, while hearing PTI's plea against delaying general elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, deferred hearing of the case till Tuesday, besides issuing notices to the ECP and federal government seeking their reply. The court also sought reply from the Punjab and KP governors by 11am on Tuesday. I.N.P.

Rupee makes minor gain against us dollar

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee (PKR) on Tuesday registered a minor gain against the US dollar in the interbank market, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) report.

The local unit gained Rs0.03 against the greenback to close at Rs283.55 in the interbank market. The greenback had closed at Rs283.58 a day earlier.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 285.2 and Rs 287 respectively. I.N.P.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Speaker National Assembly Raja Parvez Ashraf at Parliament House.

Flour distribution stampede leaves two dead, 45 injured

SAHIVAL: A stampeded during free flour distribution here left two women dead and 45 others injured.

Rescue sources said that nineteen injured persons were shifted to DHO teaching hospital Sahiwal for medical attendance. The incident took place due to mismanagement and flawed arrangements for free wheat flour distribution among under-privileged persons.

Police and district management officials rushed to the spot after report of the incident. It is pertinent to mention here that free of cost wheat flour being distributed among people under special Ramadan package announced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The package is the first of its kind aimed at facilitating the poor population.

In an earlier stampede at a flour distribution point in Faisalabad last week an elderly man in hand who came to get free flour from a distribution point. Rescue sources said that Muhammad Kaleem was found unconscious at the Park's main gate. He was taken to Government Rashid Samad hospital and took his last breath. In a free ration distribution stampede in 2016 several women were injured in Karachi. In September 2016 an act of charity turned into a tragedy near Karachi's Khori Gardens when a stampede caused the death of 20 women and girls who had thronged to an outlet where a wholesaler was giving out food items for free.

Jodia Bazaar, the city's biggest wholesale market, saw hirsch-wrenching scenes of poor families retrieving bodies instead of ration sacks after organisers of the free distribution were overwhelmed by the needy persons.

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Farrukh Habib's interim bail rejected in vandalism case

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday rejected interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Farrukh Habib in vandalism case.

PTI leaders Yasmeen Rashid, Mian Aslam, Asad Umar, Farrukh Habib and others were booked by Shahdadm police in Lahore over vandalism charges.

In between Rashid, Mian Aslam and other PTI leaders appeared before the court, while Farrukh Habib did not show up. ATC while extending the interim bail of Yasmeen Rashid, Mian Aslam and others rejected Farrukh Habib's plea over his continuous absence in court hearings. Meanwhile, the court reserved its verdict on the plea of Asad Umar seeking exemption from the court appearance.

Last week, the Punjab police raided Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Farrukh Habib's residence of in-laws in

a bid to arrest the former state minister. According to details, police operations were underway to arrest the PTI leaders over the party's vandalism case.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) released statement stating that police officials harassed former state minister's family members after they refused to arrest him from his in-laws' residence.

PTI leaders Yasmeen Rashid, Mian Aslam, Asad Umar, Farrukh Habib and others were booked by Shahdadm police in Lahore over vandalism charges. Yasmeen Rashid, Mian Aslam and other PTI leaders appeared before the court, while Farrukh Habib did not show up. ATC while extending the interim bail of Yasmeen Rashid, Mian Aslam and others rejected Farrukh Habib's plea over his continuous absence in court hearings. I.N.P.



ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of PTI Fawad Chaudhry along with lawyer of PTI Ali Zafar and others talking with media outside the Supreme Court.