ETTAV CE

achieved under the vision of the crown prince, calling it a transformational initiative.

"I look forward to my interaction with the Saudi leadership to review

our multi-faceted bilateral coopera-tion and to take this special rela-tionship to unknown heights," the

He also conveyed his good wish-

prime minister said.

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PM Shehbaz rejects summary to increase petrol prices: minister



Ukraine, EU felicitate Bilawal on becoming Pakistan's foreign minister

PM Shehbaz arrives in Saudi Arabia for 3-day visit

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Saudi Arabia on Thursday — his first foreign trip since assuming office — on a three-day visit at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

Medina Governor Faisal Bin Salman Al Saud and high-level Saudi officials received the prime minister and his delegation. The prime minister was accompanied by key cabinet members, including Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, Narcotics Control Minister Shahzain Bugti, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Defence Minister Khawaia Asif

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.
Federal minister Chaudhry Salik
Hussain, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi
and MNAs Mohsin Dawar and
Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui also
joined PM Shehbaz on the official
visit

Prior to his departure, PM Shehbaz said he was embarking on the visit to "renew and reaffirm our bonds of brotherhood and friendship".

"I will have wide-ranging discussions with [the] Saudi leadership," he said, calling the kingdom one of Pakistan's "greatest friends".

The premier also issued a video message shortly before leaving in which he said he was "delighted" that his first visit since assuming office was to the kingdom.

"This reflects the high importance that Pakistan attaches to its

tance that Pakistan attaches to its special relationship with Saudi Arabia, which is historic in nature

and strategic in significance," he said, thanking the crown prince for the "gracious" invite.

"Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are bound by deep-rooted and abiding fraternal ties which are built on a solid foundation of mutual trust and current." he said.

solid foundation of mutual trust and support," he said.

"We are profoundly grateful to Saudi Arabia for its consistent support to Pakistan in its difficult hours. For its part, Pakistan has always stood by Saudi Arabia and will always stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Saudi brethren."

PM Shebbaz also lauded the PM Shehbaz also lauded the development the kingdom has

"During the visit, the prime min-ister will have bilateral interaction with the Saudi leadership, with particular focus on advancing economic, trade and investment ties and creation of greater opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in Saudi Arabia. Web Desk

He also conveyed his good wishes to expatriates in the kingdom, saying that they contributed enormously to the country's economic development. "They are a key partner in further fortifying Pakistan-Saudi brotherly relations," he concluded. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Foreign Office (FO) said the prime minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation which will include key members of the federal cabinet.

"During the visit, the prime mini-

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets Medina Governor Faisal Bin Salman Al Saud in Medina, Saudi Arabia.

Japanese PM extends congratulations on 70th anniversary of Pak-Japan diplomatic relations

ISLAMABAD: The Japanese Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio, on the auspicious occasion of the anniversary day when Japan and Pakistan officially established diplomatic relations on April 28 seventy years ago, has conveyed his congratulatory remarks to celebrate the 70 years of bilateral

diplomatic relations.

In the message, Honorable KISHIDA Fumio, the Prime Minister of Japan has extended his congratulations to Honorable Shehbaz Sharif on his assumption of office as Prime Minister. PM KISHIDA also congratulates the people of both Japan and Pakistan for successful seventy years of their bilateral relations.

Japan established diplomatic relations with Pakistan on 28th April, 1952, the very day when the San Francisco Peace Treaty went into effect and Japan regained its independence. Today marks exactly 70 years since

and Japan regained its independence. Today marks exactly 70 years since then, and I am very pleased to celebrate this milestone with all of you. Japan and Pakistan have nurtured friendly relations over the years, extending support to each other when in need, said PM Kishida.

The PM mentioned that in the postwar period, cotton exported from Pakistan to Japan backed its textile industry and greatly encouraged Japan's postwar reconstruction. In turn, Japan has continuously provided Pakistan with assistance mainly in its areas of expertise, such as water, healthcare, education and disaster management.

healthcare, education and disaster management.

"Both Japan and Pakistan are disaster-prone countries, and we have supported each other through the years. When Pakistan was struck by a massive earthquake in 2005 and by severe floods in 2010, Japan dispatched its disaster relief team and provided yen loans and grant aid. INP



PRESIDENT DR. ARIF ALVI CHAIRING THE 4TH MEETING OF THE SENATE OF NATIONAL SKILLS UNIVERSITY AT AIWAN-E-SADR, ISLAMABAD ON.

PM Shehbaz rejects summary to increase petrol prices: minister

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has rejected the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority's (Ogra) summary for increasing the prices of petroleum prod-ucts, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb shared on Thursday. "[We] cannot punish the people for the previous government's worst incompetence, incapability and blatant mistakes," Aurangzeb said in the

The Imran Khan-led government had agreed to the strict conditions of

The Imran Khan-led government had agreed to the strict conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to raise petrol prices in order to get a loan, she said. "Every effort is being made to not increase the burden on the public already troubled by inflation," she added.

The price of petrol and high speed diesel will remain Rs149.86 and Rs144.15 per litre, respectively. Kerosene and light diesel oil will also continue to be sold for Rs125.56 and Rs118.31 per litre, respectively. This is the second time the prime minister rejected Ogra's proposal for a price hike. The move comes days after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the government had "agreed that prompt action is needed to reverse the unfunded subsidies which have slowed discussions for the 7th review." Finance Minister Miffah Ismail returned to Pakistan on Monday reverse the unfunded subsidies which have slowed discussions for the 7th review". Finance Minister Miftah Ismail returned to Pakistan on Monday after negotiating a deal with the IMF that may give some space to the new government to make a "people friendly" budget in June.But an IMF statement issued after the talks indicates the deal does not equip the government with the tools it needs to clear, what Ismail described as, "the landmines planted" by the PTI government, i.e., facing the consequences of withdrawing fuel subsidies given by his predecessors. The previous PTI government had announced a four-month freeze (until June 30) on petrol and electricity prices on February 28 as part of a series of measures to government had announced a four-month freeze (until June 30) on petrol and electricity prices on February 28 as part of a series of measures to bring relief to the public. The PML-N led coalition government had severely criticised the previous Imran-led government for first failing to control fuel prices in the country and later for "derailing" the IMF programme through fuel subsidies. INP

BAP female lawmakers term Karachi terror attack against **Baloch tradition**

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA: Ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) women lawmakers have termed Karachi terror attack against Baloch traditions. Addressing a press conference at the Chief Minister Secretariat on Thursday, Member National Assembly from district Makran Zubaida Jalal, Mahjabeen Sheeran, Bushra Rind and others expressed serious concern over Karachi suicide bombing which claimed 4 lives including three Chipese pationals Chinese nationals.

"Our norms and values never allow anyone to target teachers and foreign guests", Zobaida Jalal, the former federal minister said. She said parents have to be extremely careful about their sons and daughters and protect them from enemies of Pakistan.

Women lawmakers mentioned that enemies of Pakistan under a preplanned conspiracy were provoking and brainwashing our youth to use them



against Pakistan. "This is extremely condemnable in Baloch traditions", Bushra Rind said. She urged all political parties to join hands and foil the conspiracies being hatched against country and

The terrorist attack in Karachi by an outlawed organisation has been widely condemned in

Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

Zubaida Jalal informed that the husband of Shari Baloch has revealed that his wife was suffering from mental problem. According to our infor-mation this family is highly educated and there is no single missing person from the family Zobaida Jalal mentioned.

Jalal mentioned.

The ruling party's women legislators said present government has determined to address the grievances of people of the province on a priority basis. For this purpose a number of development projects have been launched to improve socio-economic conditions of the masses. Women lawmakers press conference has come a day after Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo lashed out at the perpetrators of the Karachi suicide bombing and termed it against Baloch traditions. The CM had also released a video statement in this regard. "Such cowardly incidents can not harm historic and time tested relations between Pakistan and China", Mr Bizenjo concluded in the video.

NAB orders inquiry against Farah Khan on allegations of amassing illegal assets, money laundering

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Thursday authorised an inquiry against Farah Khan, a close friend of former prime minister Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, on allegations of accumulating "illegal assets beyond known sources of income, money laundering, and maintaining various accounts in the name of

The corruption watchdog has directed NAB DG Lahore to initiate an inquiry against her as per the

According to a press release issued by NAB earlier today, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, "huge turnover amounting to Rs847 million was found in her [bank] account during the last three years" which it said is not commensurate with her stated not commensurate with her stated account profile.

These credits were received in her personal account and with-drawn immediately after credit within a short time period," it stat-ed, noting that several "adverse" media reports had been found where Farah — referred to in the statement as Farhat Shahzadi (Alias Farah Khan) — was alleged "being involved in [acquiring] assets beyond legal means". NAB also said that in a review of

Farah's income tax returns, it was observed that her assets "significantly increased" from 2018

cantly increased" from 2018 onwards "for unknown reasons".

"Moreover, she has been frequently travelling to foreign jurisdictions; nine times to the USA and six times to the UAE," it added.

Last month, at a gathering of the opposition alliance, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz had first alleged that a friend of the PTI chairman's wife received a huge chairman's wife received a huge sum of money for getting officers transferred and posted according to their choice.INP

All DHQs declared as teaching hospitals in Balochistan

Health Desk

QUETTA: Balochistan govern-ment has declared all district heading hospitals across the province The government has also approved 614 posts of professors, associate professors, senior registrars, medical officers, dental surgeons, and lady medical officers, a statement issued by the health ministry said. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir

Quddus Bizenjo, health minister, Syed Ehsan Shah and secretary health Saleh Muhammad Nasar made this decision to improve health services in government-run hospitals of Balochistan.

Under this initiative, senior health professionals will be serving ailing humanity in far-flung areas of the province. Secretary health has taken a keen interest in the improvement of the health sector,



the statement stated. The creation of vacancies for the district headquarters and remote areas of Balochistan is a revolutionary step, it mentioned

In Balochistan, government-run hospitals paint a bleak picture when it comes to the provision of health services. Despite spending billions of rupees in every budget, the provincial government is yet to make sure timely and quality medical treatment to the patients across

of prosperity: Interior Minister ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Thursday said

Country has

been put on path

that the country has been put on the path of stability, development and In a statement the Interior Minister said that the work is being

done on war footing to check infla-tion and load shedding as well as

improve the economy.

The Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said we have to fight with these problems which kept the people in trouble over the last four Rana Sanaullah said there is

serenity in the country with the installation of democratic government but some law breakers are restless.

The Interior Minister asked the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members not to bully the Election Commission of Pakistan rather respect the constitution and the institutions. INP

Aetzaz Ahmed Goraya posted as DIG CTD Balochistan

News Desk

QUETTA: Senior police officer, Aetzaz Ahmed Goraya has been appointed as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Thursday. According to a noti-fication issued by the Balochistan police department, Mr. Goraya has been posted as the DIG CTD.

Grade-20 police officer, Akhtar Hayat Khan has been posted as Telecommunication Balochistan, Nasir Mukhtar



ed as DIG Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF). Muhammad Shehzad Asif Khan has been posted and Captain (R) Javed Qamar has also been directed to report to the Central Police Office

Pakistan welcomes Iran's continued support on Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Thursday said Pakistan appreciates Iran's continued sup-

port on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

The State Minister expressed these views in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Syed Mohammad Ali Hosseini at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamahad. Islamabad.

The meeting focused on various aspects pertaining to further strengthening bilateral fraternal relations between the two coun-

ries.

Khar lauded the similarity of views between Pakistan and Iran on important regional and international issues.INP

Ukraine, EU felicitate Bilawal on becoming Pakistan's foreign minister

Ukraine and European Union officials Thursday congratulated PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on assuming the charge of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell Fontelles and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba congratulated Bilawal. The Oxford-educated PPP chairman became the youngest foreign min-

ister of Pakistan after he was sworn in as a federal minister a day back President Arif Alvi administered the oath to Bilawal, who was 33 years, seven months, and six days of age - a development that came after much delay and deliberation. Ex-prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was 35 years, five months, and

ten days old when he was sworn in as the foreign minister, while Hina Rabbani Khar was 33 years, eight months, and one day old. In his congratulatory tweet, Fontelles wrote: "Congratulations to

Bilawal Bhutto for his appointment as Pakistani Foreign Minister. Looking forward to cooperating and on strengthening EU-#Pakistan relations."

In response to Fontelles, Bilawal thanked him and said he was seeking to strengthen Pakistan's multi-faceted partnership with the European

Ukraine's Kuleba said he was looking forward to working with the newly-appointed foreign minister and hoped to strengthen bilateral ties

with Pakistan. "Looking forward to working together with the newly appointed







Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. We count on further developing bilateral ties and our mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan," Bilawal said.

Replying to Bilawal's tweet, Bilawal said he looked forward to working with him to further Pakistan's friendly bilateral relationship with Ukraine for the mutual benefit of our country's people.

Earlier, in a Twitter post, Bilawal said he was "honoured" and humbled

to take the oath as foreign minister.

He and his PPP "will play our part in restoring democracy, passing electoral reforms, fighting for a fairer economy & advocating Pakistans case on the world stage," Bilawal wrote.

Following the oath-taking ceremony, Bilawal took charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Foreign Office officials briefed the

newly-appointed minister on Pakistan's international relations The newly-appointed foreign minister — along with a high-level dele-- is accompanying the prime minister on his maiden foreign visit to Saudi Arabia.

PM Shehbaz announced a 41-member federal cabinet after he took over from ousted premier Imran Khan earlier this month. Khan has alleged that the United States backed a conspiracy to topple him just because he refused Washington's advice not to visit Russia in February, a charge Washington denies.

QUETTA VOICE Editor Asim Khan Flaws in LBs wards,

delimitations in Balochistan

Initial delimitations of union councils and formation of wards suggest serious flaws regarding the upcoming local bodies elections in Balochistan. Technically or deliberately, the election commission of Pakistan has surpassed all past records of mismanagement/faults in terms of formation of new wards and delimitations of union councils across the province, which

covers half of the country in terms of area.

Local bodies elections are scheduled to be held on May 29th throughout Balochistan except Quetta and Lasbella districts because of some delimitation issues. The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has also ordered the election commission of Pakistan to address the grievances of the people in Zhob, Pishin and other districts of the province regarding the formation of

For instance, in Pishin's Chur Badizai and Toorkhail union councils, the election commission has made one ward comprising 32 voters, whereas, another ward comprising of more than 5,000 voters. Votes of people from quite far away have been registered in the union council. This has created doubt among the people of the area about the credibility and transparency about the upcoming LBs elections.

In Naseerabad district, political and tribal personalities have also expressed serious reservations and apprehensions about the establishment of new wards and delimitations of union councils. People have accused the ECP of making special wards for politically and tribally influential people, thus depriving majority of the people.

This daily has received scores of complaints regarding the flaws in the establishment of new wards and delimitation of union councils. The ECP has to take an urgent notice of the complaints of the people and make sure fair and transparent elections to devolve the power on grassroots level in a

LBs elections play crucial role in the development of country and nation. The ECP has to perform its constitutional responsibility and address the grievances of the masses and restore their confidence. Every individual has to be given the right to vote in his and her area to elect future representa-

The ECP's Quetta office has responded to the complaints of the political parties and individuals. However, it needs to step up efforts to address the grievances of voters before it is already late.

EDITORIAL Friday, April, 29, 2022 Quetta Voice No nationality, no home By Kristina Fried

As Europe mobilises to accommodate the growing number of Ukrainians fleeing the country – now more than four million – stateless Ukrainians are fighting a losing battle for protec-tion and recognition. Not recognition. Not recognised as nationals by Ukraine or any other state under the operation of its laws, stateless Ukrainians, who number approximately 40,000, are denied access to basic rights and have been the targets of pervasive dis-crimination as they seek refuge abroad. European states must act decisively within their international legal obligations to ensure protections for all refugees, irrespective of nationality, race, or eth-

nicity.
After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, people in former Soviet nations who fell through the gaps of new nationality laws became stateless. Racism and ethnic discrimination left certain minority groups particularly vul-nerable. For example, nerable. For example, Roma represent one of the largest groups of stateless people in Ukraine – and one of the discriminated

against across Europe. Lacking a nationality and the corresponding ability to establish one's legal identity – has legal identity – has severe consequences. Nationality is often referred to as a 'gateway right', without which access to other basic

narrative. A narrative, after all, is a narrative, not a scientific theory of

change that could pro-

change that could provide a formula for reforms. His Naya Pakistan was a poorer, more corrupt, and dysfunctional version of Old Pakistan. For example, he left Pakistan with a shrunken GDP and during his rule a common Pakistan became poorer than a common

than a common Bangladeshi. The only tabdeeli he could show was in the culture of abuse and blatant viola-

tion of freedom of expression, democratic norms, and human rights.

for rebranding, an occa-sion to come up with a

new narrative, a new story that could give a glorious turn to his

humiliating exit from power, provide an excuse for his failures and galva-

nize his base again for a

new assault. Imran Khan's new narrative

also builds on the hate

capital available in socie-

ty. A common Pakistani

the US due to the patron-age the superpower doled out to all military

dictators while being harsh to most democratic

governments. Due to the

weak relationship between state and socie-

ty, and manipulation of

the media, conspiracy theories have been a sta-

ple political diet for Pakistanis for a long time Imran Khan's new

narrative is a conspiracy

theory par excellence. It is a David vs Goliath story where the US is the

It was indeed the time

rights is extremely chal-lenging. Statelessness creates barriers to accessredress barriers to access-ing work, healthcare, education, and housing, and even to pursuing redress for those rights violations in court. Without a legal identity, it is as though stateless

without a legal identity, it is as though stateless people do not exist.

When stateless people become refugees, these risks multiply. Stateless status – which should alone be grounds for protection – is regularly tection - is regularly overlooked in immigration proceedings, despite being a critical factor in the assessment of a refugee or asylum claim. Where their refugee or Where their refugee or asylum claim is denied, stateless people are often indefinitely detained simply because there is no state that recognises them as nationals to which they can be "returned".

With Furner facing

With Europe facing hat UNHCR ommissioner Filippo what what UNHCR
Commissioner Filippo
Grandi called "the fastest
growing refugee crisis
since World War II",
stateless Ukrainian
refugees are forced to confront these problems head-on. One stateless Ukrainian woman expressed her fear of leaving, even as her home was bombed: "1'm afraid that if I decided to leave I wouldn't be able to cross checkpoints or borders because I don't have documents. I'm also very scared they'd separate me from my

children because I have no proof that I'm their mother."

But the lack of legal protection is not the only stateless are facing. refugees Racial and ethnic minorities - such as the Roma, whose intersecting ethnic and stateless identities make them doubly vul-nerable to discrimination are finding it particu-larly difficult to access the protection they so desperately need. Many have recounted horror stories of waiting for days in camps without food or water, while their Ukrainian citizen coun-terparts were welcomed

with open arms.
States' lack of comprehensive legal frameworks addressing statelessness – in violation of
their international legal obligations - is largely to blame for the chronic disenfranchisement of

To be sure, many European stateless people.

To be sure, many European states have created safeguards against statelessness. Ten states have a procedure for identifying stateless individuals and conferring a dedicated stateless status. Other states have piece-Other states have piece-meal procedures, but no comprehensive frame-work that allows for both determination and protection. Ukraine's new framework, adopted in 2021, establishes a stateless status determination procedure and a process for naturalisation.

However, these safe-guards do not fully com-ply with states legal obligations, nor do they offer sufficient protection for stateless refugees. As of December 31, 2021, only 55 stateless Ukrainians – out of 737 applicants – have been recognised as stateless. They will still have to wait three years

before they can apply for naturalisation and gain access to their full rights. Now that process has been interrupted.

been interrupted.
Meanwhile, most
European states, including all but one of
Ukraine's immediate
neighbours, lack adequate legal frameworks
for the protection of
stateless people. Even
those with comprehensive frameworks fall
short in their implementation, with stateless people – particularly ethnic
minorities – unable to
access basic rights and
vulnerable to detention.
Critically, Europe has Critically, Europe has excluded stateless individuals from its refugee response plan, which offers immediate protec-

tion to Ukrainian nationals and permanent residents. Although Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania have promised to admit all refugees, including those who are stateless, experts worry that without dedicated protections, stateless refugees will be left behind.Lacking a nation-

ality – and the correspon-ding ability to establish one's legal identity – has severe consequences. Nationality is often referred to as a 'gateway right', without which access to other basic rights is extremely challenging. Statelessness creates barriers to accessing work, healthcare, education, and housing,

education, and housing, and even to pursuing redress for those rights violations in court. Without a legal identity, it is as though stateless people do not exist.

When stateless people become refugees, these risks multiply. Stateless status — which should alone be grounds for protection — is regularly overlooked in immigration proceedings, despite tion proceedings, despite being a critical factor in the assessment of a refugee or asylum claim. Where their refugee or asylum claim is denied, stateless people are often indefinitely detained simply because there is no state that recognises them as nationals to which they can be "returned".

"returned".

With Europe facing what UNHCR Commissioner Filippo Grandi called "the fastest growing refugee crisis since World War II", stateless Ukrainian refugees are forced to confront these problems head-on. One stateless Ukrainian woman Ukrainian woman expressed her fear of leaving.

Winning again?

The opposition alliance that outfoxed and outmanoeuvred Imran Khan in the political arena has no clue how the master narrator has weaved the web of his new narrative around

As the motion of nounstoppable, Khan suc-cessfully launched his ghaddari narrative confidence which sucked, within days, the national media and his political opponents into the discourse -the first and the foremost condition for a narrative to succeed. It is incredi-ble that he did it at a time when his earlier narrative had melted in the heat of reality and its wateredversion was not serving him well as the 'market' had no appetite for his tabdeeli and his Pakistan

longer.
As a populist, Imran
Khan belongs to the 21st century and communica-tion is his forte. Most of successes hinge not on his performance, but communication. tor who would fumble while speaking and struggle to find proper words, he has turned himself into a marvellous political communicator

over time Imran Khan's involvement with the discipline of communication goes back to 1992 when he retired from cricket and started building a cancer hospital. Raising funds for a large charity hospital required a team of communication experts. The team he put together decided to focus on Imran Khan as the brand that could get them required resources. While charity was raised, a part of the money was spent back on Imran Khan's brand so as to raise more money. This kept him alive in the pub-lic imagination as a phil-pathrapist and a partonal anthropist and national hero while his sporting career had ended.

Imran Khan's under-standing of modern cor-porate branding and a ready team of communication experts helped him when his party started getting traction after the 2008 elections. Some of Imran Khan's alienated associates state that international companies were also engaged for the purpose. With generous resources and even more generous patronage from some state officials at his command, Imran Khan soon turned the PTI into the first branded political party, fulfilling all the requirements of a modern brand. Imran Khan was able to win brand

ation that had never seen him play cricket. While people remain focused on the PTI's army of trolls who have become a national nuisance, Imran Khan's real achievement lies in the art of framing or building narrative. His corruption narrative was a catch-all discourse that could be used to explain almost everything that had happened, was happening or could happen in the future. Such narratives are part and parcel of

populist politics everywhere and they are helped in no small meas-ure by the fact that the prey cannot even spot the

snare, landing into it like an unlucky bird. Imran Khan's corruption narrative was built by putting together ele-ments of earlier narratives that have been an act of faith among some socio-economic groups, particularly the powerful salaried class and the urban middle class. These classes do not find a solution to Pakistan's problems in democracy or reformed institutions Democracy would mean handing power to the traditional elite and empowering the poor. Reforming institutions would be a challenge to the power of the officer class. The solution for them is replacing the traditional power of the officer class. them is replacing the traditional political elite with a strong man from

amongst them.
Finally, they found such a hero in Imran Khan whose narrative contained what they already believed in, and ity of realizing it by por-traying himself as the strongman leader who would be the solution to all of Pakistan's problems by just being incorruptible. It was promised that Pakistan would automatically turn into a developed country after it was redeemed from the corrupt elite and handed to a god fearing, honest and ghairatmand ruler.

After three and a half years, when he was about to be thrown out of power, Imran Khan had

By Zaigham Khan nothing to show for his

great global villain while Imran Khan is a national Interestingly, whole narrative is based on a diplomatic wire sent by Pakistan's embassy containing the future sce-narios about the US-Pakistan relationship drawn by a mid-ranking official of the US State Department. In the PTI's paraphrasing, Donald Lu, a lowly assistant sec-retary of state, had told the Pakistani ambassador to go and tell his boss, who was no other than the Makhdoom of

Multan, to throw out the great Khan via a no-trust According to this narrative, Lu, in this exchange foretold a notrust motion against the great Khan. This conspir-atorial no-trust motion was supposedly unknown to the world at that time, except the US and their Pakistani collaborators. Imran Khan's allies were contacted through some other channel, still unknown to Pakistan's counterintelliwere bought to support the no-confidence

motion. This unfortunate 'intrigue' against the leader of the Ummah has divided families. While Shujaat Hussain and his son readily accepted US money, Chaudhry Parvez llahi and his son stood firm and refused to sell their souls to Uncle Sam. The nafees log from Karachi who had brought Khan to power in 2018 were in desperate need for the greenback this

Zamir Akram

Action, curtains, repeat

By Shahrukh Wani

he curtains have drawn on Imran Khan's premiership. His successor finds himself in a remarkably similar posi-tion as Khan did in 2018: struggling to pay for the large import bill, a budget large import bill, a budget deficit that likely needs to be financed by more debt, and a sliding rupee. That is the thing about Pakistan's economy: nothing changes, even when things change. Over the past three-odd years, Khan made some things worse few better

things worse, few better. He launched a remarkably ill-advised amnesty programme for the real-estate sector. He delayed an inevitable IMF programme, prolonging economic instability. But he also invested heavily in a public health insurance restart the such the Sabet system through the Sehat Card, setting a precedent that would be hard to reverse for future governments. He also managed the pandemic response better than expected,

sands of livelihoods. But for most things, he did nothing. He — like many before him — ignored the underlying structural economic problems that persist across political cycles. Take Pakistan's lack of tax revenue. The reason why we don't generate enough tax revenue is because the governments have been reluctant to expand the number of people and firms who pay taxes — effectively leaving out urban landlords, large urban landlords, large agriculturists, and many

businesses un- or undertaxed. Herein lies the tragedy:

Pakistan's economic problems require undertaking politically costly reforms – hence, they persist regardless of who is in office.Part of the reason is that almost every government starts its economic policymaking with short-sighted firefighting measures, which eats up politi-cal capital and takes a few cal capital and takes a few years before they have to start positioning them-selves for the next elec-tion — timing which is not conducive to under-taking any of these costly reforms. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's admin-istration will also have to focus on such economic firefighting measures to get the budget deficit and

external financing gap in control. This will include talking to the International Monetary Fund and, if they talk back, to friendly countries' to secure bilateral flows. Domestically, it will be a hard act to bal-Khan's disastrous fuel subsidies while attempting to cushion the impact of increasing inflation on people ahead of elec-tions. Once this firefighting is done and elections are held with a new administration in place with a longer mandate, the focus needs to move to the causes of this fire: the structural problems

that keep Pakistanis poor.
This requires twin focuses.First, build greater domestic productive capacity so we generate and produce more

the usefulness of nuclear

weapons as a way to prevent

war. Nuclear weapons did

not deter Osama bin Laden.
Nor did they deter Putin.
Instead, the record of near disaster over the decades of the nuclear age

underlines our good fortune

to find ourselves still alive and unradiated. Stanislav

Petrov was on duty in a Soviet military bunker in

1983 when two signals indi-cated that US intercontinen-

tal missiles were headed

toward the USSR He rightly

decided there must be a mal-

function in the Soviet early

warning system and chose not to alert his superiors,

risking his career. There are a number of such stories in

goods and services locally that can compete globally. Doing so won't be easy, but it can't be ignored: it requires combining public investments in improving connectivity and educa-tion with the right incen-

tives for firms to invest, modernize, and export. Setting the right incen-tives is the key here. The government can't and shouldn't invest in everything that might generate prosperity, but it must cre-ate the right incentives for

others to undertake the right activities.

For example, taxing urban land properly would be an important ten in discourage for the control of step in discouraging peo-ple and firms to invest in real estate for speculative reasons. Currently, Punjab with its 100 mil-lion-plus population, col-lects less urban property taxes than the city of Chennai, which is home to about 10 million peo-ple. A consequence of this is that money flows into real estate instead of sec-tors that either build or substitutes the need for

or substitutes the need for imports. We can't, alas, export corner plots.

Making this structural shift requires taking on, even if so gradually, the privileged few that make money not through fair market competition but through government subsidies, protections, and sidies, protections, and perfectional treatment. It is no surprise that many firms decide to sell locally where many enjoy near-captive markets near-captive markets rather than compete globally. A case in point is our sugar industry.

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. Minister

Imran Khan is correct 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 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 meeting 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

> 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 unimplement-

action to increasingly target China, Russia

ed. 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 geo-political 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 because it safe and honourable exit under conditions that could be guaranteed by the 'Quartet'. More troublesome would be the spoiler's color by India which role by India which views 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-led 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.

destroying self.

While we're quoting Nobel prizewinners, here is a snippet from Faulkner's Nobel speech: "Our tragedy today is a general and universal physical fear so long sustained by now that we can even bear it. There are no longer problems of the spirit. There is only the question: When will I be blown up?" Putin happens to be the head of one of the nine nations who could answer Faulkner's question. But he is hardly alone in his conviction that military force backed up by nuclear weapons will yield greatness, or security, or whatever it is he hopes to gain from his colossal misjudgment. We're all a part of the general delusion of our time, that the trillions we have consented to pour into mili-tarism will yield genuine peace. Here's one more quotation from a Nobel winner, this from TS Eliot: 'Humankind cannot bear

very much reality."

Mass delusion is indicated by our clinging to obso-lete paradigms. Remember

Nuclear age By Winslow Myers how certain that clerical authorities were that the earth was the center of the solar system? Another obsolete paradigm clarified by the invasion of Ukraine is

often, and correctly, used for Putin's invasion is 'delusional' Even if he manages to pound Ukraine into scorched rubble, he'll still be further than when he began from anything resem-bling victory. He and his henchmen will continue to be generally despised and feared, most intensely by the defiant Ukrainians themselves. As Hemingway wrote, "Man can be destroyed but not defeated." Another aspect of Putin's delusion is projection: he rationalizes that he is destroying Nazis while behaving like a Nazi him-

ne adjective

the public domain, which would indicate that there may be even more close calls which remain classified. What logic might be powerful enough to break the trance these weapons have induced in the govern-ments of the world? I only know what logical common sense tells me: we cannot go on like this, building and renewing weapons and playing nuclear chicken. We can't continue forever relying on fiendishly complex computer systems that are subject to malfunction, being hacked, or coming to fatally mistaken conclu-sions, either on their own or in concert with the fallible

humans operating them. Imagine that aliens have swooped in from deep space to check up on our planet. As they circle the earth, they see no borders. It all looks like a single entity, menaced

by rising temperatures and intensifying conflicts, both of which threaten the overall health of the living system upon which humans depend for their support. That is

reality.
While we're quoting Nobel prizewinners, here is a snippet from Faulkner's Nobel speech: "Our tragedy today is a general and universal physical fear so long sustained by now that we can even bear it. There are no longer problems of the spirit. There is only the question: When will I be blown up?" Putin happens to be the head of one of the nine nations who could answer Faulkner's question. But he is hardly alone in his conviction that military force backed up by nuclear weapons will yield greatness, or security, or whatever it is he hopes to gain from his colossal misjudgment. We're all a part of the general delusion of our time, that the trillions we have consented to pour into mili-tarism will yield genuine peace. Here's one more quotation from a Nobel winner, this from TS Eliot: "Humankind cannot bear very much reality."

Mass delusion is indicated by our clinging to obso-lete paradigms. Remember how certain that clerical authorities were that the earth was the center of the solar system? Another obsolete paradigm clarified by the invasion of Ukraine is the usefulness of nuclear weapons as a way to prevent war. Nuclear weapons did not deter Osama bin Laden.

Nor did they deter Putin. Instead, the record of near disaster over the decades of the nuclear age underlines our good fortune to find ourselves still alive and unradiated.

Four friends

drown in

Chenab River,

fifth rescued

GUJRAT: Four of the five friends drowned while taking a

swim in the Chenab River's deep waters in Gujrat on Thursday. The fifth friend was rescued

from the Chenab River.
Rescue 1122 said that all the five were friends and the unfortu-

nate incident occurred when they

went into deep waters and hence

The locals expressed their anger that despite the imposition of Section 144, why district authori-ties were not able to implement in

letter spirit.
Rescue 1122 launched the operation to find the dead body.INP

drowned

03 NATIONAL

Pakistan to seek additional \$3.2bn Saudi aid package

I S L A M A B A D : Pakistan has decided to seek an additional pack-age of \$3.2 billion from Saudi Arabia which will increase the total finansicial assistance package to \$7.4 billion from the existing \$4.2 billion in order to avert further depletion of foreign currency reserves, sources aid on Thursday.

The request will be

The request will be ade during Prime linister Shehbaz Minister Shehbaz Sharif's three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia that would begin on April 28 (Thursday). According to finance ministry officials.

ministry officials, Pakistan has decided to seek a 7.4 billion financial assistance package

from Saudi Arabia in the shape of cash deposits and oil on deferred pay-

ments. "Pakistan will also make a request to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for rollover of the exist-ing package of \$4.2 billion for one year till June 2023," the source within

finance ministry said.
PM Shehbaz led coalition government will also request the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to double the Saudi Oil Facility (SOF) from \$1.2 billion to \$2.4 billion, they added.

It is worth mentioning here that Islamabad has already asked the Fund to extend the existing Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for nine months till June 2023 coupled with increasing the size of the programme from \$6 bil-lion to \$8 billion.

lion to \$8 billion.

According to Foreign
Office, the newlyappointed PM Shehbaz
Sharif is visiting Saudi
Arabia at the invitation of
Prince Mohammed bin
Salman bin Abdulaziz,
Crown Prince of the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia This would be the prime minister's first visit abroad after assuming Office earlier this month. The premier will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including key members of the cabinet During the visit, PM Shehbaz Sharif will have bilateral INP

Investment in public transport needed to reduce air pollution: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Air quality in Pakistan is deteriorating at a faster rate due to an unprece-dented increase in motor

In the world's top 20 most polluted cities, three are located in Pakistan.

Anthropogenic activi-ties and natural phenomena are the two major sources of air pollution. Humans cannot control this natural phenomenon, but pollution from anthropogenic activities can be managed by adopting clean production practices.

The government in public transport is not sufficient to provide transport facil-ities for its people. So, a large chunk of population buys their own vehicles for mobility. Thus, with the increase in population pressure, demand for alternative modes of transport such as motor cars, pickups, taxis, sta-tion wagons, and jeeps

has increased.

Dr Abedullah, Chief of Research at Pakistan Institute of Development Feonomics (PIDE) told Islamabad, told WealthPK that the private sector should come forward to provide transport facility with the collabo-ration of the government. He said foreign investment should be attracted in the transportation sector to benefit people.

tor to benefit people.

The first government initiative of public transport through metrobus was launched in 2013 in Lahore, followed by Rawalpindi-Islamabad metrobus in 2015, Multan metrobus in 2017, Trans Peshawar in 2020 and Karachi Breeze in 2021.

In addition, the first orange line metro train in

orange line metro train in orange line metro train in Pakistan was officially inaugurated on October 20, 2020, which carries 250,000 passengers every day. But this is not sufficient to meet the increasing demand for mobility in the mega cities of Pakistan. Therefore, demand for vehicles is continuously increasing

demand for vehicles is continuously increasing.

Dr Abedullah said the government should incentivise the private sector (local and foreign) to develop better infrastructure. He said it will not only help reduce air pollution, but also minimise vehicle congestion. imise vehicle congestion, and also boost govern-ment revenue in the form of taxation. He said that instead of making under-passes or flyovers to keep the flow of traffic normal, the government should invest in high commercial vehicles."Making new underpasses is not a suit-able solution to minimize

the congestion, as it causes an increase in air pollution by increasing the number of vehicles. The government should take innovative steps for their citizens to minimize the harmful effects of air pollution," he said.

The drastic increase in the number of vehicles over the last decade increased environmental pollution due to the increasing combustion of fossil fuels. During the last two decades, demand for motorcycles increased by 928%, for light com-mercial vehicles by 725%, and for heavy commercial vehicles by 64%, according to Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). The government did not provide a success-ful transport system independently or with the col-laboration of the private sector to accommodate the increasing population pressure. Hence, people have no choice except to purchase their own vehi-cles to commute from one

place to another. Dr Abedullah said that the government metro bus project is not enough to increase the demand of public, so sub-routes should be made so the public can easily move from one place to anoth-er.INP



AMBASSADOR OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO PAKISTAN MOHAMMAD ALI HOSSEINI CALLED ON MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HINA RABBANI KHAR AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ISLAMABAD.

Winning the trust of Chinese Investors first priority: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: "My top priority is to expedite the CPEC projects to restore the confidence of the Chinese investors," said Federal Minister for Planning Development Pederal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) Professor Ahsan Iqbal during his meeting here with Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy, Ms. Pang Chunxue, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday

Gwadar Thursday.
Thursday.
Mr. Iqbal told Ms. Pang
Chunxue that the progress
in China-Pakistan
Corridor Economic (CPEC) has been expedited since the new government came into power and regu-lar meetings are being held for the implementation of

Ms. Pang Chunxue appreciated the steps taken by

ciated the steps taken by the Minister since he took charge of the Ministry.

The Minister stressed that the incumbent government will maintain the lasting working relationship with China in the same spirit as it was in 2013.

During the meeting, the Minister also said that Prime Minister Shebbaz Sharif had already requested China to add Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project in CPEC.

project in CPEC.

Ahsan Iqbal also urged the Chinese official to resolve the issues of Pakistani students studying in China. In this connection, 200 students are being

Int'l Forum on Aerospace Education

issued visas so that they can complete their studies in China.

Similarly, the Minister also suggested that Pakistan and China should start working on space technology and said that Pakistani astronauts should

Pakistani astronauts should be given the opportunity to go to space with Chinese. This act will further take the relationship between the two countries to new heights higher than the skies, he added. The Minister also point-ed to the shortage of water in Karachi and asked the Chinese official to collabo-

Chinese official to collaborate in establishing desalination plants in the city to overcome paucity of clean drinking water.INP

SHC moved against removal of 200 names from ECL

KARACHI: A petition was filed on Thursday before the Sindh High Court (SHC) challenging the removal of more than 200 names including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif from the Exit Control List

The petitioner stated that the previous govt had placed their names on ECL on the recommendation of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Federal Investigation Agency

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

"The new government excluded names of more than 200 people from ECL despite pending inquires and high profile cases," he stated.

"Names of former PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz and others were too placed on ECL on court orders, but the new govt removed them

but the new govt removed them from exit control list without court's permission," the plea stat-

ed.
SHC judge Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro reserved the verdict

over the maintainability of plea. The names of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, former president Shehbaz Sharif, former president Asif Zardari, former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Faryal Tapur and other important political personalities were recently removed from the Exit Control List (ECL) by the interior ministry. As per details, the names of more than 100 political personalities including PM Shehbaz Sharif, Asif Ali Zardari, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Faryal Talpur, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Saad Rafique, Khawaja Asif and others have been removed from the ECL. The names were placed on the

The names were placed on the ECL on the recommendations of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).INP

boosts China-Pak space cooperation BEIJING: With the approaching of the 7th Space Day of China, International Forum on Ms. JIANG Hui, Counsellor of ence and made reports. Dr. China National Space Administration to Russia, Ms. YU Qi, Secretary-General of Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) attended the meeting and delivered Aerospace Education & Belt and Road Aerospace Innovation Alliance (BRAIA) 5th Anniversary Conference suc-

Anniversary Conference successfully concluded online, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

Prof. ZHANG Weihong, member of the Chinese Academy of Science and Vice President of Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), Ms. FENG Chunping, Vice Chairman of Governing Board of Chinese Society of Astronautics (CSA), Mr. LIU Baoping, Deputy Director of Education Department of Shaanxi Provincial Government,

Punjab governor cares about neither law nor **Constitution: Atta Tarar**

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Attaullah Tarar said Thursday that Punjab Governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema cared about neither law nor the Constitution. Addressing a press conference here, he said that the Punjab governor was turning away from the Constitution by not administering the oath to

He said that a crisis was intentionally created in the province. "The high court has pronounced three verdicts regarding the establishment of a govern-

ment in Punjab, but they [Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf] are hell-bent on trampling the Constitution," he deplored.

and the provincial assembly for the last 27 days adding that Imran Niazi had imposed Usman

Buzdar on Punjab as a revenge.
Other PML-N leaders including Malik Ahmed

Khan, Sardar Awais Leghari, Zeeshan Rafique, Khalil Tahir Sandhu, and Iftikhar Chachar were

He said that they were playing with the province

Chief Minister-elect Hamza Shehbaz.

the meeting and delivered speeches.

Over 100 representatives of BRAIA members and international organizations, including the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs attended the meeting. The conference was presided by Prof. Zhang Fuli, Director of Office of International Cooperation and Dean of International College, NPU.

Experts and scholars from

Experts and scholars from Pakistani universities, which are important partners of NPU in South Asia, attended the confer-

Adnan Maqsood from National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) made a work report, indicating that NUST has achieved fruitful results through close coopera-tion with BRAIA and a group of Chinese universities including

NPU in the past five years. For example, since October 2020, scholars from Pakistani universities have been actively engaged in joint research seed fund projects initiated by BRAIA in aerodynamics, composite and microsatellite. Moreover, during the difficult

time of fighting against COVIDthe Permanent Secretariat of BRAIA has been keeping close touch with NUST. INP



FEDERAL MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, SAJID HUSSAIN TURI CHAIRING BRIEFING AT OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT CORPO-RATION AND BUREAU OF EMIGRATION, ISLAMABAD.

Mechanized mining to make Pak marble industry potential goldmine

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is home to the superb quality marble but it is yet to make it a potensource of foreign exchange earning, as the technology being used in its mining is outdated and obsolete, according to WealthPK.

Talking exclusively to WealthPK, Haroon Director of Rasheed, Director of Mining [South Region], Mohmand Dada Minerals Mining Company, said internationally marble blocks of 15 to 20 cubic meters were required, but Pakistan could not meet this demand, as 80 to 85 percent of the mined marbreaks splinters/small pieces during the traditional blasting process."It is due to the use of traditional blasting process that the demand for our superb quality big marble blocks has not increased in the international market. We can exploit big chunks of marble in a proper form through mechanized minMechanized mining is expensive but fruitful in the long run.

There are around 2,000 marble mines from Gilgit to Chagai out of which less than 50 [mines] are employing mechanized mining methods. Pakistan mechanized has to craft a tactful and secure mining policy to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). In the same way, local contract enforcement under a welldefined framework is a must. Lack of a proper framework is a great hur-dle to keep big players from investing in this sec-tor. Removal of this hurdle will help operationalize the marble mines of Hunza, Gilgit and Baltistan. The government must include mining infra-

structure building fee in the mining license fee like in other countries. All these are aspects of both mechanised and traditional mining, he said. "It is true that mechanized mining is capital-

intensive, but it covers the

er productivity and less wastage. The government can help the traditional miners to switch from the less productive ways to proper and more produc-tive ones. The government can help the miners in adopting mechanised min-ing in financial and joint venture aspects," Haroon

Talking to WealthPK, geologist Taj Muhammad from Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC), said, "The blasting practices in mining are depriving Pakistan of 80 to 85% of precious marble. So, it is the absolute need of the time to replace all the old stuff with absolute mining technology/mecha-

nised mining." He said Pakistan was endowed with huge mar-ble deposits. This sector, he added, was capable of paving way for better eco-nomic solutions. It is also a part of Pakistan's minertransformation plan Vision 2025 to utilize the also present on the occasion. INP Academic session at KU resumed two days after tragic suicide assault

KARACHI: The academic session at Karachi University on Thursday resumed, two days after a female suicide bomber struck a vehicle carrying Chinese teachers to the Confucius Institute.

The students and teachers who visited after the resumption of the academic session were allowed to enter the university from Silver Jubilee gate after through checking of their national identity cards (NICs) and university cards.

The bags and purses of all those visiting the varsity

are also checked properly.

It is pertinent to mention here that four people including three Chinese nationals were killed while four others were injured after a van caught fire following an explosion near Confucius Institute at University of Karachi

Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Sindh in charge, Raja Umar Khattab said that the blast that targeted a van carrying Chinese nationals to Karachi University's Confucius Institute was a suicide attack,

carried out by a woman.

In-charge CTD Raja Umar Khattab said the explosives used in the blast were not locally made. A schoolbag like a device was made and was attached with a bag of a suicide bomber woman, he added.INF

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain, Habib Ahmad Honorary Consul General of Russian Federation in Pakistan along with diplomates and others dignitaries pose for a group photo during Iftar dinner hosted by Ahmad Honorary Consul General of Russian Federation in Pakistan.

Diversification stressed to boost agriculture productivity: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan direly needs diversification in the agriculture sector for sustainable economic growth and protecting environment

Despite being an agricultural country, Pakistan has to import food products just because of a lack of diversification in the sector.

my grows, it is critical that we implement adequate diversification in our agriculture and farming sectors sooner

Dr Yasir Naqvi, section officer (I&C) for livestock, Punjab, told WealthPK that agricultural diversification is one of the most important aspects of economic

full potential of this sector. It will lead.INP said Haroon. expenses because of prop-Pak-China collaboration to boost wheat output brings amazing results

ISLAMABAD: Pak-China collaboration to boost wheat output proved highly productive for enhancing per acare yield, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

Since April, the harvest of wheat in Pakistan has reached its pinnacle. 75% wheat of Punjab has been reaped.

On the 8-hectare hybrid wheat trial in Pakpattan, Punjab, Mr. Abdul Rasheed held up a fresh bunch of recently harvested hybrid wheat

with smile Abdul Rasheed is the R&D Director of an agricultural company based in Pakistan, which collab-

Beijing with Academy of Agricultural Sciences, to deliver hybrid wheat to Pakistan and to work on improving the productivity of wheat in the country.

"We have been work-ing with Chinese companies to produce hybrid rice in Pakistan with amazing results. We hope our hybrid wheat will bring about the same revolution as hybrid rice,"Abdul Raheed told Gwadar Pro. While speaking about hybrid rice, he recalled monumental services of Dr. Yuan Longping, the father of hybrid rice in

China, who contributed

to massive output of rice production in Pakistan. As one of the most important food crops, the status of wheat is selfevident for Pakistan with a population of more than 220 million. Rasheed and his instructor Zulfiqar Ali

nis instructor Zumqar An

a professor leading
wheat breeding at
University of Agriculture
Faisalabad (UAF)
shared their insights
based on years of wheat
research experience research experience.
Despite teaming up with China, being listed in the top 10 wheat creat-

ing nations, Pakistan's average wheat yield still remains below the world average. Around 55% of

patched areas, with a yield of less than 2 tons/ha. The 45% in well irrigated areas has a yield of 4.5 tons/ha. China is a major wheat developing country with wheat yield in excess of 5 tons/ha on the planet.
"It is imperative to collaborate with China to increase wheat yield per unit area," Prof Zulfiqar Ali further explained.

We can cooperate with China in germplasm exchange, hybrid wheat breeding, wheat added value and food process-

ing plants to advance the

wheat yield

its wheat is developed in

rainfed and saline sodic

Sino-Pak cooperation can not only further develop wheat yield in Pakistan, but also can further improve wheat yield in African nations, etc. About 70% of Pakistani wheat tonnage is contributed by irrigated

land that is based heavily on pumping ground water via fossil energy. This leads to higher costs in wheat production. Prof. Zulfiqa

Prof. Zulfiqar Ali revealed that new devel-opment has been made with Chinese experts in wheat breeding for climate resilience especially for water saving, nutri-tion use efficiency, dis-ease resistance.INP

To ensure that our agro-based econodevelopment.INP NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Deputy Director, Agriculture (On Farm Water Management) Pishin, invites sealed Tender/Bid for execution of various

development works under the PSDP 2021-22 schemes, from eligible contractors/firms with the Bid Security @ 4% of estimated cost in shape of Call Deposit (Refundable). The non-refundable Tender Form Fee to be deposited in any National Bank of Pakistan Branch situated in Balochistan Province through Green Bank Challan in a head of account (C03136) (verified by the District Accounts Officer).

S#	Name of Work/s	TSE No.	Total Estimated Cost (Rupees)	Tender Fee (Rupees)
1	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE TANKS FOR AGRICULTURE PURPOSE IN KILLI MULLAH SHADO HAFIZ HABIBULLAH PISHIN	TSE- 21220468653	2,970,174/-	1,000
2	INSTALLATION OF PVC PIPE 3" DIA FOR AGRICULTURE PURPOSE IN DISTRICT PISHIN	TSE- 21220468583	24,612,502	3,000
3	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE TANKS [50X50] FOR AGRICULTURE PURPOSE IN DISTRICT PISHIN	TSE- 21220468673	48,818,182	3,000
4	PROVISION & INSTALLATION OF PVC PIPE LINE 3" FOR UC YARO-I&II DISTRICT PISHIN	TSE- 21220468593	2,985,181	1,000
5	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE TANKS FOR AGRICULTURE PURPOSE IN UC HAJI KHAN TOBA KAKARI TEHSIL BARSHORE DISTRICT PISHIN	TSE- 21220468733	9,897,652	2,000

Procurements shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List of income tax. The bidding firm must not be black/istad by any procuring agency of Pakistan.Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required.Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) in Relevant Category and SpecializedCode as mentioned in each bidding documents of above-mentioned works. The Contractor/bidder must be on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of BRA. The Contractor/bidder must submit proof of their Income Tax Returns of the taxation year (2021) The Contractor/bidder must submit audit Balance sheet of subsequent last three years The Contractor/bidder must submit the latest Bank credit line certificate or latest Bank Statement, Remaining eligibility criteria, technical evaluation criteria and as well as terms & conditions are mentioned in the bidding documents of each aforementioned works Method of Procurement: Single Stage-Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security (4%) in the form of Call Deposit in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed or can be downloaded from the BPPRA website under the given TSE No. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 16th May 2022, during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders should be submitted on 16th May 2022, closing time of each tender is mentioned in their bidding documents. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned after one hour of closing time Address: Office the Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management, PishinNote: The Tender Opening Committee/Bid Evaluation Committee reserves the right (Delegated by the BPPRARules 2014) that either accept or reject any or all the offers/quotations prior to the acceptance of a bid. a) The Contractor/Firm not qualifying the basic eligibility criteria will not be entertained in the bidding process. b) The bidder / firm should quote all the rates in BOQ's otherwise the bidding would be consider as non-responsive. c) As per policy, the Procuring Agency reserves the right to increase or decrease quantum of work. Contact No. 082-6920528 Email falzullahshah1968@gmail.com

PRQ NO.3493.28.04.2022

Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management Pishin

🧳 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🐷 @dpr_gob 👩 dpr.gob 🚹 @dgpr.balochistan

Islamabad: A memorandum of understanding was signed here on Thursday for the prGCU students to

ovision of the electric motorcycles to students and staff members of Government College University

Lahore at a discounted price as part of their Green Campus initiative.

GCU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Asghar Zaidi and Jolta Electric Chief Executive Officer Mr Usman Sheikh signed the accord at a graceful ceremony at the University's Bukhari Auditorium.

US Consul General Lahore Kathleen Gibilisco was also present on this occasion as a special Guest of Honor and was pleased with the efforts made by the GCU Lahore to encourage environmental awareness and green initiatives in Pakietan.

of Honor and was pleased with the efforts made by the GCU Lahore to encourage environmental awareness and green initiatives in Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Zaidi said GCU has become the first university in Pakistan to make the campus green by taking steps to reduce carbon emissions. He said they banned plastic bags on campus and are shifting their energy needs on solar.

The Vice-Chancellor added that GCU would provide various facilities to its students including free parking and the installation of chargers on the campus to promote the use of electric bikes.

The US Consul General said climate change is a challenge that requires cooperation and commitment. "It poses serious risks to families, businesses, and economies," she added.

Kathleen Gibilisco appreciated the initiative of GCU to encourage its students and staff to use elec-



FEDERAL MINISTER FOR COMMERCE, SYED NAVEED QAMAR IN A MEETING WITH H.E. MR. PHILIPPE BRONCHAIN, AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM IN ISLAMABAD ON.

PM Shehbaz's visit to Saudi Arabia to open new chapter of ideal friendship

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has tweeted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is leaving for Hijaz on Thursday on the special invitation of "Mohsin-e-Pakistan" and Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"The prime minister will reach Madinah. This visit from April 28 to 30 will be the first foreign visit of Shehbaz Sharif after assuming the office of the Prime Minister," she said.

"After four years of turmoil, the gathering of Pakistan's friends is about to be resumed. Congratulations on the resumption of the journey of stability, progress and prosperity," she added.

"The blessings of I mrah and attention."

added.
"The blessings of Umrah and attendance at Rauza-e-Rasool will be with us. Long live Saudi Arabia-Pakistan friendship," she stated.
"The visit reflects the revival of historic relations based on fraternal, pas-

toric relations based on fraternal, pas-sionate and mutual trust between the two countries. It will open a new his-toric chapter of ideal friendship," she maintained.INP

ECP takes notice of Imran Khan's anti-CEC speeches

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday has taken notice of the anti-ECP speeches of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan.

The election commission has also sought the record of Imran Khan's speech at PTI workers' convention in Peshawar from Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra).

It is to be noted here that PTI chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan had accused the chief election

Khan had accused the chief election commissioner of being biased and termed him an agent of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

During his speeach, Imran Khan had lashed out at the CEC, calling him a "planted agent" of the PML-N. "Raja has lost all his credibility and he should immediately resign," he had said. The PTI chairman had also urged his supporters to start a campaign to his supporters to start a campaign to collect signatures on an online petition against the chief election commission-

The former prime minister had said that when the result of the foreign funding case would be announced there would be just one party that would emerge with legal funding and it would be PTLINP

Bomb blast damages power pylon in Jamshoro

JAMSHORO: A bomb attack targeted a tower of high-voltage power transmission lines of 220,000KV here

According to sources, the tower of high-voltage transmission lines from Jamshoro to Tando Muhammad Khan was damaged after its four pillars were blown up in the bomb blast.INP

Punjab Assembly session adjourned until May 16

LAHORE: The much-awaited session of the Punjab Assembly was adjourned to May 16 without holding any proceedings on Thursday.

Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi adjourned the session until the middle of the next month. A notification in this regard was also issued by the PA speaker's office. This is the second time Pervaiz Elahi has postponed the PA Elahi has postponed the PA session.The crucial session will now he held at 11:30am on May 16.The Punjab Assembly session was earlier summoned for today to take up a no-trust resolution against.INP

Governor Punjab decides against administering oath to Hamza Shehbaz

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Omar Sarfraz Cheema has decided against administering oath to Chief Minister Punjabelect Hamza Shehbaz after the Lahore High Court directed him to complete oath-taking process at the most by today. at the most by today.

According to sources privy to the matter, the governor was briefed on options available to him against the Lahore High Court's decision by legal

experts.

It was decided that all options would be utilized and sources said that initially an intra-court appeal would be filed in the high court against the decision. "If needed, the high court's decision will be challenged before the Supreme Court," the meeting agreed after legal experts briefed that the court could not exceed its constitutional limit and issue directives to president and governor.

to president and governor.

The sources further shared that the matter would also be conveyed to the president.

On Wednesday, Chief Justice Lahore High Court (LHC) Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti directed Governor Punjab Omar Sarfraz Cheema to either administer oath to the Chief Minister Punjab-elect Hamza Shehbaz or appoint any-

one for it.

The chief justice while announcing a reserved verdict over delay in oath taking of the newly elected chief minister directed the governor Punjab to hold oath-taking ceremony by tomorrow.

"The court's order should

tomorrow.

"The court's order should immediately be conveyed to the governor and president," the LHC said as the chief justice remarked that the province is being run without a chief executive for 25 days.

The court further said in its order that currently Usman Buzdar is acting as chief minister and the governor as per the

ter and the governor as per the Constitution is bound to take oath from the newly elected chief minister.INP

Johnson 'looks forward' to working with Shehbaz on global challenges

ISLAMABAD : British moment, Johnson served as Boris Johnson rime Minister has expressed his desire to work with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on addressing global challenges and hopes to meet in person soon.

This was disclosed by the overnment in a statement on Thursday.

The statement read that UK Prime Minister Johnson had written to his Pakistan counterpart on April 26 congratu-lating Shehbaz on his election

to the office of prime minister. In the letter, the statement said, Johnson noted that the UK and Pakistan enjoyed deep ties supported by strong people-to-people links.

Johnson recalled his last meeting with Shehbaz, which came in 2016 when he had visited Pakistan. At the

e British foreign secretary in Theresa May's government. Johnson had arrived in the federal capital Islamabad on November 24, 2016. During his visit, he had also met with then Punjab chief minister

Shehbaz.

Recalling that visit, Johnson said that he and Shehbaz held discussions on several shared interests including girls' education, health, economics and trade relations.

In his letter, Johnson said that he looked forward to con-tinuing working together and conveyed his best wishes to Shehbaz and the people of

The British premier also expressed the hope to meet with his Pakistani counterpart in person soon.INP

Dr Musadik Malik sworn in of a minister of state

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Senator Dr Musadik Malik on Thursday took oath of a minister of state in a ceremony at Aiwan-i-Sadr.

ny at Aiwan-i-Sadr.

President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to Musadik Malik, who, is likely to be given the charge of minister of state for petroleum.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by parliamentarians and senior government offi-

ans and senior government offi-

Belonging to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Senator Musadik Malik joined the cabinet in the fourth phase of its formation as the earlier swearing-in ceremonies were taken place on April 19, April 22, and April

The new cabinet reflects the Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Pakistan Muslim League-Q and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Amir Muqam appointed PM

Adviser
PML-N leader from Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir
Muqam has been appointed as
Adviser to the Prime Minister
on Political and Public Affairs.
Amir Mugam will have the

Amir Muqam will have the office in the Prime Minister Office (PMO) and he will also

be allowed to establish a suboffice in Peshawar as well.
President Arif Alvi has
appointed Amir Muqam on the
advice of Prime Minister
Shehbaz Sharif.
The appointment will be in

The appointment will be in effect from April 19. Amir Muqam will have the status of a

responsibilities related to coordinating Power, Petroleum divisions in KP as well. Amir Muqam has also been assigned tasks to look after the depart-mental affairs of Immigration, Passports, and Nadra.INP

tric vehicles through free parking and on-campus charging. "We all see an acute need to take action to decrease emissions that contribute to smog. The latest trends show that to mitigate climate change, electric vehicles will become increasingly common, and Pakistan has great potential as a producer and as an exporter of electric vehicles to the region," she added.

Kathleen Gibilisco said the US and Pakistani companies can partner to bring high-quality electric vehicles and their parts to Pakistan, which will also kickstart the domestic market.

The US Consul General also expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for a campus tour of his historical educational institution which produced great scholars. Usman Sheikh said that the establishment of EV industry in the current era and its export in near future will significantly have positive impact on

of EV industry in the current era and its export in near future will significantly have positive impact on Pakistan's economy. He said that under the Vision "Clean Green Pakistan", the number of electric vehicles in Pakistan will increase by 30% by 2030. Global Business Director of Jolta Electric Mr. Iftikhar Hussain EV motorcycle produced in Pakistan are better than the Chinese motorcycle in many ways as we spent years in research on batteries so that the motorcycle could provide better mileage. Regarding the signing of another MoU with GCU related to reducing industry-academia gap, Chief Happiness Officer of OZI Group and Jolta Electric Mr. Haroon Akhtar stated that the only way to scale "guided talent pool" and to do capacity building in highly in-demand technical & non-technical skills is through "Consistent Collaboration" among industry-academia. Online

JICA celebrates Pak-Japan relations anniversary

Islamabad: On the auspicious occasion of the anniversary day when Japan and Pakistan officially established diplomatic relations on April 28 seventy years ago, Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio con-

veyed his congratulatory remarks to celebrate the 70 years of bilateral diplomatic relations.

In the message, KISHIDA Fumio, the Prime Minister of Japan has extended his congratulations to Shehbaz Sharif on his assumption of office as Prime Minister.

PM KISHIDA also congratulates the people of both Japan and Pakistan for successful seventy years of their bilateral relations.

years of their bilateral relations.

Japan established diplomatic relations with Pakistan on 28th April, 1952, the very day when the San Francisco Peace Treaty went into effect and Japan regained its independence.

"Today marks exactly 70 years since then, and I am very pleased to celebrate this milestone with all of you. Japan and Pakistan have nurtured friendly relations over the years, extending support to each other when in need", said PM Kishida.

The PM mentioned that in the post war period, cotton exported from Pakistan to Japan backed its textile industry and greatly encouraged Japan's postwar reconstruction.

postwar reconstruction.

In turn, Japan has continuously provided Pakistan with assistance mainly in its areas of expertise, such as water, healthcare, education and disaster management.

"Both Japan and Pakistan are disaster-prone countries, and we have supported each other through the years. When Pakistan was struck by a massive earthquake in 2005 and by severe floods in

2010, Japan dispatched its disaster relief team and provided yen loans and grant aid. When the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in 2011, Pakistan not only delivered relief goods, such as milk and biscuits, but Pakistani people residing in Japan traveled to the affected areas to serve hot meals to disaster victims." he added.

He also mentioned that recently, when the situa-

He also mentioned that recently, when the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated last August, Pakistan extended generous support to Japan to facilitate the safe departure from Afghanistan of Japanese nationals and Afghan staffs working in the Japanese Embassy and the JICA office.

He said Pakistan is located in a strategic place that connects Asia and the Middle East. It is, therefore, one of the most important countries not only for the stability of the region but also for interna-

fore, one of the most important countries not only for the stability of the region but also for international counter-terrorism efforts.

In this context, we would like to cooperate with Pakistan to realize a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific".

PM Kishida said that "In this milestone year, I wish to elevate our bilateral relations to new heights. I am determined to work with PM Shehbaz Sharif and the people of Pakistan even more closely for that purpose".

He expressed his sincere wishes for the prosper-

He expressed his sincere wishes for the prosperity of our two countries and the further deepening of the friendship between the peoples of Japan and Pakistan. JICA also celebrates this important day with the video titled "A story of Friendship and Assistance". Among diverse ties between the two countries, development cooperation is a major factor to bear witness to the solid foundation underpinning the relations. Online

Kharian police arrest rickshaw driver for raping teen girl

KHARIAN : Kharian Saddr police arrested Thursday a rickshaw driver for allegedly subjecting a 15-year-old girl of Jhelum to rape for three

Jhelum to rape for three days.

The rape victim, identity withheld, told the police that she, in a fit of rage, left her house in Kala Gujran, Jhelum and reached Kharian on April 22 where the accused rickshaw driver took her to a flat and kept raping her for three days.

her for three days. She maintained that she managed to reach the police station as soon as she got a chance to escape from the captivity of the

The police arrested the accused identified as Farhan and registered a case against him on the request of the victim's brother.INP

NA speaker seeks details of illegal recruitments by **Asad Qaiser**

ISLAMABAD National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Thursday sought details of illegal recruitments by former speaker Asad Qaiser from

"Who came to which department? Who came on deputation? Who was promoted illegally?" Raja Pervaiz Ashraf sought all Pervaiz Ashraf sought all the details and also ordered a thorough inquiry into all these irregularities. "The NA speaker will take an action against all those officials recruited those officials recruited

illegally after the comple-tion of a thorough inquiry against them," said the well-placed sources.INP

Bilal Saeed Kamyana appointed new CCPO Lahore

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Thursday appointed DIG Bilal Saeed Kamyana as Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore.

According to the notifi-cation, Bilal Kamyana has been appointed as CCPO with immediate effect.

Before his new appointment, Bilal Kamyana had also served as Regional Police Officer Faisalabad, Regional Police Officer Sheikhupura and District Police Officer Okara. DIG Bilal Kamyana is from the 24th CTP of the

police service.INP

Whole nation sees true faces of Sharif family: Pervaiz Elahi

League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Thursday said that the whole nation has seen the true face of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sharif fami-

While talking to the media, the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said that the police is being used for personal gains.
The PML-Q leader further stated

that the Inspector General (IG) of the police and Chief Secretary have been converted into the Sharif family's pri-

chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi also said that he has full control over the noconfidence motion filed against the Deputy Speaker Dost Mazari. Earlier, Speaker of Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz elahi made an important decision in which

he postponed the Assembly session till May 16. The notification was passed for postponing the session. It merits mention here that, Punjab police had arrested the Secretary National of Punjab Assembly before the session in which voting on the no-confidence motion against Deputy Speaker of Punjab Assembly Dost Mazari.

Mazari.
The Secretary National of Punjab Assembly Inavat Ullah Lak was shifted to the Garhi Shahu police station of the provincial capital.
While on the other hand, Pakistan

While on the other hand, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) dissident mem-Tehreek-e-Insat (PTI) dissident members have made an impactful decision in which they have decided not to vote against, nor in favor of the noconfidence motion.

The no-confidence motion has been filed by the PTI and its allies against the deputy speaker Dost Mazari. Online



QUETTA: Woman selecting bags while vesting market during eid shopping.

ECP rejects perception of individual decisions at election body

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday rejected an impression being created that decisions in the commission are being taken by an individual and said that since January 2020, the decisions are taken unani-

In a handout issued by the ECP, it said that the election commission is a constitutional institution and takes decisions as per the Constitution and

A perception is being created that decisions are being taken by an indi-vidual at the Election Commission of Pakistan, it said while terming it a deliberate attempt to create a percep-tion against the facts.

The handout from the ECP said that

the decisions are being taken unani-mously since January 2020 and there is a complete harmony among chair-man and members. "The ECP will continue to take decisions without taking any pressures," it said.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has accused

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja of being a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) agent. While addressing PTI

Parkistan Mushin League-Nawaz (PML-N) agent.

While addressing PTI Parliamentarians in Peshawar, former prime minister Imran Khan accused the ECP CEC of being "partisan and dishonest" and working for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). PTI chairman also demanded Sikandar Sultan Raja to immediately step down as ECP chief.

"PTI doesn't have confidence in chief election commissioner. When the country's biggest party doesn't have confidence in CEC, he must resign," he added. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has

Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has accused Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja of being a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sikander

While addressing PTI Parliamentarians in Peshawar, former prime minister Imran Khan accused the ECP CEC.INP

ITP fines 7,008 vehicles with fancy number plates, tinted glasses during ongoing month

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has accelerated its crack-down against those vehicles having tinted glasses, fancy number plates and hampering smooth flow of traffic due to wrong parking.

Following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, ITP force has accelerated efforts to take action against those vehicles

take action against those vehicles having tinted glasses and different violations.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Rai Mazhar Iqbal is supervising these efforts himself while special enforcement squads have been constituted to check violations of traffic rules. A several grand oper-ations were conducted During ongoing month in various areas including G-8 Markaz, G-9 Markaz, G-11 Markaz, F-10 Markaz, F-11 Markaz, Jinnah Super, F-6 (Super Market),
Aabpara and Bhara Kau Market.
SSP (Traffic) Rai Mazhar Iqbal
overall monitored these operations

strictly warned to avoid parking on footpaths and roads. A total of 670 footpaths and roads. A total of 6/0 fine tickets were issued over wrong parking while several vehicles were impounded at various police stations.

As many as 1,151 vehicles were fined for having tinted glasses, 2,320 for having fancy number plates.

SSP (Traffic) has appealed to avoid using tinted glasses and follow traffic.

and owners of car show rooms were

using tinted glasses and follow traffic rules to ensure safe road environment in the city. He has also ordered to check every violation and issue viola-tion ticket to every violator. "The elimination of VIP culture and equal application of law are our main objectives which would be achieved at every cost," he maintained.

ue education campaign and inculcate traffic sense among the road users along with the enforcement of law. Rai Mazhar Iqbal stressed the need

He also directed his staff to contin-

to bridge the gap between police and public through polite attitude and by demonstrating INP



FEDERAL MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, RANA TANVEER HUSSAIN WARMLY RECEIVES BRITISH HIGH COMMIS-SIONER H.E. DR. CHRISTIAN TURNER AT HIS OFFICE IN ISLAMABAD.