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President calls for providing congenial environment to merged tribal districts of KP



10% to add salaried and pensioner's monthly income: Shehbaz Sharif

Shehbaz Sharif elected as 23rd **Prime Minister of Pakistan**

Dawood Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (N) President, Shehbaz Sharif has been elected as the 23rd Prime Minister of Pakistan on Monday evening. He got 174 votes in the house 342. His election has come after the removal of Imran Khan as the PM through vote

Imran Khan as the PM through vote of no confidence in the parliament. Earlier, PTI MNAs had walked out of the halls, with Shah Mahmood Qureshi who was the party's candidate for the top slot announcing that they would be resigning en masse from the NA. PML-N's Ayaz Sadiq presided over the session after Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri his conscience did not allow him to conduct the session. "This agenda is against my conscience", Mr. Suri said while leaving the house.

After taking the chair of the

After taking the chair of the speaker, Sadiq read out the rules and procedure for the election of the prime minister and asked for the bells to rung for five minutes so that all lawmakers could come

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehrik e

Insaf (PTI) lawmakers have announced mass resignations from the national assembly on Monday. "Yes, we have decided to tender resignations from the national assembly", Imran Khan, the PTI Chairman told reporters.

The decision was taken in a party's

Dawood Ahmed:

PTI lawmakers tender

mass resignations from

national assembly

The decision was taken in a party's parliamentary meeting, which was chaired by PTI Chairman Imran Khan, at the Parliament House today afternoon. "The parliamentary party has decided to resign from the assemblies against the imported government," PTI Central Information Secretary Farrukh Habib confirmed in a tweet.

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan strongly criticized the election of Shehbaz Sharif as the PM of Pakistan. He stated that there were multiple cases of corruption against the latter in various courts of the country. "This is extremely disturbing", Imran Khan said in his short answer to reporters. Former foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi also endorsed the party's decision regarding resignations from the parliament during his speech in the national assembly.

ISLAMABAD: Newly Elected Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif greets with Co-Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party Asif Ali Zardari after voting at National Assembly in

10% to add salaried and

pensioner's monthly

income: Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: In his maiden address Prime Minister, Shehbaz on Monday thanked Allah for "saving Pakistan".

In his speech he said Shehbaz today was a "big day" for the entire nation when a "selected" prime minister was sent packing in a legal and constitu-

He added that the US dollar's value declining by Rs8 signified the "hap-

piness of the people".

The newly elected prime minister also thanked the Supreme Court (SC)

for burying the doctrine of necessity forever. "In the future, no one will be

able to rely on it," he said.

He said the day when the SC ruled against the dismissal of the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan by Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri should be remembered as one when supremacy of the Constitution and parliament was established. Shehbaz said a "drama" had been going on over the past few weeks and the lies being told about a "letter", which was said to contain evidence of a foreign conspiracy to topple the PTI government. He said the deputy speaker had waved the cable yesterday in the assembly as well and requested that it be shown to him (Shehbaz), who was the leader of the opposition at the time. "But neither did I see it nor anyone showed it

of the opposition at the time. "But neither did I see it nor anyone showed it to me," he said. It was a "lie, drama and fraud" he added, as he went on to clarify that there was no conspiracy linked to the ouster of former prime minister Imran Khan.He said the PTI had been alleging that they had received the cable on March 7, a day before the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan was filed. "But I have been meeting Asif Ali Zardari and Rilayar Rhutto Zardari on this (the year of no confidence) since the

and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on this (the vote of no-confidence) since the initial days of March."On March 3, Shehbaz continued, Nawaz held a meeting of the PML_N's central executive committee and PPP held a separate meeting of its own. "And we decided that we would bring a vote of no-confidence against the most corrupt, incompetent and laid back government in history." INIP

inside the halls before the voting

He said after the bells stopped

ringing, the assembly's entrances and exits would be locked and would remain so until the voting concluded added

After taking the chair of the speaker, Sadiq read out the rules and procedure for the election of the prime minister and asked for the bells to ring for five minutes so the bells to ring for five minutes so that all lawmakers could come inside the halls before the voting began. He said after the bells stopped ringing, the assembly's entrances and exits would be locked and would remain so until the voting concluded. Thereafter, Sadiq read out the names of the contenders, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and PTI's Shah Mahmood Qureshi. In a slip of tongue, he named PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif as one of the contenders initially and quickly corrected himself, clarifying that he meant to say Shehbaz." I apologise Shehbaz sahab, Nawaz's name remains in my heart."

Sadiq then asked the lawmakers the bells to ring for five minutes so

supporting Shehbaz to proceed to lobbies on his left side for voting. Similarly, he asked those who wanted to vote in favour of Qureshi to proceed to the lobby on his right side to cast their votes

Announcing the result of the premier's election, Sadiq reminisced that he had also chaired a session during which PML-N supremo and Shehbaz's elder brother was elected as the remaining the same statement. as the premier.

as the premier.

"And today, I have the honour of chairing the session for Shehbaz Sharif's election," he said.

"Mian Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif has secured 174 votes," he announced. "Mian Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif has been ... elected as the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan."

As soon as Sadiq announced the result, lawmakers began shouting slogans in favour of Shehbaz and Nawaz. The speaker then asked Shehbaz to move to the seat of the prime minister in the NA, following which he shifted to the treasury benches amid cheers, with other benches amid cheers, with other members of the former joint oppo-sition following suit.

PTI should accept defeat and sit on opposition benches now: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD: PPP central leader Sherry Rehman has said PTI should accept defeat and sit on opposition benches.

former Prime Minister (PM)
Imran Khan has been removed

Imran Khan has been removed from his office as per people demand through constitutional and parliamentary process.

She tweeted PTI is making abortive attempt to become political martyr. There is a long charge sheet of failures, incompetence, inefficiency, crisis and scandals against them.

She held PTI on one hand is talking of en-masse resignations and

ing of en-masse resignations and on the other side it is nominating

its candidate for premiership.

She claimed PTI was already divided. It has further split up following the ouster of Imran Khan as PM. Problems and Crisis generated by PTI will have far reaching repercussions on the country, she added. Online

Bilateral trade deficit upto \$300m with Morocco needed to be addressed: Irfan

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has stressed that bilateral trade deficit with any country needs to be addressed through enhanced business-to-business and chamberto-chamber ties; and, FPCCI is the right platform to get the things rolling in the right direction for

In a statement issued here on Monday, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh noted with concern that bilateral trade deficit with Morocco has reached deficit with Morocco has reached close to \$300 million dollars; which is a big number when assessed in relation to the total bilateral trade of \$350 million approximately. He added that there is so much which we can export to the brotherly country of Morocco; namely, value-added textiles, fruits & vegetables, surgical goods, phar-& vegetables, surgical goods, phar-maceuticals, IT services, sports

goods, minerals, etc.
Senior Vice President FPCCI,
Mr. Suleman Chawla called upon the Pakistan-Morocco Business Council of FPCCI to play a proac-tive role during the year 2022 and exchange B2B delegations to explore the avenues for coopera-

tion, trade and joint ventures.
Mr. Yahya Chawla, Chairman Council of FPCCI, explained that Morocco has the potential to be a major export market for Pakistan; however, we need to have a thorough need assessment coupled with awareness among the busi-ness, industry and trade communi-ty of Pakistan. Mr. Sultan Rehman, Senior Vice Chairman of the Council, called upon the Pakistani Ambassador in Morocco, H.E. Hamid Asghar Khan, to facilitate



ISLAMABAD:Chairman Senate, Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, administering oath to Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, in Federal Capital.

Staff Reporter

Party (BAP) members of the provincial assembly nominated Mir Quddus Bizenjo as their parliamentary leader in the Balochistan Assembly. Currently, Jam Kamal Khan, the President of the ruling BAP is the parliamentary leader in the house.

BAP leaders including Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Lala Rasheed, Muhammad Khan Lehri and Bushra Rind submitted the nomination of Mr. Bizenjo as the party's parliamentary leader in the provin-



cial assembly.

Quddus Bizenjo is currently the Chief Minister of Balochistan. He belongs to BAP.

Assembly Secretariat received the nomination of Bizenjo We have received the nomination

of Quddus Bizenjo as the parliamen-tary leader", Tahir Shah Kakar, the Secretary Balochistan Assembly confirmed to Quetta Voice. He said the members in their application have asked the assembly secretariat to declare Mr. Bizenjo as the parliamentary leader.

Prominent among those who signed the nomination letter were Sardar Saleh Muhammad Bhootani, Noor Muhammad Dumar, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Mir Ziaullah Langove, Muhammad Khan Lehri, Mir Sikandar Umrani and others. There was no immediate response on the part of Jam Kamal Khan, the BAP President.

Shuja Kasi appointed as IG prisons Balochistan

News Desk

The Government of Balochistan appointed Malik Shuja Uddin Kasi as the Inspector General of the Prisons Department on Monday, Mr. Kasi is a grade-20 officer from the Balochistan department

According to a notification issued by the home and tribal affairs department, Mr. Usman Ghani

Siddiqui has been asked to report to the Services and General Administration Department

Mr. Kasi has already served as the IGP Balochistan in the past. It may be mentioned here that this daily had published news of the continued delay in the appointment of IGP Balochistan the other day.

President calls for providing congenial environment to merged tribal districts of KP

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. ing and providing a congenial business and investment environment to the newly merged tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa erstwhile FATA for enhancement of trade and business activities in

the country.

The President expressed these riews while talking to a delegation of Bajaur Chamber of Commerce and Industry that called on him in

Islamabad on Monday The delegation apprised the President of the problems being faced by the trader and business community of Bajaur. It was informed that the business community of Bajaur is facing difficulties in getting loans from commer-cial banks. They also underlined the need to open trading points with Afghanistan to enhance bilateral trade with neighbouring coun-

tries.
Dr Arif Alvi assured the delegation that their issues will be conveyed to the concerned departments for redressal. said steps are being taken to focus on the development of merged tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa erstwhile FATA to

bring them at par with other areas of the country.Dr Arif Alvi said despite limited resources and a global financial crunch, Pakistan provided maximum relief to the business community and vulnerable segments of society during the COVID-19 pandemic.He encouraged the businessmen to adopt modern business practices which would help increase the outreach of their businesses, besides contributing to the socio-economic development of the country.INP

PTI to resign from National AssemblyL: Farrukh habib

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) Farrukh Habibon Monday formally announced minutes before that PTI MNA submit mass resign from

MNA submit mass resign from National Assembly.
Decision was taken in the Party's Parliamentary meeting chaired by Chairmen PTI and Fromer Prime Minister Imran Khan which was oustered from the Prime Minister slot in result of no-

confidence motion.

Farrukh Habib wrote on his twitter account "The parliamentary party has decided to resign from the assemblies against the imported government"

ed government." Murad Saeed, Ali Gandapur, Shireen Mazari, Hammad Azhar, and Shafaqt Mahmood has shared their resignation that they submitted to party Chairmen Imran Khan

Chairmen Imran Khan
Ali Amin Gandapur said "I am
proud to be a follower of Imran
Khan and will fight till my death
for the freedom of Pakistan and
imported govt their agents and
mafias and mafias in different
forms in Pakistan INSHALLAH."Online

New Govt will take on board opposition benches on national issues: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Senior Leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Ahsan Iqbal has said the new government will take on board the opposition benches on national

Talking to a private news chan-nel, he said the new government will hold bye-elections if the PTI members resign from their seats.

Ahsan Iqbal said the issue of threatening letter would be thoroughly investigated for its logical

He said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf used the letter for its face saving to exit the government. Ahsan Iqbal said Imran Khan had made hostage the entire demo-cratic system just for his self esteem.ONLINE

Balochistan universities to be under chief minister's control: Law Passed

Syed Ali Shah

able to rely on it," he said.

Universities across Balochistan would be under the jurisdiction/control of the Chief Minister rather than Governor Balochistan. On Monday evening, the provincial assembly passed the Balochistan universities amendment act amid uproar in the house. Balochistan Education Minister, Mir Naseebullah Marri tabled the bill, which was

adopted by a majority of the members amid the uproar.

Mitha Khan Kakar of the ruling Balochistan Awami
Party (BAP), Nasrullah Zarai of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) expressed reservations about curtailing the powers of the Governor/Chancellor. They demanded of the Speaker refer the bill to the standing committee for further deliberations.

Under the act CM, Govt, Cabinet to appoint VCs of universities.

Under the amendment act, the Chief Minister, government, and cabinet will be having the power to appoint Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of universities across the province.



"Governor should not be made powerless in this regard" Mitha Khan Kakar, a lawmaker from the ruling BAP demanded. Balochistan Education Minister, Naseebullah Marri was about the table the legislation when Kakar objected to it. Although, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo urged the members to adopt the legisla-

Some lawmakers stage walkout from the house However, Malik Sikandar Advocate, the opposition leader in Balochistan Assembly suggested the chair/speaker refer the legislation to the standing committee for a thorough consultation. Subsequently, the House passed the legislation with majority votes. Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran of the ruling BAP said it was not written in the constitution that a Pashtoon has to be the Governor of Balochistan. "We all belong to one province and we all are one", he said. Nasrullah Khan Zarai of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) said that the academic staff association has expressed reservations about the legislation. The number of universities across Balochistan is currently nine. The chair adjourned the house proceedings till

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan Balochistan's **Healthcare Crisis**

In its 50-year history as a province, successive governments in Balochistan have failed to provide health facilities to the masses. It is woeful that the discussions around health policy receive little to no space on the agenda of political parties. The media continues to report the plight of government-run hospitals, polio, nutrition, and other issues. However, a meaningful debate in the media about the abysmal state of health services is vir-

The result of this apathy is declining health indicators. For instance, maternal mortality rate, child mortality rate are the highest in Balochistan as compared to other parts of the country. Balochistan is the highest contributor, with an average of 785 out of 100,000 mothers dying in childbirth or related complications, while an average of 272 mothers dying in childbirth or related complications, while an average of 272 mothers dying in other provinces of Pakistan. Out of every 1,000 children under the age of five, 111 die in Balochistan, while other provinces have an average of 49 deaths. The data is as per the Pakistan Health Demographic Survey (PHDS) 2014. In the aftermath of the global outbreak of COVID19, the Balochistan government also increased the health budget and allocated Rs. 32 billion to improve health indicators. Most recently, Jam Kamal Khan led Balochistan

government has announced to recruit doctors on a contract basis to over-come the shortage of health professionals. Over 3,000 vacancies of male, female doctors from medical officers to specialist cadres are lying vacant for years in Balochistan. The Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) has already launched a process of tests and interviews for the recruitment of over 1,000 doctors. The process of recruitment takes over one year as per the BPSC procedures. And the government needs doctors on an emergency basis in hospitals to battle the second-wave of the novel coronavirus. The Young Doctors Association (YDA) Balochistan has rejected the government's decision and coronavirus. They demanded appointments through BPSC. YDA has directed its members not to submit applications for appointments on a contract basis.

This has created a new crisis. However, the solution is simple. The government needs to take all health professional bodies on board while making this decision functional. The doctors who have already applied through BPSC should be issued contract orders so that they could serve the ailing humanity and get paid until permanent orders. This will allow the government to implement its policies in the health department without strikes and agitation by doctors. The doctors too have to avoid agitation and strikes and avoid punishing patients. Beyond politics, the government, political parties, intelligentsia, health professionals, educationists must make health and education true priorities. Only then, this process can progress and living conditions can improve.

Lessons from Colombo By Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri

The writer heads the Sustainable Development

EDITORIAL

Policy Institute. Pakistan is not the only country in the region going through political turmoil. Sri Lanka, too, is facing a political impasse. Last week, all 26 members of the Sri Lankan cabinet (including the brother and nephew of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa) resigned en-masse amidst widespread protests in the country over the state of the economy.Mr Rajapaksa's government no longer enjoys a simple majority of 113, as over 40 members of parliament from his party and its coalition partners have distanced themselves from him. The economic from him. The economic crisis has become so grave that the opposition is no longer interested in bringing a vote of no-confidence against him. The opposition also rejected Rajapaksa's invitation to be a part of a tation to be a part of a 'national government'. Wonder what went wrong in Sri Lanka? Let me explain. Rajapaksa came into power in 2019 with populist claims of reducing inflation and provid-ing relief to his people. He reduced the value-added tax from 15 per-cent to 7 percent and increased the annual taxable income limit from 0.5 million Sri Lankan rupees (SLR) to SLR3

deficit, the Sri Lankan government started printing money, leading to multi-year high inflation.

Things worsened when urism, the primary urce of foreign tourism, exchange, got hit by Coyid-19. Multiyear high-trade imbalance and a growing current account deficit increased the demand for dollars, putting pressure on the SLR. However, President Raiapaksa resisted a devaluation to save his popularity and artificially stabilized the rupee by burning its foreignexchange reserves Dwindling foreign cur rency reserves eroded the island state's capacity to pay for imports. Curtailed import of oil and gas affected electricity generation to the extent that currently, the country is facing 10-14 hours of power outage, severely affecting businesses and manufacturing, To curb imports, the Sri

Lankan government took piecemeal measures. In 2020, it banned the import of motor vehicles. In 2021, it banned the import of chemical fertilizers (in the name of pro-moting organic farming): a decision that was reversed but only after the collapse of rice and tea production, which led to rural poverty and aggravated the already existing food crisis.

After artificially keeping the exchange rate fixed at SLR200 per US dollar (USD) for five months, the central bank gave up last month as its usable dollar reserves had shrunk to just \$150 mil-lion at the end of March 2021. The rupee was allowed to float after a 15 percent devaluation, and

today the exchange rate is SLR315 to a USD.

The result is that Sri Lanka faces a shortage of food, fuel, medicines, and other daily-use items. Inflation was as high as 19 percent in March 2022. Food prices have 2022. Food prices have doubled over the last six months (food inflation: 30.2 percent). The previous month, the price of petrol was increased by 43.5 percent and that of diesel by 45.5 percent. Sri Lanka, whose GDP (\$81 killian) in least these billion) is less than onequarter of that of Pakistan, has to pay \$7 billion in external liabilities this year. Avoiding a default requires major debt restructuring under a challenging IMF programme. However, amid a political crisis and in the absence of a finance minister, the IMF is unable to engage with Sri Lanker with a significant control of the sig

Lankan authorities.
Insecurity breeds insecurities. In Sri Lanka, an economic crisis has spawned a political crisis. In Pakistan, the ongoing political crisis is leading to an economic crisis.

Political uncertainties in Pakistan have already negatively affected the seventh review of the IMF programme, a must

tranche from the fund. The IMF can not engage with a government whose fate is not certain. Saudi Arabia and China are reluctant to roll over their debt (deposits in the State Bank of Pakistan that make a significant chunk of our foreign exchange reserves) until the gov-ernment in Islamabad sta-bilizes. Balance-of-payments concerns have neg-atively affected investment decisions, and panic buying of dollars led to the dollarization of the economy, putting pres-sure on the Pakistani rupee.The State Bank's foreign exchange reserves shrank by \$5 billion (reduced to \$11 billion from \$16 billion) since March 1, 2022. At the same time, the exchange rate of the rupee against a dollar lost 10 rupees during the last month. With exchange reserves barely sufficient for two sufficient for two months' imports and another \$2.5 billion in external liabilities that the country has to pay in this quarter (April to June 2022), the priority of the government should be to get the seventh review completed and reach a 'staff-level agreement' with the IMF to receive its next tranche. Such an agreement can establish

for a much-needed next

country has been without a functional government. Second, completion of this review is now linked with rolling back the PM's relief package. The added sanctions on Russia and the depreciation of the rupee have made energy subsidies in Pakistan unsustainable (increased trade imbalance, current account ance, current account deficit, and fiscal imbalance). Hence, the IMF would advise recovering the full cost of energy the full cost of energy from consumers, scrap-ping the relief package. Whether the PDM alliance, the government in waiting, will be able to roll back that relief pack-age – putting its capital at stake – remains to be seen. The IMF would also be gauging the next government's ownership of the policy reforms carried the policy reforms carried out so far under the ongo-ing extended fund facility program. Especially the policies that the PDM, as an opposition coalition, had been vehemently opposing, for instance, autonomy of the State Bank the energy circular Bank, the energy circular debt management plan, fiscal consolidation, and withdrawal of GST withdrawal of GST exemptions.Doing all of the above without com-promising – in fact, strengthening – the existing social protection sys-tems for the lower and lower-middle-income earners will remain a challenge for the new government amidst politi-cal turmoil.

Strengthening the IC

The images of alleged atrocities of the Russian troops in the Ukrainian town of Bucha have created international outcry. Moscow is being accused of killing civilians in the town, a charge vehement-ly refuted by the Kremlin. Russia claims that some of the footage fueling the outrage were manipulated. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said experts at Ministry of Defence had

identified signs of manip-ulated video. He warned many international leaders against rushing to what he called sweeping accusations, asserting at least they should listen to Moscow's arguments. But it seems the US is unimpressed by these statements, with US State D e p a r t m e n t

Spokesperson Ned Price dismissing the Russian denial as baseless and shameless. Price told reporters that the images they had seen and the reports they had received suggested that these atrocities were not the act

of a broader, troubling

campaign.
The statements by American officials indi-cate that Washington is taking this matter seri-ously and the American leadership seems to have dogged determination to bring those who are responsible for these alleged atrocities to justice. Price revealed that his country was backing a 'multinational team" investigators collecting and preserving evidence

of war crimes at the

request of Ukraine's prosecutor general. He emphasized the need to hold those who committed atrocities and the ones who ordered them

accountable.

While Price is talking about a probe and a rigorous investigation, his boss, President Joe Biden, does not feel any need for such a probe. He has already declared Russian President Putin a war criminal, warning that a war crime trial could be held as global outrage grows against the Bucha incident. Biden also hinted at imposing sanctions Russia.

It is not only American officials who have expressed concerns over the incident in Bucha; other international bodies and global organisations' have also expressed their concerns over the alleged atrocities. But, unlike the US, they demanded an inquiry instead of reaching any conclusion or declaring Putin a war criminal. The called for an independent probe into the killings in

seems Washington is intent on holding a war trial but many experts wonder how the American leadership would do it because the sole superpower is not a member of the International Criminal Court. It was rather very hostile to the idea of setting up such a court. The American leadership unabashedly sought immunity for its soldiers

who were accused of committing war crimes in several parts of the world. US officials even denounced the ICC's attempts to seek an investigation into the alleged war crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Afghanistan.

It is heartening to

know that the US is not inimical to the idea of holding trials of those who may have committed war crimes. It is also encouraging that it views civilian casualties in Ukraine with grave concerns and wants a halt to such losses immediately But it could be argued that if Ukraine could be a focus of the world's attention for the loss of over 900 innocent lives then why should Iraq not catch the attention of the international community for losing more than 2.5 million lives? Why should the global com-munity remain indifferent to this Arab state that witnessed one of the most horrible incidents of modern times? Why should the targeting of wedding ceremonies in Afghanistan allegedly by American and Nato troops not be discussed in any tribunal? Why should no question be asked about the civilian killing during the Nato bombard-ment in Yugoslavia in the 1990s?When it comes to punishing war criminals and those who committed heinous crimes against humanity, the West always turns out to be selective. It might want to

prosecute Milosevic for the alleged atrocities in Bosnia but wants to spare those who armed and trained the Kosovo Liberation Army. They want to prosecute Assad for alleged crimes against humanity but want to ignore the crimes of eneral Pinochet and his alleged patron Henry Kissinger They are dying to discuss Ukraine at international forums but the same zeal for the hapless people of Yemen who have been caught in

million. Amidst plum-meting revenue collection and widened budget

a terrible conflict for If Washington is really interested in upholding rule of law in the world, then it must recognize the jurisdiction of the ICC. It must become a part of this global body that seeks to prosecute global criminals. leadership American should not seek any impunity for its own sol-diers who have allegedly committed war crimes in North Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and

world. The American leadership cannot declare the UN an irrelevant body when it tries to stop it from invading a country without the approval of the Security Council and then embrace it when the global body condemns Russia, China or any other country. It cannot denounce the ICC when it wants to probe into the alleged war crimes of Israel and encourage the same body to investigate the alleged crimes of

By Abdul Sattar

Moscow. The US and the West have to give up this hypocritical position. They must let interna-

tional bodies work inde-pendently without any external influence. Even today the US wants to follow an inquiry into the alleged war crimes in Bucha without the ICC. It is backing a multinational team, which might comprise elements sympa-thetic to the US cause working on the alleged war crimes in Bucha. So, it does not want the ICC or any other global body to take the lead because its leadership seems to know if such a body is allowed to declare a verdict against Russia, tomorrow it could do the same against the sole

same against the sole superpower.

The question is; if the US with around 6000 nuclear arsenals can denounce the ICC and other global bodies, what can prevent Moscow has over 7000 nuclear bombs and supersonic missiles, from safet inherently arrogant. It can only be reined in by laws, customs and traditions. It is important that if global powers really want to make the ICC and other international bodies effective, then they must give up their hypocritical attitude towards these bodies. The ICC must be strengthened to not only probe the alleged war crimes in Bucha but also

such crimes anywhere else in the world. Iraq and Afghanistan could be the

Zamir Akram

starting points.

Balancing

By Ramzy Baroud

srael's bal-ancing act in the home. Russia-Ukraine It is obvious that Israel war is likely to falter soon, simply because the

resulting Nato-Russia con-flict is expected to last for years, not weeks or months. Eventually, Israel would have to make a choice. Alas, whatever that choice may be, Israel will stand to lose.

From the first day of the war, Israel somehow became involved. Top Israeli officials, including the country's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, began calling their Russian Initially, Ukrainian and Russian counterparts. Initially, some in the media surmised that Israel is con-cerned because of the large lewish populations in both

Ukraine and Russia. However, the headlines quickly moved on, with terms such as 'Israeli oli-garchs', 'Jewish oli-garchs', and other combinations of Israel-friendly oligarchs dominating the news. Business interests quickly began replacing the supposed concern over and welfare of

ordinary Ukrainians. The latter fact was demonstrated in a most tragic way when Israeli Channel 12 reported, on March 10, that many Ukrainian refugees were 'stuck at Ben Gurion Airport, facing cold and callous treatment'. Israeli hypocrisy reared its ugly head once more on February 26, when Israeli Minister of Aliyah and Integration Integration, Pnina Tamano-Shata, said in a statement, "We call on the

Jews of Ukraine to immi-

grate to Israel - your

market confidence and also help unlock bridge financing. However, this is easier said than done. First, since last month the

does not care about the welfare of Ukrainians or, frankly, Ukrainian Jews either After all, these new-comers to Israel would eventually be incorporated into the country's illegal settlement enterprises. We know this from history, and particularly from the history of the migration of Russian Jews to Israel, who arrived in their hun-dreds of thousands in the early 1990s. Not only do many of them now reside in illegal Jewish settlements, but to some extent, they also represent the backbone of some of Israel's far-right political parties, the likes of Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu.

Aside from the fact that a country moving its resi-dents to an occupied territory is a stark violation of international law, it is also a violation of the rights of these vulnerable refugees, who will be expected to live in another war zone in the service of Israel's Zionist ideology.

unfortunate typical that Israel finds opportunities to bolster its settler colonial model in occupied Palestine by exploiting the tragedies of other societies advantage. It has done so many times in the past in Ethiopia, following the famine in 1984, in Russia, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and in France, following the Paris terrorist attacks in 2015.

While France was still trying to fathom the enor-mity of its tragedy when 130 people were killed in

Blissfully

unaware

broad daylight on November 13, 2015, then Israeli Prime Minister Paniamin Netanyahu Benjamin Netanyahu called on French Jews to move to Israel. "Of course, Jews deserve protection in every country, but we say to Jews, to our brothers and sisters: Israel is your home," he said.

Shamelessly, finds tragedies as political opportunities work opportunities While this exploiting. While this quality is not unique to Israel - the Russia-Ukraine war has also exposed the opportunism of other countries around the world - Israel's exploitation is doubly shameful as it hopes that war-torn Ukraine would help it sustain its own war against Palestinian people.

However, serious cracks in the Israeli balancing acts are already on display. On March 11, US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland called on Israel to join sanctions against Russia. "We're asking as many countries as we can to join us.

Israel as well, she said. Understandably, much of that pressure is coming from the Ukrainian gov-ernment itself. Volodymyr Zelensky has repeatedly called on Israel to reciprocate for the Ukrainian support of Israel during its genocidal wars on the Palestinians. Indeed, Zelensky has taken every opportunity to express his solidarity with Israel in the past, even though Palestinians were the ones dying in

By Alfred De Zayas

their thousands.

The gathering storm

War clouds have once again gathered Afghanistan. Even as American's longest war in its his-tory has ended, the Afghan people are unlikely to enjoy the dividends of peace. In fact, a renewed civil war has already startbetween Taliban and the Afghan government. The impact of such a conflict will not remain confined to Afghanistan but will engulf the entire

region. The Taliban have already made extensive territorial gains. They claim to now control 85 per cent of Afghanistan, especially the rural areas and the crucial highways, thereby encircling the major cities with fighting currently raging for the control of Herat, Kandahar and Lashkar Gah. The Taliban are also trying to rebrand themselves. projecting a more tol-erant and responsible image in order to increase their domes-tic and international acceptability. Rejecting

claims, the Afghan government asserted that its forces are regrouping to halt the Taliban advance and will retake lost territory. The government has also enlisted local Tajik, Hazara

and Uzbek militia to boost the capabilities of its troops while relying heavily on military support by Washington and New Delhi. In these circumstances, a protracted civil war is now the most likely outcome.

Imran Khan is correct

Minister

in stating that the Americans made a mess in Afghanistan. Now they are leaving a mess behind. Instead of ensuring a peaceful transition, the Biden administration has rushed for the exits, a b a n d o n i n g Afghanistan to its fate. American "over the horizon" military operations in support of the Ghani government, such as recent ment, such as recent air strikes against the Taliban, have encouraged Kabul to reject any compromise solution. The recent meetings in New Delhi between US Secretary of State Blinken and the Indian leadership indicate that India will also militarily assist the Afghan govern-ment. The Indian objective was clearly spelt out recently by former Indian Foreign Secretary Sham Seran that an Afghan civil war would be prefer-able to a Taliban gov-

ernment. A more sinister aspect of such Indo-

US cooperation, underscored by the meeting between Secretary Blinken and Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, is that Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies would feel encouraged to intensify support for terrorist groups like the TTP and Baloch separatists against Pakistan. The Chechens, Uzbeks, Uighurs of the ETIM and ISIS will also gain greater freedom of

action to increasingly

target China, Russia

and Iran.

In these circum-stances, Afghanistan will not only face further devastation but will also be denied the benefits of its poten-tial role as a hub for regional connectivity. Projects like TAPI and CASA-1000 will remain unimplemented. China's extension of its BRI into Afghanistan as well as its investments in the country would have to be put on hold. For Pakistan, the costs would be even higher continued instability and security threats on its western and eastern borders, influx of Afghan refugees, and denial of access to the region. Since Afghan instability will have regional implications, the geopolitical interests of

Russia and Iran converge on the need for a peaceful transition in Afghanistan and avoidance of a renewed civil war. As such, all four countries have individually and collectively reached out to the Afghan parties. The Taliban have, in their engagement these countries, stressed their willingness to accept a political solution, sought international recognition and promised to ensure that the Afghan ensure that the Afghan territory is not used against any other country. In a significant development, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the visiting Taliban leader, Mullah Bradar that the "Taliban... is a pivotal military and a pivotal military and political force in the country and will play an important role in the process of peace. re-conciliation and reconstruction there." Similar endorsement for the Taliban has also been expressed by the Russians and Iranians. Efforts by this 'Quartet', there-fore, hold the most promising option to secure peace in A f g h a n i s t a n. Intensified collective initiatives by them can still prevent a full scale civil war and

lead to a peaceful

transition. While the Ghani government will prove to be a hurdle, it can still be given a safe and honourable exit under conditions that could be guaran-teed by the 'Quartet'. More troublesome would be the spoiler's role by India which views its strategic riews its strategic interests against Pakistan and China being better served by continuing warfare in Afghanistan. But the Indians or the Americans will not deploy their forces in Afghanistan to protect Afghanistan to protect Ghani, having learnt the lessons of history. Consequently, the Kabul government cannot survive for long and would be eventually forced to find a political solution. Pakistan's support for an Afghan-lod and Afghan-owned Afghan-owned peace process is laud-able. But given the high stakes involved and the obvious Indian interference in Afghanistan, there is need for a proactive Pakistan policy in collaboration with China, Russia and Iran to protect shared national interests. Such a collective approach needs to be based on the ground realities, in particular that the Taliban must play a key role in a future Afghan government.

'ake news' and 'posttruth' are popular neologisms they have actually been part of the political landscape for a very long time. We have learned to live with fake news, fake history and bogus law. We swim in an ocean of lies and dis-informa-

but somehow

manage to survive the

economic and political sharks all around us. What is far more worrisome is the phenomenon that there are 'real facts' that cry out for our attention, that demand urgent action, and that our politicians and media treat as nonexistent or marginal, eg exorbitant expenses, skewed national budgets, xenophobic war-mongering, structural violence, aggression, coercive financial unilateral measures, blockades, the homolo-gation of the media, manifestly unjust laws, the corruption of the 'rule of law' through legal scams and 'lawfare', the penetration of public institutions by intelligence services,

the 'weaponization' of

human rights, the

Julian Assange, unjust

imprisonment

whistleblowers

taxation, tax havens, tax evasion, corporate exploitation, ecocide, extreme poverty, man-made famine, social exclusion, etc.

Now pause, take a breath and ask yourself why these facts are largely ignored or trivi-alized by politicians and media alike. Why are these 'inconvenient' facts shoved aside, as if they were only of marginal importance or as if they did not exist? Without a doubt these facts engender shortterm, medium-term and long-term conse-quences, create or per-petuate imbalances and spread a vague, desta-bilizing sense of inco-herence and cognitive dissonance. Facts without conse-

quences' constitute a sui generis category of reality. These facts may be present and available in the internet and generally acknowl-edged - but only under the tacit condition that no genuine debate will be conducted and no concrete action will be taken thereon. It is worse than a conspira-cy of silence. It is a conspiracy of irrespon-There are also 'books

without consequences', books without the urgent, imperative fol-

low-up. Whereas some trash books like Francis Fukuyama's The End of History and the Last Man are given enor-mous attention, hugely relevant and challenging books by Noam Chomsky, John
Mearsheimer, Stephen
Kinzer, William Blum,
Jeffrey Sachs, Nils
Melzer, President
Jimmy Carter are publighted by notable house lished by notable houses, but there is no fol-low-up. One would have expected that after the publication of C h o m s k y 's Manufacturing Consent', Kinzer's 'Overthrow', Sachs' 'The End of Poverty', Melzer's 'The Trial of Assange', 'Our Carter's Endangered Values', or The Mearsheimer's 'The Great Delusion' not only polite academic debate and scholarly conferences would follow, but genuine democratic discussion would be conducted in townhalls, in the daily press, in the internet, throughout the spectrum of the media. Politically these and other necessary books were met by silence. They had the potential to advance international law and

human rights, and that

is precisely why they have been victims of

benign neglect'.

Resignation, best

response for no-trust

motion: Rashid

ISLAMABAD: Former federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Monday said that the establishment should ponder upon

the fact that the nation is not even ready to see these faces that are preparing to come in power. According to details, the former

Interior Minister further stated that they kept on changing the files on Sunday so that no one would be

found guilty, Sheikh Rashid further said that he was still standing on the posi-tions that they should have

The former minister seemed sure about the fact that this joint opposition's government will not stay as he said that if this "import-

ed" government sticks everyone can start calling his Shehbaz Sharif INP

PML-N, allies focus to

bring change in seven

constitutional offices

ISLAMABAD: The opposi-tion parties also targeting seven constitutional offices

LHC instructs Hamza, Elahi to mutually decide date for CM election

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday instructed Punjab Assembly speaker Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, Deputy Speaker Sardar Dost Mazari and Leader of the Opposition in PA Hamza Shahbaz to mutu-ally finalise a date for the election of the chief min-ister."All of them should sit in the office of the Punjab advocate-general and solve the matter ami-cably," Justice Amir Bhatti said. "Remember that we are all residents of this country. Don't create a scene outside. Solve the problem at home, together."His remarks had come as the court took up Hamza's petition which had sought its help

BEIJING: Pak-China cooperation in sorghum industry has turned into a

industry has turned into a new milestone in CPEC, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Monday. As agricultural countries, China and Pakistan are currently facing the same challenges - growing food demand and tight agricultural land jointly threaten food security.

In addition to the three

major staple foods in the world, a crop has gradual-

ly attracted attention-sorghum, or sarghu in Urdu.

According to the report, as an indispensable dry food crop, sorghum is second only to wheat, corn, rice and barley in China in terms of planting area and output.

Agricultural experts call it "the camel of crops" based on its numerous

based on its numerous excellent qualities such as resistance to pests and diseases, high temperature, cold and salinity.

"Sorghum is a multipurpose crop that can play an important role in food and fodder provision. At a time when the world is facing the dual challenges of the epidemic and the food crisis, it is a win-win choice to

a win-win choice to incorporate this multi-purpose crop into the CPEC cooperation frame-work and add another

security

in holding elections for Punjab's new chief minister in a "fair and transparent" manner. Earlier, the LHC CJ had clubbed Elahi's petition in the case as well, which had accused the PML-N leader of holding MPAs hostage. During the hearing, referring to the April 3 PA session, the judge remarked that the question in front of the court was whether an assembly was whether an assembly sitting to elect the CM could be adjourned. "We have to ask relevant authorities about the process of the CM election". In his arguments rion. In his arguments, PML-N's counsel Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the post of Punjab CM had been empty since the res-

Pak-China coop in

sorghum industry: a new

milestone in CPEC

layer of guarantee to the food security of China and Pakistan," which was the consensus shared by experts on the Symposium on Sorghum Industry Development of China Pakistan organized

China Pakistan organized recently.

According to Dr. Shahzor Gul, Assistant Professor, Institute of Food Sciences and Technology, Sindh Agriculture University, in Pakistan, as the climatic conditions are excellent

conditions are excellent for sorghum production and emerging

and emerging water shortage has necessitated

and emerging water shortage has necessitated the production of sorghum on wide scale, this cash crop means the most affordable option.

"Sorghum produces about 5.4 tonnes per hectare in Pakistan, more than wheat and rice, which have 3.0 and 2.2 tonnes per hectare, respectively. Meanwhile, because wheat is mainly a winter crop and sorghum is primarily a summer crop, demand for sorghum is significantly lower, and there is no direct competition," Dr. Gul told CEN.

However, he pointed out in the mean time that sorghum yields in

sorghum yields in Pakistan are still meager

due to a lack of better cul-

tivators, an insufficient plant population, unsci-entific fertilizer applica-tion, weed control tech-

ignation Buzdar. "Right now, the province doesn't have an executive," he said.

Consequently, the judge directed the PA secretary to brief the court about the election record. He replied that after Buzdar's resignation on April 1, the process of election started the next day. "On April 2, the scrutiny [of candidates] was completed and nomination papers were

was completed and nomnation papers were
accepted as well."

On April 3, the secretary continued, a session

led by Mazari — was
called, but it was
adjourned till April 6
after a fight broke out
between the women between the women MPAs inside.INP

niques, and water conservation procedures.

In addition, Dr. Gul also indicated that the consumption pattern of

sorghum is quite tradi-tional, and it is not avail-able as a commercially processed food in the Pakistani market. This is mainly due to lack of pro-cessing technologies and

cessing technologies and availability of machinery.

And Sorghum has not been used in our beverage

and baking food industry

due to a variety of factors including lack of aware-

ness and taste. Nowadays, there are not much sorghum grain pro-

cessing plants in Pakistan. This industry holds immense potential to offer employment to hundreds of thousand

hundreds of thousand people."

Similar views are echoed by Dr. Shahzad Sabir from Punjab Agriculture Department, "Punjab and Sindh are the major sorghum producing Provinces of Pakistan contributing respectively 47 percent and 26 percent of the total," he said. "On the other hand, in 2019, we exported USD 23, 500 in sorghum, making Pakistan the 53rd largest exporter of sorghum in the world.

At the same year,

At the same year, sorghum was the 91st most exported product in Pakistan.INP

OUETTA: Supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf hold protest rally call by PTI Chief Imran Khan.

Treason case against IK: IHC reserves verdict on plea's maintainability

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court on Monday reserved judgement on the maintainability of a petition seeking placing of former prime minister Imran Khan's name on the Exit Control List and starting the Exit Control List and starting proceedings of treason case against him over alleged 'threat letter'. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the petition, filed by Maulvi Iqbal Haider, in which it was prayed to the court to put the names of former prime minister, former federal ministers namely, Fawad Chaudhry, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri and Pakistani diplomat Asad Majeed on the ECL and order for initiat-ing proceedings of a treason ing proceedings of a treason case by a trial court against them unless the 'lettergate' issue was investigated Giving his argu-ments, lawyer Maulvi Iqbal Haider said that the alleged let-

ter caused harm to our ties with America. He further told the court that proceedings of treason court that proceedings of treason case had been started against former president Pervez Musharraf on his petition. The chief justice expressed his annoyance and said: "Do not compare Imran Khan with Musharraf as Imran was an elected prime minister. It is state's responsibility to investigate the letter, not that of court's. gate the letter, not that of court's. Why have you come to the court?"On this, the lawyer said it was not a letter, it was just a cable. CJ Minallah asked the lawyer what was the difference between a letter and a cable. "It's a sensitive issue, why do you want to politicize the issue," the judge said. The chief justice asked Iqbal Haider what was his plea. The lawyer said that the plea. The lawyer said that the interior secretary was bound to investigate the threat letter which the former premier

claimed it was about toppling of his government. The lawyer pleaded with the court to order for sending the complaint to trial court asking it to start treason case against the relevant persons. The chief justice expressed his annoyance and said: "Do not compare Imran Khan with Musharraf as Imran was an elected prime minister. It is state's responsibility to investigate the letter, not that of court's. Why have you come to the court?"On this, the lawyer said it was not a letter, it was just a cable. CJ Minallah asked the lawyer what was the difference between a letter and a cable. "It's a sensitive issue, why do you want to politicize the issue," the judge said. The chief justice asked Iqbal Haider what was his plea. The lawyer said that the plea. The lawyer said that the interior secretary was bound to investigate the threat letter which the former INP

written and extended the bail

plea.

Meanwhile, the special prosecution team skipped the proceedings in the money laundering case said that the FIA has directed them against appearing

Shehbaz and his family are facing charges of money laundering of billions of rupees using accounts of their sugar mills and employees, according

to the FIA. In the meanwhile, the counsel of PML-N leaders Amjad Pervaiz said that the interim bail to Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz should be extended for a long period. INP

after ousting the prime minis-ter by a no-confidence motion, The opposition focusing over change in offices of the President, Chairman and Deputy Chairman Senate and three provincial governors, sources said sources said. The opposition parties have agreed over changing the office holders of seven consti-

tutional offices in phases, after election of the new prime minister, according to sources.

According to sources, a consensus will be created over federal exhibit in the first step. federal cabinet in the first step. The opposition parties have also initiated consultations over bringing impeachment motion against the President,

The PML-N and allied parties also mulling over entrusting the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) for removal of the incumbent Chairman of the Senate. The allies will convince the BAP for directing the Chairman to resign from his Chairman to resign from his office.

The BAP will be offered the office of the Deputy Chairman Senate or more clout in the federal cabinet, sources said.

Former prime minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani is being deemed a strong contender to become new chairman of the Shehbaz Sharif, is expected

to begin contacts and meetings after his oath taking as the next prime minister country.INP

Money Laundering Case: indictment against Shehbaz, Hamza deferred

LAHORE: A Lahore court on Monday adjourned hearing of a Monday adjourned hearing of a money laundering case against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif and Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Hamza Shehbaz till April 27.

The central court judge Ijaz Hassan Awan was chairing the proceedings of the money laundering case where Shehbaz Sharif's counsel submitted a plea to exempt him from pro-

plea to exempt him from pro-

ceedings.

The court during the proceedings said that the suspects should be produced in order to frame charges and proceed the

case. The FIA prosecutor in the

case. The FIA prosecutor in the case, however, said that they have no yet received orders regarding the case.

In the meanwhile, the counsel of PML-N leaders Amjad Pervaiz said that the interim bail to Shehbaz should be extended for Shehbaz should be extended for a long period. "We should first analyze if

evidence submitted by FIA could be used for indictment or not," he said and added, "I am also going to perform Umrah so kindly extend the bail for a

Ionger period."

The judge asked the PML-N counsel to submit the plea in

Only Allah bestows grace on people, says Imran

stion put by a report to a que his arrival at the Parliament House for chairing PTI's parliamentary party meeting as how he felt about party's countrywide power shows held yesterday

PTI leaders, on the occasion, also chanted slogans in

Shehbaz Sharif if this 'imported government' could

He again looked towards Army saying "The Army

and the establishment will have to contemplate about it [political situation]." INP

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday directed finance ministry to submit recom-mendations on legal status of cryptocurrency in two

satisfaction over a report submitted by finance ministry on cryptocurrency. "The court gave you three months" time but no progress has been made so far," the SHC judge said.

of the finance ministry said that they held meeting of the stakeholders twice however they are yet to reach

rejected the argument and said that it was not a complicated matter and is being lingered on unnecessarily. The court directed the finance ministry to submit recom-



LAHORE: A view of the loin wondering in his cage at Zoo in Provincial Capital.

PTI decides to resign from National

ISLAMABAD: akistan Tehreek-i-Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has decided to resign from National Assembly after Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he would not sit in the assemblies with these thieves.

Confirming the decision, Sheikh Rasheed said that sitting in the assemblies would further strengthen Shehbaz Sharif and therefore it has been decided to has submit the resignations ne National

Assembly Imran Khan supported my suggestion during the parliamentary party meeting," he said party meeting," he said and added that Khan would visit Peshawar on Wednesday. "Imran Khan will give call to people on every Sunday to come out against the foreign conspiracy," he

PTI MNA Murad Saeed was the first PTI MNA who submitted his resignation to the

Assembly after Imran Khan's nod Speaker Assembly. National Meanwhile,

Khan also met Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri and issued directives to him regarding National Assembly ses-sion today. "Imran sion today. Khan also apprised Qasim Suri regarding resignations submitted by the party MNAs, sources having knowledge of the details of the meeting

Earlier in the day, former Prime Minister Imran Khan reached Parliament ahead of the election of the new prime minister of the country. former prime

minister was welcomed in the Parliament by members of PTI who gave a thumping ova-tion to the party leader who was voted out by the National Assembly. The PTI chairman is

leading the meeting of

the parliamentary party

where the party would decide in favour or against the resignations from the assemblies.

During a conversa-tion with media on his arrival, the former prime minister was asked regarding the last night's power shows by the PTI across the coun-try. Khan said that it try, Khan said that it was Allah who gives respect Meanwhile, Imran Khan also met Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri and issued directives to him National regarding Assembly session today. "Imran Khan also apprised Qasim Suri regarding resignations submitted by the party MNAs," the sources having knowledge of the details of the meet-

Earlier in the day, for-mer Prime Minister Imran Khan reached Parliament ahead of the election of the new prime minister of the

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said on Monday that only The Almighty Allah bestows upon a person grace and dignity.

Sunday, April 10).

favour of Imran.

Rashid predicts 'imported govt' won't survive Former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Monday asked the media to change his name with that of

During a media talk in Islamabad, he alleged that now the 'politics' had started as these people (who top-pled PTI government), kept changing files on Sunday

SHC seeks recommendation on legal status of cryptocurrency

The directives came after the court expressed its dis-

Giving arguments before the court, a representative

consensus on giving legal status to cryptocurrency.

"This is a complicated matter and needs time to resolved," the representative said. The court however

mendations on giving legal cover to cryptocurrency in two months and adjourned the hearing until June 13.

In January this year, Shibli Faraz said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led federal government intends to regularize cryptocurrency in Pakistan.He was addressing the first Pakistan Blockchain Summit 2022, in Islamabad.INP

Real estate sector wants rationalization of immovable properties' valuation: WealthPK tricts, while the provinabout the review of valu-

ISLAMABAD: real estate sector has demanded that Federal Board Revenue (FBR) rationalise its valuation of immovable properties in the country as soon as possible to end uncertain-

ty, reports WealthPK.

In a letter to the Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadio Sanjrani, Vice President Federation of Realtors Pakistan and General Secretary Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA) Muhammad (RECA) Muhammad Ahsan Malik has drawn his attention to the recently issued instruc-tions by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)

ation of immovable properties. He said these instructions will have a catastrophic effect on the construction and real

Highlighting 'anom-alies' in the valuation of immovable properties by the FBR, Malik expressed reservations and said currently there were four methods in practice for property val-uation in the country which were creating confusion in the real estate

He said the federal government charges Advance Tax/Gain Tax according to the FBR valuation for only 19 dis-

cial governments charge stamp duty according to the district collector (DC) rates. Similarly, cantonment boards charge taxes according to their own valuation. Also, fluctua-tion in market rates depends upon the prevail-ing market conditions and government poliand government poli-cies.So, due to four different valuation rates, the general public usually gets confused. The recent example of the FBR valuation imposed on Dec 1. 2021, has impacted drastically the real estate mar-ket and construction industry.Presenting his suggestions about resolving the issue, Muhammad Ahsan Malik said proper-ty valuation should only be done by the provincial governments which are already practicing it and are capable of doing it, as they already have field revenue department. The provincial governments charge Stamp Duty according to the DC rates. It is suggested that the federal government should also charge gain tax/advance tax accord-ing to the DC rates. He said property valuation should only be done once a financial year.

source under collected under realtors. The He said in case the FBR was bent upon enhancing rates all over Pakistan, closer to the market value, then the the current national.INP

advance tax collected at 236K and the gain tax 236C should be brought down. Otherwise, he said, the FBR can enhance 25% on its valuation table. Special incentives should be announced for registered Designated Non-Financial Business and Profession (DNFBP initiative will not only minimize confusion in the real estate sector, but also flourish the construction industry package announced by the gov-ernment. Additional revenue generated will be helpful in the revival of



LAHORE: A motorist cover his face with a piece of cloth to avoid warm winds, instead of wearing helmet which may cause any incident any time.

Islamabad court rejects plea seeking investigation into 'threat letter'

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday rejected the plea seeking to place the names of the former prime minister Imran Khan and ex-ministers on the Exit Control List (ECL) and an investigation into an alleged

threat letter.
IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah issued a five-page long reserved verdict against the plea, while slapping a Rs100,000 fine on the petitioner. The court had eserved its verdict on Haider's plea earlier in

The petition was filed by Maulvi Iqbal Haider after Khan left PM House following his ouster from the office of the premier as a result of a successful no-confidence against him Saturday

At the outset of today' hearing, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah asked the petitioner why he was politicising the issue?
"It is the state's respon-

sibility [...] why did you reach out to the court?" Justice Minallah noted.

Responding to the judge, Haider said that he had filed a treason case against former president Pervez Musharraf and it was his plea on which the action had been taken against Musharraf.

At this, CJ Minallah remarked:

'Imran Khan was an elected prime minister, don't compare him with Musharraf.

The court inquired what Haider's request was.

To this, Haider said that the controversy affected Pakistan's rela-tionship with the US.He argued that the opposition parties had filed a noconfidence motion against then PM Imran

Khan, on which Khan first remained silent and then showed a "threat let-ter" and said that a conspiracy had been hatched

TSE-21220445923

against his government. Later, the prime minister revealed that the threatening message was

9.040

million

Rs. 1000/-

sealed bids tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2018, Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules. Earnest Money 2% and Time Llimit 30june 2023 SHAHEED NAWAB GHOUS BAKHSH RAISANI HOSPITAL MASTUNG PSPD No. 2244 22020 0868 TSE-21220333923 Rs. 1000/ District MastungTSE-21220445673 million Construction of Maternal & Child Health Centre (MCH at RHC Khad Koocha District Mastung TSE-21220445703 School Building for Boys Primary School, Killi Rs. 1000V Sedqabad / Killi Juma Sispusht Dasht District Mashung TSE-21220445853 School Building for Boys Primary School, Killi Tass Gurgena, Kirdghap District Mastung.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Building CW,PP&H Department District Mastung invites

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules 2014 ELIGIBILITY: The Contractor must have valid registration for year 2021-22 with Pakistan Engineer Council relevant category, C-6 & above in relevant discipline and specialization code CE09, CE10. Registration with tax authorities. i.e (NTN), sales Tax Department. & BRA. Relevant works experience (Work completed in last five years), Turn-over of last three years. ender Fee deposited through Green Challan in treasury office Mastung/NBP and Bid security @ 4% as mention above METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage One Envelop Procedure will be adopted FINANCIAL EVALUATION CRITERIA. Less Cost based selection method BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS. Issuance. Documents will be issued from the date of publication till submission date and time on production of green Challan form amounting Rs. 2000/-, as mentioned above (for bidding document) deposited in the head of Account C-02716 through Government Treasury District Mastung in Branch of National Bank of Pakistan. Submission: The last date of submission will be on 27-04-2022 at 11:00 AM, no forms will be entertained after mentioned date and time Opening. The tender document will be opened on 27-04-2022 at 12:60 Noon before Procurement Committee in the presence of the contractors or their authorized representatives Address: The place ssuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be the office of the Executive Engineer, Building CW, PP&H Department District Mastung Office Phone No. 0843-895419 (E-Mail address: eebuildingmastung@gmail.com .Terms & Conditions:(A) Under following conditions bids will be rejected, Conditional, electronics and telegraphic bids / tenders (ii) Bids not accompanied by Challan or bid security / earnest money in shape of Call Deposit in favor of the undersigned Bids recei after specified date and time Blacklisted contractors/ firms Bid validity period will be 90 Days. The Procurement Agency reserves the right to cancel any bid or the entire bidding process at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal subject to the relevant provisions of Balochistan Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules, 2014 (D) Bidders are required to submit following documents with their bids: List of similar / general assignments with cost undertaken over last 5 years and completion certificates as mentioned in bidding data Affidavit showing that contractor / firm has never been blacklisted. Affidavit showing that contractor / firm is not currently involved in any litigation process Integrity Pact on Judicial Stamp Papers. All relevant forms mention in bidding documents

Building, CWPP&H Departs District Mastung

PRQ NO.3195.11-04-2022

Cablegate: PTI rejects PM Shehbaz's offer to probe US envoy's correspondence

PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry on Monday rejected newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's call to investigate the contents of a cable that allegedly contains details of a threat made by the United States against former premier Imran Khan's government.

According to Khan, the cable, which he first spoke of and brandished at a public rally on March 27, car-

ried details of the ambassador's meeting with Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Affairs Donald Lu in which the latter allegedly threatened Pakistan. Khan and his party linked the purported threat with the no-trust move against him in the National Assembly that led to his ouster from the

Majeed, in the cable, reportedly said Lu warned that Khan's continuation as the prime minister would

have repercussions for bilateral relations. The US. Khan claims, was annoyed with his "independent foreign policy" and visit to Moscow.

Following his successful election as the prime minister earlier today, Shehbaz announced that he would be making arrangements for an in-camera briefing of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security to discuss and determine the authenticity of the cable and the session would be attended by the military leadership, Inter-Services Intelligence director gener-al, foreign secretary and the ambassador who sent the

Reacting to the prime minister's offer, Chaudhry decried it as an "ugly attempt" by the new premier to provide a National Reconciliation Ordinance-type deal to himself and said the PTI rejected it.INP



ISLAMABAD: Newly Elected Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif addressing after voting at National Assembly in Federal Capital.

FIA puts Akbar, Gill on No Fly List

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency has put the names of former special assistant to the prime minister on accountability and interior Shahzad Akbar and ex-

and interior Shahzad Akbar and ex-SAPM on political communication Dr Shehbaz Gill on No Fly List, it was learnt on Monday.

The former accountability czar Shehzad Akbar vigorously pursued cases of corruption against the Sharif family but failed to prove anything in the accountability court

the accountability court.

Besides these former special assistants to PM, the border agency also put the names of Punjab Anti-Corruption DG Gohar Nafees and former principal secretary of prime min-ister Azam Khan on No Fly List. The names of Punjab (Zone II) FIA

DG Muhammad Rizwan and PTI head of social media Arsalan Khalid were also included in the stop list. PML-N leader and lawyer Attaullah

Tarar in his late night post tweeted: "Shahbaz Gill, Shehzad Akbar, Azam Khan and Dr Rizwan were added to the no-fly list. Can't leave the country. How long have I been talking 'Revenge, lies and deception never end well'. We bow our heads before Almighty. Allahu Akbar. "INP

70-year-old man set on fire over monetary dispute in Chiniot

CHINIOT: A 70-year-old man on Monday sustained critical burns after he was set on fire by a suspect over some monetary dispute in Lalian area

"The incident took place in the Muhammadwala police limits," police

"The injured was identified as Sultan. A suspect named Wajid poured petrol on him and set him on fire over monetary dispute. A case was regis-tered against the accused," they added.

"Sultan was shifted to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital where the doctors referred him to Allied Hospital, Faisalabad due to lack of burn unit in the THQ hospital," they stated.INP

PTI asks its MNAs to vote for party candidate Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has written a letter to all its members of the National Assembly (MNAs) in which they have been directed to ensure their presence in the assembly at the time of election for a new prime minister and also vote for the party candidate Shah Mehmood

Qureshi, it was learnt on Monday. The letter, issued by PTI Secretary General Asad Umar, warns the MNAs that in case they do not vote for Qureshi on Monday, they will not only be expelled from the party but will no more remain eligible for their seats. Moreover, the lawmakers have also

been asked to attend the PTI's parliamentary party meeting, which is scheduled to take place at 12: 00 PM today. "Those who will not follow the party lines will be proceeded against under Article 63-A of the constitution," reads the letter. INP

Two women die after being run over by bus in Manga Mandi

MANGA MANDI: Two women died Monday after the motorbike they were on was run over by a bus in Manga Mandi area. "Two persons were injured in the accident and shifted to a hospital," police said. "The bus driver was arrested. The deceased were identified as Samina and Nasreen. Their bodies were shifted to a morgue," they

Shots fired at house of Mian Khalid in Sheikhupura

SHEIKHUPURA: assailants fired shots on the house of the dissident Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party member Mian Khalid Mehmood which is located in Sheikhupura on Monday.

The Former Minister for Disaster Management, filed a First Information Report (FIR) against 150 PTI members and has also registered a case against more than 20 people in the case.INP

Pakistani rupee makes more gains against US dollar

KARACHI: After days of los-ing streak, the Pakistani rupee on Monday gained against the United States (US) dollar in the interbank, giving a positive sig-nal about the stabilisation of the

According to foreign currency dealers, the US dollar is trading at Rs183.20 after depreciating Rs1.83 against the local currency in early trade.

In the open market, the dollar is trading at over Rs185.

The Pakistani rupee had closed at Rs184.68 against the dollar in the interbank market on the last working day after gaining Rs3.50 against the

greenback.
On the other hand, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued to rally after KSE-100 index witnessed an increase of 1450 points on Monday morning as country is set to elect a new prime minister with Opposition candidate Shehbaz

Sharif having a clear majority in the National Assembly. The KSE-100 index traded crossed the 45,000 mark today and traded at 45,894 point at the

beginning of the day. The PSX began the trading with 1300

points up.

The benchmark KSE-100 index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday reversed its bearish trend soon after its opening and surpassed 44,000 mark, a day after the Supreme Court of Pakistan nulfified the denuty speaker's rullified the deputy speaker's rul-ing against no-confidence ing against no-confidence motion. The Pakistani rupee had closed at Rs184.68 against the dollar in the interbank market

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Opposition withdraws no-trust motion against KP CM

PESHAWAR: The opposi-tion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has taken back its no-confimotion against Chief Minister Mehmood Khan on the assurance of the provincial government that it will not dissolve the assembly

The opposition leaders belonging to the Awami National Party and Pakistan Awami Muslim League-Nawaz who reached the provincial assem-bly for today's (Monday) ses-sion going to be started at 1pm told the media that they had withdrawn no-trust motion against KP Chief Minister Mehmood Khan that was submitted to the assembly secretariat on Friday.

ANP parliamentary leader Sardar Hussain Babak said that the joint opposition did not want to topple the provincial government. The purpose of submission of the no-trust motion against the chief minister was to stop him from dissolving the assembly, he explained.
But since the provincial

government has assured the opposition that the assembly will not be dissolved, the opposition is taking back its no-confidence motion, Babak

The opposition leaders had contacted the assembly secre-tariat requesting it to withdraw the motion. They further said that no-trust motion would not be on assembly's agenda today. Babak said during previous Imran-led government in Centre, the province was deprived of its rights but hoped that the KP government would now strive to get these rights. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly was due to take up a no-confidence motion against its Chief Minister Mehmood Khan in its today's sitting. INP

Advanced Dental Laboratory with Chinese technology inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: Advanced Dental Laboratory at Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro was inaugurated at LUMHS Advanced Dental Care Center equipped with the Chinese technology, according to report published by Gwadar Pro. Vice Chancellor, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro, Professor Dr Ikram Din Ujjan inaugurated the Laboratory.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the VC said that dental treatment was highly expensive and beyond the reach of poor people. He mentioned that people cannot afford dental treatment in private clinics and hospitals therefore LUMHS management had established the dental laboratory. He informed that artificial teeth of patients will be made at 70 percent discount in this laboratory which

was equipped with the latest

was equipped with the latest Chinese technology.

Profession Ujjan told the audience that atooth which costs Rs. 12,000 in a private laboratory will be made here at Rs. 2,500.

"LUMHS Dental Laboratory is a complete and modern dentistry laboratory in which all kinds of teeth will be made. Its advanced machinery has been imported from China and some from Germany," he added.

Dean of Dentistry LUMHS Professor Feroz Kalhoro, Chairman Prosthodontics Professor Aamir Mehmood

Professor Aamir Mehmood Butt, Dr Irfan Sheikh, Professor Kashif Channa, Professor Amir Iqbal Memon, Dr Asif Gulzar, Professor Munir Banglani, Professor Rizwan Memon, Professor Shahzad, Azar Akbar Memon, Rahim Sheikh and Sharif Baig were also present on the occasion.INP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi meeting with a delegation of Bajaur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

FC North arranges mega Iftar dinner for cricket players in Sibi

From Our Correspondent

Frontier Corps (North) Balochistan arranged a mega Iftar dinner for cricket players in Sibi. Cricket players from 15 teams of the district participated in the iftar dinner. FC officials encouraged the youth for their talent and promotion of sports activities in the area. The cricket players asked the FC North to organize more cricket fournaments to encourage local players hailed the efforts of the Pak Army and FC with regard to the promotion of sports activities in Sibi and other parts of Balochistan.



Ex-PM increased debt burden to unsustainable level, left country almost bankrupt: PEW

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr. Murtaza Mughal has said for-mer prime minister Imran Khan increased the debt burden to unsustainable levels and left the

country almost bankrupt.

He said the ex-PM handled government and economy like a game of cricked, as he kept borrowing heavily from all available sources and wasted funds mercilessly for popularity resulting

In a statement issued on Monday, Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the new government should give first preference to the economic revival otherwise the country will be completely bankrupt-

He said that during the PTI regime had promised a change but it only pushed masses into deep economic crisis. The GDP continued a fall, infla-tion continued to rise while the rupee continued to depreciate which is a record in the country's

Trade and current account deficits widened sharply, local and foreign investment fell severely, per capita GDP fell by 30% and the stock market never once reached the 2017 level during the former government. The President PEW said that Pakistan's monthly imports are almost six billion dollars while the central bank lacks foreign exchange reserves to cover imports for two months which is alarming.

Jahangir Tareen decides to return on April 16

LONDON: Disgruntled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Jahangir Tareen has decided to return to Pakistan on April 16.

According to a member of the group, Jahangir Tareen has bought ticket for April 15 after his doc-tors allowed him to travel. Jahangir Tareen will meet all dissident mem-

bers of the PTI and will also call on joint opposi-tion's candidate for CM Jahangir Tareen had left for London from Lahore in late February after his health deteriorated and had to be admitted to a hospital.INP

4.7 magnitude earthquake jolts Bannu, adjoining areas

BANNU: An earth-quake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale jolted Bannu and its adjoining areas in Khyber areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in the wee hours of Monday.

People came out of their homes in panic and started reciting verses from the Holy Quran. No loss of life and property was reported from any part of Gwadar due to earthquake.

According to the US Geological Survey, the epicenter of the earth-quake was located at the 31 kilometres north of Bannu at the depth of 201 kilometres.INP

PPP indecisive over joining next federal cabi-

SLAMABAD Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is 'split' on whether to join the next federal cabinet to be formed most likely under the premier-ship of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif

Sources told that a majority of party leaders were in favour of cooper-ating with the new government only to the extent of introducing electoral reforms while others wanted to become the part of the federal cabinet for he sake of political stability in the country. Sources added that the

latter group thought if the PPP did not join the cabinet, the new government might not last even for two months.

Divergent views within the party had prompted PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and for-mer president Asif Ali Zardari to choose the best option together, sources said, and added that the party's high-command was expected to announce the decision in a few days from now. INP

harassment of the business community to lure investment and stop flight of capital. Bureaucracy should be given relief from NAB's deliberate harassment so that they can start delivering as the former government harassed businessmen and bureaucrats for ulteri-

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the new government should reduce the pace of borrowing, stop

or motives which damaged the development Innocent bureaucrats were arrested for politi-

cal purposes which sent a negative message and they consider it safe to postpone everything and wait for their retirement instead of working. The politics of revenge nullified the perform-

ance of the previous government but the former resulting in economic freefall, he observed.

He said that the new government should restore the IMF program without delay, restore the confidence of government officials, get rid of the institutions which are losing billions of rupees annually, work on CPEC should be resumed at the same page, speculators should be

resumed at the same pace, speculators should be taken to task. Chinese companies which were discouraged during Khan's administration should be allowed to operate in Pakistan, FBR should be made a business friendly institution and all laws related to economics should be improved to ensure a rapid turnaround. INP

Arsalan Mehsud murder case: ATC removes anti-terrorism clause

KARACHI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) has approved a plea to remove anti-terrorism clause from the murder case of a teenager Arsalan Mehsud which also involves a former SHO of police as a suspect.

The suspect Touhid has submitted a

plea to remove anti-terrorism clause from the murder case which the ATC

approved and directed to transfer the case to session court.

The court ordered that the action was aimed at creating fear and could not be termed as a terrorist act.

The police had submitted a challan in the murder case of a youngster Arsalan Mehsud who was killed during what initially was declared a police encounter, only to be found otherwise after an initial probe.

The challan submitted before the

anti-terrorism court (ATC) stated that the suspects murdered the youngster on the whims of former SHO Azam

impression of a police encounter.
A youngster, Yasir, injured in the entire episode and eye-witnesses have identified the suspects while the chal-lan also noted that the spent casing found from the crime scene also matched with the weapon of the suspect, Touhid.

It said that Azam Gopang left his personal pistol and three bullets at the crime scene to create an impression regarding a police encounter. We have written letters to con-

cerned authorities to verify armed licenses of suspects, Azam Gopang and Touhid," the challan read while sharing that reports related to post mortem and arms licenses are not yet

Arsalan Mehsud, a teenage boy, was gunned down in an alleged fake encounter by Orangi Town police on the night of December 6. INP



LAHORE: Candidate of Chief Minister Punjab Mian Muhammad Hamza Shahbaz Sharif arrive for his hearing at the court of Special Judge in Provincial

Pakistan reports less than 100 Covid-19 cases for second day in a row

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported no deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has risen to 1,526,666. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 30,361 on Saturday

According to the latest figures by the National Institute of Health (NIH) 98 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms of deaths fol-

lowed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Till now 13,558 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Punjab, 8,097 in Sindh, 6,322 in KP, 1,023 in Islamabad, 792 in Azad Kashmir, 378 in Balochistan

and 191 in GB. Furthermore 576,354 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 505,412 in Punjab, 219,273 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 135,127 in Islamabad, 43,301 in Azad Kashmir, 35,480 in Azad Kashmir, 35,480 in Balochistan and 11,719 in Gilgit-Baltistan. Pakistan has so far conducted

27,763,120 coronavirus tests and 22,525 in the last 24 hours. 1,486,879 patients have recovered in the country whereas 269 patients are in critical condition.

are in critical condition.

The COVID-19 positivity ratio was recorded at 0.43 percent.
So far, 133,526,662 people have received their first dose of coronavirus vaccine including 15,097 in last 24 hours. 119,771,164 citizens have been fully vaccinated while 22,530 received their second dose in last 24 hours.

The number of total administered doses has reached to 243,150,094 with 38,472 in the last 24 hours.INP

SHC extends bail of Jam Abdul Karim in Nazim Jokhio case

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday extended bail of Jam Abdul Karim, a key suspect in Nazim Jokhio murder case.

The counsel of Jam Abdul Karim today submitted a plea in the court for his exemption from the court hearing. The counsel pleaded to the bench for exemption of Karim' from the court hearing. "How could the court exempts him from the hear-

ing," Justice Umar Sial questioned.
"Jam Karim has been in
Islamabad to cast his vote for the prime minister's election today," the counsel replied. "He will appear in the court after casting his vote in the next hearing," the lawyer further said.

The court approved the exemption

plea of the accused. "Why the challan has not been submitted in the Anti-terrorism court," the bench questioned the lawyer. "The challan was finalized and submitted in the office of the Prosecutor General's office, but they had raised objections over it," the investigation officer of the case

replied.
"Where is the case file now," the bench asked. "It is with me, I plead for one week to submit the chargesheet," the IO said. "I will submit the challan after addressing objections raised by the office of the Prosecutor General.

The bench ordered the IO to submit the challan in the court of the ATC executing Judge within one

The bench also extended bail of Jam Abdul Karim and other accused till April 14.

Nazim Jokhio's body was recovered from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) MPA Jam Awais's farmhouse in December, last year. His family alleged that Awais, MNA Jam Abdul Karim, and their henchmen tortured him to death for filming and stopping their guests from illegal hunting of houbara bustards. INP endangered