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Levies arrest key accused in Najma Baloch suicide case



Firing in Hazar Ganji Quetta leaves a woman dead and 4 injured

Angry with Islamabad, CM Bizenjo announces to boycott NEC meeting

Quetta Voice Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo announced to boycott the National Economic Council (NEC) as a protest against the federal government. The federal government has not translated its words into action when it comes to Balochistan, the CM Balochistan said in a pol-

comes to Balochistan, the CM Balochistan said in a policy statement on Monday.

This attitude indicates a very desperate situation, Mr. Bizenjo lamented. He recalled that even 10 billion rupees announced by the Prime Minister for the rehabilitation of the flood victims have not been provided.

Balochistan Govt provides maximum assistance to the flood affectees

In this regard, repeated reminders were given to the federal government and a letter was also sent to the Prime Minister, the CM mentioned the context of the Prime Minister's announcement, the provincial government provided maximum assistance and rehabilitation to the vic-



tims by using their limited

FG failed to include projects suggested by senators and MNAs from Balochistan

CM Balochistan said it

was hoped that these activi-ties will be further promoted after the receipt of ten billion rupees by the federal government. Due to the lack of resources, the flood victims are still waiting under the open sky for govern-ment assistance, he mentioned.

The federal government has also been asked to include the projects suggested by the Balochistan members of the Senate and the National Assembly in the National Assembly in

the federal PSDP, he noted. Due to the limited develfunds Balochistan, the members cannot give development funds to the Senate and the National Assembly. The members of the Provincial

Assembly are not in favor of including the projects suggested by the members of the Senate and the National Assembly in the Provincial Development Program, the CM concluded a very difficult day in the history of Pakistan. We

Sardar Rind condemns May 9th incidents, says still part of PTI

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA:The parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) in Balochistan Assembly, Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind on Monday strongly condemned the May 9th incidents called for an action against the elements behind acts of arson across the country. Addressing a press conference, he said former prime minister Imran Khan always ignored him with regard to issues relating to Balochistan. Nevertheless, I am still part of the PTI, Sardar Rind said. Although, he informed that consultation was going on with other political friends.

tion was going on with other political friends with regard to future political strategy in Balochistan.

"We are silent members of PTI", Sardar Rind says

"We are silent mem-bers of PTI", he informed We will consult with our comrades regarding the future of the upcoming elections.

Senior politician Sardar Yar Muhammad Rand said that May 9 was identification of the ele-ments involved in the

have never left the side of democracy, he men-tioned "I condemn damaging government or defense installations".

Sardar Yar Muhammad Rand said that after win-ning the 2018 elections, Imran Khan made him Special Assistant to the Energy Department but Khan kept ignoring me in all the decisions. I had sent my resignation to him on this matter.

Attackers enjoy Balochistan govt's patronage in Kachhi: Rind

Referring to an attack on his son's convoy in Kachhi district, he saido one guard was killed and 4 were seriously injured. Despite the incident, the responsible persons are still roam-ing freely in Quetta, the PTI leader claimed.

He mentioned it seems as if the accused have the patronage of the provincial govern-ment The situation is that the accused are roaming around with armed guards in Kachchi and Quetta.

According to him, his political opponents are rewarded whenever they come to power. The opponents will be rewarded in the upcomrewarded in the upcoming provincial budget and they will be deprived of new schemes in their constituency. Where is the justice? The government has issued a special grant of Rs. 77.5 million to my political opponents in recent days, Sardar Rind concluded.

Protest erupts inside SBK Women University

Staff Reporter

QUETTA Protest erupted inside the Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University on Monday morning. A large number of students came out of their class-es and chanted full-throated slogans against the university administration. "We want justice", the echoed with slogans the university campus

There was no word from the SBK administration about the students protest. The media was also stopped at the main gate of the university because of the protest demonstration staged by girls students.

A burga-clad protester lashes out at the university administration



"This is injustice, our protest was not allowed", one of the burqa-clad student protesters said. She preferred not to mention her name SBK university is the only women's university in Balochistan According to sources within the higher education department, currently around 10,000 students have been studying in the

Security tightened inside the campus

Security within the university was tightened in the aftermath of the protest demonstration staged by students. Male and female police guards stopped the students from intensifying their protest inside the campus. The entry of private people was suspended as tension prevailed inside the

The protesting students said hundreds of students from the pharmacy department were deprived of registration. They were

demanding an immediate registration of the students.

Footage shows teachers convincing protesters to end protest

Video footage shows some senior teachers trying to convince the protesting students to end the protest. Despite their request, the protesters continue to chant slogans. Subsequently, the protest ended with students demanding solution of the registration issue and provision of basic

Levies arrest key accused in Najma Baloch suicide case

From Our Correspondent

AWARAN: Levies force arrested a key accused in the Najma Baloch suicide case on Sunday. Levies constable Noor Bakhsh was nominated in the first information report (FIR) in connection with the suicide of Najma Baloch, a young lady teacher in Gishkor area of Gishkor are Awaran district

Family members and parents of Najma accused the levies con-Najma stable Noor Bakhsh and two others for



forcing and blackmailsocial media with peoing her to commit sui-cide. The suicide inci-dent went viral on ment to take stern

action against the accused.

A case has been registered under the provisions of culpable homicide and harass-ment for harassing Najma, a teacher who provides free education to hundreds of children in Gishkor, and forcing her to commit suicide. Two of the accused named in the case have already been arrested - the Intelligence Bureau provided technical assistance in arresting the accused, levies

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Unknown accused opened fire and killed a woman and injured four including a child in Quetta's Hazar Ganji area on Monday. Police sources said unknown accused unknown accused opened fire on a family in Hazar Ganji area and killed the woman on the spot Four people including a child



facilities in the university Firing in Hazar Ganji Quetta leaves a woman dead and 4 injured

sustained injuries in the attack. The injured were rushed to the nearby Bolan Medical Complex (BMC) hos-pital for medical treatment. An emergency was declared to pro-vide medical treatment to injured of the attack.

The attackers sped away on their motor-cycle. Motive behind the attack could not be ascertained immedi-ately, police sources

Pakistan 'very hopeful' of sealing IMF deal this month: PM Shehbaz

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said Pakistan is "very hopeful" of finalising a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this month. "We are still very hopeful that the IMF program will materialise. Our ninth review by the IMF will match all terms and conditions and, hopefully, we'll have some good news this month," he told Anadolu in an exclusive interview in the Turkish capital Ankara.

The premier was in Ankara for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's inauguration, one of dozens of heads of state and government who attended

guration, one of dozens of heads of state and government who attended Saturday's ceremony

Islamabad has been negotiating with the IMF since early February for the release of \$1.1 billion, part of a \$6.5bn bailout package inked in 2019 by the previous government of former prime minister Imran Khan.

The staff-level agreement for the tranche's release has been delayed since November, with more than 100 days gone since the last staff-level mission to Pakistan, the longest such delay since at least 2008.

In total, about \$2.7bn are left to be disbursed from the package, which is scheduled to expire this month. At the end of May, PM Shehbaz requested IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva to help revive the stalled facility, but asserted that Pakistan does have a backup plan in place.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said last week that Pakistan will share its budget details with the Fund. He added that he would like the IMF



to clear its 9th review before the budget, which is due to be presented in early June, as all the conditions for that had already been met.

For its part, the IMF has said it remains in touch with Pakistan's author-

For its part, the IMF has said it remains in touch with Pakistan's authorities in order to pave the way for a board meeting before the financing programme expires at the end of June.

Ordinarily, a board meeting on a review of the programme would require a prior staff-level agreement During his interview with Anadolu, PM Shehbaz said, "We have met all conditionalities. I repeat, each and every requirement of the IMF as prior actions has been met.

"Some of those actions are usually met after the board's approval, but this time the IMF required that those actions be met before the board's approval, so we have met them."

on contingency plans in case the IMF talks fall through, PM Shehbaz emphasised the resilience and fortitude of the Pakistani nation.

He said the people of Pakistan had faced challenges in the past, and if needed, will "tighten our belt" and rise again.

According to the premier, Pakistan has been facing a plethora of problems since April 2022, when the current government took over after Imran was ousted in a no-trust vote.

was ousted in a no-trust vote. The issues are the result of the previous government's policies, the dead-floods in August, and the inflation problem, he said.INP

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan Flaws in the Balochistan census

Flaws have been witnessed in the seventh census underway in Pakistan's Balochistan province. The census is underway amid reservations and apprehensions expressed by the Baloch and Pashtoon nationalist political parties.

The census staff is yet to reach the people living in urban parts of the province. What to speak about the remote areas of the province, which covers half of the country in terms of area and houses only 6% population of

Census staff is yet to reach the population in Balochistan

Specific law and order situations, rugged mountains, long distances, plains, and administrative issues make it very difficult to make sure proper and accurate counting of all individuals in Balochistan.

As per the 2017 national census, Balochistan makes hardly 6% population of the entire country. Indeed, this is equal to salt in the flour. It is ironic fate if this meager population is not counted properly during the census

Census also a sensitive topic in Balochistan

Like in some cities of Pakistan, census/enumeration is also considered to be one of the sensitive topics in Balochistan. Almost all political parties are skeptical about the process of the current enumeration/census,

he Baloch nationalist parties are concerned about the inclusion of Afghan refugees in the census process and fear that this would bring a demographic change in Balochistan. Similarly, the Pashtoon nationalist parties fear that their (ethnic Pashtuns) population should not be ignored under the garb of Afghan refugees.

Balochistan makes up only 6% population of the entire country

The resource-rich province of Balochistan has a nominal representation in the parliament with only 19 members of the national assembly out of a total of 342. The province has no say in the formation of the federal gave.

total of 342. The province has no say in the formation of the federal government, and distribution of development funds under the federal public sector development program (PSDP). Even its (Balochistan) meager share of 6% percent in services is swallowed by Islamabad through fake domi-

Balochistan is lagging behind all other provinces in terms of key social indicators including education, health, sanitation and clean drinking water. Nevertheless, its own funds are not utilized in a transparent way because of the worst governance.

To be precise, all political parties should put their heads together and bury the hatchet and come up with one point agenda that a fair and trans-parent census should be conducted before it is already late.

Gender budgeting- a tool for gender removing inequalities



of of Constitution Islamic Republic of Pakistan says that there will be no discrimination among the citizens on the basis of sex. It means that the rights of men and women shall be equal. Gender equality is a basic fundamental right in any self-respecting society. Do ground realities substantiate this assertion? Are there even playing grounds for

both genders? If not, why it is so? And how can gender mainstream-

ing be achieved? Gender Responsive, Gender Sensitive and Gender Aware budget-

There are many poli-cy options to reduce this imbalance but budget is and planning instrument

can be used for reaching the goal of Gender Equality. Gender Responsive, Gender Sensitive and Gender Aware budgeting in a country, region, or a province can create enabling environment to bring equality? The fundamental objective of gender budgeting refers to refining budget and related policies with a view to promoting gender equality as an integral part of human rights Gender budgeting makes the gender-specific effects of budgets visible and raises awareness about their frequently implicit dimensions of discrimination against women.

Gender impacts of budgets and policies Gender budgeting thus identifies the gen-der-specific implications of public finance which is usually pre-sented as gender-neutral - and, in particular economic policies. Gender budgeting is therefore regarded as a core strat-egy for raising aware-ness and understanding of gender issues and the gender impacts of budg-ets and policies. When

we talk in the context of Balochistan, the first question that strikes us that, 'Is there any study ever conducted to find out the Gender Gaps? Did we undertake any post or pre-budget assessment of the annual budget on different segments of the society, especially women, who form almost 50% (48.76%, to be specif-ic) of our national popu-lation? In Balochistan, this ratio

is 47.47%. If our budget is not Gender Sensitive, almost half the population is left out. In our set up womenempowerment starts and ends with the provision of Sewing Machines, the opening of embroidery centers, or the holding of few cultural shows. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender per-spective at all levels of the budgetary process, and restructuring rev-enues and expenditures is required in order to promote gender equali-ty. As mentioned above female population in Balochistan is 47.4% and their needs are

completely ignored at

hardly involved in the budgetary process. An analysis of PSDPs since 2013-14 till 2020-21 shows that there was not a single project in the years 2013- 14 1st 2014-15, as if women did not. Exist or they were not worthy of any consideration. from 2015-16 to 2019-20, there were one to three projects and the total outlay ranged from 12% to 22%. It shows how much priority that 47.49% of the population gets in the province. Although the world over women is

not categorized as a vulnerable group. In Balochistan, they are not only vulnerable but also marginalized But the treatment they get in Pakistan, especially in Balochistan, they are not only vulnerable but also marginalized in the real sense of the world. A UN Report on Women said that compared to men, women have 26% fewer chances of employment, and around 75% of the women labor force works in unregulated sector of the economy. Why they are consid-

ered vulnerable because

solely dependent on male counterparts both at home as well as at the workplace. Surprisingly there are no separate Rest Rooms(Washrooms) for ladies in Secretariat and directorates. For the entire female population, there is only one female park in Smugli Road and they have no recreational facilities

whatsoever. Women development department manned by male officers

There is a women's Development Department, mostly manned by male offi-cers and workers, who are supposed to work for the welfare of female workers. They lack the capacity to for-mulate and implement plans for female uplift. Conditions outside the capital city are simply deplorable. Economic Development will remain an unrealized dream unless the government takes concrete

steps through gender budgeting for Gender using this untapped potential. mainstreaming

The Iran-Saudi pact

The recent rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia has created a ripple of excitement among the people of the region, who have been badly affected by the undeclared cold war between the two countries. between the two coun-

The efforts to normalize ties between the two archrivals might also go a long way in stabilizing the situation in various parts of the region, and helping the people of Yemen put an end to the terrible war that has pushed millions of people towards hunger, starvation and miseries colossal and caused damage to the country's

infrastructure. Middle two Eastern powers have expressed their intention to sort out issues in an amicable way, while announcing the restora-tion of diplomatic ties. It is also believed that this normalization will not only boost economic cooperation between the two countries but also allay apprehensions that the people of two states have about one and

Many believe that the leaders of two countries demonstrated political acumen by accepting the reality of the modern world that advocates the resolution of problems through

It is also hoped that friendly ties between Riyadh and Tehran will pave the way for an effective reconciliation between the Shias and Sunnis of Iraq besides between the pro-Iran and pro-Saudi Arabia political factions in the Middle East and several parts of the Muslim world

It is expected that positive signals emanat-ing from Riyadh in Tehran might be instrumental in putting an end to the propaganda war unleashed by the media outlets of the two states years ago, bringing the people of the two states

closer.
The easing of tensions could greatly benefit the Iranian economy that has been crippled because of the ruthless sanctions imposed by the US and its allies. The recent unrest in Iran was also partly fuelled by the precarious eco-nomic situation that has plunged millions of peo-ple into a life of misery and impoverishment. These sanctions dealt a severe blow to Iranian oil export, depriving it of its fair share in the global market, causing the loss of billions of dollars over the years

dollars over the years. The US and and its European allies tried to isolate Iran at the inter-national level, which also damaged the country diplomatically. Enemies of Iran used this unrest to tarnish the image of the country, asserting that Tehran is no different from a fas-

cist state. The normalization of ties perhaps will not instantly end Iranian isolation at the international level, but help Tehran find some support at regional forums. While sanctions against Iran are likely to continue, making it difficult for Tehran to get any sigh of relief at the global level, it can enhance Iranian share in regional Iranian share in regional

After the normalization of relations with the UAE if Iran manages to put aside its differences with Saudi Arabia, it will help boost its image as a country that as a country that believes in talks and diplomacy, questioning the narrative that has been projected by the West asserting that the

West asserting that the theocratic state seeks regional dominance by bankrolling proxies across the region.

Cordial ties with Tehran will also greatly help Riyadh that has been beset by drone attacks allegedly carried out by the Houthi rebels of Yemen Riyadh has of Yemen. Riyadh has been trying hard to diversify its economy, pumping billions of dollars into construction of tourist resorts and development of service industries. These sectors of the economy cannot achieve any significant success amidst the atmosphere of hostility and animosity in the region. The fear of attacks in any country dissuades tourists from visiting that country. Such tensions also undermine the efforts that are meant to boost economic development.

Saudi Arabia is almost friendly with every country of the region. After following hawkish policies for

some years, its leader-ship has adopted a prag-matic approach that seems to be promoting regional trade and eco-nomic development. The kingdom also seems determined to modernize Animosity

seems determined to modernize. Animosity with Iran has greatly benefited the obscurantist forces of the country that thrive on such hostility. Good relations with Iran will allow the kingdom to deprive retrogressive elements of the excuse they employ to stoke anti-Iranian feelings.

to stoke anti-Iranian feelings.

Such people with a medieval mindset also scorn the reformist agenda of the current Saudi Arabia government. So, on the domestic front it will strengthen the pragmatist leadership of Riyadh, creating ease to carry out the ing ease to carry out the scheme of modernization that is badly needed for a country which has been accused of fomenting sectarian hatred and religious orthodoxy. It will also help Saudi Arabia project its soft image which is neces-sary if the kingdom realwants to promote its services sector and diversify its economy.

The rapprochements between Tehran and Riyadh will also boost the image of China as a global Teader. Beijing has emerged as an influential country in a region that has been plagued by wars, con-flicts and hostilities. The Chinese involvement also reflects the waning power of the US that is more interested in sell-

ing weapons to all the rival states instead of coming up with a solu-tion to the problems being faced by the region. The people of the Middle East might remember China as the country that helped cre-ate a situation where they could have a sigh of relief, and Washington as an actor that did nothing for the region except fueling

more tensions

By Abdul Sattar

These good gestures by the two countries also indicate that the world is finally entering into an era of effective multilateralism. First, Russia stabilized warrussia stabilized war-torn Syria a few years ago and now China is trying to create the atmosphere that might go a long way in foster-ing regional unity and promoting business and trade in not only the Middle East but beyond as well. The prospects of this unity are bright because Riyadh is not only promotive and trade in the control of the c only normalizing ties with Iran, but has also made efforts to put aside differences with Damascus while enjoying good ties with the Iraqi government that also played a crucial role in bringing the two states closer.

The rapprochement should serve as a reminder to the belligerent leadership of Israel that has been seeking regional domination. regional domination through fear and intimidation. Tel Aviv needs to realize that by violating international laws and usurping the rights of Palestinians.

Mirror, mirror on the wall... By Kamila Hyat

he 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 opin-ions, some arguing that after three years of acute hardship caused by infla-tion, unemployment and related issues, Pakistan will boom back and make a full recovery. Others are far less optimistic and

there is a sense of hope-

lessness 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, infor-mation technology experts and others opted to leave the country legal-ly. 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 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 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 prom-ise 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, 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 com-pared to Pakistan pared to Pakistan. However, as the World

Bank has pointed out, more and more flaws have crept into their sys-tem of governance lead-ing 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 econo-mists across the world. has already defaulted, and has therefore turned to the IMF the lender of last resort we should remem-ber 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 the aid from the IMF. IMF aid is of course not always something to be

The power and energy crisis

energy crisis has reached crisis proportions. The power sector's circular debt of Rs2,377 billion - com-bined with Rs1,400 billion of the gas sector -and Rs600 billion and Rs600 billion payable to PSO speak volumes of our bad management and the unsustainable structure of power-and-energysector 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 thermal-based sources has resulted in a disproportionate reliance on thermalbased 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

Pakistan's power and of industrial demand and poor transmission and distribution sys-

> Pakistan developed thermal-based IPPs to cater for projected demand in the 1990s with generous ROI incentives for IPP own-ROI ers 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 genera-

tion 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 120,392GWH, only 87,324 GWH was pro-duced 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 approx-imately 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 actuload of 8,000MW. Due to seasonal needs - keeping houses and offices cool in summer and warm in winter- the demand rises 30,000MW

It is safe to say that Pakistan uses costly power generated mostly through imported fossil fuels to cool walls and at subsidized rates. This indeed is an inefficient way of using costly electricity. Now even if the tem-

porary demand in summer spikes to 30,000MW, the solution is demand management - which is avoided to 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 arrange ment of spending \$100 billion on capacity pay-

ments to IPPs for maintaining the capacity that caters to the require-ment of our domestic needs - air conditioning mostly - is the most inefficient way of utiliz-ing 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.

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 state of the oil

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 longterm structural reforms through better regula-tion of the power sector and professional management.

Pakistan needs to enhance its industrial capacity for efficient consumption of power capacity in addition to demand management through administrative measures like weather-friendly house designs, installation of 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 democracy-loving politi-cians do not consider each 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.

also needs

refineries

Pakistan should take some immediate steps bold reforms expert presence in the power and energy min-istries, merger of regu-

refinery policy urgently

to help refineries upscale their productivi-

country

It's all about politics

ur politicians are deeply and dangerously judiciary divided. 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

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 economic progress.
Political stability results
in two things: long-term
planning and higher levels
of investment. Result: progress 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, politi-cal stability has turned

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 politi-cal 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 confidence investors and stagnation. Venezuela is a case in point. Remember, point. 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 stan-dards. Look at Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is mineral rich with coal, copper, iron ore, vanadium, tin, plat-inum, lithium and nickel.

But a contested presiden-

tial election and political instability has resulted in

hyperinflation, a lack of

By Dr Farrukh Saleem foreign investment and a decline in living stan-dards. Let us learn somefrom Democratic Republic of Congo. Contested elections, a long-running civil war, political instability and a lack of investment in key sectors like mining and 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 sectorian produces political tarian violence, political unrest and economic stag-

Here's Pakistan with rere's Pakistan with several significant accom-plishments. It has the fourth-largest irrigated land area globally, follow-ing China, India, and the US. Additionally, Pakistan ranks fourth in cotton proranks fourth in cotton production, fourth in sugarcane production, and fifth in milk production world-wide. 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 Dig has 5.9 billion tonnes of copper ore and 41.5 million ounces of gold. Pakistan has the world's secondlargest salt reserves. Our hydropower potential exceeds 60,000 MW.

"It's all about politics, stupid." Pakistan's pri-mary 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.

PM Shehbaz accuses Imran of deceiving foreign audiences over May 9 riots

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo and accused him of misleading foreign media outlets and audiences over May

The premier took to Twitter and penned that the deposed premier expedient description of the post-May 9 events as "human rights abuses" and 'stifling of the right to political protest' is not misfeading but aimed at manipulating

and swaying opinion-makers outside the coun-

Taking a jibe at the PTI chairman, the pre-mier went on and stated in his interviews with international media outlets, Imran Niazi is openly and deliberately disinforming local & foreign audiences by glib talk laced with fake news & plain misrepresentation."Let me put the context right: what his party did on May 9 was a brazen attack on the State of Pakistan,

with malafide intent and

"Pakistan fully respects & is committed to all its constitutional and international obligations on human rights, said the premier.INP

Participating in auto

Aisha Steel Mills par-

ticipated in the Pakistan International Auto Show 2022 held in Lahore

International Expo Centre from July 29 to 31, 2021. The auto show was a pio-

neering trade exhibition for the rapidly developing automotive aftermarket in

Pakistan. The show was

undisputedly the country's largest gathering of

leading automakers, auto

parts manufacturers, sup-pliers and auto service providers from all over

the country.
Company profile
Aisha Steel Mills was

incorporated in Pakistan on May 30, 2005 as a

public limited company

under the repealed Companies Ordinance,

1984. The company has a cold rolling mill complex and a galvanisation plant

Bin Qasim, Karachi, to carry out its principal

business of manufactur-ing and selling cold rolled coils and hot dipped gal-vanised coils. The com-

pany's products are sold to customers through a

network of dealers, whereas sales are also made directly to end

users manufacturing INP

Industrial Estate,

Aisha Steel Mills sales, profits nosedive in 9MFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD Aisha Steel Mills Limited's (ASL) sales and prof-itability nosedived in the first nine months of the fiscal year 2022-23 (9MFY23) compared to the corresponding period

of last year.
ASL's sales decreased
48.28% to Rs25 billion in
9MFY23 from Rs49 billion over the corresponding period of the previous year, WealthPK.

Similarly, the compa-ny's gross profit plunged 63.54% to Rs1.2 billion in 9MFY23 from Rs3.48 billion in 9MFY22. The company's operat-

ing profit decreased by 69.72% to Rs833 million in 9MFY23 from Rs2.9

The firm sustained loss-before-tax of Rs3.3 billion in 9MFY23 compared to the before-tax profit of Rs695 million in 9MFY22, posting a stag-gering 577% negative growth year-on-year.

Likewise, the loss-after-taxation stood at Rs2.14 billion in 9MFY23 compared to the post-tax profit of Rs513 million in 9MFY22, reg-istering 517% negative growth year-on-year. Company's perform-ance in FY22

In the fiscal year 2021-2, though ASL posted 17.62% gain in gross profit, its before and after-tax profits plunged by 85% and 82%, respec-tively, compared to

Industry comparison
Amreli Steels Limited,
Agha Steel Industries
Limited, International
Industries Limited and Crescent Steel and Allied Products Limited are con-sidered rivals of Aisha Steel Mills Limited in terms of market capitali-

International Industries Limited has the highest market capitalisation of Rs9.8 billion and Crescent Steel and Allied Products Limited has the lowest market cap of Rs2.1 billion. The market value of Aisha Steel Mills is Rs5.4 billion.

Co-sponsoring Pakistan Pavilion at

Dubai Expo
Aisha Steel Mills
Limited co-sponsored the
Pakistan Pavilion at the
International Dubai Expo
2020 The Pakistan
Pavilion was the Pacit Pavilion won the Best Pavilion Exterior Design Award The company featured in Pakistan Pavilion's offi-cial coffee table book Treasured Companies of

sinister objectives, No in the world would tolerate such an attempt at destroying its integrity," added PM Shehbaz. Denying human rights violations, PM clarified

that miscreants involved in attacks on army installations are being dealt with under the law

spective organized by WPC in PIPS. Govt needs to withdraw decision of 50% increase in gas tariff: Atif Akram

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the

seminar" Reclaiming the space: Reading the Constitution from Women's per-

Women's Perspective

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that the government needs to review decision of 50 percent increase in gas tariff by next month as it will burden the people with hundreds of bil-lions of rupees.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that a fifty per-cent increase in gas prices will affect the masses, production and exports increasing poverty in the country, which was already facing unprecedented price hikes taking a toll on the

tif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said that the withdrawal of decision will help

state-run gas companies get additional funds of 226 billion rupees amid mounting losses.

OGRA's decision will provide SNGPL with additional funds of about Rs121 billion during the next financial year. SSGCL will get additional funds of Rs105 billion, which is not justified.

The business leader said that domestic production is continuously falling, the production of major industries has decreased to an alarming level, and exports have been continuously dwin-

dling for nine months.
In the month of May, exports dropped by seventeen percent, and this decision will make the production process more expensive, which will further reduce

In the first eleven months of the year, exports have decreased to 25.36 billion dollars, com-pared to 28.87 billion dollars during the eleven months of last

He said that due to restrictions on imports, the economy is affected and businesses are closed, but the trade deficit has decreased from 43.40 billion dollars to 25.79 billion dollars. In 2022, Pakistan's exports

were 32.5 billion dollars, while India's exports were 680 billion dollars. Pakistan's per capita export earnings were 140 dol-lars, while India's per capita export earnings were 483 dol-lars, he informed INP

Inflation rooted in system, will continue to hurt masses in next FY: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD: President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Monday that inflation is deeply rooted in the system and it will continue to damage the interests of mass-es with full force in the next financial year to increase public

In a statement issued here, he said that the merciless inflation has broken the backs of the people and pushed millions of peo-ple below the poverty line. People in rural areas are more affected by the inflation than people in urban areas, which is unfortunate, he added. hahid Rasheed Butt said that

as per data released by the government, inflation has reached 38 percent in the month of May,

which is the highest level in the history of the country and in South Asia.

Inflation is increasing, but there has been no increase in the wages of the workers, nor has there been a significant increase in the salaries of public and private employees, he added. The business leader said that

people are being affected by inflation and that it has become difficult for them to make ends meet. While the politicians, aris-tocrats, industrialists, landlords, and bureaucracy do not care

To reduce inflation, it is necessary to improve the price mechanism, deal with hoarders and profiteers according to the law, and import cheap food items from neighbouring coun-

Shahid Rasheed noted that authorities are not willing to take an interest in providing relief to the masses as they are all focused on politics. The FBR has not been able to fulfil its tar-gets, so people should be ready to bear unexpected burdens, he concluded in a statement issued here, he said that the merciless inflation has broken the backs of the people and pushed millions of people below the poverty line. People in rural areas are more affected by the inflation than people in urban areas,

which is unfortunate, he added hahid Rasheed Butt said that as per data released by the government, inflation has reached 38 percent in the month of May. which is the highest level in the history of the country and in South Asia.INP

Pakistan to bring more seafood, agro products through KKH to Chinese market: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Chinese governments are making joint efforts to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through the Karakoram Highway (KKH) to the Chinese market

the Chinese market.
This was stated by Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque in a statement issued here while commenting on Pakistan's first-ever land con-tainerised seafood cargo, which has successfully arrived

in Xinjiang through Karakoram Highway. "We are working together to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through this land route to the Chinese market," he said

As the world's second-largest consumer market, China is keen on importing more quality Pakistani prod-ucts, Ambassador Haque added.

Ambassador Haque stressed that facilitating trade and exports of Pakistan's quality products through the Khunjerab border is Pakistan and China's shared objective.

Last week, a truck carrying cold chain containers from

Pakistan reached Kashgar in Northeast China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region via a cross-border land route.

This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

According to a representa-tive from the Pakistani transport company, it was the first attempt at a bilateral cross-border road transport business in partnership with a Chinese

firm.
"The cost and price of cold chain transport of the route is under assessment. Our Chinese partners are also exploring more opportunities to import more commodities Pakistan," he added.

The container truck entered China via the Karakoram Highway, the sole land route connecting Pakistan and China. It underwent customs check at Khunjerab Port INP



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, addressing the ground breaking ceremony of 500/ 132 kV Grid Station near Sahianwala.

Drop in political temperature beneficial to economy, says Hanif

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy (PEW) Mughal Watch Hanif Monday said that the political temperature has been decreasing in the country, which is a good sign for econo-

stability. According to press release, he stated that masses are getting satisfied as inflation is receding, economic indicators are slowly improving, and things are coming back to normal.

He said that economic development accelerate if appropriate measures are taken in the budget which will give relief

Two United Nations bod-ies Food and Agriculture Organisation

(FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) - have foreseen acute

food insecurity in Pakistan that is likely to further exacerbate in the

coming months, if the

economic and political crisis further worsens.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have been declared "early

to the people. He said that the previous government not only took record loans in the history of the country, but also set new records of mismanagement.

Pakistan's economy which was 22nd in the world was pushed down to 47th number and now their frustrated leaders are claiming that the country will be bankrupted any time soon. The former government destroyed the economy, leading to closure of thou-sands of businesses and millions losing

their jobs The international institutions that provided record loans to

Pakistan, Afghanistan among

global food shortage 'hotspots'

the former cabal without question are not ready to provide a bildollars Pakistan, which indicates their ill intentions, he observed.

He said that if the government was not changed, it would have put the integrity of the country in jeopardy to please their

foreign masters. Mr. Mughal said that the process of difficult reforms has been completed, due to which the people and the business commu-nity had to bear a lot of trouble, but now the situation is improving, and the people have started getting some relief.INP Punjab, Sindh lock horns

over jurisdiction as two abducted people killed in Katcha area

persons during the ongoing operation in the Katcha area triggered a new controversy between the Punjab and Sindh police over the jurisdiction issue. According to sources, the police even refused to assist the injured abducted persons as the two corpses are still lying in the area and decomposing.

The reason is that neither Punjab nor Sindh police

MIRPUR MATHELO: The death of two abducted

The reason is that neither Punjab nor Sindh police are ready to take responsibility of the kidnapped citizens who have been killed. They have been identified as Yaseen of Faisalabad and Ikram of Sargodha.

A video posted on social media highlighted the issue However, the matter was later resolved as it was estab-lished that the crime scene fell into the jurisdiction of the Punjab police. But the area SHO still wants to see the bodies getting rotten Mirpur Mathelo is a town located in Ghotki, the northernmost district of Sindh bordering the Rajanpur and Rahim Yar Khan districts of Punjab.On the other hand, three injured kidnaped persons, in the video, have appealed to the authorities to recover them as the dacoits are ready to free them. Their names are Rizwan (Faisalabad), Sajid Rind (Khanewal) and Waris (Sheikhupura).INP

Minor student loses eyesight due to carelessness of teacher

PATTOKI: In a woeful tale of corporal punish-ment, a school teacher damaged an eye of a one grader in a Pattoki school when she flung a pencil at her, making the student blind from that eye, it came to surface on Monday Reportedly, 6-year-old Aqsa is a student of grade one in a Pattoki school. But the little child suffered the most inhuman punishment by her teacher who flung a pen-cil at her which hit her eyeball, damaging her sight permanently Aqsa came to home and complained to her parents about pain in her eye. immediately took her to Jinnah Hospital in Lahore where doctors per formed a procedure INP

درخواستیں برائے فرا ہمی ٹریکٹر تھنے مطلوب ہیں ملع کے دو تمام زمینداران جن کی زرقی آرایشی گذشتہ سلاب سے ناجموار ہونے کے باعث متاثر ہوئی تھی۔ ر خواشیں مطلوب ہیں۔ ورخواشیں سات (7) ہم کے اندوا کدر کا گئی جانی جا ہیں سات ہم کے بعد ورخواستوں پر خوا میں کیا جائے گا۔ درخواست فارم زیر دیتھی کے دفتر ہے حاصل کیے جائے ایں۔ واضح رہے کہ محکمہ ڈراعت آن فارم اٹر چینٹ کو تکومت یاد چیتان کی جانب ہے فراہمی ٹریٹر گھٹوں کی مدیس ڈنڈ زفر اہم کیں گئے ہیں۔ مزید معلومات

نانب ناظم زراعت اصلاح آراضي وآياشي زيارت

PRQ NO. 4267 / 05-06-2023

ISLAMABAD:Handm

ade carpet industry, which was one of the

leading export sectors of Pakistan, has witnessed a

sharp decline during the

last decade as its exports condensed from \$500

million to merely \$75 million, which INP



The Executive Engineer Buildings CWPP&H Department District Kalat invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mention in the bidding documents for the works mentioned below. The estimated cost and other information of works are as under: percentage tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2018, Government of Baluchistan amended up-to-date from interested contractors /firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules. & Tender complete details please visit http://www.bppra.gob.pk . Bid Security @ 3%, Tender Fee Rs.3000/-A/C#C02716

S.No Name of Work

1 REHABILITATION AND ADDITIONAL WORKS OF 9,904,738/-JAMIA IBN-NA-ABBAS KALAT

DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION: Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed in two separates envelopes clearly marked with Work title& type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. The Second sealed envelope containing "financial bids" of technically responsive /qualified bidders will be opened on the same date. Bids Validity: Ninety days Place: The place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be - The office of the Executive Engineer Buildings CWPP&H Department District Kalat & Submission Time deadline 9:00 A.m Date 20 JUNE 2023 & opening time deadline 10:00 A.M Date 20 JUNE 2023

> EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BUILDINGS CWPP&H DEPARTMENT KALAT

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QUETTA: District education officers' Shabeer Ahmed Langue address-

ing on the World Environment Day at Government middle Boys school. Handmade carpet

industry needs

incentives to revive

NOTICE INVITING TENDER



The Divisional Forest Officer Pishin has invited the sealed tenders Form (as per Schedule B and A) on the Composite Schedule of Rates 2018 Government of Balochistan from interested firms of following work. BID SECURITY/ Earnest Money 2% in Shape of Call Deposit at Schedule Bank, Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.NO NAME OF WORK 1. Const: of Forest Rest House TSE222306334923

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with BPPRA rules, 2014, BASIC ELIGIBILITY: The Firms must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal (2022-23) in relevant Category, and registration with tax authorities i.c. (NTN and BRA), including three years similar nature work experiences & Bank Statement (Turnover). Firms (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the Category C-6 or above with required Specialized Code Valid Registration with Income Tax, &Baluchistan Revenue Authority. Turnover of at least PKR 1,794,100/-in the last three years showing financial capacity of the firm. Other Mandatory conditions and Detail Marking Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents. The bidder who offered bid of 10% below the of the total estimated cost will deposit 08% addition security in the shape of call deposit in the name of the undersigned in case of failure of additional security, the 02% earnest money will be forfeited in favor of Government of Balochistan & bidders will be recommended for blacklisting. Sequential page numbering of Proposal. Signing and stamping of proposal (Technical and Financial) wherever indicated as well as initial/signature and seal on all other pages of proposals. The Proposal is bound as hard book to deny addition/ removal of pages. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage-One Envelope procedure. BIDDING/TENDER DOCUMENTS: ISSUANCE: The Firms can obtain the bidding Documents from the office of the Divisional Forest Officer Pishin upon payment (non refundable) bidding document fee Rs. 1000/deposited in government treasury under head C-03370 through Green Challan Form in National Bank of Pakistan(NBP), (The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk, in this regard, the interested bidders must submit Green Challan Form deposited in government treasury one day prior to the bid opening in the office of undersigned. Issuance of Tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 19 June, 2023 during office hours on working days. Last date of bid Submission: The bidding Documents duly filled and attached with copies of supporting documents must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before on 19/06/2023 at 1:30 pm. Opening: The tender document will be opened on 19/06/2023 at 2:30 pm, before procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives/agents. And the financial bid will be retained and only successful bidders will be called/invited trough courier for opening of financial bid. The financial bid of disqualified bidders will be returned unopened. Place of issuance and submission will be: -Address: Divisional Forest Officer Pishin Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days. Phone No:: 0826420541 DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER

PISHIN PRQ No.4231/05-6-2023

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warning hotspots" Warnings on Pakistan nd Afghanistan have been issued in a report jointly published by the FAO and the WFP from

to

November,

reported Afghan news agency Khaama Press The WFP in the report "Pakistan,

entral African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Syrian Republic hotspots with very high

concern, and the warning is also extended to Myanmar in this edition."

It further said, "All these hotspots have a high number of people facing critical acute food. facing critical acute food insecurity, coupled with worsening drivers that are expected to further intensify life-threatening

conditions in the coming

months."In addition to political turmoil, Pakistan's International Monetary Fund (IMF) financial bailout has been delayed for the past seven months. Pakistan has to pay \$77.5 billion over the pay \$7/.5 billion over the next three years. The repayment amount is "substantial" keeping in view Pakistan's GDP of \$350 billion in 2021. The report said, "The The report said, "The political crisis and civil

unrest are likely to wors

en ahead of general elec-tions scheduled for October 2023, amid growing insecurity in the

reserves and a depreciat-ing currency are dimin-ishing the country's abili-ty to import essential food items and energy supplies and increasing food items' prices besides causing nationwide ener-gy cuts. More than 8.5 million people in million people in Pakistan are likely to face acute food insecurity between September and December 2023. 70 per cent of people in Afghanistan do not get two proper meals a day. Economic and political crises are households' reducing power and ability to pur-chase food.INP

PRQ No.4246/05-6-2023 🕤 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🐷 @dpr_gob

northwest of the country. A shortage of foreign Published by Asim khan at C-7 Kabir Building Printed at AlSaeed Printing Press Mando Khail Plaza Mission Road Quetta

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to combat plastic pollution and embark on a journey of plastics reduction.

In his message on the occasion of World Environment Day being observed on Monday, he emphasized the need

to combat plastic pollution.

He said as one of the top ten countries in the world for plastic pollution, Pakistan recognizes the urgent need

Shehbaz Sharif said the government has prioritized the adoption of environment friendly alternatives and is actively working on the Plastics Prohibition Regulation 2023 for the Islamabad Capital Territory.

This regulation will establish a comprehensive framework and timeline for phasing out single-use plastics, while also leading by example on a plan to reduce and then ban the use of single use plastics by the entire feder-

In a demonstration of the federal government's commitment to reduce plastic waste in Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif has directed the Prime Minister House to stop using single-use plastics, which like the Ministry of Climate



Communication Maulana Asad Mehmood calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Private university van looted in Karachi

KARACHI In yet another incident of street crimes, robbers on Monday

looted a van of a private university in Karachi's Gulistan-e-Jauhar.

According to details, the van of a university female student and teacher was looted by two robbers, riding motorbike, in Gulistan-e-Jauhar.

The female students and a teacher

The female students and a teacher were robbed of their mobile phones and cash, while the robbers fled the scene safely after throwing the key of the vehicle.

Earlier in March, businessmen and traders of Karachi threatened total shutdown of markets against the 'ris-

ing street crimes' in the metropolis.

Addressing a press conference,
President Karachi Electronic Dealers
Association (KEDA), Mohammad
Rizwan Irfan, said that the Sindh government has completely failed in ernment has 'completely failed in controlling the street crimes in Karachi, pointing out the recent incident, wherein a 'Rickshaw gang' took away mobile phones and cash worth Rs15m from shop in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) area.INP

Five killed. 13 injured in van-dumper collision

PHALIA: Five people died as a result of a terrible collision between dumper and a passenger van in Phalia on Monday.

The accident took place near Pahrianwali Adda area of Tehsil Phalia in Mandi Bahauddin, when a dumper and a passenger van collided due to high speed and five people were killed including the driver and three women,

while 13 passengers were injured. The rescue team shifted the dead bodies and injured to a hospital. The driver of the dumper fled after the incident.INP

May 9 riots: Another primary culprit involved in Jinnah house attack arrested

ISLAMABAD: In a recent develop-ment, the investigators on Monday unearthed another primary miscreant involved in the riots happened on May 9 at Jinnah house, Lahore.

According to the details, another primary miscreant, identified as Ali Raza, travelled from Okara to attack at

Jinnah house in Lahore.

The alleged culprit Ali Raza revealed that the speeches of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership provoked him against the army.

"I became a part of the mischief as per the pre-arranged plan. Hassan Niazi, Yasmeen Rashid, Ijaz Chaudhry and others were included in the plan made on May 9 at Zaman Park," Ali Raza revealed

"I along with the party leaders took part in the arson and vandalism at Jinnah house, Lahore. We were influenced by the anti-army speeches and became a part of the arson attack." He concluded. INP

People urged to save ecosystem from environmental degradation

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Khattak urged the people to do their part to save the ecosystem from environmental degradation and promised a sustainable development policy to combat climate change that would boost socio-eco-

nomic activities across the country. Khattak, in a message on the occa-sion of World Environment Day, observed across the globe on Monday, reiterated the importance of creating mass awareness among the public about global warming and its adverse effects on lifestyle. He said that World Environment Day 2023 is being cele-brated with the theme of eliminating plastic pollution.INP

Sindh's mangoes to enter Chinese market: WealthPK

Pakistan a huge market to earn sizable foreign exchange by exporting different varieties of mangoes, reports WealthPK. In this regard, a delegation of Chinese importers recently visited the Sindh Agricultural University,

Tandojam and expressed interest in the mango varieties. They spoke to scientists and progressive farmers about the business oppor-tunities in Sindh's mango-produc-ing regions. It was mutually decided to promote the Mango Value Addition Programme in order to gain access to the lucra-tive international markets.

The Sindh Agriculture
University is working on mango
value addition, processing and byproducts, and such products are of
export quality.

The Chinese investors plan to
import 6,000 tons of mangoes

from Sindh and Punjab. In the ini-tial phase, they'll import 6,000 tons of mangoes for processing.

They were looking for mangoes that were rich in pulp and could be grown from May to September.

Pakistan exported 37.4 tons of fresh and dried mango to China from January to September 2021, which represented a 10-time increase compared with the last year. However, this export figure year However, this export figure is not an unsurpassable amount given the huge size of the Chinese market. The Pakistani mango accounts for less than 0.36% of

China's total mango imports.

So, there exists a huge potential for exploration, which entails joint efforts for more Pakistani mangoes to enter the Chinese market.

Talking to WealthPK, Senior Scientific Officer at the National Scientific Officer at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) Dr Nur Ullah said China had already helped Pakistan in several challenges, and with its advanced technology, Pakistan could also overcome this challenge. "Pakistan needs to strengthen its ties with China INP

SC issues order of last hearing on audio leaks commission

ISLAMABAD:

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has issued its order of the previous hearing on the applications against the audio leaks commission. The order says that the attorney general for Pakistan (AGP) told the court the federal government has objected to the bench. The next hearing on the petitions will be held on June 6.

The AGP told the court the federal government had filed a written application against the judges.

the judges. The registrar's office should register the federal government's application, the order stated.

The parties may file a reply to the response of the audio leaks commission, it further

The office raised objections to Riaz Hanif's contempt of court petition, the SC order said, adding that if Hanif wants, he can remove the objection and file the application again.

The next hearing on the petitions against the audio leaks commission will be held on June 6, according to the order INP

China extends cooperation to Pakistan to develop dairy industry

ISLAMABAD: China is extending cooperation to Pakistan to develop its dairy industry through production of high milk-ISLAMABAD: yielding cows, the Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR) said. The goal of the cooperation is to

improve genetic variations of cows being used in Pakistan for dairy farming. This can be achieved by breeding elite animals with high yields and long lives, and with better embryos, accord-ing to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday. To this end, the Royal Group of

China has established a laboratory in Lahore to develop buffalo embryos of elite animals

The company also plans to set up a buffalo dairy farm of 8,000 heads. The China-Pakistan coop-

eration in the production of high milk-yielding cows is expected to contribute significantly to the development of Pakistan's dairy industry

It aims to increase milk production, improve the quality of dairy products, enhance farmer incomes, and ultimately meet the growing demand for milk and dairy products in the country. "China and Pakistan have been

collaborating in different fields of agriculture and livestock, specifi-cally in the production of high

milk-yielding cows.

This cooperation aims to enhance Pakistan's dairy industry by introducing and breeding superior breeds of cows known for their back with the company to the company t their high milk production capa-bilities," said AAUR in a state-ment.INP Change and Environmental Coordination, will lead the way in phasing out and restricting the use of Polyethylene terephthalate or PET bottles in Federal Ministries, and Divisions across the board.

The Prime Minister called upon all stakeholders, including citizens, businesses, civil society organizations, and the media, to renew their commitment in fight against plastic pollution and preserving the planet's biodiversity for future generations.

Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman, in her message said that the consequences of plastic pol-lution are intense and long term, as it irreversibly damages our environment and threatens the very fabric of life

She urged a call for action as plastic production is set to triple by 2060 if no serious measures are taken to stop

The Minister shared the 7R's Action Agenda which marks the country's commitment to combat plastic pollution and initiate its journey towards reducing plastic waste.

These 7 R's are reduce, redesign, reuse, recycle, responsibility, research, and resource INP

Pervaiz Elahi kept in same block where Sanaullah spent his days in Camp Jail

LAHORE: Former Punjab chief minister and PTI President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi who was on a 14-day judicial remand has been kept in the Security Block of the Camp Jail in Lahore, it came to light on

This is the same block where Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was kept during his detention days in the previous regime.

According to jail authorities, medical tests were run on Elahi last night and all his reports which have come today are normal.

The jail officials further said that Elahi would be provided jail food and he would not be allowed cuisine

They said as per the routine, the accused involved in

They said as per the routine, the accused involved in the anti-corruption cases can meet their relatives on Monday or Thursday. Elahi can meet his family on any of these two days, they added.

A magistrate court in Lahore Sunday turned down the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE)'s plea seeking former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi's physical remand and sent him on a 14-day judicial remand. He was shifted to Camp Jail by ACE officials.

On Sunday Elahi was presented before the court by

On Sunday, Elahi was presented before the court by ACE officials amid tight security after he was re-arrest-ed for the second time in two days on Saturday. Elahi was arrested from outside his house in Gulberg

on June 1 in a corruption case. However, the court termed the charges against Elahi not "well-founded" and discharged him Soon after his discharge, Elahi was

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party leader and Adviser to Chief Minister Sindh on Agriculture Maznoor Wassan, known for his political forecasts, ruled out possibility of martial law in the country. He said, "I don't see the holding of general elec-tions on time and there are chances elections

are chances elections could be postponed from

He said that a time will be sought for holding accountability then elections will be held.

It is pertinent to note that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that general elections in 2023 will take place on time

will take place on time

aimed to complete the

census and compile results before it.

Earlier, speaking to a delegation of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), Shahbaz Sharif stated that polls

will take place in August or September 2023 and holding elections on time will strengthen democra-cy.INP

Road to

Makkah:

Hajj flights

for

Pakistani

pilgrims

start via

Jeddah

ISLAMABAD Ministry of Religious Affairs spokespersons announced the com-

announced the com-mencement of Hajj flights of Pakistani pilgrims on

government quota through Jeddah as Saudi

government

the

taken into custody again by the ACE officials in two cases — filed in Gujranwala — accusing him of causing a loss of Rs100 million to the national exchequer and receiving kickbacks during his time as Punjab chief executive.

On Saturday, Elahi was produced before Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Afzal's court in Gujranwala. After the arguments from the ACE and Elahi's lawyers, the court discharged the PTI president in both

cases and ordered his immediate release if he was not required in any other case.

But the PTI president was arrested yet again on Saturday - this time for making illegal appointments in the Punjab Assembly This is the same block where Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was kept during his detention days in the pranious regime. detention days in the previous regime

According to jail authorities, medical tests were run on Elahi last night and all his reports which have come

The jail officials further said that Elahi would be provided jail food and he would not be allowed cuisine from home. They said as per the routine, the accused involved in the anti-corruption cases can meet their relatives on Monday or Thursday. Elahi can meet his family on any of these two days, they added.

A magistrate court in Lahore Sunday turned down

the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE)'s plea seek-ing former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi's physi-cal remand and sent him on a 14-day judicial remand. He was shifted to Camp Jail by ACE officials.INP

Elections **Asad Umar denies** to be having any contact postponed for another with Jahangir Tareen 6 months, PPP leader claims

Umar on Monday denied having any contact with Jahangir Khan Tareen, who used to be a close aide of PTI chief Imran Khan before heading a group of decident and the control of the control

dissidents in the party.

The PTI leader, who had quit his party positions on May 24 but had not resigned from the party altogether, made the remarks outside an Islamabad court where he appeared in a case pertaining to violent protests in the country on May

Umar's remarks come amid reports of the Tareen group which had emerged as a faction in the PTI comprising the party's dissident parliamentarians step-

ping up efforts to poach as many PTI defectors as it can to swell its ranks ahead of general elections.
In recent days, several PTI members,

including prominent leaders, have part-ed ways with the party following a state crackdown on it over allegations of their involvement in vandalism during May 9 protests following the arrest of the PTI chief. On May 29, Tareen held a meeting with former PTI leader Aleem Khan at his residence in the provincial capital, according to a Dawn report. The meet-ing was also attended by former minister Ishaq Khakwani, PM's aide Aown Chaudhry, Saeed Akbar Niwani, and Shoaib Siddiqui, the report said INP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting to discuss proposals for providing relief to poor and middle class in the upcoming budget.

Direct Hajj flights from Quetta officially kicks off

QUETTA,: In a significant develop-ment, direct Hajj flights from Quetta have officially kicked off, marking a milestone for pilgrims in the region. Last night, a total of 145 pilgrims

embarked on their sacred journey to Medina directly from Quetta.

The initiation of direct Hajj flights from Quetta brings great relief to pilgrims from Balochistan, streamlining their travel experience to the holy land of Haji

Quetta International Airport wit-nessed yet another significant break-through as it welcomed the commence-ment of these special flights. The PK-747 aircraft, operating on the new Runway Category-II, made a successful first night landing before embarking on its journey to Medina with the 145 Hajj pilgrims onboard

Prior to this development, PK-6133 and PK-6137 had facilitated the travel of

three hundred Hajj pilgrims to Medina. Previously, pilgrims from Quetta had to undertake the additional leg of their ourney to Karachi before heading to the noly land.

Pilots expressed their utmost satisfaction with the new experience of landing on Quetta Airport's state-of-the-art CAI-II runway during nighttime.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) spokesperson highlighted the recent

upgrades that have made direct flights possible from Quetta. Thanks to the recent expansion, the runway now extends over an impressive length of 12,000 feet, allowing for more extensive operations. The installation of the mod-ern CAT-II airfield lighting system on the new runway guarantees smooth and reliable operations in various weather conditions. The spokesperson further revealed that the enhanced facilities at Quetta Airport have opened INP

Massive potential in Pakistan to boost olive production: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD:Sprawling olive farming has sparked a silent revolution in the Pothohar region, and the initiative has listed Pakistan the 19th member of the International Olive Council.

"Pakistan, with suitable swaths of land and environment for olive cultiva-tion, has the potential to become one of tion, has the potential to become one of the leading olive exporters," said Dr Imam-ul-Haq, a horticulturist associated with Barani Agricultural Research Institute Chakwal, while talking to WealthPK. He said the fields of Pothohar region in Punjab province have a suit-able climate for olive cultivation, as wild olives grow abundantly in areas wild olives grow abundantly in areas such as Kallar Kahar, Khora, Mandial, Kunhati Bagh and Kufri areas.Dr Imam said olive plantation is being carried out with limited capacity in different areas of the country. However, he said, owing to suitable climate, Chakwal has been named as "Olive Valley". He said it

takes five years for an olive seedling to

bear fruits with proper care.
Dr Imam said Pakistan has the potential to surpass Spain, the world's largest olive oil producer, as it has 10 million acres of land suitable for growing olives, much more than Spain's olive-growing

Pakistan is producing approximately 1,500 tons of olive oil per year and 830 tons of table olives, bringing new financial opportunities for farmers and also

helping the country to cut its import bill. During the last decade, large-scale cultivation of olive plants in Pothohar region of Punjab and northern areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, particularly in Bajaur tribal district, has begun to deliver fruitful results. The initiative has helped tackle some of the effects of climate change good as soil assetted as climate change such as soil erosion and desertification, and generate new oppor-tunities to farmers.INP



beach on the occasion of World Environment Day.