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KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister for Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr Jassim Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ostad receiving Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar upon arrival of a two-day official visit to meet the Kuwaiti leadership

Judges calling Musharraf martial law legal should too be put to trial: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has remarked the judges who called Musharraf martial law legal should also be put to trial.

A 4-member bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa took up for hearing former president Pervez Musharraf appeal against his sentence Tuesday.

Hamid Khan presented written arguments against Lahore High Court (LHC) decision in the court.

The CJP expressed displeasure due to lack of preparation when Haroon ul Rashid counsel for Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) gave arguments.

Rashid A Rizvi counsel for Sindh High Court Bar (SHCB) made mention of Pervez Musharraf martial law in his arguments.

Justice Athar Minallah while stopping him remarked Rashid Rizvi Sahb you will go to past how long.

The CJP remarked I have respect for Justice Athar Minallah. But we should go to the past now.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked "go at every cost. Then this Musharraf abrogated the constitution on October 12. He dissolved assemblies. This court gave way to October 12 steps. The judges who termed Musharraf

Martial law legal should also be tried.

He further remarked why the action was taken on November 3 steps. The action will be taken in regard to attack on judges on November 3 then question of fair trial will rise. Was attacking the judges more grave matter than suspending the constitution and dissolving assemblies. We should speak the truth. If any decision has to be abolished then it should be abolished. Which gave way to martial law.

The CJP remarked what happened in the past I cannot abolish it. If we have to become nation then we have to correct future by seeing the past. Lawyers should come and tell why the pictures of the judges who abrogated the constitution are hung here. Why only judge should point out it while sitting here. Media too is responsible for it. They should also be held accountable. Tell us how many journalists were opponent and how were supporters of the martial law. We should learn lesson from the history. We should teach it to children as well. Justice Athar Minallah remarked history then is this whenever some one grows strong, no one speaks against him. When powerful grown weak then Asima Jillani decision comes.

Complete operationalization of tertiary care hospitals essential: Provision of quality healthcare facilities being ensured, says caretaker Chief Minister

Mir Ali Mardan Domki inaugurates Hospital Management Information System in Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Medical Complex Sariab

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the provision of quality healthcare facilities is being ensured all over the province, however, it is necessary to fully operationalize the tertiary care hospitals.

He said that sufficient amount is allocated for provision of quality healthcare facilities every year, but there is a dire need to ensure correct use of these resources.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the visit to Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Medical Complex (SKBZMC) Sariab on Tuesday.

He went round of different sections of the SKBZMC and inspected them. He also inaugurated the Hospital Management Information System in the Sheikh Zayed Hospital.

He said that the data of patients coming in the Hospital would be saved with operationalization of the HIMS.

The patients would also have medical assistance in all sections through connectivity with central database system.

While on the other hand, the medical services would also be improved in the hospital after making the Post graduate Management Institute.

He stressed that the complete operationalization of the tertiary care hospital is necessary so that no one from the province may go to other parts of the country for getting medical treatment.

Earlier, briefing the Chief Minister, Secretary Health Abdullah Khan said that the process of reforms is continued in the health sector on directives of the Chief Minister.

PM arrives in Kuwait on two-day official visit

KUWAIT (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday arrived here on a two-day official visit to meet the Kuwaiti leadership.

Upon his arrival at the airport, Kuwait's Minister for Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr Jassim Mohammed Abdullah Al-Ostad received the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Muhammad Farooq and other senior diplomatic officials were also present on the occasion.

During his visit, the Caretaker Prime Minister will meet Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

During the visit, a new era of economic and economic cooperation between the two countries will begin. A number of MoUs will be signed for mutual cooperation in various sectors including manpower, information technology, minerals and mining, food security, energy and defense, it was further added.

As a traditional Kuwaiti welcoming gesture, the caretaker prime minister was also presented "Kahwa" upon his arrival.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Raza Amiri Moghaddam meeting with Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

No dialogue with India on cross border pollution issue at COP-28

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and India are grappling with unprecedented risk of exacerbated air pollution causing smog in the region. In contrast, no dialogue would be held between the two neighbouring countries on the sidelines of the world's most critical environmental moot COP-28 to be held in Dubai from November 30 to December 12.

A senior official of the Ministry of Climate Change told APP that the COP-28 was basically a negotiating forum where broader global and regional environmental issues, frameworks and protocols were discussed.

He added that there was no ban or restriction to hold bilateral meetings but rather regional level meetings were held among the countries of the same region.

He said that the caretaker PM had informed the public about his visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last night through a video message.

Iranian ambassador calls on Abdul Wali Kakar: Governor calls for strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran further

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed the need to strengthen the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran in different sectors further.

He said that it is need of the hour to strengthen the commerce, trade and educational relations between the brotherly countries Iran and Pakistan further.

He noted with contentment that there are close relations between governments of both the countries on one hand, and their people are also enjoying bonds of love and friendship.

The Governor was speaking to the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Raza Amiri Moghaddam who called on him here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, the matters about bilateral relations between the two countries and other ones were discussed.

The Governor maintained that the present government is paying special attention on increasing cooperation with Iran in energy and trade sectors.

He said that we can't ignore the traders of both countries for removing the issues of backwardness, poverty and unemployment.

He was of the strong view that we can overcome the existing problems of unemployment, backwardness and poverty easily by expanding the border trade and providing necessary facilities to our traders.

He also said that the trade and commerce activities can be boosted by improving border trade and strengthening border markets. Meanwhile, the Governor and Iranian ambassador were agreed upon maintaining constant coordination in different matters, exchange of visits and continuing dialogue.

Protest against killing continues: Fact finding Tribunal of Inquiry formed to probe Turbat killing incident

Independent Report

Gwadar. The Tribunal would submit its report to the government within two weeks after thoroughly probing the incident.

It may be mentioned here that Balach was allegedly murdered in an encounter by CTD on Thursday.

The heirs of deceased Balach and civil society are observing protest against his killing since then.

Wheel jam and shutter down strike was also observed against the killing in Turbat on Tuesday.

Govt to support ECP for ensuring free, fair elections: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Tuesday said under Article 218(3) of the Constitution, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would fulfill its responsibility to conduct fair, transparent and impartial elections and the government would support it.

Talking to media persons here, he said that there were a total of 280 articles in the Constitution, not only the article of elections in 90 days, it also had Article 254.

"Everyone in Pakistan has freedom to express opinion, complain and criticize," Solangi added.

The minister said the freedom that Pakistan People's Party and other parties had been enjoying, Pakistan Muslim League (N) also had same freedom.

He said that the caretaker PM had informed the public about his visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last night through a video message.

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Syed Khurshid Shah & Nawab Zehri say: PPP's founding day to be historic event; jalsa to be made most successful

Independent Report

QUETTA: The senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Syed Khurshid Shah and former Chief Minister Balochistan, Nawab Sanaullah Zehri have stated that the founding day of the party on November 30 would be a historic event and the public meeting would be made most successful.

They were addressing a joint press conference at a local hotel on Tuesday.

Syed Khurshid Shah said that the leadership of party has reached Quetta for observing Youme Tasees and participating in the public meeting to be held on the occasion.

He said that we are pleased to see the enthusiasm of people in Quetta. He said that Youme Tasees is not only of the PPP, but it is of 240 million people of the country.

He said that PPP is the party of federation and the party strengthens it. Nawab Sanaullah Zehri invited the general public to participate in the public meeting. He said that it would be the biggest event of the history of Balochistan. He said that PPP has served the province in past, and would also do so in future.

The provincial president of PPP Mir Changez Jamali and other leaders also addressed the presser.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki inaugurates Hospital Management Information System at Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Medical Complex.

Pakistan fully committed to eradicate polio virus: PM Kakar

ABU DHABI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday appreciated the Gates Foundation's support to the government's efforts to secure a polio-free Pakistan and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to rid the country of the debilitating virus.

The caretaker prime minister received a telephone call from Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) this evening to discuss progress in the ongoing efforts to eradicate polio from Pakistan.

The prime minister is currently on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

President pays tribute to martyred troops

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday paid tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives in separate terrorist incidents that took place in North Waziristan and Panni this month.

The president talked to the families of Sepoy Shahzeb, Sepoy Muhammad Sohail, and Lans Havalard Basit Imran and paid tribute to the valour of the martyrs.

"The sacrifices of martyrs will not go in vain and terrorism will be eliminated from the soil of the country," he said.

The president extended condolences to the family of the martyred troops and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant an elevated place to their souls.

ECP adjourns hearing on IK's party role till Dec 5

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday adjourned the hearing concerning the removal of Imran Khan Niazi's name as the party chairman from the records till December 5.

The four-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Sikandar Sultan Raja continued hearing Khalid Mehmood's case.



QUETTA: Director General National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan, Zafar Iqbal Khan presenting shield to Balochistan Minister for Education Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch at a seminar.



QUETTA: Peoples Party Senior Leaders, Khurshid Ahmed Shah along with Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Changaiz Jamali and others addressing a press conference, in Quetta.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Climate resilience

The IMF's advice to Pakistan to use its resources more effectively and efficiently to build a climate-resilient infrastructure and strengthen its ability to attract climate finance is timely. Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and the authorities are looking for international support to meet their climate finance targets.

Formulating sound public investment policies and aligning them with national climate adaptation and mitigation goals would be a step in the right direction. The Fund wants the next budget to be a "turning point" for planning mechanisms and investment portfolios based on climate adaptation. At the moment, Pakistan's capital stock and efficiency of public investment are low.

The IMF has underscored the need for improving transparency on climate-related actions in the budget documents by providing information on key aspects of the public investment programme.

It wants the Planning Commission, together with the finance ministry, to come up with a proposal that, after approval, can be included in the next budget, and is encouraging the government to publish its climate-related spending for the ongoing fiscal year.

Pakistan has experienced several climate disasters caused by global warming. The World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report has estimated that 6.5-9pc of GDP will likely be lost by 2050 to climate change, unless the challenge to lessen the impact of increased floods and heatwaves, which are reducing farm yields, destroying infrastructure and lowering labour productivity, is addressed.

Last year's devastating floods, which displaced millions of people in the country and wiped out crops and infrastructure worth over \$30bn, sharply demonstrate the need for greater investments in climate-resilient infrastructure.

With temperatures rising and unpredictable rainfall patterns increasing the risk of floods, cyclones, droughts and heatwaves, it is imperative our policymakers formulate sound development policies to mitigate the risk.

Transparent investments based on demonstrable needs in climate-resilient infrastructure are crucial to alleviating the impact of climate change and the increasing natural disasters the country is witnessing.

The little prince



By Arifa Noor

Finally, there is a twist in the tale and we have some new political stuff to discuss. And for this, one has to thank Asif Ali Zardari (AAZ), whose candour will allow us to spend a few days away from the usual conjecture over the PTI's fate and PML-N's honeymooning and what it will bring for different members of the Sharif family.

In a surprise interview to Hamid Mir on Geo, which stretched on for two hours, the former president spoke about all things politics, which ranged from the coming election to economic miracles that sugar and agriculture policies can bring.

But as I know very little about the latter, all I could focus on was the political stuff, especially his remarks about his heir and co-chairman, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari (BBZ). The 30-something, who has been heading this party for 15 years and has travelled the world as foreign minister, needs more training said the father.

The party can try and spin it as much as it wants, but this is a snub, BBZ will not find easy to recover from.

Indeed, in those remarks lay the basic dilemma of both Maryam Nawaz and BBZ, struggling to grow in the shadow of their respective parents. And it appears the growth simply means being sunflower-like and to keep turning their gaze in the direction of their fathers.

So Maryam blows hot when her father is in trouble and is silent when he is basking in the glory of a fourth victory. That politics and public opinion do

not allow for periods of fiery leadership followed by dutiful shadowing, is lost on all political parties.

BBZ has been through similar phases of 'now you see him now you don't', so much so that it has been hard for people to view him as an independent player, even when he gave up his part-timing for full-time politicking. And this image refuses to change because the party continues to treat him like a poster boy rather than the man in charge.

And I say this not because of his father's assertion during the interview that he (AAZ) was the one who would decide the party tickets including the one given to Bilawal but also the manner in which the vote of no confidence played out in 2022.

Bilawal led a long march to Islamabad from Sindh, which was to culminate in the overthrow of Imran Khan. However, once he reached Islamabad, the big three (Shehbaz Sharif, AAZ and Maulana Fazlur Rehman) held a press conference and announced filing the no-confidence motion. And once that was done, few were interested in the speech BBZ gave as his rally reached the capital.

The attention and focus had shifted; if BBZ was really the man around whom the party revolved, this would not have happened.

The more public and direct snub by the father in the Geo interview is simply more of the same, in a way. And as South Asia happens to be a place where the children rarely ever break away from their parents, chances are BBZ will not defy this tradition (the Mughals proved an exception).

But there is a second aspect to the notion that the father and son are not always on the same page. Indeed, it is not a new phenomenon. Back in 2013, it was reported that BBZ had stormed off to Dubai because he didn't see eye to eye with his father and his

uncle, Feryal Talpur on ticket distribution.

This time around, it appears AAZ's comments about his son needing more training were partially due to the latter being aggressive and vocal about the facilitation being provided to the PML-N and Nawaz Sharif. While the jury is still out on whether this is a serious rift or simply a good cop bad cop routine (which Hamid Mir brought up), this has to be seen in the larger political context.

The PPP has two distinct views within; while most of those from Sindh are satisfied with the party's focus on palace intrigues, those who were part of the party in Punjab — and the few who continue to still be around — felt it needed to be more aggressive, especially in confronting the PML-N, the dominant power in the province.

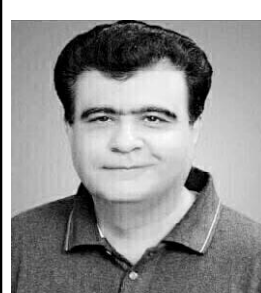
However, this never became party policy and as a result, the entire PML-N space was captured by the PTI, as Imran Khan proved indefatigable in taking them on. Be it voters or politicians who are not in the PML-N camp, they flocked to the former sportsman and his party.

This lack of aggression is a major reason the PPP stopped being a contender in the province.

However, the voices within the party which wanted BBZ to play a role closer to Khan's were never completely silenced; especially as the party also saw the utility of using this opposition to PML-N whenever needed.

What we witnessed in recent days was perhaps a mix of both the subdued voices within the party plus the cynicism the party has become known for. And for reasons only he is aware of, AAZ decided it was a good moment to send a message to the right quarters by poo-h-pooing his own party's stand, embarrassing his son in the process. — Courtesy Dawn

Making sand castles



By Dr Niaz Murtaza

Why have some elements had an odd addition to making shabby political sand castles that soon collapse? Free polls rejuvenate the political process. Incumbents defend their track record; opponents propose new policy directions and voters decide after hearing both sides. The winners, possessing a credible fresh mandate, tackle state challenges with gusto. Unluckily, polls, being usually rigged, rarely provide such impetus in Pakistan.

Out of 15 national referenda and polls held to date, the 2013 one was largely credible as per both the European Union election report and a Supreme Court verdict. Nine were seen to be rigged to the extent of the final outcome being changed, while three were partially rigged to reduce (1998 and 2008) or up (1977) the winner's margin. Arguably, only one was rigged by civilians (1977). We seem destined to have two rigged polls in a row; the extent of the alleged rigging may exceed that in 2018.

Our political landscape is surreal today. None of the parties have presented credible manifestoes to tackle our serious and multifaceted challenges which threaten an economic meltdown. The sole focus is on roping in electables and smaller parties without regard to ideological affinity. The PML-N, the outgoing ruling party, has a head start in this regard. But this is odd given its poor performance

in power and the steady stream of opinion polls in which it lags behind. So, one would expect few to align with it given its political liabilities. But defying the natural pull of political gravity, political actors are rushing towards it. Will this political sand castle be more sturdy than those made before by the same hands and minds?

It is instructive to look at the different types of political sand castles or hybrid regimes erected over the decades to give the illusion of civilian rule while ruling from behind and the reasons why they fell. Ayub's entire era is usually seen as military rule. But unlike the other three army rulers, he resigned as army chief after deposing Iskandar Mirza and by January 1960 got elected as president via a rigged referendum to set up our first hybrid regime.

After achieving unsustainable and unequal growth, he fell due to age-related health issues, political unrest against his autocratic rule even in the urban areas that benefited most from the unequal growth, economic stagnancy, the impatience of generals with his long rule, and loss of American support.

Unlike Ayub, Zia ruled for eight years directly in uniform before introducing our second hybrid regime prototype: a party-less assembly from rigged polls with a president in uniform. While Zia's death formally ended this experiment, it was failing even earlier due to tensions between the puppet civilian rulers and the puppet pullers, resulting in reduced US support, heightened insecurity and apparent impatience in the ranks with his long rule and political unrest, all of which had led Zia to fire his hand-picked prime ministers. But Zia's successors within the state quickly invented a third hybrid

model without a president in uniform which employed the threat of presidential dismissal of assemblies to keep the civilians in check. Musharraf recycled Zia's second hybrid model after three years of direct rule but with rigged, party-based polls. His system too collapsed for mostly the same reasons as Zia's.

This was followed by two regimes in 2008 and 2013 that won polls without the establishment's help. Yet, a fourth semi-hybrid system was soon devised to keep civilian regimes under control and unstable by engineering crises and dharnas and using the judiciary to dismiss prime ministers. In 2018, many note the third model of poll manipulation was reintroduced, which too fell due to an economic crisis, political unrest and tensions in civilian ranks. Though the space for the first two models has shrunk, one can't say as much about the two newer models.

Are attempts being made to manipulate the electoral scene again, with the PTI facing a bigger crackdown than the PML-N in 2018? Even a cursory analysis shows that any rigged regime led by the PML-N will face the same pressure points and may soon fall.

These pressures include age-related health issues of both Sharif brothers, economic turmoil, security threats, and the inevitable tensions between the twin cities, given the elder Sharif's desire for civilian sway. A divided mandate may make the system more unstable. Thus, the political stability we desperately need seems elusive in the foreseeable future.

The writer is a political economist with a PhD degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Commerce News

Pakistan to reaffirm commitment, WB's to support people of Pakistan

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank's Regional Vice President for South Asia, Martin Raiser, is in Pakistan to reaffirm the Bank's commitment to support the people of Pakistan. He launched a series of Policy Notes that outline critical policy shifts required for a productive, sustainable, resilient, and healthy Pakistan.

The policy notes—focusing on child stunting, fiscal sustainability, private sector growth, energy, learning poverty,

agriculture, and climate change—are the culmination of several months of outreach and engagements conducted across the country under the "Reforms for a Brighter Future – Time to Decide" banner.

They are intended to help inform the public policy dialogue in the context of the upcoming elections.

"Pakistan's economy is stuck in a low-growth trap with poor human development outcomes and increasing poverty. Economic conditions leave

Pakistan highly vulnerable to climate shocks, with insufficient public resources to finance development and climate adaptation," said Martin Raiser.

"It is now time for Pakistan to decide whether to maintain the patterns of the past or take difficult but crucial steps towards a brighter future."

The policy notes argue that Pakistan needs to address its acute human capital crisis—including the high prevalence of stunting and learning poverty—by

adopting a coordinated and coherent cross-sectoral approach to basic services involving both provincial and federal governments.

He suggested Pakistan Improve the quality of public spending and take serious measures to expand the revenue base, ensuring that the better off pay their share. The country to Pursue business regulatory and trade reforms and reduce the presence of the state in the economy to increase productivity, competitiveness, and exports, he said.



Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Umar Saif in a meeting with the World Bank delegation in Islamabad.

High Commissioner says: Pak share in \$100 billion import market of South Africa quite negligible

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan's share in the \$100 billion import market of South Africa is quite negligible and the private sector of Pakistan must aggressively penetrate it under "Look Africa" policy, said Mr. Mthuzuzeli Madikiza, High Commissioner of South Africa.

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that being an import economy, it offers Pakistan a wide range of products to this market. He said that South Africa is a mineral rich country and Pakistani investors could also avail from this opportunity. He said that Pakistan could export mangoes in lieu of avocado under a barter system but direct contacts between the business communities of two countries are prerequisite.

Responding to a question about law-and-order situation, he said that security issues are similar all over the world. He said that South Africa is more suitable for import and export with other landlocked African countries as it has a well-equipped sea port.

About tourism, he said that the scenic valleys of northern areas of Pakistan are more beautiful than Switzerland but Pakistan should make these areas easily accessible for the tourists.



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbrokers monitor the share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a historic surge in intraday trade as the benchmark index.

NEPRA holds hearing into KE's distribution, supply licence application

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday conducted public hearing into K-Electric (KE's) application for grant of distribution and supply licence for next 20 years which has already expired in July 2023.

The hearing was presided over by Chairman NEPRA Waseem Mukhtar while member Balochistan Mather Niaz Rana, member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Maqsood Anwar, member Punjab Ms Amina Ahmed and member Sindh Rafique Ahmad Shaikh were also present.

Briefing the authority, Chief Financial Officer of KE, Muhammad Amir said that the company's distribution and supply

licence had expired in July and they had applied for its extension. Six-month extension in licence had been granted by the authority, he added.

He said that since privatization of KE in 2005, the company showed remarked performance in generation, distribution, reduction in transmission and distribution losses.

Some 1,957 megawatt (MW) has been added to the generation system besides reducing T & D losses from 34.2 per cent to 15.3 per cent. The KE had made investment of Rs 474 billion after privatization, he added.

Sharing the future investment plan, he said the KE would invest Rs 544 billion in generation.

Pak delegation visits Kashgar to explore cooperation

BEIJING (APP): A delegation from Pakistan, led by Nadeem Alam, CEO of Alam Group of Businesses, recently visited the Kashgar Yiwu Shopping Mall Group in Kashgar, China to explore potential collaboration opportunities. Accompanied by Xie Hongjun, Head of Kashgar Yiwu Supply Chain Company, the delegation toured the Kashgar Yiwu International Procurement Center and the Cross-Border E-commerce Marketing Department, which provided valuable insights into the development prospects of the Kashgar Yiwu Shopping Mall Group and the specific investment advantages it offers.

IPO-Pakistan, US for improving IP policies, laws in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): In a bid to promote intellectual property rights in the country, IPO-Pakistan and US Intellectual Property Counselor for South Asia reaffirm the commitment to carry forward the agenda of improving IP policies, laws and regulations in Pakistan.

This was discussed during a high level visit of the US delegation to IPO-Pakistan Headquarters Islamabad, headed by Mr. John Cabecca, US IP Counselor for South Asia and consisted of Ms. Dong Eun, Zach Abbar, and Hamza Khan. While the Pakistani side was led by Mr. Farukh Amil, Chair IPO. Ms. Shazia Adnan, Director General and senior management of IPO-

Pakistan were also present in the meeting.

Chair IPO-Pakistan briefed the delegation about the measurements taken by IPO-Pakistan for the promotion of IPRs.

He said that IPO-Pakistan believes that Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights had an important role in economic growth and development and in this regard it has already taken a number of initiatives to improve the IPR regime in the country.

Regarding the establishment of IP tribunals in the country the Chair IPO informed the US delegation that two new IP tribunals have been established in Quetta and Rawalpindi and approval of two more has been granted.

Business confidence on increase: OICCI survey

ISLAMABAD (APP): In its latest Business Confidence Index Survey (BCI) – Wave 24, the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) unveiled a promising upswing in Pakistan's business confidence. The survey, spanning from October to November 2023, showcases a substantial seven percent improvement compared to

the preceding wave in March-April 2023, said a news release. The survey paints a nuanced picture of business sentiments, with the overall business confidence in Pakistan standing at negative 18 percent, marking a positive shift from the negative 25 percent recorded earlier.

The largest increase was recorded in the manufacturing sector at

negative 10 percent followed by the services sector. President OICCI Amir Paracha attributed the improvement in business confidence to "relatively stable macroeconomic indicators, favourable changes in the political and economic landscape which were also supported by some stability in FX rates and a record performance at Pakistan Stock Exchange.

ICCI organizes ceremony to commemorate 67th

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Tuesday organized a ceremony to commemorate 67th anniversary of Pakistan Movement Leader Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Syed Jamal Shah and former Federal Minister Dr. Tariq

Fazal Chaudhry were the chief guests. Islamabad Bar Council Vice Chairman Raja Aleem Khan Abbasi, National Press Club Secretary Finance, Nayar Ali and others addressed the ceremony and paid tributes to Maulana Zafar Ali Khan for his outstanding services for the Pakistan Movement, said a press release issued here.

Governor urges students not to become tool of such people who spread hatred

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of students and teachers from Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (Caravan of Goodwill and National Unity) under the auspices of the Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. During the meeting, Senior Vice-Chairman of Idara Nazria Pakistan, Mian Farooq Altaf, Member

Board of Governors, Mian Salman Farooq, Secretary Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan, Naheed Imran Gill, Secretary Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan, Muhammad Saifullah Chaudhry, Mr. Usman Ahmed and President of Nazria-i-Pakistan Forum Peshawar, Malik Liaquat Ali Tabsem, were also present. Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Pakistan is an ideological state that came into existence under

the two-nation theory. He said that all minorities living in Pakistan are equal citizens of Pakistan and have equal rights. He said that we have to promote love and discourage hatred. He urged the students not to become a tool of such people who spread hatred. Governor Punjab said that there are many positive things in Pakistan. He said that it is a matter of great pride that Pakistani nation is the most philanthropic nation in the world. He said that

there are institutions like Akhuwat and Edhi Foundation, adding that Pakistan is better than many countries of the world. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that people and delegations from different walks of life keep visiting the Governor's House, but the delegation under goodwill and national unity caravan is unique in the sense that it is comprised of four provinces.



LAHORE: A delegation of students and teachers from various provinces (Caravan of Goodwill and National Unity) under the auspices of the Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam inaugurates central library in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Shringal Dir Bala.

CM envisions economic triumph as historic agreements with UAE unveil new era of partnership

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi affirms that the historic agreements between Pakistan and the UAE are poised to bolster the economy, elevating mutual relations to unprecedented heights. In his message from the United Arab Emirates, Naqvi anticipated positive effects soon as the implementation of these agreements takes effect, signaling the commencement of a new era of economic cooperation. According to a handout issued here on Tuesday, the Pakistani

delegation experienced a warm reception in the UAE, with a special welcome extended to them. Chief Minister Naqvi deemed the meeting with the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, as highly valuable. He applauded the commendable efforts of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and acknowledged the praiseworthy role played by the Army Chief in facilitating these significant agreements. Highlighting the transformative impact of the investment agreements on mutual relations, Chief Minister Naqvi

emphasized that the UAE's investment will diversify into key sectors such as energy, port operations, wastewater treatment, food security, banking, and financial services. This substantial investment is anticipated to pave the way for economic stability in Pakistan, heralding a new era of economic partnership between the two nations. Chief Minister Naqvi underscored the enduring historical and brotherly relations between Pakistan and the UAE, asserting that these ties have withstood the test of time.

CM KP decides to involve NAB in project cycle

PESHAWAR (APP): As an important step to make the officials working in development projects more confident as well as to ensure the completion of projects in a timely and transparent manner, Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has decided to involve NAB representatives in project cycle including conception, planning and execution of development projects. He directed the quarters concerned to send a formal letter to the higher authority of NAB in this regard. He was presiding over the 15th meeting of the

Board of Directors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority (KPUMA) held here at Chief Minister's House on Tuesday. Caretaker Provincial Minister for ST&IT Dr Najeem Ullah, administrative secretaries of concerned departments, DIG Traffic Police, MD KPUMA, CEO Trans Peshawar and other board members attended the meeting. Touching upon the need and importance of the decision regarding the involvement of NAB representatives in the project cycle, the chief minister said that the whole exercise will not

only ensure transparency in the development works but also give confidence to the working officers, resultantly, they will not feel any hesitation and fear regarding implementation of the projects. The chief minister directed that all matters related to development projects should be kept fair and transparent in all respects from the very beginning so that implementation of projects is not delayed due to fear of accountability in the future. "This process will help to ensure the completion of development projects within the stipulated timelines".

Minister advocates prudent resource use, focus on higher education, cost efficiency

PESHAWAR (APP): During a recent session of the Peshawar Public School and College Board of Governors, Provincial Minister for Elementary, Secondary and Higher Education, Dr Muhammad Qasim Jan, emphasized the necessity of improving educational institutions' performance within limited resources. He highlighted the importance of a strategic plan to reduce unnecessary expenses and endorsed an austerity policy. The minister stressed the need to prioritize higher education for youth and suggested the implementation of contract-based and fixed-pay recruitments after the retirement of employees in model schools and colleges. Tough decisions were deemed essential to address budgetary challenges. At the meeting, the Board of Governors decided to revise the fee structure for Peshawar Public School and College's students. The new monthly fees were established at Rs 3,820 for nursery to fifth grade, Rs 4,250 for sixth to tenth grade, and Rs 7,150 for eleventh and twelfth grade. Additionally, a 25% ad-hoc relief for Grades 1 to 16 and a 20% ad-hoc relief for Grade 17 and above employees.

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UNICEF offers aid package to 105 schools in flood affected areas

RAJANPUR (APP): In a laudable endeavour to uplift education in the aftermath of floods, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has delivered a transformative aid package to 105 schools across the district. The assistance includes an array of essentials such as books, solar panels, and various other articles vital for bolstering school infrastructure. District Literacy Officer Muhammad Abu Bakar Siddique, talking to APP expressed the ongoing commitment to advancing education and enhancing literacy levels in Rajanpur. Siddique fervently urged parents to actively participate in this initiative

by enrolling their children in schools operating under the Literacy Department. Highlighting recent initiatives, UNICEF's distribution of school bags, books, notebooks, solar panels, fans, batteries, and sports equipment would surely facilitate the kids. This comprehensive support aims not only to restore normalcy in the learning environment but also to create a conducive atmosphere for educational growth, he added. Providing a snapshot of the educational landscape in Rajanpur, Siddique revealed that 825 schools are currently operating under the auspices of the Literacy Department. This educational lifeline caters to the aspirations of 23,680 students.

Govt making efforts to promote culture, tourism of KP: Shah

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Minister for Information and Tourism, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel here Tuesday stated that the government was making incessant efforts to promote culture, tourism and project the natural beauty of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He added that the day is not far when tourists from around the world would visit KP to witness its beauty

throughout the year. He addressed a painting exhibition, culture showcase, and art display organized by the Department of Art and Design at the University of Peshawar in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) for students of merged districts, providing opportunities to showcase their work.

International News

Truce between Israel and Hamas extended for two days

GAZASTRIP, Palestinian Territories (AFP/APP): A truce between Israel and Hamas will be extended by two days, mediator Qatar said hours before the pause was due to end Tuesday, as more hostages were freed from Gaza in exchange for the release of dozens of Palestinian prisoners. "The Palestinian and Israeli sides have reached an agreement to extend the humanitarian pause in Gaza for two additional days under the same conditions," Qatar's foreign ministry said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter. Militant group Hamas also confirmed the extension, though there was no official word from Israel. The extension came as 11 more hostages were freed from Gaza, along with the release of another 33 Palestinian prisoners—the last exchange under the existing deal. The extension of the truce was welcomed internationally, with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres calling it "a glimpse of hope and humanity in the middle of the darkness of war". The truce has paused fighting that began when Hamas militants poured over the border into Israel, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping dozens, according to Israeli officials. Israel's retaliatory ground and air operation in Gaza has killed almost 15,000 people, mostly civilians, ac-

ording to the territory's Hamas government. Late Monday, 11 hostages arrived in Israel, the country's military said. "Our forces will accompany them until they are reunited with their families," it said in a statement, adding that the military "salutes and embraces the released hostages upon their return home". Most of the group are dual nationals, with Argentinians, Germans and French among those released, and all 11 were from the Nir Oz kibbutz, the community said. The releases brought "a sigh of relief to our community, however we remain deeply concerned about our loved ones that are still held hostage," kibbutz official Osnat Peri said. Images released by the Israeli military showed French-Israeli child Eitan Yahalomi reunited with his mother, who gripped him tightly to her. Shortly after the arrival of the hostages was confirmed, Israel's prison authority said 33 Palestinian inmates had been released. In east Jerusalem, prisoner Muhammad Abu Al-Humus called his release "an indescribable joy" and kissed his mother's hand as he entered his home, while crowds in the West Bank town of Beitunia waved green Hamas flags to greet those arriving on a coach.



ABU DHABI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar visiting the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque



ASTANA: Chinese Vice Prime Minister Ding Xuexiang meeting with Kazakhstan President Kasym-Jomart Tokayev

APHC expresses concern over detainees' plight in jails

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed concern over the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists, languishing in notorious jails of India and occupied Jammu and Kashmir for the past many years. According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar de-

nounced the unabated arrest spree launched by Indian forces in nook and corner of the occupied territory in the garb of cordon and search operations and said that more than four thousand leaders and activists belonging to the Kashmir resistance movement had been put behind bars on baseless charges. Terming the arbitrary arrests as the worst example

of political vendetta, the spokesman said that such repressive policies were aimed at changing the freedom narrative of Kashmir, which had remained a distant dream of Indian fascist regime since its illegal occupation of the territory in 1947. The spokesman hailed the steadfastness and valour of the illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists.

Iran's Raisi in Turkey to forge joint response to Gaza war

ANKARA (AFP/APP): Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi makes his first official visit to Turkey on Tuesday, hoping to paper over past differences and forge a forceful joint response to Israel's actions in Gaza. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has emerged as one of the Muslim world's most vocal critics of Israel's onslaught on Gaza in response to Hamas October 7 attack. He has branded Israel a "terrorist state" and called Hamas "a liberation group". Erdogan has also suggested trying Israeli politicians and military commanders in the International Criminal Court in the Hague. But past meetings between Muslim and Arab leaders—including talks this month in Riyadh—have failed to find common

ground over what immediate economic and political steps to take. Analysts believe that Raisi will pressurize Turkey to move past the rhetoric and cut its blossoming trade and energy relations with Israel. "Iran expects Turkey to end its direct and indirect trade with Israel," Istanbul's Centre for Iranian Studies director Hakki Uygur told AFP. "Turkey, on the other hand, has taken an attitude that cares about separating political and commercial issues." According to Gaza's Hamas-led government, nearly 15,000 people—mostly civilians and including thousands of children—have died since Israel began to retaliate for Hamas's unprecedented cross-border attacks in which Israel says 1,200 people died.

N.Korea defends satellite launch at UN as Kim takes images of White House

UNITED NATIONS, United States (AFP/APP): North Korea's ambassador made a rare appearance at the UN Security Council on Monday to defend his country's launch of a spy satellite, as leader Kim Jong Un studied images including of the White House and Pentagon. Western powers, Japan and South Korea have said North Korea violated Security Council resolutions by launching the satellite last week. The totalitarian state has said that its new eye in the sky has already provided images of major US and South Korean military sites, as well as photos of the Italian capital Rome. On Monday it took "in detail" images of the White House and the Pentagon in Washington, according to state-run KCNA news agency, which said Kim was reviewing the photos. He also counted some aircraft carriers at a military base and a shipyard in the neighbouring state of Virginia, the report said.

At the Security Council, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Kim Song, complained that other countries faced no restrictions on satellites. "No other nation in the world is in the security environment as critical as the DPRK," said Kim, using the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "One belligerent party, the United States, is threatening us with a nuclear weapon," he said. "It is a legitimate right for the DPRK as another belligerent party to develop, test, manufacture and possess weapons systems equivalent to those that the United States possesses or is developing." He mocked US charges that satellite technology also helped North Korea hone its missile capacity, questioning whether the United States put satellites into orbit "with a catapult." The UN ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, rejected North Korea's as-

sertion it was acting in self-defence and said that joint US-South Korea exercises were "routine" and "defensive in nature." "We intentionally reduce risk and pursue transparency by announcing the exercises in advance including the dates and the activities, unlike the DPRK," she said, adding that the drills did not violate Security Council resolutions. South Korea's spy agency said that Russia, eager for assistance in Ukraine, helped North Korea on the satellite following a summit between Kim and President Vladimir Putin. The United States said last month that North Korea has delivered more than 1,000 containers of military equipment and munitions to Russia. Russia and China, North Korea's main allies, have put forward a resolution, opposed by the United States, to ease sanctions on Pyongyang as part of an effort to encourage dialogue.

President calls for national policy to address mental health issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday emphasized the need for formulation of a national policy to address the mental health issues as 24% population of the country was suffering from various mental health problems.

He stressed upon an institutional framework and public-private partnership to provide mental health services to the people.

The president expressed these views while chairing a follow-up meeting at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on mental health in Pakistan, the President Secretariat

Press Wing said in a press release.

A detailed presentation by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination on the National Mental Health App "Humraaz" highlighted that more than 240,000 calls had been received since its launch in April 2023.

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Nadeem Jan and representatives of the National Commission for Human Rights, the World Health Organization, and senior government officials.

Representatives of the provincial health departments, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan Psychiatric Society, Taskeen Health Initiative, Pakistan Psychological Association, Pakistani American Psychiatric Association of North America, British Pakistani Psychiatrists Association, and other organizations working on mental health attended the meeting via video link.

The president appreciated the launching of "Humraaz" that was providing mental health assistance and counselling services to the people in need.

He called for improving the effectiveness of the Humraaz app, besides strengthening the mental health support system in the country.

He highlighted that mental health was a major concern for Pakistan which required coordinated efforts by both the public and private sectors to utilize their expertise.

He further emphasized the need for an integrated approach on all mental health-related programmes and initiatives to effectively address the mental health challenge being faced by the country.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on mental health issues in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Walk Khan Kakar giving away awards to best performers during first Balochistan women summit organized by the Provincial Information Department in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund.

Siraj ul Haq says: Zardari's proposed national govt lacks constitutional legitimacy

SUKKUR (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has asserted that the proposed national government advocated by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Zardari lacks constitutional legitimacy, saying the proposal is designed to perpetuate the dominance of the same feudal and imported technocrats who have held power for decades, thereby preserving the existing status quo.

Speaking at an election convention held at Mehran Cultural Centre on Tuesday, he warned against the

victory of former ruling parties in the upcoming elections, asserting that it would signify the defeat of Pakistan. Sirajul Haq criticized the PML-N's assertion that its leadership would save the country, questioning the track record of those who previously held power. He argued that the purported former national government of the PDM and the PPP had detrimentally impacted the economy, resulting in inflation and unemployment. He queried the prospective positive changes these parties could bring after returning to power.

Five of family killed in DIK over domestic dispute

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): At least five members of a family were gunned down over a domestic dispute in Dera Ismail Khan, police said on Tuesday.

According to details, a man hailing from Rehmani Khel area of Dera Ismail Khan shot dead his wife for unknown reasons.

The brothers of the deceased woman to take revenge of killing of sister, opened fire on the man's father, mother and sister who died on the spot.

The bodies were shifted to hospital and police after registering a case into the incident started investigations.

Govt to provide free SIMs, female abayas to hujjaj: Aneeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed Tuesday said that the government would provide free of cost mobile SIMs with roaming internet packages, female abayas having a Pakistani flag on the backside and 13 Kg suitcases to pilgrims performing hajj this year.

Talking to a private news channel, minister said that it was a historic step that caretaker government has declared a significant reduction of one lac in government Hajj expenses, adding, further 50,000 will also be reduced in coming few days after which hujjaj will get back their money in their accounts.

He said a new mobile application has been designed to assist pilgrims, which will provide navigation support and enable constant communication between pilgrims and relevant officials.

Initially available in English and Urdu, the ap-

First Balochistan Women Summit 2023 held in Quetta: Women of Balochistan 2nd to none in capabilities: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Walk Khan Kakar has stated that women of the province are second to none in their capabilities and talent, what's needed is to provide them the better opportunities and necessary facilities to them so that they may excel in their respective fields.

He said that the women are guarantor of the bright future of nation, and it can't progress by confining them in the four walls of their homes and keeping them indolent.

The Governor was addressing the first Balochistan women summit organized by the Provincial Information Department in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

The women summit was aimed at strengthening womenfolk by recognizing

First Balochistan Women Summit 2023 held in Quetta: Women of Balochistan 2nd to none in capabilities: Governor

their invaluable services and role in different sectors.

The caretaker Provincial Minister Information, Jan Achakzai, Minister Home, Zubair Jamali, Minister women development and social welfare, Ms. Shania Khan, Vice-Chancellor of University of Balochistan, Professor Dr. Shafiqur Rehman, acting VC Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Dr. Zainab, head of PPAF, Nadi Gul Baraich, former speaker, Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani, Chairman Balochistan Rural Support Programme, Malik Anwar Kasi, besides other personalities from different walks of life, representatives of civil society and other concerned high ups.

The Governor appreciated the women summit organized to recognize their services and ensure respectable status for them in the society. The Governor said

that we need to accept women as equal human being without falling prey to unnecessary discussion as this is needed to resolve other issues gradually.

He said that women can't get their due rights and authority without getting economic independence.

He said that the women can be given ability to cope with all the issues by economically empowering them.

He also said that the lap of women have the status of best institution when comes to talk about the character building and training and education of their children even in the present developed era of information technology.

Meanwhile, the Governor distributed the awards to women in recognition of their meritorious services.

He also congratulated them on receiving the awards and expressed best wishes for them.

Adviser to CM Umair Balochistan visits Boys High School in Dalbandin

CHAGAI (APP): Adviser to Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan on Minerals Sardarzada Umair Muhammad Hassani visited Boys High School Qasim Khan in Dalbandin on Tuesday.

Talking to teachers gathering Adviser expressed his views and said that our motive is that "every child must go to school, love education and hate drugs" Under this mission we should promote education so that

our society remains bright.

He further said that only quality education can change the destiny of nations. Teachers are national builders, they must guide students to the right path and prepare them for any new challenges in life, he added. On the occasion, the principal of Boys High School Qasim Khan Hameed Ullah briefed to minister on which minister assured him.



TURKIYE: Opposition Leader in Senate, Senator Dr Shahzad Waseem addressing on Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Executive Council meeting.

Director UNESCO says Pakistan needs to set up university for management of water resources

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan should learn from China's experience and work together to set up a university covering water resources engineering, environmental science and engineering for water management resources in the country, the Director of UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia, Prof. Shahbaz Khan said.

"Pakistan and Chinese governments could work together on the model of Hohai University in Nanjing, one of the higher education institutions dealing with rivers and oceans in China, to establish such a university in Pakistan to promote river culture," he said in an interview with APP on the sidelines of the Yangtze Culture Forum recently held in Nanjing, China.

He said that in Pakistan, archaeological sites like Mohenjodaro, Harappa

and Taxila were linked with rivers and are believed to be older than many other cultures including the Yangtze culture. As the river culture in Pakistan has been facing challenges, there is an urgent need to impose a ban on fishing to protect blind Dolphins along the lower reaches of the Indus River, he added. He said that cities like Lahore, Multan and Hyderabad are located along the rivers in Punjab and Sindh provinces respectively and Pakistan could learn from China for industrial development by setting up small and medium enterprises which depend on water.

Prof. Shahbaz, who has been working in China for the last 20 years, said that there was less water available along the Yangtze River, especially in areas close to Wuhan, a central city in China.

Pak development, service of people cornerstone of PTIP policy

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman, of Pakistan Tahir e Insaaf (Parliamentarians), Pervaiz Khattak here on Tuesday said that service of people, peace and development of the country was the cornerstone of his party policy. He said that reforms in all sectors including police, health and education were introduced during his government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He was addressing a press conference on the occasion of joining former Town Nazim and PPP leader Muhammad Sharif into PTIP along with supporters. In the world, he said the success of a government depends on providing better services to the people. "I have no personal greediness and served in different political parties only to bring improvement in the lives of people," he said. Khattak said that it was unfortunate that leaders of most political parties did not honour promises after coming into power despite making tall pledges in manifestos.

Maryam assures youth, minorities of offering chance in next elections

LAHORE (INP): Senior Vice President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday assured the youth and minorities for offering a chance for bringing them to forefront of politics in next election.

She remarked this while heading a session participated by members and officials of Muslim Students Federation (MSF) and minority wing.

Regarding general elections to be held on February 08, 2024, Maryam Nawaz expressed satisfaction over the performances of the MSF and minority wing. During the meeting, it was decided to accelerate the election activities across the country and also to mobilize the youth in the four provinces including the federation, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. She said, "PML-N will

Parents urged to vaccinate children against polio

CHAGAI (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Taftan Waqar Ahmed on Tuesday urged the parents to play their role in the success of the anti-polio campaign by vaccinating their children up to the age of five years against the crippling disease. According to the AC office, at the inauguration of the anti-polio campaign, Assistant Commissioner Taftan Waqar Ahmed said that the eradication of the polio virus could only be achieved through vaccination of children aged five and under. Speaking to the polio workers, he pledged the support of the Levies Force to provide security to the polio teams and to inspect their performance. He expressed satisfaction with the day's progress and said that only by working together can we eradicate this dangerous virus and protect our future generations.

Senate body passes 'The Pakistan Council for S&T Technology (Amend) Bill, 2023'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate's Standing Committee on Science and Technology on Tuesday unanimously passed "The Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2023".

The committee, which met with Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen in the chair at the Parliament House, was told by the mover Senator Shahadat Awan that the bill was aimed at maintaining parliamentary oversight over the Council by making it mandatory for the body to submit its annual report to the Parliament.

While discussing the implementation status of recommendations, the Secretary of Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST) Ali Raza Bhutta stated that the ministry had complied with the committee's

recommendations, and had submitted its report in that regard.

He also briefed the committee on the pending promotions in all departments, especially Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), and the reasons for delay.

Ali Raza Bhutta mentioned that the promotions were pending due to the absence of a regular director general and inter-departmental disputes in the PSQCA. The ministry had, however, directed the Authority to expedite the pending promotion cases, he added.

Regarding vacant posts, the Secretary MoST stated that the ministry had scrapped the ongoing process due to the committee's suspicions, and new posts would be announced after analyzing the required workforce of PSQCA.

Speakers urge to enhance budget transparency, accountability

QUETTA (APP): Speakers at a seminar organized by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) with the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) urged the government to enhance budget transparency and accountability in the country.

The seminar, focusing on the importance of transparent and participatory budgeting, was held here on Tuesday with the primary objective of discussing challenges related to inclusivity and gender sensitivity within the budgetary framework. Project Manager CPDI, Moonus Kaymat shared the essential steps to ensure participatory budgeting which is the essential component of democratic governance.

As Pakistan navigates its fiscal challenges, the importance of transparency in its budgetary processes becomes even more crucial. Article 19-A guaranteed citizens access to information that ultimately leads to transparency, and budget documents should be pro-actively disclosed by the government departments, she further

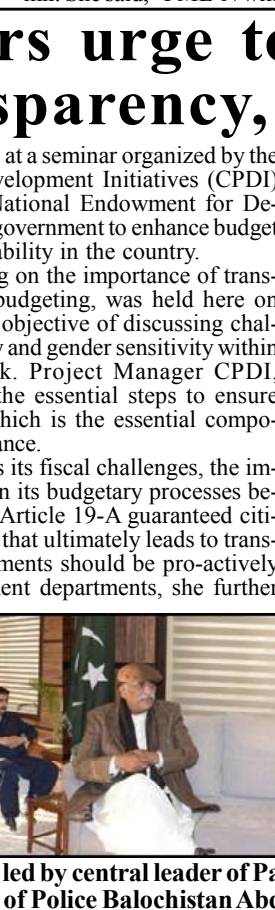
added. Sana Durrani, chairperson of Ending Violence Against Women (EVAWG-alliance), urged inclusive and gender-sensitive budgeting. She highlighted that the Balochistan Domestic Violence Act 2014 remains unimplemented due to resource shortages. Durrani noted the absence of the Balochistan Information Commission and pending initiatives due to resource allocation issues.

Former MPA Qadir Nael underscored the importance of departments seeking necessary budgets through strategic planning and in alignment with requirements, as opposed to relying on individual schemes. Additionally, he encourages empowered local governments to proactively address issues at the local level.

Shahid Abbas Jatui, Information Commissioner of Sindh Information Commission, underscored the role of citizen participation in enhancing budget transparency. He emphasizes the empowering effect of Right to Information (RTI) laws for citizens to hold public officials accountable.

Speakers urge to enhance budget transparency, accountability

QUETTA (APP): A delegation led by central leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Syed Khurshid Shah meeting with Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh.



Zehri says: PPP will make a full power show on occasion of foundation day

Independent Report

HUB: Senior leader of Pakistan People's Party and President of Hub District and Spokesman for Balochistan Asif Ali Zardari Mir Ali Hassan Zehri presided over the meeting of the party was held at the People's Secretariat Hub. Important suggestions for active participation in the preparations were considered and the final program was drawn up.

In the meeting, it was decided to establish reception camps across the district and to make the grand rally in Quetta on the occasion of the foundation day on November 30 a success and the workers and people. For full participation in public meeting,

Zehri says: PPP will make a full power show on occasion of foundation day

travel from Hub to Quetta and management plan was decided to deal with any emergency situation. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri addressed the workers on this occasion and said that District Hub of Pakistan People's Party it is a strong fortress and in the general meeting proposed in Quetta on November 30, the people of Hub district will participate fully.

He said that it is an ideological and public party. Whenever the People's Party came to power, it always took practical measures for the welfare of the poor people. During the era of PPP, the people of Pakistan prospered and the country continued to progress.

Zehri says: PPP will make a full power show on occasion of foundation day

QUETTA: Investigation Officer Federal Ombudsman Ahmed Waqas Kashi giving away lecturer to students of SBK Women's University during a public awareness seminar.