

QUETTA VOICE

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Stone crushing plant on the Western outskirts of Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan. Photo Daily Quetta Voice

Quetta's Cry for Clean Air: Urgent Action Needed Against Hazardous Crushing Plants

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA: Quetta, the capital of the Balochistan province, finds itself in the grip of a severe crisis as crushing plants operating on its outskirts continue to pose an imminent threat to human life. These plants not only release toxic chemicals into the air but also contribute to water pollution, resulting in dire consequences for respiratory health and the overall ecosystem.

Alarming Rise Of Respiratory And Allergy Diseases: Dr. Shireen Khan

Dr. Shireen Khan, a prominent chest physician, has sounded the alarm about the alarming rise in respiratory and allergy diseases, directly attributing them to the hazardous emissions from these crushing plants. Compounding the issue is the significant influence wielded by the owners of these plants, hindering necessary actions to safeguard public health.

A senior official from the Balochistan Environment Department, speaking on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, has acknowl-



Dust-blowing near a container passing in the Western Bypass area of Quetta close to a stone-crushing plant. Photo Daily Quetta Voice

edged the influential role of the plant owners. This underscores the urgency for the government to intervene and address this critical issue that directly impacts the well-being of the citizens of Quetta, the capital of Balochistan.

Plants Dangerous For Ecosystem and Human Life

Environmentalists have la-

beled these crushing plants as extremely dangerous for both the ecosystem and human lives. Faiz Kakar, a former Balochistan health minister and environmentalist, emphasizes the urgent need for practical action, declaring that the hazardous plants must be sealed without further delay.

The citizens of Quetta have persistently demanded the closure of these stone-crushing plants, recognizing the imminent

threat they pose to their health. It is crucial for the government to listen to the concerns of the masses and take decisive steps to address this pressing issue.

Sealing Plants Imperative For Public Health

While sealing these plants is imperative for public health, it is equally vital for the authorities to ensure the provision of alternative locations for stone crushing. This move would not only mitigate the environmental impact but also safeguard the livelihoods of thousands of people currently employed in these plants.

In the face of the escalating health crisis and environmental degradation, we urge the government to prioritize the well-being of its citizens.

The time for action is now, and the government must demonstrate its commitment to the health and safety of the people by swiftly addressing the issue of hazardous stone-crushing plants in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan. The inaction of today jeopardizes the well-being of future generations, making it imperative for the authorities to act responsibly and decisively.

Balochistan Cabinet Elevates Healthcare Funding, Ensures Transparency

Manan Mandokhail:



QUETTA: In a significant development, the Balochistan Provincial Cabinet, led by Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki, convened its fourth meeting at the Chief Minister's Secretariat. The meeting addressed crucial matters aimed at enhancing public welfare and resolving ongoing concerns.

Increased Annual Grant for Thaleselma Unit in Gwadar Teaching Hospital

One of the notable decisions made during the meeting was the substantial increase in the annual grant for the Thaleselma Unit in Teaching Hospital Gwadar.

The grant, earmarked for Zakat of Balochistan, witnessed a boost from one million to ten million rupees. This move underscores the government's commitment to advancing healthcare infrastructure in the region.

Digital Disbursement of Fixed Aid For Transparency

The Cabinet also emphasized the adoption of a digital disbursement system for fixed aid amounts, ensuring transparency in financial transactions. This step aligns with modern governance practices, leveraging technology to streamline processes and enhance accountability.

Merit-Based Selection for Advisory Council of Balochistan Revenue Authority

In a bid to strengthen the legal wing of the Advisory Council of the Balochistan Revenue Authority, the Cabinet approved the request for data to select experts on merit.

This move aims to ensure the appointment of qualified individuals, fostering efficiency and integrity in the authority's operations.

Approval of Balochistan Succession Certificate Rules 2022

The Cabinet greenlit the Balochistan Succession Certificate Rules 2022, marking a crucial step in streamlining legal processes related to succession matters. This decision is expected to simplify the documentation and legalities surrounding succession certificates, providing clarity for citizens.

Committee Formed to Address University Conflict

Recognizing the recent quarrels and conflicts at Lasbela University, the Cabinet formed a committee comprising caretaker provincial ministers Qadir Bakhs, Prince Ahmad Ali Baloch, and Amanullah Kunrni. The committee will delve into the motivations behind the incidents, uncover facts, and work towards a resolution, emphasizing the government's commitment to maintaining peace and harmony in educational institutions.

Caretaker Government's Commitment to Efficient Service Delivery

Caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki reiterated the government's dedication to addressing urgent matters and resolving issues faced by the public. The focus is on making the service delivery system more efficient, ensuring that government affairs run smoothly in line with established policies and regulations.

PMLN Supremo Nawaz Sharif Calls On Maulana Fazal ur Rehman

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (N) supremo, Mian Nawaz Sharif called on Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, the Chief of Jamiat ul Ulama e Islam (JUI) on Tuesday. The two leaders discussed the prevailing political situation in the country.

Former Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif and other central leaders of the PMLN also accompanied Nawaz Sharif. Sources within the JUI told Daily Quetta Voice, that the PMLN supremo discussed the fast-approaching general elections with the Maulana.

Central leaders of the JUI were also present during the



meeting. This is the first formal meeting between Nawaz Sharif and Maulana Fazal ur Rehman since the return of the former premier to Pakistan.

IHC declares notification for Imran's jail trial in cipher case illegal

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday declared illegal the law ministry's August 29 notification for the jail trial of PTI chief Imran Khan in "cipher lockup" in the cipher case.

The verdict, which was reserved earlier in the day, was issued on an intra-court appeal filed by Imran against a single-member bench's decision approving the ex-premier's jail trial in the cipher case. It must be noted that on August 29, the IHC had suspended the PTI chief's sentence in the Toshakhana case, but a special court established under the Official Secrets Act had directed jail authorities to keep Imran in "judi-

cial lockup" in the cipher case. A notification issued by the law ministry the same day had stated that the Law and Justice Division had "no objection" to Imran's trial in the cipher case being held at Attock jail. In September, Imran was shifted to Adiala jail.

In the verdict, an IHC division bench, comprising Justice Man-gul Hassan Aur-angzeb and Justice Saman Rafiq Imtiaz, declared Imran's intra-court appeal maintainable.

The short order said that the notification issued by the law ministry on August 29 for Imran's jail trial was declared to be "without lawful authority." NEWSDESK

Punjab govt challenges SC verdict on civilians' military trials

The caretaker Punjab government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday against the decision of a five-member bench that had declared the trials of civilians under the Pakistan Army Act, 1952 as unconstitutional.

In the widely praised Oct 23 ruling, the bench, comprising Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Mumb Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Syed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Ayesha Malik had declared that trying civilians in military courts for their alleged role in attacks on army installations during the riots that followed PTI chairman Imran Khan's arrest were ultra vires the Constitution.

The bench had also emphasized that the cases of the suspects involved in the vandalism would proceed before criminal courts.

The SC had further declared Section 2(i)(d) of the Army Act, which elaborates on persons subject to the Act, to be in violation of the Constitution and "of no legal effect". The court also declared Section 59(4) (civil offences) of the Act to be unconstitutional. However, Justice Afridi had disagreed with striking down the sections.

The Punjab government's petition comes a day after the defence ministry moved an intra-court appeal challenging the Oct 23 verdict. Previous petitions were also moved by the federal, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments.

The petition, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, named ex-chief justice Jawwad S.



Khawaja, one of those who successfully petitioned the top court against the military trials of civilians, the federation of Pakistan through the secretaries of Ministry of Defence and Law and Parliamentary Affairs, and the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan and KP as respondents.

The petition has not yet been accepted for hearing. The plea said that the events of May 9 indicated a "premeditated and intentional attempt to undermine the country's armed forces and inhibit the country's internal security".

It said that the petitions against the military trials of civilians were not maintainable before the SC in its original jurisdiction under Article 184(3) of the Constitution. It said the challenges raised in the original petitions could have been adjudicated by the high courts in their original constitutional jurisdiction under Article 199.

It further said that the SC verdict was "not sustainable" as it failed to set aside or decide the fate of orders passed by anti-ter-

rorism courts under Section 549 (delivery to military authorities of persons liable to be tried by court-martial) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CPC).

It also contended that the trial of accused persons, whether military personnel or otherwise, could not be challenged for being in violation of any of the fundamental rights, including the rights enshrined in Articles 9 (protects the life and liberty of all citizens), 10-A (right to fair trial) and 25 (right to education).

It further said that offences under Section 2(i)(d) included those under the Official Secrets Act, which related to works of defence or naval, military or air force affairs, "which may be prejudicial to safety, interest, defence, sovereignty and sanctity of Pakistan [...]". The petition contended that Sections 2(i)(d) and 59(4) of the Army Act were "constitutionally insulated from a challenge on the touchstones of fundamental rights and the impugned order, to the extent that it has failed to appreciate this, has erred in law". NEWSDESK

Public servants should not be addressed as 'Sahib': Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa

Dawood Ahmed:

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday ordered that public servants should not be called 'Sahib' (master).

"This unnecessarily elevates the status of public servants", the top judge of the country observed during court proceedings.



The bench had also emphasized that the cases of the suspects involved in the vandalism would proceed before criminal courts.

The top judge barred the use of the word today in an order pertaining to a bail plea. The case in question involved the murder of a child in Peshawar last year.

The police had nominated the petitioner, Javid Khan, in the first information report on the basis of statements recorded by the victim's relatives. In his plea filed in the apex court, the petitioner had contended that the relatives' statements did not stand reason and sought bail in the case.

IHC hears Nawaz Sharif's appeals in Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) resumed hearing of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's pleas against convictions in Avenfield and Al-Azizia cases on Tuesday.

His pleas against convictions in accountability references were earlier restored for hearing by the court.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawa (PML-N) supreme leader, who has returned from self-exile in London on October 21, was reached to the courtroom accompanied by party leaders Mariyung Aurangzeb and Ishtiaq Dar.

A high court division bench headed by Chief Justice Aamir Farooq resumed hearing of Nawaz Sharif's lawyer Azam Nazeer Tarar's appeal in the Avenfield reference.

The rostrum. NAB's deputy prosecutor general Nazeem Tariq Sanghera, prosecutors Afzal Qureshi and Rafay Maqsood were also present in the court.

"How much time you will take for arguments on both appeals," Justice Aamir Farooq asked Azam Nazeer Tarar.

"We will first present arguments over appeal in the Avenfield reference."

"The court has already given decision over appeals of Maryam Nawaz and Capt. Saifdar in Avenfield case," Amjad Pervaiz Advocate said.

"The high court's decision in the case was not challenged thus the verdict has become final," Azam Nazeer Tarar said.

"We have made preparation for the appeal in the Avenfield reference."

"I have heard the appeal of the Avenfield reference and know facts of the case. However, we both members of bench didn't hear the appeal in Al-Azizia reference," chief justice said.

"Do you require six to eight hours for arguments in Avenfield case," CJ IHC questioned the lawyer. "I

think we will require four to six hours," Azam Nazeer Tarar replied.

"NAB Prosecutor said that he will require around half to two hours for arguments. "Is it means that the NAB has to say nothing," chief justice remarked.

"We are fixing the hearing on next Monday, if needed we will hear the case daily," the bench said.

Tarar pleaded for daily hearing of the case, "We will not waste a minute" he further said.

"We are fixing the hearing on Monday, the time will be conveyed to you," Justice Aamir Farooq said.

"Are you representing Nawaz Sharif," Justice Mianqul Aurangzeb questioned. "I will assist the court," Amjad Pervaiz replied.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Bulgaria called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

APHC-AJK holds protest outside Indian High Commission in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) chapter held a protest demonstration outside the Indian High Commission in Islamabad on Tuesday.

The demonstration was led by APHC-AJK convenor Mahmood Ahmad Saghar.

Speakers reiterated the resolve of Kashmiris to take the martyrs' mission to its logical end at all costs. They said that India was committing systematic genocide of Kashmiris by killing

them in fake encounters while the troops use drones and chemical weapons during so-called search and siege operations.

The leaders said it clear that without resolving the Kashmir dispute in the light of resolutions of the United Nations and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, sustainable peace and security in South Asia will remain a distant dream.

They urged the United Nations and international human rights organizations to play their role in the early release of Hurriyat leaders and activists illegally de-

tained in the jails of India and occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who attended and addressed the event included Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Syed Yusuf Naseem, Mir Tahir Masood, Altaf Hussain Wani, Sheikh Abdul Masoom, Irtaza Wani, Chaudhry Shahen Iqbal, Muhammad Rafiq Dar, Engineer Mahmood, Samullah Dar, Sheikh Muhammad Yaqub, Nisar Mirza, Hassan al Banna and Javed Iqbal Butt.

Pakistan attracted \$31.7 million FDI from China in October

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan received a net foreign direct investment (FDI) of US\$ 31.7 million from China in October, bringing the total FDI from the friendly neighboring country to \$158 million in the first four months of FY 2023-24.

According to statistics released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the total inflow from China in October was \$33 million, comprising an outflow of \$1.3 million, net FDI from China was registered at \$31.7 million, Gwadar Port reported on Tuesday. In October, total FDI from various countries worldwide was recorded at \$126.8 million, with China emerging as the leading contributor. In October,

the United Kingdom emerged as the second-largest investor with \$16.8 million, followed by the United States with \$15.8 million. As per the provisional data from SBP during the first four months of FY 2023-24, Pakistan attracted \$538.8 million in FDI from various partner countries worldwide. Among them, an FDI of \$158 million

was received from China, constituting 29.33% of the total investment received by Pakistan in the July-October period of FY 2023-24. In October 2023, the power sector in Pakistan garnered a total of \$48.2 million in FDI, distributed across various sub-sectors: \$28 million in coal, \$17.2 million in hydro, and \$3 million in thermal.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf in group photo with participants of 5th Pakistan Navy Industrial Seminar held at Bahria Auditorium, Karachi.

Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan in high gear

ISLAMABAD (INP): Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan (2019-2025) has picked momentum with a flurry of high-quality development activities in 13 areas to shape up the old-fishing town into a modern city.

The activities include the progression of the central business district, rehabilitation of old towns, remodeling of roads, establishment of parks, fostering of green growth, designing of ecological corridors, mapping out of tourism spots, digitalization and development of skill-based economy, aiming to lay down the foundation of social and civic amenities, trail-blaze new business avenues and making available state-of-the-art health as well educational facilities.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, 75-page master plan document was prepared by China Communications Construction Company in conjunction with Pakistan's Minister of Planning, Development & Reform and Gwadar Development Authority.

Work has been completed on various water supply projects in Gwadar. In this regard, two dams, Shadi Kur and Sowd, have been completed and connected to the city through pipelines. Meanwhile, a sewage water treatment plant has been set up so that the sewage water of Gwadar

could be used for irrigation and agriculture, instead of polluting the coastal water.

Gwadar Indus Hospital also called Pak-China Friendship Hospital has been completed. It will provide the best medical facilities to the people of Gwadar district. In the initial phase, Gwadar Port has gone digital as the state of the fiber optic cable network is operationalized in true letter and spirit, unveiling modernization of E-Custom at the Port for easier and simpler transshipment and containerized trade on commercialized modules.

With the laying down of fiberoptic cable, paperless custom procedures have become fully functional, transforming Gwadar into a bustling hub of regional and international trade to Afghanistan, Central Asia, and China. Pakistan Telecommunications Company Limited (PTCL) completed the project of laying down the fiber optic cable.

The Balochistan government has approved a central business district over an area of 2,500 acres in the port city under the Gwadar Master Plan.

The government has also granted a tax-free zone status to Gwadar district, exempting the area from all provincial taxes in an attempt to boost economic activities, while a 280km

road network has also been constructed.

Under the master plan, a project of seawater淡化-Jebel-e-Nuh for the expansion of Port Gwadar worth Rs. 42.19 billion has been greenlighted.

The purpose of this breakwater project is mainly to provide amphibious protection against waves and monsoonal swells and meet limiting (allowable) wave conditions considered safe for berthing. Gwadar Port Breakwater is designed to reduce coastal erosion and impacts of siltation at the East Bay.

Overall, the Gwadar Port Breakwater will enable safe working at the port, navigation, cargo handling, berthing and unberthing, dredging, hydrographic surveys, mooring, etc. Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT & VI) has also been operational providing advanced skilled-based knowledge to the youth of Gwadar.

Gwadar is going green with a quantum leap from barrenness to vegetation. Many green projects have been producing marvelous results. These projects include Pak-China Friendship Green Park, GDA Central Park, GDA New Town Family Park, Sunset Park, Gwadar Port Free Zone Nursery, a tissue culture Lab, and an intelligent greenhouse in the free zone area. Under

the agriculture eco-system, projects regarding Aloe Vera plantation and Juncao sowing for langbein breeding herbaceous plants, also known as the "Magic Grass" are underway.

City arteries, small and big, are blooming with the plantation drive mostly on dedicated road dividers. Marine Drive and Syed Hashmi Avenue (Old Airport), Shabaz Cape Road, Pak-China Friendship Road, and many other internal roads even pathways inside housing societies have been wearing a greener look. The plantation is also visible in China-Pakistan Faqeer Middle School, GDA higher secondary school, Bahria Model Schools, Army Public Schools, Allama Iqbal Open University campus, Girls Degree College, Boys Degree College, National University of Modern Language (NUML) camps, Gwadar Information Technology (GIT), Gwadar University, DC office, Governor House and GDA hospitals.

"Under green urbanization vision upholding the high spirit of "Gwadar Master Plan", Gwadar life with saplings and plants is now the order of the day. Trees, plants and parks are the new scenes. Leaves, flowers and shrubs spell green extravaganza inside Gwadar Port as well as the city limits," said local leader Noor Ahmed.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday reserved its verdict on the intra-court appeal of former prime minister and PTI chief Imran Khan against his jail trial in the cipher case.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is currently detained in Adala jai in Rawalpindi on judicial remand. A two-member Justice Ghalib Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat bench heard arguments. During the hearing, Saiman Akram Raja completed his arguments.

Khan's lawyer, Justice Ghalib Hassan Aurangzeb told the IHC that the part of the trial that had taken place before the cabinet had notified the jail trial was illegal. He pleaded with the court to accept the plea of his client against the complaint of the cipher case. Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Awan



BELING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalid Hashmi in a group photo delegation of Chinese Traditional Calligraphy artist from Beijing Delway Culture Communication Co. Ltd as part of China-Pakistan Cultural exchange event held at embassy of Pakistan in Beijing.

Cipher case: IHC reserves verdict on jail trial of PTI chief

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told the court that the jail trial was an open trial. He admitted that Khan's family had not been allowed into the courtroom in the initial hearings but he attributed it to the fact that the court where proceedings were held was not big enough to accommodate enough people.

The AGP said the trial of the case was initiated on October 23. The IHC has reserved its verdict on the plea of the PTI chief after the conclusion of arguments from both sides.

The short verdict is likely to be announced today in the evening. The first information report (IR) was registered on August 15 under the Official Secrets Act. It was registered on the complaint of the Home Secretary. Former prime minister Imran Khan and former

foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi were nominated in the report, while names of former principal secretary Azam Khan and former planning minister Asad Umar were also mentioned.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
NATIONAL DATABASE & REGISTRATION AUTHORITY
Regional Head Office Quetta, New Zarghoon Road, Quetta

Final Notice
Mr. Muhammad Aarif S/o Muhammad Qasim
ERP / 70348, Security Guard
Security Section, RHO Quetta
Address: Mohallah Kirani Road Killi Mangalabad Quetta.
1. It has been observed / noticed with concern (via daily online attendance) that you are habitual of being absent from duty and found continuously absent from your place of duty since 16th Jul 2023 to till date, without any information / intimation / getting your leave approved. In light of this you were served 1st and 2nd Notices (on written). But you were failed to reply / clear your position / join the duty, which is against the norms of service / rules of discipline. This shows your disinterest / negligence towards the duties / responsibilities. The attitude displayed by you is highly prejudicial to the good order of service, which tantamount to misconduct. Competent Authority is giving you last chance and directed to join your place of duty within 14 days after issuance of this notice, failing which action as per rules will be taken against you which may lead towards the removal from service.
2. This may be treated as Final Notice.

HR Department PID(Q)17/23
RHO NADRA, Balochistan Tell #081-9211878



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik inspecting the lab at department of Plant Protection office.

Pakistan stresses implementation of anti-poverty declaration signed by world leaders in Sept

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Pakistan has called for implementing the Political Declaration, adopted by last September's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit, under which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger, combat inequalities, and build inclusive and peaceful societies that leave no one behind.

"These pledges and commitments on development should be endorsed by the Security Council so as to transform these into binding obligations," Ambassador Munir Akram said at the U.N. on Monday.

In particular, the Pakistani envoy emphasized that those promises must be implemented to expand concessional and grant development finance, re-channel the unused special drawing rights (SDRs), provide urgent debt relief, and meet climate commitments, among others.

Speaking in a Security Council's debate on the promotion of sustainable peace through

common development, he voiced support for the U.N. Peacebuilding Commission's efforts to address the resolution of conflict situations through the promotion of development.

"Yet, no amount of development can bring peace when peoples are suppressed by foreign occupation and forcibly denied of their right to self-determination as is happening in Palestine today and in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Ambassador Akram added.

Acknowledging the interdependence between peace and development, he said although hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty in the past 8 decades, the Charter's vision of prosperity for all the "peoples" has yet to be realized. "Human development lights the way to hope — promoting prevention, security, and peace," the UN chief said.

He added that advancing peace and sustainable, inclusive development must go hand-in-hand.

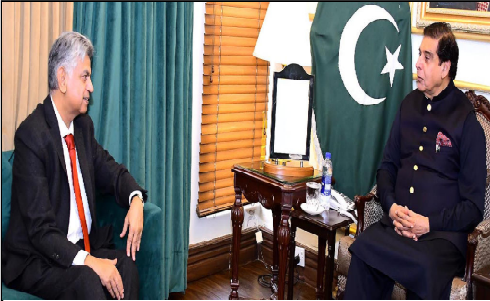
climate change impacts and proliferating conflicts, the Pakistani envoy said 150 million people have descended into extreme poverty.

"Growing poverty and hunger and the illegal exploitation of natural resources are the principal causes of many of conflicts and disputes among and within states, such as in the Sahel and other parts of Africa," he said. Climate change is exacerbating the scramble for scarce resources, particularly water, and could lead to the proliferation of conflicts.

Opening the debate, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the Security Council that no peace is secure without inclusive and sustainable development which leaves no one behind.

"Human development lights the way to hope — promoting prevention, security, and peace," the UN chief said.

He added that advancing peace and sustainable, inclusive development must go hand-in-hand.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf.

PIDE's 37th AGM, PSDE Conference commences at BZU

MULTAN (INP): The 37th annual general meeting (AGM) and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) organized by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) in collaboration with Bahaduddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan, commenced at Jinnah Auditorium of the varsity on Tuesday.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Conference, Vice-Chancellor of PIDE and President of the PSDE Dr Nadeem UH Haque emphasized the significant contributions of Mahbub ul Haq to PIDE. He also highlighted PIDE & PSDE's role in asking pertinent questions and engaging in impactful research exploring the country's wide-ranging socio-economic issues.

Dr. Nadeem stressed the need for a paradigm shift in thinking and the importance of asking critical questions. He said that the economic system in Pakistan is on a "life support system." Dr. Nadeem said that there is an immediate need to explore challenges such as exchange rates, unemployment, and the aid-debt trap.

The PIDE Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for investment. He said that in Pakistan no one is concerned with investment, while everyone's primary concern is poverty. Thus, the focus should be shifted to investment and finding ways to increase it. Regarding the economic and development plans in Pakistan, he pointed out the irony of having too many plans yet too little implementation.

Dr. Nadeem further pointed out that the solution to our economic quagmire is not getting more debt. He criticized the over-reliance on loans, particularly from institutions like the IMF, and lik-

ened going to the IMF repeatedly to going to the emergency ward. He said that Pakistan was in the perpetual cycle of aid-debt traps involving IMF, donors, consultants, and Transparency International. Dr Nadeem also questioned the effectiveness of raising taxes and the lack of challenges to consultants in the development process.

In the secretary's report, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Secretary of the PSDE, reiterated PIDE's desire to initiate and collaborate on further research with researchers in South Punjab. He said that in this year's conference, two panel discussions are focusing on South Punjab, featuring panelists from academia and regional centers. He highlighted the need for inclusivity by bringing students from all around Punjab to the discussions, which PIDE has been doing for over 4 years now.

The first panel discussion of the Conference was on "Foreign Aid: Boom or Bane?" The discussion was moderated by Shahid Mahmood, Research Fellow at PIDE, Asad Hayatuddin, Former Secretary of the Economic Affairs Division, Tobias Haque, Lead Country Economist for Pakistan at the World Bank, and Naveed Aziz, Senior Governance Advisor to the FCDO.

The moderator said that since 1950, Pakistan has received over USD 200 billion in foreign aid. A significant chunk of the foreign aid has been in the form of loans. Also, a large amount of aid has been "tied aid." He said that the donor agencies influence major policy decisions. However, there is a dearth of cost-benefit analysis of the projects. Despite continued aid programs and projects, the human development indica-

tors of the country remain abysmal. During the last two decades, net resource transfer from Pakistan has turned negative, with repayments amounting to over USD 80 billion. He said that the majority of the debt and aid accumulated during this period was for the balance of payment support.

Asad Hayatuddin remarked that the Pakistani government continues to lack direction. Consequently, we turn to the donors to help set our development direction. Pakistan's strategy for long has been external resource mobilization for short-term gains. He said that India and Bangladesh have also turned to the IMF, but they stuck to the plan to reverse the crises. Pakistan, on the other hand, deviates from the agreed-upon path after gaining some sense of stability following support from the IMF and other donor agencies. He said that over 60% of the aid and loan provided by the US to Pakistan since the 1960s has been for budgetary support with no direct impact on the general public of the country.

Tobias Haque said that there are numerous examples where countries came to the donors with a homegrown development plan and sought development agencies' financial and technical assistance. On the other hand, in Pakistan it is that there exists no indigenous development plan.

Thus, Pakistan needs to develop a crisp indigenous development plan and then seek donors' assistance. In such a case, the donors will have very little wiggle room to deny assistance on Pakistan's terms. He further emphasized that unproductive utilization of aid can have disastrous impacts on the country's macroeconomic balances.



OKARA: chairman Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Dr Amjad Saqib interacting with woman beneficiaries of BISP at BISP office Okara.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti witnessing the Pakistan vs Tajikistan FIFA World Cup Qualifier match as Chief Guest.

Agricultural sustainability in Pakistan faces huge challenges: Prof. Abid Ali

ISLAMABAD (INP): Agricultural sustainability in Pakistan faces huge challenges and only multi-party cooperation should be our bright future.

In order to improve this situation as soon as possible, all levels of Pakistan are cooperating with China to accelerate the development of biological control measures, said Abid Ali, Associate Professor of Entomology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) during an exclusive interview with Gwadar Pro.

Some sugarcane growers have introduced Trichogramma species, and local governments have adopted the method of releasing lacewing egg cards to prey on sucking insect pests in order to protect the cotton industry.

According to Ali, the Institute of Plant Protection of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the UAF jointly established a laboratory to cooperate in the sustainable pest management of major crops such as corn, cotton, and locusts, including personnel training, international study exchanges, etc., to study in depth the green plant protection technology (biopesticides such as pheromones, botanicals and toxins) that IPPCAAS is good at.

China and Pakistan are both countries with complex ecosystems and rich species. And both being major agricultural producers, the impact of climate change is closely related to bilateral future. "Climate change always disrupts pest and disease control systems."

Ali points out, "temperature fluctuations lead to increased reproduction and spread of pests, and rising carbon dioxide concentrations are also likely to allow pathogens such as fungi to

spread faster.

Extreme weather such as hail and hurricanes seriously disrupt the living environment of natural enemies of pests, etc."

In a broader sense, the overall cooperation among the Belt and Road countries means more possibilities for biodiversity protection in the context of climate change.

Only through dynamic monitoring and sustainable management of pests and diseases in greenhouses or demonstration bases of different areas can the food security of all relevant countries be ensured.

Besides, cooperative research projects and the establishment of joint research laboratories are encouraged, thus all BRI countries can share cutting-edge technologies such as drones, multi-source information collection, and response mechanisms.

bigdata models, pest monitoring remote sensing cameras and radar systems.

"Currently, many wildlife and arthropod populations, such as spiders, are used as biological indicators of environmental pollution and climate change. The migration of insects with climate change is a huge challenge for the current sustainable development of agriculture. Therefore, the future of sustainable agriculture is important for protecting biodiversity safety, reducing environmental damage and ensuring food security.

Reducing chemical inputs, intercropping, protecting biodiversity, precision agriculture, these key measures for sustainable agricultural practices and climate change mitigation activities require not only China, Pakistan, BRI countries, but also the joint effort of the whole world," Ali added. "A range of factors, in-

cluding crop yields, pest population dynamics and the overall stability of agricultural ecosystems, are affected by climate change, which has an influence on sustainable agricultural productivity that could not be underestimated," he said.

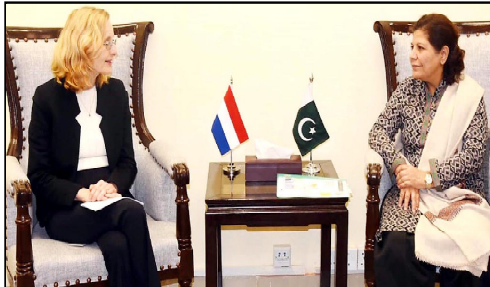
Not long ago, Professor Ali just delivered an invited speech entitled Insect Community Ecology in Pakistani Agro-Ecosystem with Reference to BRI at the International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Security jointly organized by College of Life Science of Shenyang Normal University and UAF.

"Research showed that China and Pakistan share many common pests, including Fall armyworm, Tuta absoluta, locust, cotton whitefly, fruit fly, aphids, things like that. In recent years, these pests have had an increasing serious impact on ecological balance and food security due to climate change."

Ali told Gwadar Pro, "I have been involved in China-Pakistan ecological protection cooperation since 2010. At present, Pakistani farmers are still highly dependent on pesticides in the agricultural production, while China has carried out comprehensive pest management through green control technologies on a large scale.

Obviously, Pakistan lacks a strong, efficient pest monitoring and early warning technology (such as insect radar and other monitoring tools).

The domino effect caused by the misuse of pesticides is that China closely monitors the maximum residue limits/levels of pesticides in agricultural products, but Pakistan lacks such assessment tools. Such vicious spiral has caused huge obstacles to the export of our specialties-



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Netherlands Henny De Vries, called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at Finance Division.

'Students facilitation is our motto', says VCA IOU

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice-Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood on Tuesday said it was our motto to facilitate the students by using all means of technology.

While chairing the Regional Directors Conference yesterday, the Vice-Chancellor presented his roadmap, vision, and mission regarding the regional network.

Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmad Khan hosted the meeting while all the regional directors participated online. During the conference, Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized the importance of using modern technology by the regional directors and their staff to meet the modern requirements of education.

Dr. Nasir emphasized the solution to the problems of stu-

dents at their doorstep. He stressed that minor issues should not require students to come to Islamabad for their resolution.

Dr. Nasir further stated that the first open university "The Open University" was created in Great Britain while we created the second Open University in the world. We started the teaching process with the foundation course, after which we moved towards PTOC and general education.

Azhar Hameed Khan said that we have grown gradually, today Open University has gained worldwide recognition and celebrating 50 years.

He presented his book titled "We created the second Open University of the World" to Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood and DGRS, Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmed Khan.

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Moreover, Directorate of Regional Services invited