



Is climate change responsible for irregular weather patterns

Laiba Fatima:

Climate change is actually increasing in greenhouse gas emissions which brought significant changes in Earth's weather patterns. It is characterized by changes in weather over a longer period of time...

at even faster rate. A Due to abrupt change in weather patterns has caused the southwest experience less precipitation than normal...

of climate change for decades. Due to rising sea levels coastal communities and island nations are at higher risk associated with climate crisis...

Healthcare Crisis in Balochistan Favors Karachi as Patient Destination

Editorial: The recent exodus of Congo virus patients from Quetta to Karachi has unveiled the alarming state of government-run hospitals in Balochistan. The tragic loss of Dr. Shakanullah Baloch, who succumbed to the deadly virus en route to Karachi, serves as a poignant reminder of the dire situation...

Most of the nearly dozen patients, including 11 doctors, have sought refuge in private hospitals in Karachi in their desperate fight for survival. This raises a crucial and deeply troubling question: when healthcare professionals themselves lack confidence and trust in Balochistan's healthcare system, how can we expect the general public to place their faith in it?

Investigation into outbreak of Congo Virus is imperative. First and foremost, a comprehensive investigation into the outbreak of the Congo virus within the Civil Hospital's trauma center is imperative. It is vital to understand how and why approximately two dozen healthcare professionals fell victim to this deadly virus. We must examine whether standard operating procedures for treating Congo virus patients were followed and determine whether the government has initiated an inquiry to address this critical matter.

Furthermore, the destination for Congo virus patients was intended to be the Fatima Jinnah Chest and TB Hospital, yet the patient was inexplicably admitted to the trauma center of the Civil Hospital. These discrepancies warrant a thorough review. Time Has Come For Complete Overhaul of Health Care System. It is disheartening that despite a substantial investment of over Rs. 50 billion in Balochistan's healthcare sector and a significant number of medical professionals, patients continue to be referred to Karachi for medical treatment...

Level playing field?

By Ahmed Bilal Mehbob:

It is both fair and legitimate to demand a level playing field for the coming and for that matter the past. The playing field was thoroughly uneven during the 1977 general election...

and misgovernance and the information minister, Nawabzada Sher Ali Khan Pataudi. The playing field was, therefore, not exactly level even at that time. The playing field was thoroughly uneven during the 1977 general election...

Ha (this is the truth) that Gen Musharraf had reached an understanding with the PPP to let the party win. General election 2013 was relatively free and fair as there was no evidence of interference by the state intelligence agencies and a commission of inquiry headed by the chief justice concluded that "it cannot be said that on an overall basis, the elections were not a true and fair reflection of the mandate given by the electorate..."

Climate action

By Aisha Khan

EIGHT years after the Paris Agreement, the global community is nowhere near reducing emissions to keep temperature increase within the safe threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030. According to a study led by James Hansen, who is NASA's top scientist, the 1.5C limit is deadlier than a doornail. The 1.5C limit will also be dead unless we take purposeful actions to reduce the Earth's energy imbalance. In the backdrop of this apocalyptic scenario and no breakthrough in climate negotiations, the International Court of Justice has commenced advisory proceedings which include written submissions and oral hearings to give guidance on the obligation of states in respect of climate change, with a view to handing down an advisory opinion in late 2024 or early 2025. The UNGA initiated a formal request for adopting a

resolution by consensus, supporting the government of Vanuatu's request for an advisory opinion from the ICJ regarding state obligations on climate change. This offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of climate action with a pivotal shift in interpreting climate justice. For countries that risk disappearing from the face of the earth and others that face life-threatening challenges, the ICJ's upcoming advisory opinion can help in holding big emitters legally accountable under international law. The advisory opinion may also bolster climate litigation and court cases now to prevent significant harm to vulnerable nations. This is also an opportunity to place climate action at the forefront of future climate negotiations and make the global community realize that mitigation for the climate crisis is beyond moral.

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Tough choice awaits Nawaz

By Abbas Nasir:

HAVING returned from a four-year, self-imposed exile, the path to power for PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif may appear paved but it is also true that within the next few months he will be at a crossroads again and forced to make difficult choices. If he is cleared by the courts to run for office and leads the next government, as all indications are that he may do, he is not talking of opinion polls or surveys that are indicative of popular support; there will be no opposition to their liberty, freedom and space to operate. As things stand he is being called the establishment's 'ladda'. If he were to err on the side of his democratic instincts, would he risk falling foul of the powerful forces that facilitated his potentially phoenix-like return after he was down and out? Clearly, the state of the economy has been identified as a serious existential issue that needs to be addressed urgently. If Nawaz Sharif were to bury the hatchet, seek a more congenial political atmosphere and secure the release of Imran Khan and his supporters jailed mostly on dubious charges, will they take to the streets again? The impact of any such protest on the economy will determine

elections and partially succeeded. Through most of the 1990s the two parties played a revolving-door game to power, instigated by the military and facilitated by presidential power. In the following year, elections were called and Ms Bhutto's long and deft negotiator in that military leader created space for both her PPP and the PML-N. Tragically, Ms Bhutto was assassinated as an enraged dictator refused to provide her security despite a suicide bomb attack on her in Karachi just weeks earlier. Musharraf was hoping she and Mr Sharif would not return to campaign, enabling him to manipulate the polls. She defied him and convinced the PML-N leaders to do the same. This isn't to suggest the PML-N and PPP have embodied the CoD completely since then, but it's safe to say they have shown considerable accommodation as evident from the adoption of the landmark 18th Amendment which strengthened provincial autonomy and cemented the federation. After the 2013 elections, when the PTI emerged as the largest, albeit short of a majority, single party in KP, Nawaz Sharif told his provincial leadership not to try for a coalition with the PML-N, which seemed possible and viable, but to let the party with the biggest mandate form the government.

Being seen & heard

By Muna Khan:

GOING to graduate school in the US as a mature student meant I felt a disconnect with younger students, especially around language and identity issues. It took some time for me to understand words like 'woke' and 'gaslighting' but it provided much humour in the classroom. I was studying journalism having practised since I was 10. I had more in common with my professors than students who complained they did not feel seen or heard. I took 'seen and heard' to mean as sources in reporting whereas they meant the opposite — truly understood. Who has time to sit and truly understand sources, people, communities when you're racing against the clock, I'd argue. They blamed the media for not accurately representing communities, or even trying to, which is why the news media was losing audiences who feel invisible. I warned them that talks about feelings will not sit well with the media. Donald Trump won the election a few months into these discussions. His unorthodox style was blamed on Russian hackers, Facebook ads, Hillary Clinton, but a Harvard study blamed it on the press — specifically the overwhelmingly negative tone of news coverage. The very classmates I ridiculed had

the answer to why their children do about character, instead it's about winning. Some of his self-help suggestions on how to start conversations — while true, conversational, speak to a larger issue, not just for the US. Our screen time has ended our social skills. It was possible to have friends with opposing views on a host of issues but that seems impossible now. — my myself included — use emojis to communicate feelings. If you cut yourself off from emotions you risk cutting yourself off from intimacy and life itself. Along with social media, he holds the widening inequality, populism, bigotry and a decline in religion and community participation responsible for an abundance of values born of kindness. Here, I disagree with him slightly based on my time as a student in the US where an emergence of a new moral code and I believe that doesn't sit right with Brooks, a white conservative who supported the Iraq war and is pro-Israel. The US has made a great deal of progress in diverse political representation, gender and LGBTQ rights and is fighting back against racism and climate policies. It represents a rejection of a world order that has seen a rise of 'cancel culture' (people with no

vestable assets greater than \$100 million whose number has doubled in the last 20 years according to a wealth advisory firm. I believe the pushback to Israel's program in Gaza is because that young people are calling out the lies because they now can't hear 'Palestinians who have been denied space in the press. Go to TikTok to see the videos of users reading a 20-year-old letter by Osama bin Laden to the Americans and agreeing with him. There is a genuine interest in wanting to know, to understand 'others' and ourselves in the process. This is the purpose of journalism and I hope the press can find its way back to representing communities fairly. Of course, societies need more empathy and human connections are vital for us to thrive. It's why I support easing travel restrictions between India and Pakistan especially for families and artists, sports people, students on exchange program — etc. Let us connect, talk, listen and have a respectful exchange of ideas so we can ease some of the social pain Brooks says we are all in. These small steps — versus grand PR-driven gestures — can help us become a better friend, neighbour, partner, values. Hope we can all support.

## Sino-Pak Workshop on major Livestock Disease Control held

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and China acknowledged the untapped potential for agricultural cooperation, this was noted at a Workshop on major Livestock Disease Control held in Faisalabad.

The workshop was the part of third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

During the workshop, Pakistan and China acknowledged the untapped potential for agricultural cooperation within the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Both sides agreed to enhance collaboration to crop areas including "crop

cultivation, animal and plant disease prevention, agricultural mechanization, technology exchange, and trade in agricultural products".

According to the report, as a manifestation of their recent commitment, the Department of Pathology at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Faisalabad, and China Agriculture University in Beijing had jointly organized the Workshop on Control of Major Livestock Diseases.

Pakistani and Chinese experts shared their views on the control of major diseases in animals in Pakistan. The inaugural session of the seminar was chaired by Professor Dr. Farzana Rizvi,

Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

In her opening remarks, she highlighted the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges faced by the livestock industry, underscoring the importance of sharing expertise and fostering cooperative strategies for disease management.

Professor Dr. Cheng He from China Agriculture University shared his expertise on preventive veterinary medicine and innovative measures for major animal diseases control.

Dr. He, who has contributed to zoonotic infection originating from animal industry and human health, shared his

experiences with the participants and highlighted Sino-Pakistan cooperation in animal sciences.

The ten-member Chinese experts shared their experiences with Pakistani counterparts regarding major diseases in animals. They highlighted key areas for Sino-Pak cooperation in the livestock sector.

Dr. Sajjad Hussain, Director of General Research, Livestock Department Punjab highlighted key areas of cooperation between China and Pakistan, informed the participants about the prevalence of the Congo virus in animals, and detailed the initiatives undertaken by the government of Punjab to address this issue.



QUETTA: Former Speaker Balochistan Assembly Rahila Durrani and Allama Maqsood Ali Domki take part in a protest against Israeli aggression on Palestine organized by Majlis Wahdat Muslims in form of QFC.

## Shehbaz Sharif, Ahad Cheema, Fawad acquitted in Ashiana reference

LAHORE (INP): Accountability court in Lahore has acquitted former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif in the Ashiana Iqbal Housing Project reference.

Other accused including former director general of Lahore Development Authority Ahad Khan Cheema and interim Minister for Privatization Fawad Hassan Fawad were also exonerated in the reference. Judge Ali Zulqarnain Awan announced the reserved verdict on Saturday.

The other co-accused in the Ashiana reference were: Munir Zia, Imtiaz Haider, Bilal Qadwai, Sajjad Bhatta, and Shahid Mehmood.

In his verdict, judge Ali Zulqarnain Awan said that allegations of corruption against Shehbaz Sharif, Ahad

Khan Cheema and others could not be proved. The NAB report had already given a clean chit to all the accused, the judge added.

The court has been told that the decision of the Supreme Court does not stop the trial court from deciding the Ashiana reference.

According to the verdict, the accused did not take any advantage in the Ashiana case. The hearing on the case was held on merit in the accountability court. The court did not find evidence of corruption against the accused, the judge said.

The court also said that the FIR of the case included clauses of the anti-terrorism law. "The accused should be sent to the

authority was found during Bureau's inquiry which led it to give clean chit to Shehbaz Sharif."

The report submitted by NAB officials in court had also emphasized that the accusations against Shehbaz Sharif in the Ashiana Housing scandal could not be substantiated.

The inquiry was conducted twice, and no evidence was discovered to support claims of any wrongdoing. The NAB report had further highlighted that Shehbaz Sharif did not derive any personal benefits from the Ashiana Housing project. The evidence presented had indicated that public officeholders did not exploit their positions for personal gain, nor did they cause any financial losses to the government treasury.

## Teenage accused seeks bail in Lahore deadly road crash case

LAHORE (INP): Teenage accused, Afhan Shafiq, who was involved in the deadly road crash in Phase-VII of the Defence Housing Authority (DHA), seeks bail from court on Saturday.

The sessions court conducted hearing of the bail petition of accused Afhan. The court summoned the case record from police.

"The accused has

been nominated in road mishap in Defence. It was an accident," defence lawyer pleaded.

The lawyer while pleading for releasing the accused on bail, said that the accused has been an underage youth. The complainant's lawyer said that the FIR of the case included clauses of the anti-terrorism law. "The accused should be sent to the

anti-terrorism court for bail in the case," counsel said.

The plaintiff's lawyer also pleaded to court to dismiss the bail plea of the accused Afhan. It was earlier learned that teenage accused, Afhan Shafiq, "intentionally" rammed his car into the car of the victim family, in the deadly road crash in DHA. The incident re-



JAMSHORO: Vice Chancellor of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Science Prof. Dr. Ikram Din Ujan visits during the Pre-entry test for admission to the Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS) at Jamshoro.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the 18th Convocation ceremony of the Riphah International University.

## Climate change causing Pakistan loss of \$2bn a year: IMF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Since the year 2000, climate change has been causing Pakistan a loss of \$2 billion every year.

According to a report by the International Monetary Fund on public investment in Pakistan, four million people are affected by climate change every year. It further said that the 2022 flash floods of Pakistan impacted 30 million people and killed 1,700 people.

The report also said that 500 people are killed every year due to natural disasters and climate change.

The report expressed fears that by the year 2050, Pakistan's GDP will be affected by natural disasters by up to 9%.

The IMF has also raised concerns about the affordability of Pakistan's Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), urging a reassessment of the initiative. The total

cost to complete projects in the PSDP is reported to be Rs10.7 trillion, over 14 times the allocated budget of Rs727 billion for 2022-23.

The IMF emphasized that the current annual PSDP budget and the addition of new projects would take approximately 14 years to complete existing approved projects.

"Notwithstanding intentions to prioritise the completion of ongoing projects, new projects with a total cost Rs. 2.3 trillion were added by government in the last budget. In addition, the separate preparation and oversight of the current budget and the development budget by Finance Division

the Planning Commission respectively, can lead to inconsistent and sub-optimal decision-making," said the IMF in its latest report titled Pakistan: Technical Assistance Report—Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA and Climate PIMA).

The Fund highlighted the need for reforms to establish a more credible basis for the PSDP budget, as ongoing projects continue to be added at a significant rate. The Planning Commission's funding priority for ongoing projects was also noted by the IMF, emphasizing the necessity for a realistic and sustainable approach.

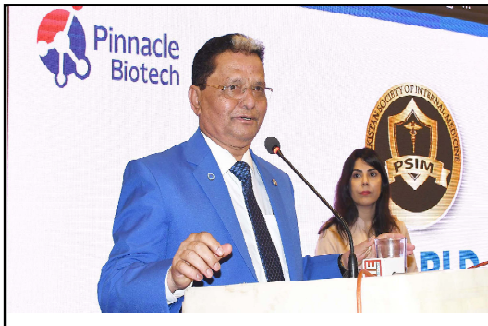
Additionally, the estimated years to completion may be understated, considering new factors like unfunded projects, unaccounted flood-related projects, and significant delays leading to cost overruns. The IMF suggested a comparison of project costs with the realista funding available in the medium term for better planning.

The report also pointed out the ineffectiveness of debt and deficit ceilings in containing expenditure, with consistent breaches over the years. Public debt has consistently exceeded the 60 percent ceiling since 2012. The

lack of a medium-term planning document and the absence of projects in Vision 2025 were highlighted as challenges in influencing budget decisions effectively.

The IMF recommended reviving five-year planning in Pakistan, considering the limited fiscal space and the need for growth drivers. A medium-term plan could address gaps in public investment management and incorporate changes in the national and global landscape since Vision 2025. The report emphasized the importance of climate-resilient infrastructure, given Pakistan's exposure to climate risks.

While acknowledging some improvements in public investment management through reforms, the IMF emphasized the incomplete implementation of measures outlined in the Public Financial Management Act 2019 and the 2021 Manual for Development Projects. The report called for strengthening



HYDERABAD: Vice President Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine Sindh Prof. Bikha Ram addressing during world diabetes day seminar organized by Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine Sindh.

## India considering new shaft to free trapped tunnel workers

UTTARAKHAND (INP): Indian rescuers are considering opening a vertical shaft to free 41 men trapped in a collapsed tunnel after drilling at the site was paused over fears of

Operations were then halted due to the possibility of "further collapse", said the government's highways and infrastructure company, NHDDCL. Relatives of those trapped, who spoke to the men via radio, said conditions were grim and morale low.

"They are in tears... they have started asking us whether we are lying about the rescue efforts being made to save them," one relative told reporters late Saturday, without giving their name. Engineers had been trying to horizontally drive a steel pipe about 90 metres (nearly three feet) wide through the debris -- enough for the increasingly desperate trapped men to squeeze through.

Drilling through the tonnes of debris was paused late Friday, after a cracking sound created a "panic situa-

tion", officials said. Operations were then halted due to the possibility of "further collapse", said the government's highways and infrastructure company, NHDDCL. Relatives of those trapped, who spoke to the men via radio, said conditions were grim and morale low.

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## MIH arranges organized a breast cancer awareness program

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Maroo International Hospital (MIH) in collaboration with the National Press Club (NPC) organized a breast cancer awareness program here on Saturday.

Addressing the event, speakers urged women to regularly conduct self-examination and self-diagnosis for the early detection of breast cancer.

Haron Naser the CEO of Maroo Int'l Hospital appreciated the efforts and interest of the First Lady, who is leading the breast cancer awareness campaign in the country.

He also vowed her resolve to continue organizing such awareness activities for breast cancer awareness for the masses.

He added the awareness campaigns have contributed to an increase in reported cases of breast cancer patients and decreased death ratio. Haroon Naser expressed satisfaction with the continued support of the breast cancer awareness program

through screening facilities at Maroo Int'l hospital.

Addressing the seminar Dr. Mir Waheed, Medical Director MIH said that worldwide, female breast cancer has surpassed lung cancer as the most commonly diagnosed cancer.

An estimated 2,261,419 new cases of breast cancer were diagnosed in women across the world in 2020.

The prevalence of breast cancer is the highest in Asian countries like India and Pakistan.

He said that it had been reported that approximately 178,388 new breast cancer cases were registered in Pakistan in 2020.

At some stage of life, one in nine Pakistani women had become the patient of breast cancer, Dr. Waheed added.

During the panel discussion Associate Prof. Dr. Saira Mehmood said, in Asia, Pakistan has the highest rate of breast cancer. She said young women also present at advanced stage of

breast cancer, which has a negative effect on prognosis.

Dr. Yasser Rehman Medical Oncologist, Dr. Nabia Tara HOD OBS and Gynae, Dr. Aisah Amin HOD Radiology and Ms. Zubia Zubair Psychologist and Psychotherapist of MIH, and Shakeela Jaleel a journalist were the panelists while Dr. Gulafshana Hafeez Gynecologist and Rubina Afzal HOD Corporate Business were the moderators.

They said that a number of breast cancer cases at the early stages have almost doubled in different hospitals of the country due to awareness and an increase in reporting. They added that health of women is essential to achieve the dream of a healthy Pakistan. They said that healthy and active women can play the role in the socio-economic development of the country.

Senior journalist and Finance Secretary of National Press Club Nayyar Ali also addressed the seminar.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Abvi, along with others cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA) annual Charity Bazaar 2023 at the Foreign Office.

## More than 500 Rohingya refugees land in Indonesia

ACEH (INP): Three boats filled with more than 500 Rohingya refugees landed in Indonesia's westernmost province on Sunday, a UN agency said, in one of the biggest arrivals since Myanmar launched a military crackdown on the minority group in 2017.

The mostly Muslim Rohingya are heavily persecuted in Myanmar, and thousands risk their lives each year on long and expensive sea journeys, often in flimsy boats, to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia.

United Nations refugee agency protection associate Faisal Rahman told media one boat had arrived in Aceh Province's Bireun district with 256 people aboard, while at least 239

Others arrived in Aceh's Pidie region and a smaller boat

carrying 36 arrived in East Aceh.

They were found in several spots," Rahman said Sunday.

Of the 256 aboard the Bireun boat, 110 were women and 60 were children, he said.

In Pidie, Marfian, a spokesperson for the local fishing community who like many Indonesians goes by one name, confirmed to reporters that a boat of nearly 250 refugees landed overnight.

More than 2,000 Rohingya are believed to have attempted the risky journey to other Southeast Asian countries in 2022, according to UNHCR.

Nearly 200 Rohingya died or went missing last year while attempting hazardous sea crossings, the agency has estimated.

The refugees were being held at a temporary shelter while awaiting a decision from authorities on their fate, and were mostly in good health.

Bireun regional secretary Ibrahim Ahmad told reporters Sunday the decision would be made by "other institutions".

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## Repatriation of illegal Afghans from Pakistan continues as 235,821 people returned to Kabul

ISLAMABAD (INP): The repatriation of illegal Afghans from Pakistan continues as 235,821 people returned to Kabul during the countywide operation.

The apex committee of the National Action Plan (NAP) in a meeting on October 3, chaired by Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar gave a deadline to all foreign nationals living illegally in the country until October 31 to leave voluntarily or face deportation.

According to official data, 472 families have returned to

Afghanistan in 236 vehicles during last 24 hours.

The government of Pakistan is facilitating the illegal Afghans in the repatriation process at the Torkham and Chaman borders.

So far, 235,821 illegal Afghan nationals have returned to their country after the deadline for voluntarily returning expired on October 31. Earlier, Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti rejected any "manhandling" of illegal immigrants in Pakistan's repatriation process.

"Prime Minister [Anwaarul Haq Kakar] has given very clear instructions that there should be no manhandling of illegal immigrants during the repatriation process," the interior minister said while speaking on the Senate floor. Sarfraz Bugti also assured the House that any mismanagement on the borders would be checked and suggestions from the political leadership in this regard would be welcomed. "No Afghan refugee having legal documents has been even touched," he added.



CHINA: A woman makes pictures of children blooming with leaves in a park in Jahangir Du District, Yangzhou City, East Jiangsu Province.



RIYADH: SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik visits Afanar Iq in Riyadh.

## PPP has been fully prepared for elections, says Asif Ali Zardari

KARACHI (INP): Former president Asif Ali Zardari said on Sunday that the country has been moving towards transparent elections on Sunday.

Talking to media Zardari said that his People's Party has been fully prepared for the upcoming general elections.

It is to be mentioned here that the Election Commission of Pakistan has announced that the elections will be held in the country on February 08 next year.

He reposed his 'full confidence' on the election commission to conduct a transparent

election.

Zardari, who has been co-chairman of the PPP, claimed that the People's Party has been the only political party of the country with ability to contest elections in any environment.

He hoped that the PPP will emerge as the majority party in elections on Feb 08.

He was opined that a conducive atmosphere prevails in the country and stressed for holding elections at fixed time.

Yesterday the envoys of the UK and the United States

political parties, including the PPP and PML-N, to seek their input about the prospects for polls and their concerns about electioneering.

UK High Commissioner Jane Marriott met PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari in Karachi, days after a similar meeting with Nawaz Sharif in Lahore.

US Ambassador Donald Blome while held a meeting with PPP leader Yousaf Raza Gilani in Multan, he also met former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Isteekami-Pakistan Party leader Jahangir Khan Tareen in Lahore.

## SAPM stresses to ensure opportunities for Pakistani manpower in KSA market

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik has stressed the need of the close coordination and robust exchange of ideas among the stakeholders of overseas employment was of essential to ensure capitalization of the opportunities for Pakistani manpower in the market of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The government of Pakistan was fully committed to support Pakistani community in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and other countries, he assured.

Jawad Sohrab Malik was speaking during a meeting with Pakistani community in Jeddah on Sunday. He also interacted with Saudi employers and HRM Exec with focus on developing Pakistani workforce in KSA.

During the meeting, the SAPM highlighted the importance of human resource development as per requirements of Saudi market and economy.

He interacted with the Pakistani community on wide range of issues including issues faced

by expatriates.

Jawad shared the ongoing efforts being made by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis to look after the interests of overseas Pakistanis, particularly those living in the Kingdom and ensure their welfare.

The event was attended by a cross-section of the Pakistani diaspora in Jeddah, including businessmen, professionals, and entrepreneurs.

The SAPM's visit to KSA was part of an effort to further strengthen manpower employment cooperation between the two countries.



QUETTA: PML-N Provincial President Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail pose for a group photo with Fatema Farooq Mengal on her joining the party.

## IOJK heading towards severe power crisis as KPDCL mulling more power cuts

SRINAGAR (INP): Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir is heading towards severe power crisis as the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is mulling additional power cuts due to persistently inadequate power allocation to it.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the current power allocation of 1300 MW is a substantial decrease from the 1700 MW received during the same period last year, indicating a severe shortage that threatens to deepen Kashmir's electricity woes.

A senior official from KPDCL has raised a red flag over dwindling power allocation, saying, "We are contemplating further extending power cuts as the current allocation is insufficient, especially considering that peak demand during winter can exceed 2000 MW."

The senior official said that in absence of sufficient power allocation, KPDCL might have no choice but to revise the existing curtailment schedule and

implement a new one with even fewer hours of power supply.

The gravity of the situation is underscored by the fact that power cuts have become so severe that monthly power consumption in Kashmir has plummeted by 30 to 40 million units compared to last year.

"The unscheduled and frequent distress cuts, resulting from a reduction in allocation, have wreaked havoc at the grid level. This has led to an unstable load curve, causing a cascading effect of higher peak loads and stress on power infrastructure, aggravating the power scenario and escalating curtailments," a KPDCL official said.

As the power crisis continues to tighten its grip across the district. The worst affected health institutions are the sub district hospitals and scores of other institutions, especially the Primary Health Centres in the district.

## DRAP confiscates fake medicines, seals pharmacies in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) conducted an inspection of the pharmacies in Karachi, confiscated fake medicines, and sealed several medical stores in Karachi on Sunday. The Caretaker Health Minister of Sindh directed the relevant authorities to initiate a crackdown against the profiteering and fake medicine sellers in the province.

Following the instructions, a team from the DRAP inspected the pharmacies in Karachi and sealed several medical stores in different localities where they allegedly found guilty of selling fake medicines. The Ministry of Health also sealed the medical stores in DHA, which were allegedly selling Hepan injections for Rs 3500, which was priced at Rs 800.

Dr. Nadeem lauded the efforts of the DRAP team and stated that the team should take strict action against the elements found guilty of fooling the citizens.