

QUETTA VOICE

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Elections held even during 20 years of terrorism in country, says CJP



Child rapist sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in Quetta

NA passes bill to curtail CJP's suo motu powers

The National Assembly on Wednesday passed the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, which aims to deprive the office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) of powers to take suo motu notice in an individual capacity.

The bill, presented by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, was passed hours after the Standing Committee on Law and Justice approved the cabinet's proposed amendments.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, while addressing the law minister, termed the initiative "too little and too late", and said that it should be called a "judges empowerment" bill.

When Tarar spoke, he said, "It is being said that a constitutional amendment should be made. I want them to know there is no need for a constitutional amendment."

"They should go and read Article 191 of the Constitution, which empowers the Assembly to legislate. The Supreme Court also made their rules according to the Constitution and law since 1980 and it is written on the preamble as well."

He said Pakistan has six bar councils and "all of them saluted the House and the law for tabling the bill".

North Waziristan MNA Mohsin Dawar introduced amendments which were accepted

Tarar also acknowledged Bilawal's "too little, too late" remarks but said he believed "there is a right time for everything" and the government demonstrated restraint "until a



voice came from within the courts".

The law minister thanked the members of the NA Standing Committee on Law and Justice for their input on the bill. "This bill was an old demand of the bar councils which said that indiscriminate use of 184(3) should be stopped," he added.

Tarar said the bill aimed to make apex court proceedings transparent and it also included the right to appeal.

He said that all institutions had to follow laws passed by Parliament. The minister quoted Article 191 of the Constitution, which says that "subject to the Constitution and law, the Supreme Court may make rules regulating the practice and procedure of the Court".

Leader of the Opposition Raja Riaz praised the government's efforts in introducing the bill and said it would ensure the freedom of the judiciary and rule of law.

When he spoke, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif insisted that Parliament was not usurping the powers of the Supreme Court but rather legislating as per its constitutional right. Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor said Parliament was a sovereign institution and its members had the right to legislate, being representatives of the people. Web Desk

Weather turns cold as Quetta receives heavy rainfall

Syed Ali Shah

The weather turned chilly in Quetta and various districts of Balochistan after heavy rainfall on Wednesday. The weather in Quetta, the provincial capital turned cold after heavy rainfall. The citizens were confined to their homes as the weather abruptly turned chilly.

However, the citizens complained about low and no gas pressure. Especially, during the sacred month of Ramazan ul Mubarak, the citizens suffered because of gas load shedding and continued power outages.

Gas load shedding in various parts of Quetta

This complicated the problems of the citizens. "No gas supply since morning", Abdul Waheed, a resident of Sariab Road lamented. There was no response from the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) in this regard. The SSGC said its Public Relations Officer (PRO) was based in Karachi and there was none in the company to speak in this regard.

Flash floods block the highway in Bolan mountains. Besides Quetta, flash floods unleashed by torrential rains also caused



the blockade of highways in the Bolan mountains. The passengers could not reach their destinations because of the blockade of the highway. The people traveling between Balochistan and Sindh waited for hours to reach their destination.

There were also reports of heavy rainfall in Chaman, Killa Abdullah, Pishin and other parts of Balochistan.

The Balochistan Minister for the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Mir Ziaullah

Langove directed the concerned deputy commissioners and PDMA staff to make all necessary arrangements. He said the PDMA was prepared to tackle the situation and all staff was deployed at the main and sensitive points to make sure the flow of traffic on highways.

Mr. Langove directed the provision of foodstuff to the affected people by heavy rainfall in various parts of Balochistan.



Child rapist sentenced to 5 years imprisonment in Quetta

Syed Kaleem Shah

The district session judge Sariab Quetta sentenced an accused involved in child rape to five years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs.200,000 on Wednesday.

Jan Muhammad Gohar, the district and session judge announced the judgment, court sources told Daily Quett Voice.

According to the preliminary information report, the accused Agha Muhammad attempted to sexually



assault a child in the jurisdiction of police station Abdul Khaliq Shaheed in the year 2021.

The case was presented in the court yesterday while pronouncing the judgment, the judge of the court sentenced the accused Agha Muhammad to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of 200,000 rupees. The accused will have to undergo another 6 months of imprisonment in the case of non-payment of a fine. The said case was investigated by SI Amjad Mehmood.

Waqas Ali Mahmood posted as secretary health Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: The Balochistan government on Wednesday posted Waqas Ali Mahmood, a grade-21 officer as the secretary of health Balochistan. Saleh Nasar the outgoing secretary was posted as the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), a notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD) said. Zahid Saleem was directed to report to the S&GAD.



Mr. Mahmood has served as Commissioner Gujranwala, Secretary of Education Punjab, and Secretary of Excise and Taxation Punjab. He is considered to be one of the senior officers in the Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS).

Muhammad Akbar Harifal, a grade-21 officer was posted as the Secretary of Industries Balochistan, whereas, Zafar Ali Bukhari was posted as the Secretary of Excise and Taxation, the notification concluded.

Imran Khan responsible for economic crisis, wave of terrorism: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday slammed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan for his policies and said he was responsible for current economic crises and wave of terrorism in the country.

Speaking in the National Assembly he said, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan and his team were responsible for the prevailing economic crisis.

He said it was unfortunate that the terrorism eliminated due to sacrifices of the Pakistan army, police and common masses had been revived by Imran Khan.

He said Imran Khan had brought back thousands of terrorists and extremists living in Afghanistan and settled them in the merged tribal areas.

The foreign minister said that the people of the merged areas of erstwhile FATA had given unmatched sacrifices for eliminating terrorism and restoration of peace across the country.



He said that non-political actors were responsible for bringing Imran Khan into power.

He said that democracy in the country had been restored by the sacrifices of the political workers and their leadership.

Bilawal Bhutto said that keeping in view the interest of the country and for the strengthening of democracy, two main political

parties had signed the Charter of Democracy (CoD).

After this, he said, the country was moving to progress, prosperity and development.

He said that the constitution of 1973 was restored to its original shape and the 18th amendment approved with consensus to bring harmony in the provinces.

He said that after the signing of the 18th amendment, National Finance Commission (NFC) had been given to provinces and gave the identification to people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that non-political forces started hybrid war against the political forces after the signing of the CoD. He said that through media character assassination of the political leadership was started by the non-political forces. The foreign minister said that Imran Khan's government was changed through constitutional ways. He asked the Prime Minister to take action and file the cases against the person who had violated the constitution and law of the land. INP

Levies vehicle targeted through remote-controlled bomb in Mach

Ibrar Ahmed Imran Sumalani

BOLAN: Unknown accused targeted the vehicle of the Levies Force through a remote-controlled blast in Balochistan's Mach town on Wednesday. One levies personnel was injured in the attack. The injured was rushed to the Mach hospital for medical treatment. The bomb was planted in a motorcycle parked on



the roadside. The bomb went off with a big bang when the levies vehicle approached the area. The blast also damaged

the levies vehicle. Levies personnel reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

Elections held even during 20 years of terrorism in country, says CJP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday resumed hearing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) petition against delay in general elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A five-member bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail is hearing the plea.

Ahead of the hearing, the SC Registrar's Office accepted the separate pleas of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) to become parties in the case.

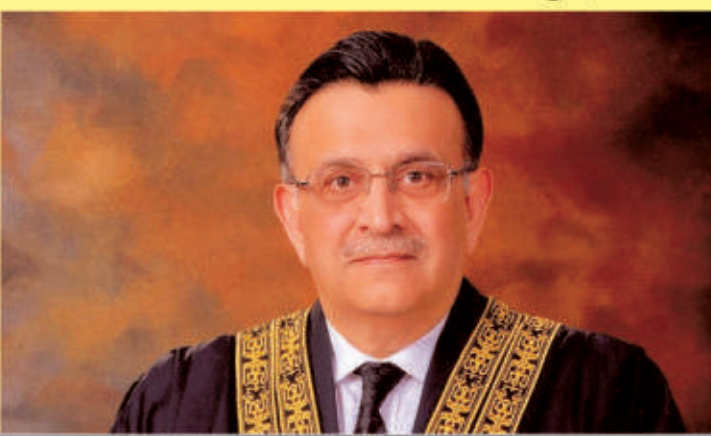
As the proceedings commenced, PPP lawyer Farooq H. Naek requested the court to become respondent in the case.

"You want to present your stance ... is your application on behalf of the PDM (Pakistan Democratic Movement)?" the CJP asked. Naek replied that PPP was not a part of the PDM.

"The court will first hear arguments from ECP's lawyer," Justice Bandial then said. During the hearing, Justice Mandokhail stated the verdict of the four judges in the suo motu case was the "order of the court".

"The CJP had not issued an 'order of the court' to date," he said.

"If an order has not been issued, how can the president give a date for



elections? How can the ECP issue the election schedule?" he asked.

At this, the CJP noted that Justice Mandokhail had given his explanation. At one point, Naek demanded that a full court bench be constituted to hear the case.

To which, Justice Mandokhail said: "Why full court? The same seven-member bench should hear the case." During the hearing, Justice Munib Akhtar asked the ECP lawyer Sajal Swati whether it was mentioned in the March 1 order that it was a 4-3 verdict.

Justice Akhtar further stated that five judges had heard the case in open court and signed the decision. At this, Justice Mandokhail said the dissenting note clearly stated that justices Yahya Afridi and Athar Minallah agreed with the decision. Moreover, the ECP's lawyer informed the top court that it would take six months to complete operations in Punjab's kaccha. At this, CJP Bandial remarked that the issue of terrorism was genuine but the elections had been conducted in the country despite this issue being present for the last 20 years. "Polls had been conducted when sectarianism and terrorism was at its peak in 90s decade," he added. CJP seeks assurance from PTI, government. At one point, the ECP lawyer told the apex court that the commission was ready to hold polls on assurance of required funds and assistance from institutions. Web desk

QUETTA VOICE

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 but resource-rich province.

Without any inquiry or investigation, the VCs of the University of Balochistan, Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Loralai University, and Lasbella Science and Marine 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.

What was the reason behind this haste? The answer is simple. We are still alien to rules and regulations and consider our mighty official, political and social positions above the law.

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 illegal use of power. The government can only remove the said VC if allegations are proven against him. The Act clearly says that the VC has to be given the opportunity to defend himself against any allegations.

Whereas, Governor Malik Abdul Wali Kakar removed all with a stroke of a pen without any investigation.

Undoubtedly, there have to be no prolonged tenures of the VCs like Dr. Farooq Ahmed Bazi remained the VC for 17 years of the BUIITEMS. 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 way for the removal of VC who is also a teacher. Yes, there were allegations of nepotism and favouritism against Mr. Bazi.

Question marks over the capacity/credibility of SBK for recruitment of teachers
No word from the government or Governor's house about the fate 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 candidates 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 no compromise over the future of our children and the BPSC should be given the task to appoint teachers. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo should also translate his words into action in this regard.

Mirror, mirror on the wall...

By Kamila Hyat

The time has come when we must ask that magic mirror on the wall what the future of our nation is to be. Beyond the mirror, there are really no answers, with analysts putting forward a variety of opinions, some arguing that after three years of acute hardship caused by inflation, unemployment and related issues, Pakistan will boom back and make a full recovery. Others are far less optimistic and there is a sense of hopelessness and despondency across the country.

The evidence of this came in the fact that in 2022, as many as 750,000 young Pakistanis, most of them highly educated doctors, engineers, information technology experts and others opted to leave the country legally. This number was far higher than the under 300,000 which left in the two preceding years. Clearly, young people in a country which has a huge youth population – with 64 per cent of nation aged between 15 and 30 years – feel that there is no future for them in the country where most of them were born and where they grew up.

There are, of course, exceptions to the rule, and some brave young Pakistanis have chosen to stay back and help as they can. Their resolve needs to be applauded and so does the dedication to the country of other young-

sters who insist that they do want to give back after completing education overseas in some capacity or the other. Clearly there are deep feelings for Pakistan, despite the fact that its governance over the last seven decades has done so little for the people or devised policies which can bring out the immense potential of the country.

So, we asked the mirror if everything is lost. The answer is not clear. Much depends on what future governments do and how they act. We hope that there will be some sense of responsibility and an end to the childish bickering and refusal to discuss matters together despite the national crisis we are witnessing at the present time. We cannot say how the various players will act and if the institutions will stay true to the promise of steering clear of Pakistani politics. Obviously, it would be extremely wise to do so.

As we look at other countries in somewhat similar situations, Sri Lanka comes to mind. The country fell into a crisis three years ago – hit by hyperinflation and a situation which led to default. As a result, poverty doubled across the country and in urban centre even tripled. The plight of the people can only be imagined even though Sri Lanka has a better structure of education and governance compared to Pakistan. However, as the World

Bank has pointed out, more and more flaws have crept into their system of governance leading to the crash of the country and the crisis that hit it. It is now attempting to climb back and appears to be somewhat successful in doing so, with help from international donor agencies such as the World Bank as well as other foreign nations who believe that it is imperative that the country resumes its prior position in the world.

Pakistan must hope it can find similar support over the years to come and it must also face up to the reality that the next three years, at the very least, are bound to be tough ones, with us dependent on help from the outside. How much help can come in depends also on the government of Pakistan and its ability to mobilize diplomatic opinion and gain friends it has lost over the years due to various situations.

Though Pakistan, according to top economists across the world, has already defaulted, and has therefore turned to the IMF the lender of last resort we should remember that countries such as Argentina have defaulted no less than nine times since the late 1800s. The last default for Argentina came in 2001 and it is currently recovering from the situation again with the aid from the IMF. IMF aid is of course not always something to be welcomed.

Hanna Urak, lush green valley attracts tourists from across Pakistan

By: Abdul Shakoor Khan

When man first began to explore the world of the Almighty, his top three desires have been for flowing water, blowing air, flowering flora, and pleasing serenity. 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 about 24000.

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

It is the ancestral 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 Balochistan with 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. Mohammad Yunus, the landlord in the Hanna valley, "around fifteen to twenty thousand people from throughout the country and parts of Balochistan rush to Hanna Urak Valley daily to observe the natural beauty."

We have a deep connection to this 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 traveling to 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 scenic Urak 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 raised manifold during the tourist season, but the tourists are too maltreated.

Ameer Hamza Sarangzai, 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 cantonment established adjacent to the Hanna Valley. The British Army stationed at Cantonment was charged per gallon.

However, he noted that "after the Independence of Pakistan, elders of the valley including Malik Sikandar Khan, Malik Taj Mohammad, Haji Abdul Rahim Sarngzai and others met the then governor and agreed to continue

providing fresh water free of cost. "This tradition continues till day"

Our love for our homeland Pakistan made President and Field Marshal Ayub Khan visit Hanna Urak. During his visit in 1965, he announced to build of a dam for the area's people. He fulfilled his promise and the "Wali Tanki Dam" was built that helped store the water and irrigate the agricultural land.

"My father Malik Ghulam Mohammad Sarangzai was the first member of the Pakistan People's Party from Balochistan," he said adding that we still have a membership card issued by Zulfikar Bhutto with his own handwriting.

Malik Nasir Khan former Councilor of Hanna Valley, said, "Provincial government waits for the scarcity of funds but do not pay heed to the tourism sector especially developing the biggest tourist point of the province Hanna Urak." By allocating a sizable budget for the development of tourist points, it could generate millions of rupee only from Hanna

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

"The recent flash floods devastated 100 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 had, on our own, established small hotels, swimming pools, parks, and other edible spots to attract the tourists," The

effort was aimed at generating revenue for the local community but after the floods, it shut completely leaving the area people in dismay.

Mr. Ibrahim JUI leader in the valley also seemed disappointed in the response of the authorities concerned to restore tourist activities since it has been at a standstill after the floods destroyed everything.

"In the aftermath of a catastrophe that hit the province in June 2022 agriculture, apple orchards, and small business are no more there to support the local community of Hanna Valley." It is the responsibility of the provincial government to take the issue seriously and initiate rehabilitation process on war-footing.

The concerted efforts, in this connection, would not only ease issues faced by the local community but also generate revenue for the provincial kitty.

Balochistan Spokesperson Babar Yusufzai when contacted reaffirmed the government's resolve to resuscitate tourism in the province. "Government is well cognizant of the issues faced by the people of the valley. The rehabilitation process is underway and we are striving hard to complete it as soon as possible."

About Hanna Valley, he assured that strenuous measures would be put in place to restore the damaged road infrastructure. We will leave no stone unturned to revive the hustle and bustle of the tourists at the historic Hanna valley.

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 country and outside Pakistan, to visit Balochistan and enjoy the beauty of nature and ensure investment in Balochistan.

"The resource allocation for tourism must have a government of Balochistan's priority, he said adding that the government is trying to equip the picnic points with all sorts of facilities and pay special heed to Hanna Urak and other tourist points in the province.

With a rich historical 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 massive development initiatives in order to revive tourism in the region.

The power and energy crisis

By Raashid Wali Janjua

Pakistan's power and energy crisis has reached crisis proportions. The power sector's circular debt of Rs2,377 billion – combined with Rs1,400 billion of the gas sector – and Rs600 billion payable to PSO speak volumes of our bad management and the unsustainable structure of power-and-energy-sector governance.

Our power sector structure is flawed – a combination of wrong generation sources, defective transmission and distribution system, poor bill recovery and demand management mechanism.

The failure to plan a balanced energy mix ratio, including an optimal mix of renewables and thermal-based sources has resulted in a disproportionate reliance on thermal-based sources of power generation ie 58.4 per cent. The planning failure on the supply side has also contributed to the present situation.

Supply side planning in Pakistan was predicated on ambitious projections of industrial growth. The lack of industrial development put paid to all optimistic assumptions of power consumption, resulting in a perennial imbalance between demand and supply. The total installed capacity of 43,775MW in Pakistan unfortunately does not get utilized due to lack

of industrial demand and poor transmission and distribution systems.

Pakistan developed thermal-based IPPs to cater for projected demand in the 1990s with generous ROI incentives for IPP owners through attractive tariff and capacity payment terms. In simple terms, the IPPs had to be paid even if they were not producing electricity because of the 'take or pay' provision of power purchase agreements.

Our present generation capacity – that touches a peak of 30,000MW once a while in extreme weather conditions especially in summer and then plummets down significantly – compels us to keep the generation capacity on idle even when not in demand, resulting in hefty capacity payments to IPPs. The demand and production gap of electricity in Pakistan is widening; against the demand of 120,392GWH, only 87,324 GWH was produced in 2018-19. According to a LUMS Energy Institute (LEI) report, Pakistan with a base load requirement of 8,000MW caters to a demand load of approximately 20,000MW in extreme weather conditions for which it has an installed capacity of over 40,000MW.

The 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 circular 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 seasonal needs – keeping houses and offices cool in summer and warm in winter – 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 walls and roofs at subsidized rates. This indeed is an inefficient way of using costly electricity.

Now even if the temporary demand in summer spikes to 30,000MW, the solution is demand management – which is avoided to keep constituencies happy. There could be several solutions to this over-capacity issue, and one of those is to increase our industrial capacity so that the present base load could be taken up from 8,000MW to 14,000MW to reduce the adverse impact of idle capacity.

The present arrangement of spending \$100 billion on capacity pay-

ments to IPPs for maintaining the capacity that caters to the requirement of our domestic needs – air conditioning mostly – is the most inefficient way of utilizing power. Most of our IPPs are frontloaded through high capital expenditure (CAPEX) and have long tenors of debt and tariff.

The renegotiation of the loan tenor and tariff terms is an option to bring down the cost of generation. But this is only a partial solution which has not borne fruit in the past.

The state of the oil and gas sector is also not enviable as the country has consumed 79.8 per cent and 66 per cent of the oil and gas reserves. With the cheap domestic gas sources drying up fast, Pakistan is likely to run out of domestic natural resources by 2030. Pakistan is purchasing costly liquefied natural gas and putting that into 186,000km long pipeline infrastructure to burn it in domestic stoves.

The government is purchasing gas at a cost of \$16/mmbtu and selling it at a cost of \$2-6/mmbtu to rural and urban domestic consumers. The resulting gap in price recovery – plus gas thefts and transmission losses due to poor infrastructure – results in the gas sector's circular debt. This state of affairs is unsustainable. We need long-

term structural reforms through better regulation of the power sector and professional management.

Pakistan needs to enhance its industrial capacity for efficient consumption of its power capacity in addition to demand management through administrative measures like weather-friendly house designs, installation of smart metres and AMRs, plugging thefts through an overhauled transmission and distribution system and the gradual altering of energy mix, enhancing the share of hydel and renewables like wind and solar energy.

Price signalling is one of the effective tools to control energy waste. The cost of piped gas needs to be realistic and the exploration of the domestic oil and gas resources be expedited through special incentives to E&P companies. Pakistan needs an upstream regulator in the oil and gas sector along with the merger of Nepra with Ogra to bring more synergy in energy planning. The country also needs refinery policy urgently to help refineries upscale their productivity.

Pakistan should take some immediate steps like bold reforms, expert presence in the power and energy ministries, merger of regulators.

It's all about politics

By Dr Farrukh Saleem

Our politicians are deeply and dangerously divided. Our judiciary is divided. Our state institutions are divided. Our journalists are divided. We the people are also divided – divided along political lines. Red alert: we are divided like never before.

Someone intelligent once said, "It's all about politics, stupid." Politics is where the story really begins. Our democracy-loving politicians do not consider each other as democratic rivals. They consider each other as enemies. Our democracy-loving politicians do not consider each other as democratic competitors. They all want to send their opponents to disease infected prison cells. Our democracy-loving politicians do not consider each other as democratic opponents. They want to annihilate each other; destroy and obliterate one another.

Here's a proven formula, a formula that has stood the test of time: political stability leads to economic progress. Political stability results in two things: long-term planning and higher levels of investment. Result: economic progress. Look at Botswana, a small African country that gained independence in 1966. Botswana has had a stable government and that overtime has resulted in country-wide economic development. Yes, political stability has resulted in Botswana into one of the

fastest growing economies in the world.

Chile, a Latin American country, is another example of political stability bringing in economic growth and a reduction in poverty. Chile is an example of economic progress through political stability. South Korea is another example of a country that has experienced economic progress through political stability. Singapore is another outstanding example of economic progress because of political stability. Singapore's politicians have turned Singapore into one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

Here's another proven formula, a formula that has also stood the test of time: political instability has four distinct consequences: economic uncertainty, volatility, a lack of confidence among investors and stagnation. Venezuela is a case in point. Remember, Venezuela has more proven oil reserves than any other country in the world, a total of 304 billion barrels. Venezuela is a case in point: contested elections, political turmoil and unrest. Result: hyperinflation, a decline in investment, a shortage of basic goods and a severe decline in living standards. Look at Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is mineral rich with coal, copper, iron ore, vanadium, tin, platinum, lithium and nickel. But a contested presidential election and political instability has resulted in hyperinflation, a lack of

foreign investment and a decline in living standards. Let us learn something from Democratic Republic of Congo. Contested elections, a long-running civil war, political instability and a lack of investment in key sectors like mining and agriculture. Take Iraq, for instance – the second-largest crude oil producer in OPEC after Saudi Arabia with 145 billion barrels. Ongoing political instability resulting in sectarian violence, political unrest and economic stagnation.

Here's Pakistan with several significant accomplishments. It has the fourth-largest irrigated land area globally, following China, India, and the US. Additionally, Pakistan ranks fourth in cotton production, fourth in sugarcane production, and fifth in milk production worldwide. Moreover, Pakistan is the sixth-largest date producer globally and the eighth-largest producer of wheat. Pakistan holds 105 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves. Reko Digg has 5.9 billion tonnes of copper ore and 41.5 million ounces of gold. Pakistan has the world's second-largest salt reserves. Our hydropower potential exceeds 60,000 MW.

"It's all about politics, stupid." Pakistan's primary issue is political, rather than economic. The root of our economic problems lies in the political sphere, and ultimately, the solution to our challenges lies in the hands of our politicians.

Citizens' boycott reduces fruit sale in Faisalabad

Faisalabad: After The boycott of fruit items by the citizens the sale of fruit items in Faisalabad division was reportedly drastically decreased by at least 50pc.

The people took part in this silent protest against the fruit inflation mafia, which had increased the prices manifold because of the month of fasting.

The people took part in this silent protest against the fruit inflation mafia, which had increased the prices manifold because of the month of fasting.

Minimum Sadqa-e-Fitr fixed at Rs 320 per head

ISLAMABAD: Former Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Mufti Muneeb ur Rehman has declared the minimum amount for Sadqa-e-Fitr at Rs 320 per person, which is an obligatory charitable donation that Muslims are required to pay during the holy month of Ramadan.

faithful who want to pay Fitrana equal to the price of barley, and dates should pay minimum Rs 480 and Rs 2,800 per head respectively.

two-time meal of a destitute person, so it is better to pay the meal cost of a hotel.



ISLAMABAD: MNA Syed Sami Ul Hassan and Deputy DG FDE Ali Ahmad Kharal pose with prize winners of English & Urdu speech contest pose for group photo at FG home economics college F11/1.

Japan funded project for solar panels at school in Swabi, KP inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: A grassroots grant assistance project for installation of solar panels at school in Village Shewa, District Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, funded by the Government of Japan, was inaugurated on March 29, 2023.

assistance from the Government of Japan. This time, SESWA utilized the grant to install solar panels at the school that was constructed and expanded by the past two financial supports from the Government of Japan in order to overcome the problem of frequent power outages across the whole of Pakistan in a sustainable and environmentally-friendly way.

Chargé d'Affaires of Japan to Pakistan congratulated the representatives of the NGO and the community members for the successful completion of this project.

Magistrate remands woman, son remanded in rape case

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate remanded in police custody mother and her son for two days in a case minor girl's rape case shelter home in Korangi.

after her stepfather and his brother acted inappropriately after the death of her mother. She took temporary shelter at the facility, but the owner's young son allegedly subjected her to a sexual assault, the IO said.

legal formalities were also to be fulfilled to complete the investigation. Therefore, he said the custody of the suspects was required for interrogation for 14 days.

NA committee approves SC practice and procedure bill 2023

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) standing committee on law and justice has approved Supreme Court (SC) practice and procedure bill 2023.

LHC extends its orders till April 6 against denotifying PTI MNAs

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) has extended till April 6 its orders against denotifying PTI Members of National Assembly (MNA).

50 tested positive due to COVID-19 during last 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: As many as 50 persons tested positive due to coronavirus during the last 24 hours in the country.



QUETTA: School children passing through accumulated rain water after rain in provincial capital.

Pakistan, Malaysia agree to revitalize bilateral mechanisms

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia have agreed to enhance engagement and dialogue at all levels, revitalize existing bilateral mechanisms and establish new areas of engagement.

Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Malaysia relations and renewed their commitment to further strengthen bilateral strategic partnership.

power to Malaysia. There was a convergence of views on a range of regional and global issues of mutual interest, including regional peace and security, islamophobia and climate change.

Postponement of polls : SC registrar office rejects petitions by allied parties, govt for becoming respondents

ISLAMABAD: Registrar office Supreme Court (SC) has rejected petitions filed by federal government and its allied parties for becoming respondents in the case pertaining to postponement of polls in KP and Punjab.

LHC approves interim bail of PTI leader Asad Umar till April 7

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) has approved interim bail plea of PTI leader till April 07 in vandalizing case.

The case pertaining to vandalizing and violence against police came up for hearing before the court Wednesday.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Minorities Affairs Geroge Khalil giving key of motorbike to disabled persons during a ceremony.

Advertisement for 'درخواستیں مطلوب ہیں' (Applications are required) for various government services, including a list of services and contact information.

OGDCL launches programme to distribute 100 ambulances across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Wednesday launched a programme to distribute fully equipped 100 ambulances worth Rs 200 million among district and tehsil headquarter hospitals and basic health units (BHUs) across the country.

Infrastructure development. OGDCL Executive Director (Services) Zia Salahuddin provided a comprehensive introduction to the programme, outlining the salient features of the ambulances and the modalities for their distribution.

um gave valuable suggestions for augmenting the CSR initiatives and improving the outreach.

where it operated for welfare of local communities. OGDCL has always exceeded its CSR obligations and spent more on welfare projects for the communities nearby its operational areas, he added.

Most of the places where company operates are remote with limited health facilities for the locals. OGDCL provides health facilities at its locations to the locals, however in cases where emergency care is required, people face difficulty for moving the patients to hospitals. Keeping this hardship to account, INP

829,549 emigrants registered for overseas employment in 2022: NA told

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development Syed Agha Rafiullah on Wednesday informed the National Assembly that as many as 829,549 emigrants were registered for overseas employment through the Bureau of Immigration and Overseas Employment (BE&OE) during the calendar year 2022, the highest since last five years.

In response to various questions, he said that since 1971 12.45 million Pakistani workers had been registered with BE&OE for employment abroad till 2022. However, a declining trend was observed in the years 2020 & 2021 as only 224,705 and 286,648 emigrants were registered by BE&OE respectively due to Covid-19 restrictions, he said.

He said that BE&OE has taken several measures to explore and tap the international job markets for intending emigrants.

Diversification Strategy adopted to shift focus to new labour markets and the declaration of Intent on Migration & Mobility has already been signed with Greece and the UK and soon would be signed with Germany.

The Parliamentary Secretary said 12 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on manpower export with different countries including Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Iran, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Portugal, Romania and Uzbekistan were under bilateral discussion. The overseas minister visited Romania and Portugal to

explore new regular labour migration avenues, he said.

Rafiullah said the government had appointed 24 Community Welfare Attaches in 16 different countries to explore new avenues for Pakistani manpower through Labour Market Analysis (LMA) of the host country so that skilled Pakistani intending emigrants could be imparted required training as per labour market requirements of the host country.

He said approximately 9 million Pakistanis were working/residing in different countries around the world and contributing towards the socio-economic development of the country.

However, the Parliamentary Secretary said that there was no dedicated mechanism for providing solutions to the protection of their properties. In order to address the issue, the Ministry/OPF undertook the initiative of proposing a bill that would address their grievances and provide protection to overseas Pakistanis with regard to their properties.

To another question, he said all the regular employees of OPF schools and colleges were getting minimum remuneration as prescribed by the government. Furthermore, contract employees were being paid a salary as per the terms and conditions of contractual employment rules/policies and as per advertisements published in newspapers at the time of hiring, he said. INP



ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly Aslam Bhoonani calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Senate body on Finance and Revenue meets

Islamabad: Senator Saleem Mandiwalla Presides over a Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue at Parliament House.

Press Release: The Senate Finance and Revenue Committee met on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Senator Saleem Mandiwalla here at the Parliament House to discuss various pending agenda points.

At the outset of the meeting the Senate Finance Committee took detailed briefing by the Chairman exchange Companies Association of Pakistan on the issue of foreign exchange dollar instability. The association discussed various recommendations and assured that if policies are revised and restrictions are given relaxation by keeping in view the current economic situation of the country, dollar stability can be achieved. He said that Pakistan is an economically stable country if focus is given on agriculture and natural resources. He said that it doesn't require an IMF deal. In its recommendations stress was given on cease of Afghan Transit and allowance by the state bank to deposit up to 10,000 dollar without verification. The exchange companies association claimed that they bought 4 billion dollar in the country last year and has the capacity to bring 1 million dollar every month.

The committee also inquired on the fate of deal with the IMF and their demands. Senator Mohsin Aziz lamented the delay in the deal even after having the country going through dire economic consequences, at the cost of inflation, joblessness, halting of trade and industry. The Minister of State for Finance and Revenue said that all the pre requisite actions have been taken, the only touch point is external financing which is being verified by the IMF from China, UAE and Saudi Arabia. She claimed that all the three neighbouring countries have extended full support in this

regard. However, the verification is still pending and after verification the deal will be finalised.

Senator Ferooz H. Naek inquired on the newly introduced petrol subsidy by the government on which the Minister of state replied that the petrol subsidy has not yet been put into practice and a plan is being worked out. Ferooz H. Naek recommended to draft a regular program on food subsidy for the lower middle class. He emphasized that food inflation is at high and government should envisage plan to provide food subsidy instead of providing free food. Ferooz H. Naek reiterated that such practices of free food will only encourage behaviours of beggary among masses.

Matter of the starred question asked by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed on the comparative details of Federal Excise Duty and Retail Price of locally manufactured cigarettes and imported cigarettes were disposed of. It was briefed that according to restriction No.03 of First Schedule to the Federal Excise Act, 2005 the minimum selling price of any brand shall not be less than 60 pc of Rs. 9,000. The committee was briefed about the best probable solutions on Anti Money Laundering Act. DG Intelligence and Investigation appraised that a total of 125 cases registered from 2016 to till date. He added that intel was of such nature which demand monitoring. However, FBR has been discharging cases against individuals who have complied with the initial proceedings. It was also briefed that the directors have been instructed to review all 125 pending cases where-in FIRs have been filed and which are under investigation. They have also been instructed to differentiate whether the said cases involve only tax evasion or tax evasion coupled with Money Laundering. The matter was disposed of with the direction that tax evasion should not be associated. INP

UAE Ambassador calls on Finance Minister

Islamabad: Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates called on the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, today.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates shared the deep rooted brotherly relations between the two countries and discussed avenues of furthering and strengthening economic and financial ties between the UAE and Pakistan.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar stated that Pakistan and the UAE are engaged in various areas including energy, refinery, petroleum and trade, however, still a lot of potential is unexplored. In this regard, the Finance Minister highlighted various avenues in which both countries can enhance their existing trade and investment relations.

The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates appreciated development-oriented economic policies of Pakistan initiated by the present government and expressed the interest of the UAE in augmenting and furthering investment in various sectors of the economy of Pakistan.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar welcomed the investment proposals of the UAE in Pakistan and extended full support and cooperation by the government.

In conclusion, the Finance Minister shared sentiments of gratitude for good will and cooperation of his Excellency and hoped to enhance the bilateral relations further in the future. Online

Mian Dawood advocate files affidavit with secretary SJC

ISLAMABAD: The complainant Mian Dawood advocate has filed his detailed affidavit with secretary Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on the matter of reference against Justice Naqvi.

Mian Dawood advocate has again filed documentary proof of the reference alongwith affidavit through miscellaneous petition.

The documents related to properties purchased in the name of justice Naqvi and his sons in dubious way are attached with miscellaneous way. The receipt of pounds sent to Naqsh Fatima daughter of justice Naqvi in UK bank account has also been attached with the miscellaneous application.

As per documents Justice Naqvi purchased 2 kanal 4 marlas plot in 2021 in Gulberg Lahore at the cost of 4 crore 44 lac. Justice Naqvi declared this plot valuing Rs 7 crore 20 lac. Justice Naqvi sold out this plot to his alleged frontman Muhammad Safdar at the cost of Rs 13 crore in 2022 and declared it against Rs 4 crore 96 lac. Online

Election in kp, Punjab assemblies will have to be got held at every cost: Barrister Aitzaz

LAHORE: Senior lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan has said the election of Punjab and KP assemblies will have to be got held. He stated that they are trying to regulate dissenting note of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah through parliament. Online

Hardcore terrorist arrested from Charsadda

PESHAWAR: The police in Sardheri area of Charsadda district on Wednesday foiled a terror bid by arresting a terrorist and recovering explosives from his possession, said DSP Sardheri, Sanobar Khan.

The arrested terrorist was identified as Sher Ghani alias Ibrahim, Olaswal, son of Ghani Gul is a resident of Shama Korona, Nisatta district Charsadda. The terrorist belonged to the banned outfit Tehrik e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) DSP Sardheri, Sanobar Khan said the terrorist was hiding near the Azizabad Post to damage the government property. The accused was wanted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Mardan in various cases. INP

Ban on GB Police: IHC summons additional interior secretary today

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned additional interior secretary level officer today in the

petition against interior ministry notification banning Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) police from escorting the GB chief minister to other provinces.

The court has also summoned reply from federal government besides remarking ban has been imposed under what law.

The case came up for hearing before a single bench of IHC led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiayani here Wednesday.

The lawyers Mian Ali Ishaq Qadir Janjua and Ahmad Khokhar appeared in the court on behalf of the petitioners.

The court directed the concerned authorities to appear in the court and file the reply

today.

It was taken the plea in the petition the interior ministry has imposed ban on Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) police from escorting the GB chief minister to other provinces.

Orders were issued regarding security of governor and CM GB.

According to notification the respective province will provide security to governor and CM GB wherever they go.

The petitioner said stopping GB police from escorting CM GB in other provinces is illegal.

The notification based on discriminatory treatment with GB police cannot be issued.

The petitioner has requested the court to declare null and void interior ministry March 24 notification. Online

LHC allows PTI leader Shahbaz Gill to visit US for 4 weeks

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) has allowed PTI leader Shahbaz Gill to go to US for 4 weeks.

The petition against placing Shahbaz Gill name in ECL came up for hearing before a 3-member full court presided over by the Chief Justice (CJ) LHC here Wednesday.

Chief Justice remarked under what law the name of petitioner was placed in ECL. What is such situation under which decision is taken to put the name in ECL. The petitioner case falls in what category. The counsel for federal government said cases are registered in Islamabad against Shahbaz Gill His name has been

placed in ECL on the request of Commissioner Islamabad. The court has no jurisdiction to hear it.

The counsel for Shahbaz Gill has filed application with federal government for removing his name from ECL. This matter will be discussed in the next meeting of the cabinet.

PTI leader Shahbaz Gill also appeared in the court during the hearing of the case.

The court while allowing Shahbaz Gill to go to US for 4 weeks has summoned reply from the federal government on the matter of including name of Shahbaz Gill in ECL. ONLINE

KP Food Safety Authority Raids Continue In Dir, Swat

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority Food Safety teams Wednesday conducted major operations in Dir Upper and Swat on the cold drinks godown.

The Dir Upper Food Safety along with the district administration conducted a surprise raid on the cold drinks godown and recovered and destroyed more than 30,000 liters of non-standard and expired cold drinks from the warehouse, the food officials said.

The cold drinks recovered from the warehouse had expired in 2021 and 2022, the officials disclosed.

They said that the ware-

house owners were erasing the expiry dates from the coding machine and re-printing the new expiry dates 2023 and 2024 and supplying them to the markets.

The food safety team also returned and destroyed the expired cold drinks supplied to the markets, the officials informed.

Swat food safety team also inspected the edible items at Landake check post and destroyed 1400 liters of milk after it was found to be adulterated.

The official said that the team also imposed heavy fines on owners and sealed the warehouse. INP

IMF provides fodder, Zardari, Nawz eat butter and ghee: Siraj ul Haq

OKARA: JI Amir Siraj ul Haq has said in the prevailing system IMF provides fodder and Asif Zardari and Nawaz Sharif eat butter and ghee.

"government days are numbered. Many holes have appeared in the ship of government and its ship will sink at every cost. The incumbent government is taking its last breath. The loans were obtained by PDM and PTI but nation is repaying them, he said this while talking to media men at Okara bypass on his way from Sahiwal to Lahore Wednesday.

The country has become impoverished. The rulers have made Pakistani nation slave. The fate of nation and country cannot be changed unless we get rid of fetters of IMF.

People dont know these political robbers have filled the pockets of their children by throwing dust in hte eyes of people. Now people will not fall to their trap.

JI will recover looted money corrupt mafia and spend it on people, he said adding we will extricate people from difficult situation. Online

Court issues nonbailable arrest warrants of Imran Khan in female judge threatening case

ISLAMABAD: The court has issued non bailable arrest warrants of PTI chairman Imran Khan in female judge threatening case.

Civil judge Malik Aman of district and Sessions court has issued the non bailable arrest warrants.

The court also dismissed the exemption plea of Imran Khan for one day.

The court has ordered to present Imran Khan on April 18.

The case came up for hearing in the court Wednesday.

At the inception of hearing of the counsels for Imran Khan requested the court to keep restore bailable arrest warrants of Imran Khan. The lawyers said Imran Khan is facing life threat. High court has also issued notice regarding withdrawal of security from him. Judicial magistrate Malik Aman remarked no one has appeared. INP

Governor chairs meeting to review performances of federal departments in Baluchistan

QUETTA: Baluchistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar on Wednesday presided over a meeting to review the performance of federal institutions working in the province.

He said with the establishment of the Citizen's Portal, it was necessary to maintain the process of responsibility, accountability and transparency of the institutions, including access to the heads of the institutions to the public and overseas Pakistanis.

In order to restore the public trust in government institutions, there would be a change in performance on a revolutionary basis, instead of limiting the development projects to papers, their fruits should be shared with the people and the development process should be visible to everyone, he

added.

Governor Kakar said awards would be given by the Governor House to the officers of the relevant institutions, who had demonstrated extraordinary performance and introduced innovation in the institution.

He said there was an urgent need to increase integrated and effective links between all institutions.

He also directed the officers to redress the public complaints within the stipulated time and expand the scope of Citizen's Portal, visit the areas and conduct public awareness campaign.

Many important decisions were also taken as a result of suggestions and recommendations of the heads of federal departments in the meeting. INP



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of women parliamentarians of PML (N) calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Inter-provincial gang of car-lifters busted

PESHAWAR: Parang Police, Charsadda busted an inter-provincial gang of car-lifters and arrested two accused including one Afghan national, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

According to details Arshad Jan, a resident of Shabqadar have registered a complaint of the lifting of a Suzuki Carry van from near a ground of Government College Charsadda and police registering a report against unknown accused initiated investigation.

During investigation, the investigation team headed by SP (Investigation), Alamzeb Khan and comprising Station House Officer (SHO) Bismillah Jan and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Saleem Khan and other personnel succeeded in arrest of the real accused including Gul Khan son of Omar Gul, resident of Sar Dheri and Jamal Khan.

One of the accused is stated to be Afghan national. During investigation, both accused have confess to their crimes.

Beside lifting vehicles from Punjab

and other districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and have also revealed Names of their accomplices.

On the information obtained from the arrested accused, the police recovered six stolen vehicles and arrest of more accused and recovery of stolen vehicles is also expected.

Raids for the arrest of more members of the gang were continued. Meanwhile, the police also arrested an accused Fawad son of Wisal, resident of Shabi Khel, district Charsadda for involvement in mobile snatching.

The police recovered seven snatched mobile sets and a pistol used during crimes.

According to details Arshad Jan, a resident of Shabqadar have registered a complaint of the lifting of a Suzuki Carry van from near a ground of Government College Charsadda and police registering a report against unknown accused initiated investigation. During investigation, the investigation team headed by SP (Investigation), Alamzeb Khan and comprising Station House Officer (SHO) Bismillah. INP

Gwadar student participated in the UN 2023 Water Conference

ISLAMABAD: Director General Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Qambarani hailed Miss Bahar Tahira Khalil, a young leader from Gwadar for representing Balochistan at "The UN 2023 Water Conference", which was held on 22-24 March in New York.

Miss Bahar Khalil, who is a medical student in China, represented Gwadar and Balochistan province as a young leader. GDA provided financial assistance to the young leader to participate in the conference.

"GDA is proud to encourage young lady Ambassador Miss Bahar Tahira Khalil from Gwadar to represent Balochistan and Gwadar in International United Nations Conference on Water," Mr. Qambarani wrote on his official Twitter account, according to Gwadar Pro.

The UN 2023 Water Conference concluded with a breakthrough response to

the global water crises and to advance the water agenda, a deal maker for accelerating sustainable development overall.

Miss Bahar Tahira Khalil was one of some 10,000 participants who gathered at UN Headquarters and online to urgently scale up action to address the water crisis and ensure equitable access to water for all.

The shortage of drinking water has always remained a problem in Gwadar and other adjoining areas of the province. However, since the inception of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), special attention has been given to addressing the drinking water issue in Gwadar.

Various projects under CPEC are being executed to resolve the water issue. A 1.2 MGD seawater desalination plant is near its completion. The plant is a grant from the Government of China for the people of Gwadar. INP



SYRIA: Pakistan Navy Mission Commander exchanging views with Governor of Lattakia, Syrian onboard PNS MOAWIN upon arrival at port Lattakia, Syria during international Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADRR).