

QUETTA VOICE

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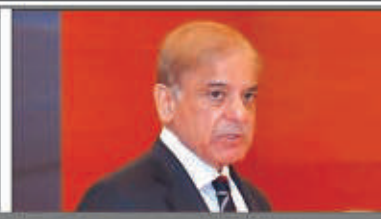
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Lahore court orders case against Rana Sanaullah, top police officials for roughing up of lawyers



PM Shehbaz, Turkish President Erdogan renew pledge to upgrade bilateral ties

Doctors conduct first open heart surgery at civil hospital Quetta

Syed Ali Shah, Manan Mandokhail

For the first time in the medical history of Balochistan, doctors conducted a successful open-heart surgery at the civil hospital Quetta. "We successfully conducted an open-heart surgery on this patient", Dr. Asmat Achakzai, one of the doctors who participated in the operation process said.

Dr. Achakzai and Dr. Abdul Wasey have done post-scholarship after passing their FCPS examination in 2020 in Karachi. "We were trained in the National Institute of the Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) Karachi to conduct open-heart surgeries", Dr. Asmat mentioned.

Patients from Balochistan used to go to Karachi and spend huge amounts to conduct open-heart surgeries in the past. "My father has recovered now", a young attendant of a patient from Noshki said. "We took our patient to Rawalpindi and Karachi and now came back", he said.

Earlier there were no trained staff, anesthetists, and surgeons to conduct open-heart surgeries at civil hospital Quetta.

"Cardiac surgery is a teamwork, which is not possible by one surgeon", Dr. Abdul Wasey mentioned. The Balochistan health



department, the medical superintendent of civil hospital Quetta, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail provided all possible support to the doctors to ensure the success of the procedure.

So far, the hospital administration has provided the required items for conducting only three operations, Dr. Wasey informed. He said the government has assured provision of more required equipment/things for conducting more operations.

"Dreams came true", Dr. Wasey said. He said five years back, they went to NICVD Karachi to get training and education to conduct open-heart surgeries. "That day came, I am very happy", Dr. Wasey said.

Balochistan health minister, Syed Ehsan Shah has appreciated the doctors for conducting two successful heart surgeries. "Present government has determined to improve health conditions in Balochistan", Mr. Shah stated.

He said young doctors would be encouraged and supported to serve the ailing humanity in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

The Balochistan government has allocated substantial funds for the health sector. However, the health sector paints a bleak picture in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan and the patients are forced to go to Karachi for medical treatment.

Lahore court orders case against Rana Sanaullah, top police officials for roughing up of lawyers

A sessions court in Lahore on Wednesday ordered the registration of a criminal case against Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and top police officials for the authorities' alleged torture of lawyers in the provincial capital on the day of the PTI's Azadi March on May 25.

The order was issued after a lawyer named Haider Majeed Advocate petitioned the court, also accusing the police of not registering a case as sought.

Barrister Hassan Niazi and other lawyers represented the petitioner, while a video of the incident was also played in the courtroom.

The petitioner sought the registration of the case against the interior minister, CCPO Lahore, DIG operations Lahore, SP Esa Sukheri (North Cantt Lahore), SP Waqar Azeem Kharal, DSP Akber Ali, SHO Asad Abbas and others.

After hearing arguments on the petition, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, Additional Sessions Judge Mian Mudassar Umar Bodla ordered the relevant station house officer to register a criminal case under Section 154 (information in cognisable cases) of the Code of Criminal Procedure and process the matter "in accordance with the law".

The court order stated that the petitioner and his colleagues were boarding their vehicle when they were pulled over by the police.

It went on to say that the petitioners were "baton-charged, humiliated, disgraced and their vehicle was damaged badly" even though they were cooperating with law enforcers. The court subsequently asked the petitioner to approach the relevant SHO with a copy of the court order to proceed with the matter. PTI Chairman Imran Khan's march for haqqeqi azadi — true freedom — was preceded by the authorities invoking of Section 144, a measure used to curb gatherings. Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan sincerely wanted to work with Turkish business fraternity to transform brotherhood into promoting bilateral trade, investment and culture.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb in a tweet, quoting the PM as saying, "We genuinely and sincerely want to work with Turkish business fraternity to transform our brotherhood into promoting our bilateral trade, investment and culture".

Prime Minister stated this while addressing Turkish Business Council in Ankara. The minister also shared pictures of the PM's address in her tweet.

'Pre-poll rigging?': Citizens question ECP over changes in polling stations

Social media has been rife with complaints in the last 48 hours that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has changed voter registration data of several citizens without informing them, with most claiming that their polling stations have been moved by the election watchdog to inconvenient locations much farther than their previous allocations.

These complaints, which also include some by those who claim their votes had been cancelled by the commission after it wrongly registered them as having died, started pouring in after the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf asked citizens to confirm their voter registration information with the ECP by messaging their Identity Card (CNIC) numbers to 8300.

Since then, dozens of Twitter users have posted screenshots of what they say are updates made to their polling stations, which have been changed from the ones allocated during the 2018 general election, and in some cases have been moved quite far away. Web Desk

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Speaking to media persons later, CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja said that the ECP had taken decisions fearlessly and will continue to do so. "If anyone gets annoyed with our decision, it is their issue but we will continue to take our decisions in line with the Constitution and the given laws," he said.

Speaking over fresh elections in the country, the CEC said that the commission was ready for the elections and it is now the responsibility of the government to decide on it.

"The Election Commission only has the mandate to hold free and fair elections," he said and added that progress on delimitation process is being expedited.

He said that the ECP has a clear stance on the census that they could not carry out delimitations without the official publication of fresh census results. "The results of 2017 census were published in 2021," he added.

He further shared that the government wanted to hold fresh census and if they receive its results by December 2022, then fresh delimitations for the elections in 2023 could be carried out timely.

Speaking on resignations of PTI MNAs, Sikandar Sultan Raja said that the deputy speaker did not forward the resignations to the ECP/INP.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Wednesday renewed the pledge to boost the bilateral ties between the two countries to new heights.

The prime minister is on a three-day visit to Turkey — his first since assuming office in April — where he will meet several Turkish officials and members of the business community.

Addressing a joint press conference after holding a tete-a-tete, PM Shehbaz said that the relationship between the two countries was embedded deep into history and shaped by shared goals.

"These ties transcend time and have continued from generation to generation," he added.

He said this year, the two countries were celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic ties.

Termining his meeting with President Erdogan very productive, the premier expressed the hope that under the dynamic leadership of the president, the bilateral ties would scale to new heights.

The Turkish president, in his remarks, said they had discussed the regional and international issues in detail.

The two sides have reaffirmed to enhance the scope of bilateral ties, he said, adding a high-level meeting would be held in Islamabad in September, which would further provide an opportunity to both countries to further foster their brotherly ties.

Earlier, the two leaders also witnessed the signing of various agreements and MoUs for enhanced cooperation in diverse areas of mutual interests.

Earlier in the day, Minister of Trade Dr Mehmet Mus called on PM Shehbaz, during which the premier underscored the importance of deepening economic engagement and realising the true potential of business, trade and investment between Pakistan and Turkey.

He noted that his visit to Turkey included engagement with the Turkish business community in order to focus on strengthening trade and investment relations. Web Desk

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Pakistan Iran agree to boost trade, ink MoU comprising 32 points

Syed Kaleem Shah

Pakistan and Iran agreed to boost bilateral trade between the two countries and inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) comprising 32 points on Wednesday. Chief Collector Customs, Pakistan Mohammad Sadiq and Iraj Hassanpur, General Manager, Industry, Mines and Trade Organization of Iran, Sistan - Balochistan signed the memorandum of understanding.

The business communities of the two countries called for the establishment of more trade routes between Pakistan and Iran to boost economic activities and bilateral trade. A two-day meeting of the 9th Joint



Border Trade Committee was held in Zahedan, Iran on Wednesday.

President Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI), Fida Hussain Dashti was leading the 23-member delegation. Chief

Collector Customs of Pakistan Muhammad Sadiq, Deputy Commissioner Chaghi Inamul Haq, DG Fisheries Tariq-ur-Rehman, DS Pakistan Railways Nisar Ahmed, Deputy Director FIA Bashir Ahmed Soomro,

and others were also part of the delegation.

Top Iranian trade officials also attended the joint border trade committee meeting, which discussed all ways and means to improve and boost trade activities at the border. During the meeting, Fida Hussain Dashti, President, of the Quetta Chamber of Commerce, briefed the participants on the current state of trade and difficulties on the Pak-Iran border.

Mr. Dashti said that Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly Islamic neighbors with a long border trade chain. It has been present in some form and it is also innovating with each passing day but even today there is a need for a conducive environment for business

activities, the President QCCI stated.

The two sides underlined the need for building more trade gateways for the business communities and people. For Mashkeel, Panjur and Bilangur in Kech district, it was suggested to set up industrial zones at Mirjawa and Ramdan border on the Iranian side while Taftan and Kaldan border on the Pakistani side. It was agreed to create more facilities in which the two countries decided to increase trade routes and encourage traders for free trade. The meeting also requested the Iranian authorities to increase the supply of electricity in Makran to address the grievances of the people of Panjur, Turbat, and Gwadar.

Women role crucial for socio-economic development of Balochistan: Major General Inayat

News Desk

GWADAR: General Officer Commanding (GOC) 44 Division, Major General Inayat Hussain has termed the role of women crucial for the development of Balochistan. The GOC visited the Women Degree College Gwadar along with the Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Jamil Ahmed on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Major General Inayat Hussain stated that women's education was important since they play an important role in the prosperity of the country and nation.

He emphasized the importance of education and appreciated the efforts of the college administration and teachers for the education of women in the area. He especially praised the courage and strength of the women of Balochistan who have dispelled the impression that the solution to the problems of the society is not possible at the local level.

Major General Ayat Hussain urged the women of the province to encourage the new generation to come out of the cage of feeling deprived and fly in the open air with the spirit of positive competition.

In present-day Balochistan, women are coming forward from all walks of life and showcasing their talents. He termed other important projects including CPEC as hopeful to alleviate the sense of deprivation in Balochistan.

The GOC distributed laptops among the students who excelled in the examinations and stressed the need for the students to dedicate all their abilities to pursue education in the future.

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Court convicts, fines Ali Gul Kurd Rs.632 million in a mega corruption case

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: An Accountability Court in Quetta convicted and fined a serving grade-20 officer, Ali Gul Kurd in a mega corruption case on Wednesday morning. Judge of the Accountability Court, Aftab Ahmed Lone convicted Ali Gul Kurd of seven years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs.632 million in the corruption case.

Kurd had served as the managing director of the Pasni Fish Harbour. After the judgment, the police arrested the accused and shifted him to the district jail in Quetta.

The Accountability Court ordered the confiscation of plazas, land and other properties in the judgment. Prosecutor Mohammad Dawood Jan represented NAB Balochistan during the case proceedings.

During the investigation carried out by NAB Balochistan against the DG Treasury and Accounts Ali Gul Kurd, it was revealed that the accused had built four commercial plazas



worth billions of rupees on Samangali Road, a posh area of the city.

Further investigations revealed that the accused was the owner of several acres of land situated in Quetta and Mastung district, 90 flats and 25 shops and a wedding hall.

It is worth mentioning here that the accused started his government service in Grade 17 after passing the Balochistan Public Service Commission examination in 1995 and held important positions including Director PDMA, Director Sports Board, DG Treasury and Accounts and MD Pasni Fish Harbor while recently he was asked to report to the Service and General Administration Department.

Quetta Accountability Court Judge Aftab Ahmed Lone recently convicted Imran Gachki, a serving secretary of the Balochistan government, in an illegal assets worth million of rupee case. This is a major sentence handed down to the MD Pasni Fish Harbor, a Grade 20 service officer, after the conviction awarded to the Secretary Finance Mushtaq Raisani in the recent past.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

LBs results Balochistan: independents won thumping majority

Independents' overwhelming majority in the recently held local bodies elections in Balochistan put a question mark over the performance of political parties. In a major shift, so far, independents have won 1882 seats of councilors across Balochistan.

Around a dozen political parties have won less than, the independents' seats as per the unofficial and unconfirmed results of over 3,000 seats. Over 17,000 candidates were contesting for 4,556 councilors' seats in 32 districts of Balochistan.

Independents' victory gives more questions than answers. Despite being in politics for decades, why have the political parties failed to reach out to the masses at the grassroots level? LBs polls portray a true political picture of Balochistan since no serious allegations of elections fraud were reported and no major untoward incident took place. In the past, elections in Balochistan were always marred by major terror attacks against candidates and voters.

Also, read this: LBs polls Balochistan: Independents secure more seats than 10 political parties

Almost all political parties accepted the results and declared victories in their respective strongholds. When we speak about independents, it means we speak about individuals and personalities. When individuals and personalities penetrate among the masses and address their issues, then, the majority of the people set aside political ideologies. This is a bitter reality in today's politics. Some may not agree with this.

Look at the victory of Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman's Gwadar Right Movement, which swept elections in Gwadar confronting the four-parties alliance including the Balochistan National Party (Mengal), National Party (NP), Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) and Pakistan National Party (PNP).

Indeed, no dearth of political workers who ignore perks and privileges and toe their respective political parties' ideological lines. Although, recent poll results show, that the number of such political workers was less.

The political parties have to revisit and review their strategy in this regard. Above all, the elections were peaceful except few violent acts among rival political groups in Chaghi, Noshki, Dera Murad Jamal, and Chaman. By and large, the government and masses succeeded in holding peaceful elections.

Continuity of the system will improve the system further. Now it is about time to grant all constitutional, administrative and financial powers to the local governments so that they could serve the country and nation in a better way.

The people need help

By Abdul Sattar

In the current political milieu, the democratic credentials of Pakistan Democratic Movement's leaders are perhaps the strongest. They waged a relentless struggle against the hybrid regime of former prime minister Imran Khan, upholding the principle of the supremacy of civilian rule and the constitution.

During this struggle their leaders suffered a lot with Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz facing incarceration while Hamza and Shahbaz appeared in court after court to deal with what they called politically motivated corruption charges. The leaders of the PPP were also implicated in various cases, running from one court to another to attend hearings. They were not even allowed adequate treatment.

Late senator Usman Kakar, also of the PDM, never minced any words when talking about non-democratic forces and violators of the constitution. He believed that a strong federation could only be possible by strengthening provinces and granting them provincial autonomy. Late Mir Hasil Bizenjo of the National Party also remained steadfast in his struggle for the supremacy of the constitution and civilian rule.

Defying all odds, he took on those who wanted to subvert the constitution. Bizenjo also faced concocted cases and harassment but such sledgehammer tactics could not deter him from expressing his unflinching loyalty to the constitution of the Islamic Republic.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman also improved his democratic credentials by siding with democratic forces. He managed to evolve consensus among the components of the alliance on a minimum agenda. He also rejected all covert or overt offers to switch loyalty; his home constituency was snatched from him but he refused to cave in to the pressure of undemocratic forces.

The alliance also highlighted the plight of the people, who they claim were pushed towards hunger and starvation by the Kaptana. They were quick to point out the phenomenal surge in medicines prices, were relentless in their criticism of Khan's handling of foreign affairs and lambasted the PTI for showering favour on cronies and friends by doling out contracts.

The PDM had claimed it would be a help to the people of the country who witnessed nothing but economic hardships under Khan. But to their

utter surprise, the new government dropped a petrol bomb. The specter of a raised power tariff is also haunting them which will not only hit industries but also those living on the bottom layer of social stratification. Amidst all this, Prime Minister Shehbaz announced a paltry sum of Rs28 billion for the poor, which is not likely to make much difference to their lives.

Instead of receiving any massive support, all the people got was the rhetoric of Shehbaz and the chicanery of Hamza who are laying every blame on the door of their predecessor, making no effort to address the myriad of challenges faced by the country.

The current ruling elite seems to be as indifferent to people's plight as the former one. One example of this indifference could be seen in Hamza's speech in Bahawalpur where he promised to provide internet facilities to the youth of a region that is dying for water. Thousands of people have badly been affected in Cholistan and other parts of the Seraiki region but instead of extending any genuine relief, the ruling elite is organizing large public gatherings allegedly with state resources to rant about their political

rivals.

The chief executive of Punjab should rather have come up with a comprehensive plan to address the water shortage in an area that has been under their rule for decades now. They should have responded to the criticism of those who assert that the N League always turned a blind eye to the backwardness of the Seraiki region, pumping all money into the development of Lahore. Now, with the public gathering being over, should we expect that the desert area will not suffer droughts and that in case of any natural calamity a smooth supply of water would be ensured?

His father was not any different in resorting to rhetoric and making bizarre claims.

Addressing a gathering in Manshehra, the prime minister made a ridiculous assertion of selling his clothes for extending relief to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In the past his Sasti Roti, Danish schools and a number of other projects miserably failed. His political home Punjab still houses the largest number of stunted children, out-of-school children and victims of child labour and bonded labour. The province that he ruled like a king for years through commis-

sioners and deputy commissioners instead of elected local bodies' representatives is the abode of a majority of poor Pakistanis, speaking volumes about his much-vaunted efforts for lifting people out of poverty.

If the PDM government really wants to make any difference to the lives of 220 million people, it should come up with a concrete plan to lift over 60 million people out of poverty, put 25 million out-of-school children back in school, provide shelter to over 67 per cent Pakistanis who lack this basic need and ensure supply of pure drinking water to over 80 per cent of Pakistanis who are bereft of this precious blessing.

Leaking reports to the media, claiming the prime minister wakes up early in the morning or presides over meetings even in a plane will not change ground realities. Putting an end to the squandering of public money on political gatherings, halting unnecessary foreign trips, diverting state resources towards health, education, decent housing, sanitation and environment instead of capital-intensive mega projects would go some way in alleviating the suffering of the people.

A change for the worse

By Hussain H Zaidi

Prior to the exit of Imran Khan, in 1989 a no-trust motion was voted upon against the then prime minister Benazir Bhutto. The contrasting manners in which the ruling party of the day reacted to the no-trust motion on each occasion is a grim pointer to the direction in which our politics has moved since 1989 – by all accounts, a turn for the worse.

In a parliamentary democracy, the executive is the creation of parliament. Being the chief executive, the prime minister must enjoy the confidence of the majority of the popularly-elected legislature – in our case the National Assembly. That is the reason one of the first agenda items after the election of the presiding officers in a newly elected parliament is to ascertain who enjoys the confidence of the majority of the members.

In some countries, as in India, the prime minister is appointed by the president. After his/her appointment, the prime minister is bound to seek a vote of confidence from the popular chamber within the stipulated period. In case he fails to do so, he has to call it quits. In India, in 1996, Atal Bihari Vajpayee stepped down as premier only a fortnight after being sworn in having failed to win the vote of confidence from the Lok Sabha.

Taking due cognizance of this fundamental convention of parliamentary

form of government, Article 91 (3) of the constitution of Pakistan states: "After the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, the National Assembly shall, to the exclusion of any other business, proceed to elect without debate one of its Muslim members to be the Prime Minister." Clause (4) of the same article adds: "The Prime Minister shall be elected by the votes of the majority of the total membership of the National Assembly."

Logically, if the National Assembly by a majority can elect a member as prime minister, it can also vote them out. Hence, Article 95 of the constitution stipulates that if a motion of no-confidence is passed by a majority of the total membership of the National Assembly, the prime minister shall cease to hold office. Thus the popularly elected assembly's power to vote out the prime minister is an essential, non-negotiable feature of parliamentary democracy.

Coming back to Pakistan, in a power struggle, prime ministers have generally been whumped by powerful presidents. However, prior to April 10, 2022 no prime minister had ever been voted out on the floor of the house. The only prime minister who had come close to being voted out was Benazir Bhutto.

The election of the charismatic Benazir Bhutto in 1988 marked the eclipse of a long,

dark era of despotism, against which she had spearheaded a popular movement. Though it had emerged as the single largest party in the national elections, her party, the PPP, fell short of a clear majority and could form the government only with the help of smaller/regional parties and independents, and having reached a power-sharing deal with the then president and other powerful stakeholders. However, all along the weak coalition hung by a thread.

Things came to a head in 1989 when the opposition tabled a non-confidence motion against Benazir Bhutto. In view of the thin majority of the ruling coalition in the National Assembly, the outcome of the motion was anybody's guess. That said, Benazir Bhutto dealt with the opposition's move with all grace and dignity befitting a democratically elected leader. At no point did she term the motion an international conspiracy, although being a leader of international stature, she could have contrived a conspiracy theory without much ado. Her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, it may be mentioned, is widely believed to have been a victim of such a conspiracy.

Nor did she, or any other leader from her party, use abusive language against her opponents, much less accuse them of being morally bankrupt or traitors. She did strongly criticize the

opposition for what she called their undemocratic tactics and allegedly trying to purchase loyalties of her parliamentarians. In return, she took the flak for having allegedly resorted to similar tactics. At that time, the constitution didn't embody provisions against floor-crossing by the legislators and so they were absolutely free to move from one party to another.

It is widely believed that the strings of the opposition, which was led by the then Punjab chief minister and future prime minister Nawaz Sharif, were pulled by the then president Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK). But Benazir Bhutto didn't point an accusing finger at state institutions. Nor did she threaten the members of her party who were suspected of defecting, or their families, of dire consequences. To top it all, despite being a hugely popular leader, she didn't seek to defeat the no-confidence motion through a show of strength on the streets. Being a leader who was well-steeped in democratic conventions, she knew well that, far from being an aberration, a non-trust motion was an integral part of the parliamentary form of government.

Equally graceful was the role of the then speaker of the National Assembly and veteran politician, Malik Meraj Khalid, who had already won accolades for conducting the business of

the house in a completely impartial way, as he was supposed to do as per the spirit of his high office. At no point during the whole episode did he demonstrate that he was taking sides. Instead, he went by the book and allowed the no-trust motion to take its logical course. The highest court of the land didn't have to intervene to ensure that the motion was put to vote.

The no-trust motion was defeated by only 12 votes and Prime Minister Bhutto survived. But the cards had already been stacked against her. In a few months, she was sacked by president GIK, by invoking the now-defunct Article 58 (2-b) of the constitution. In a game of fluctuating fortunes, three years later she was back in the saddle having sunk her differences with the same GIK. Politicians can always have more than one bite on the cherry; so political battles may not be taken as a matter of life and death.

The logical question which the events preceding the exit of Imran Khan has given rise to is this: why has politics become such a squalid affair in Pakistan? Certainly, the advent of the 24/7 TV channels and the presence of a ubiquitous social media provide sufficient ammunition to politicians and their supporters to heap slur on their opponents to their heart's content. But the media, mainstream or social, isn't the prime culprit.

Civil war?

By Donald Earl Collins

People like Payton Gendron, Dyllann Roof, Patrick Wood Crusius and Robert Bowers all clearly think they are engaged in a civil war of a sort.

Their acts of racist and xenophobic terrorism have aimed to cover the potential political and economic power a Black and Brown majority population in the US could wield by the 2040s.

Roof, Crusius, Gendron and so many others hold a collective belief in the so-called Great Replacement Theory. They willed themselves to slaughter Black worshippers at church service, Jewish worshippers at temple, Latin shoppers at a Walmart, and white protesters against police lethality. These heinous acts are their way of saying that white men are at war with this changing US. For them, the very existence of white people and Western civilisation, American style is at stake.

The self-described "eco-fascist national socialist's" murder of Black folks in zip code 14208 was merely one skirmish in the civil war playing out in his and others' minds. Many who are Black, Brown, and Indigenous – queer and straight – have already sensed this change in the world. It certainly is reflected in

the so-called manifestos and everyday posts of these mass killers. Gendron was partly correct when he said in the Q-and-A section of his blatherings that he is not a "mainstream, party-affiliated conservative." "No, conservatism is corporatism in disguise, I want no part of it... conservatism is dead," he wrote.

Gendron was also correct in identifying himself as a "fascist". He sees himself and his homicidal compadres as united through fascism, because it "is one of the only political ideologies that will unite Whites against the replacers". Fascists aren't just ultra-conservative, racist, misogynistic, and queer-phobic. They're also reactionaries, folks who ultimately want a fantastical reset of society in their favour and glory, often through the use of violence.

As Americans have seen increasingly over the past 15 years, there are scores of politicians across the US who espouse similar views. Many already see themselves in rebellion against the greedy politics of both parties and refuse to accept a nation many once saw as a "white man's country" turning into a majority-of-colour land. They are yearning for the days when parties ran on slogans like "White Man's Country. Let White Men Rule" (the Democratic

ticket's slogan in the 1868 Presidential Election).

So many Americans have labeled Gendron's shoot-em-up spree as yet another example of a hate-fueled racist incident perpetrated by a mentally-ill person. But racism is fundamentally about power and wealth – it is the exploitation of the marginalised with the assurance that those who are marginalised will never hold enough power to negate the power and wealth of those who benefit from racism every day.

Hate is the residue of this constant quest, especially among the white males who believe in white supremacy nakedly and narcissistically. Hate is just the tip of a gigantic iceberg. Gendron's ideas may seem fringe, and his actions sickening and abhorrent, but they are not stemming from a mental illness, a toothache, or some other individualised excuse. No, terrorism through violent racism has always been a part of the American fabric, from slavery to chain gangs, from beatings to lynchings to vigilantes and police officers.

The Gendrons, Bowers and Crusius of the US have dialled it up a few degrees, and already see themselves at war, with Americans of colour and Jews, with everyone who isn't a white male supremacist.

Mad, bad and dangerous to know

By Dr Naazir Mahmood

When Lady Caroline Lamb described Lord Byron – one of the greatest English poets – as "mad, bad, and dangerous to know", she was of course sharing her personal impressions of Byron.

This expression comes to mind when you look at today's Pakistan and find an entire breed of people who seem to be 'mad, bad, and dangerous to know'. For ease of conversation, let's call them MBD here. There are multiple factors that have contributed to the emergence of this phenomenon among some Pakistanis living at home or abroad. They have made plenty of observers seem clueless about what shape this anomaly would take next. They let rip at the slightest provocation – or even without it. Mostly they are instigated by their leaders who are equally clueless and ready to let rip. What they did in Madina on April 28 is just one example of their uncontrollable behaviour that they have become prone to display.

MBD is not a new phenomenon: we have seen such cases both nationally and internationally. The trick of their leaders is to make such behaviour appear perfectly normal. Some commentators have made comparisons with fascist and Nazi tendencies in Italy and Germany in the first half of the 20th century. We may also recall the Altaf-Hussain times in Karachi, when he unleashed a reign of terror on all who disagreed with him or dared to raise a voice of dissent.

The prime span of fascism and Nazism was

nearly 25 years, after which their steam was snuffed out. Nearly all followers of these ideologies were mad, bad, and dangerous to know. They wreaked havoc within their homelands and on their own people, and they would have continued with their destructive behaviour for decades to come. Even after an end to their violent extremism, their remnants are still around and reemerge here and there with their fossilized thinking patterns and a potential to erupt any moment.

Specific to Pakistan, this intolerance was pioneered by the state itself. A curious and dispassionate reading of history makes facts clear, which Pakistan Studies textbooks tend to hide. Though it will be a slight exaggeration to blame everything on the state, there is ample evidence that state policies and practices cultivate – to a great extent – ideas of self-righteousness and narcissism among common citizens, through education and propaganda. The state loves to nurture birds that fly blind, and this flight leads them to mostly wrong destinations. Authoritarianism or pluralism, democracy or dictatorship, humility or hubris, prejudice or tolerance – all are there to crush or groom. The state makes most decisions about where to lead the nation. There are bursts of affection for certain personalities that develop personality cults.

Does this have anything to do with dogmas, religiosity and sectarianism? Of course. The more dogmas are propagated,

the more intolerant people tend to become. Dogma means a blind faith in unquestionable ideologies and personalities. If there is one ideology you can't question, there will soon be more of the same ilk. When you revere a personality at the cost of a more balanced assessment of personal traits, there are greater chances of more leaders emerging with the same claims of infallibility. It becomes a kind of a crusade for their followers to defend their leader at all costs, no matter how destructive or dumb that person may be.

The question is: why does a state nurture or tolerate such mad, bad, and dangerous behaviour? Perhaps the answer lies in understanding the nature of the state itself. In countries such as Pakistan there is always a cosseted elite embedded in the state itself. This elite comes from diverse sections of society: bureaucrats, capitalists, feudal lords, generals, industrialists, judges, and many more. If they are not from the existing elite, the state co-opts them for its own and their benefit. They are mostly complacent in their own attitudes and want to keep the people engaged in one preoccupation or the other.

These elites are safe in their own guarded compounds and their well-defended capital – or they think so. The country carries on its downward spiral from which it always struggles to emerge. When people are exposed to excessive chauvinism, ideological and narcissistic overdoses, religiosity, sectarianism, and xeno-

phobia, they seldom think about their real problems such as illiteracy, unemployment, lack of public healthcare, and shortage of power and water. The elite that composes the state itself is unaffected by these problems and sits comfortably while the people are fed with personality cults and chant slogans against purported enemies. Gradually, malign forces in society take a deep hold of the people who fail to understand the real conspiracies within – while believing in imaginary conspiracies from outer lands. It may be Afghanistan, America, India, or even Iran, hatching sinister plans against Pakistan while our own elite is safe and sound; bugging up nearly all sectors of society from education to health to power to security and water and sanitation, and what not. That's how the mad, bad, and dangerous behaviour thrives. There are segments of society that pose a lingering threat to the constitution, democracy, financial stability, and overall health of society but the elite in power does not consider them a threat to itself. Amid this chaos emerge authoritarian personalities who may be from civilian or military backgrounds. They offer precise solutions to imprecise challenges. Such leaders master the art of grabbing people's attention without disabusing them of their false notions. People tend to overlook their leaders' abusive language, their acerbic tongues with brimstone rhetoric. Once these leaders come to power, they try to stack

the country's institutions with pliant people. They bully political opponents, criticize media outlets that refuse to support the great leader, and curb freedoms of assembly and expression.

They develop a mad, bad, and dangerous following that targets even a flicker of resistance. Such people are irrelevant in the broader scheme of things both nationally and internationally – but assume an air of importance as if the whole world is conspiring against them. They struggle to become relevant, and while doing so they inflict even more harm to their country internally – and to its standing externally. Their system of thinking is premised upon a desire to dominate; this desire underpins nearly all their acts, including violence. They try to sound impressive but lack substance. Then what should the state do? An immediate solution is legal proceedings against them. But, unless there is a realization that we need to democratize our society as a whole through education and economic opportunities, there is hardly anything that can control this mad, bad, and dangerous to know lot. Democratization does not mean just holding elections; and modernization is not just reflected in constructing bridges and buildings. What is needed is a democratic outlook that is opposed to authoritarianism; and a modern education that is not chauvinistic, conservative and sectarian. The state needs to initiate and promote a culture of dialogue in education.

Selling lies

By Nick Licata

We are in an era of disinformation. That term is

thrown around by all political persuasions to accuse their opponents of not being truthful. The systematic dissemination of disinformation, however, is more than just lying. It is a political strategy in a war to take control of public power. Its intended purpose is to create confusion, which leads to rejecting government institutions entrusted to deliberate over verifiable facts.

There is a significant difference between lying about a particular action or product and a disinformation campaign to undermine public trust in a democratic republic. A classic example of the former is how the tobacco industry lied or created doubt about scientific findings that demonstrated that smoking caused lung and cardiac diseases. Up to the mid-Fifties, the tobacco industry had succeeded in elevating smoking to be one of the most popular, successful, and widely used items of the early 20th century.

In response to the mounting evidence that smoking cigarettes damaged one's health, the tobacco industry hired the nation's lead-

ing public relations firm. The industry followed the consultant's advice and focused its efforts on disrupting the usual processes of knowledge production in medicine, science, and public health. Consequently, the leading tobacco companies embraced the scientific discourse that assumes there is always more to know. The tobacco industry's strategy was to exaggerate that principle in order to spread doubt and uncertainty about the known facts. The tobacco industry's campaign did not attack the validity of scientific institutions to analyze the facts; instead, they accused scientists of not wanting to find the correct data.

Eventually, the tobacco industry lost its battle by paying over \$206 billion through a court settlement. However, that punishment was only achievable because it was delivered by an independent court system that fairly weighed the facts.

Borrowing a page from the tobacco playbook, Donald Trump has not directly attacked the concept of democracy; instead, he undermines the credibility of democratic institutions by accusing them of not treating him and his supporters fairly. For example, he

attacked Congress for not throwing out Biden's electoral votes, and he condemned the courts for their tossing out his 60 cases challenging the outcome of the election. His repeated message was that the election was rigged.

All politicians and political parties can be justly accused of lying from time to time about their accomplishments or their intent to accomplish things they have no power to do. However, past efforts from major political players have stayed within a sandbox of playing with democratic institutions.

Trump stepped outside that sandbox on the night of the 2022 presidential election when he tweeted, "This election is a total sham and a travesty. We are not a democracy!" He mistakenly thought that Obama had won the election without the majority popular vote.

Four years later, Trump won his presidential election without winning the popular vote, but he didn't mention that fact. Instead, when the polls indicated that he might lose the 2016 election to Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton, he claimed it would have been rigged if she had won. Then,

IHC seeks reply from respondents in Imaan Mazari case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday sought a reply from the respondents in Imaan Mazari 'derogatory' remarks case...

fixed in an alleged fake case, the lawyer said and added that she is ready to join the investigation whenever it is needed...

insubordination by soldier) and 505 (Statements conducive to public mischief). Humayun Akhtar is the representative of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) branch of the General Headquarters (GHQ)...



ISLAMABAD: Chris Kaye, Country Director World Food Program, calls on Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety.

PM, Turkish FM discuss ways to strengthen bilateral ties

ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has underscored the importance of increasing bilateral trade volume to 5 billion dollars over the next three years.

Foreign Minister in advancing bilateral relations and for playing an important role in strengthening existing institutional mechanisms of cooperation between the two countries.

Tayyip Erdogan, terming it a role model for other nations.

The Turkish foreign minister said Turkey and Pakistan had deep-rooted relations and expressed his government's desire to strengthen ties in multifarious areas.

On Afghanistan, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of addressing the dire humanitarian situation, release of Afghan assets to help stabilize the economy, and continued efforts for sustainable peace and stability in the country.

He thanked the Turkish Foreign Minister for his country's principled policy on Jammu and Kashmir.

PM welcomes Turkish businessmen to Pakistan's energy and agro-industrial sectors

ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday invited Turkish investors to explore Pakistan's diverse sectors, particularly the energy sector, which offers immense opportunities and scope for development.

overview of the economic and investment opportunities in Pakistan, the prime minister highlighted his focus on energy, housing, textiles, infrastructure development, agro-based industry, and oil and gas sectors.

and global value chains. He also invited Turkish firms involved in the agro-industrial sector and dairy farming, stating that there were plenty of opportunities in these sectors.

The prime minister addressed the Pakistan-Turkey Business Council under the DEIK - Foreign Economic Relations Board, where he said Pakistan's energy sector, with its vast potential in hydel, thermal, coal, wind, and solar areas, could prove ideal for Turkish investors.

Turkey relations are built on unbreakable bonds of love, affection, and respect as the two countries share a history, century-old tradition, and common aspirations.

The prime minister stressed that Pakistani and Turkish companies could also work together in the oil and gas sector. They could collaborate not only in exploration and production but in building refineries and pipelines, he said.

PM Sharif said a number of leading Turkish investors had already made investments in Pakistan and assured them of full cooperation by his government to pursue their projects.

He mentioned that the two nations always stood with each other at all times, and added that their relations were marked by extreme cordiality and exceptional mutual trust.

Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the priorities of his government, saying that addressing the challenges of industrial sustainability, particularly in view of the global fourth industrial revolution, was significant.

He said, given the growing energy needs and high global energy prices, Pakistan directly needed improvement in its energy sector and emphasized that Turkish investment would be a win-win situation.

He also emphasized that Turkish textile companies could explore the sector for joint ventures, especially for intra-industry trade as well as becoming partners in regional

He said Pakistan, with its huge youth bulge, could undergo remarkable progress and development in various sectors of public importance.

He said that Turkey could help Pakistan save water by teaching them how to build and run dams. In giving an

overview of the economic and investment opportunities in Pakistan, the prime minister highlighted his focus on energy, housing, textiles, infrastructure development, agro-based industry, and oil and gas sectors.

At the meeting, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Minister for Commerce and Investment Syed Naveed Qamar, and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb were present.



QUETTA Security personals directed to remove tinted papers from vehicles at Saryab Road during high alert security in Provincial Capital.

Imran says will announce long march date after SC verdict

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday said he will announce the long march date after Supreme Court's verdict.

Town massacre, the ousted prime minister said Shehbaz Sharif and Rana Sanaullah should have been behind the bars for allegedly passing orders to kill 14 people in the Model Town.

minister said the date for a long march towards Islamabad will be announced after the verdict of the Supreme Court as PTI has moved to the top court for the protection of the marchers.

"We have moved SC for the protection of long march," Imran Khan said while addressing the social media workers in Peshawar. The court has been asked how come 'criminals' be allowed to do shelling on the marchers, Khan said.

Rana Sanaullah is being held responsible for the murder of 22 people by his own party colleague. They are trying to harass the people again.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has approached the Supreme Court of Pakistan against arrests and blockades during the long march led by party chairman Imran Khan and asked the apex court to provide protection against these tactics in future.

Imran Khan said those who are facing corruption cases of billions of rupees are ruling Pakistan again.

He appreciated the rule of social media workers for covering the Azadi Long March and thanked families for attending the march.

The PTI in its plea asked the apex court to direct federal and provincial governments against violent measures against the peaceful marchers in future besides also issuing directives to the inspector generals of police (IGs) against the arrest of leaders and activists of the PTI.

"We will never accept this 'imported' government, Imran Khan said and asked the participants to carry on the moment against the incumbent government as they are participating in Jihad.

Imran Khan said that Pakistan will prosper when the alleged ruling corrupts will be defeated.

The former prime minister said the date for a long march towards Islamabad will be announced after the verdict of the Supreme Court as PTI has moved to the top court for the protection of the marchers.

Chinese scientist suggests organic farming methods to enhance Pakistan's mango production

BEIJING: "We must reduce the use of chemical fertilizers so organic farming methods such as fermented farmyard manure and returning straw to the field are worthy of promotion, by which can also effectively cope with the high price and shortage of local fertilizers.

Economic Net (CEN). He noted that the harvest season for Pakistani mangoes already started. This kind of fruit famed for strong flavor, high sweetness and fine fiber has long been favored by the world market.

Some professionals have given even less optimistic forecasts. "This year, mango production may be confined to 0.9 million tonnes from 1.8 million tonnes last year," according to All Pakistan Fruit and Veggie/Exporters Association (PFVA) Patron in Chief Waheed Ahmed Ho, what is the root cause? Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Chairman Dr Ghulam Ali indicated that the early arrival of summer and abnormal high temperature did not allow the crop to get the required time for the process of fruiting.

"We are very willing to share our experience with the Pakistani friends in this connection." This was stated by Wang Yan, General Manager of China's Yangling Qingfeng Garden Dragon Fruit Demonstration Base, in an exclusive with China

According to an official of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Pakistan last year produced around 1.7 to 1.8 million tons of mango, but this year, he said mango production in the country might face a 30 percent reduction.

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Another PTI dissident appeals SC to annul disqualifications by ECP

ISLAMABAD: Aisha Nawaz, one of the dissident MPAs of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Wednesday appealed to the Supreme Court to suspend disqualifications of 25 dissident PTI MPAs by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) till the apex court's decision.

Aisha Nawaz was the second PTI dissident to move to the Supreme Court after Zahra Batool who had also filed an appeal on May 30 last praying the apex court to reverse the disqualifications.

Shehzad Shaukat appointed as Punjab advocate general

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Mian Baligur Rehman on Wednesday appointed Shehzad Shaukat as the new advocate general.

A notification was also issued by the law ministry in this regard. His appointment comes after the Punjab government recently removed Advocate General Ahmad Awais from his position.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Notice inviting tender for construction of BHUAT KHAKHOIZEHRI. Includes details on approved cost, description of work, and submission procedures.



QUETTA: Members of All Baluchistan Elementary School teachers hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club.

Pakistan can learn from China's practices in dairy sector: Badar uz Zaman

EIJING: Pakistan is the world's top five largest milk producers, with over 60 million tons of milk production each year.

sector, said Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor Pakistani Embassy here on Wednesday.

Pakistani dairy products and milk are of high-quality and low price, from which Chinese enterprises can benefit through investing.

PUBLIC NOTICE (DHA QUETTA)

Defence Housing Authority Quetta has been offered land for sale as per following details by Saifullah Khan S/o Haji Mirza Khan through Ghulam Farooq son of Ghulam Sarwar.

Table with columns: Mouza, Khawat No., Khatooni No., Khasra No., Area. Lists land parcels for sale in Khushkaba Karak.

Public notice regarding land sale and contact information for Ghulam Farooq. Includes phone numbers and address details.

Pervaiz Elahi elaborates Punjab MPAs' action plan against police torture

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has elaborated the action plan of the members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) against police torture, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

Pervaiz Elahi said that the Punjab MPAs will take action against police torture and the inspector general (IG) and chief secretary will be summoned before the privilege committee to penalise them.

He made the statement while talking to a lawyers' delegation led by Advocate of the Supreme Court Jahangir A Jhoja - the former president of Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA).

The senior politician and the delegation members exchanged views on the current political situation of the country and the constitutional crisis in Punjab.

He blamed IG and the chief secretary for playing a major role in targeting and torturing the Punjab MPAs. Pervaiz Elahi added that the European Union (EU) and Commonwealth countries are likely to bring a resolution against the illegal action.

The Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) top leader said that he does not believe in any

assurance of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N). He added that Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz would face ouster from the office after a no-confidence motion.

He added that they are waiting for the court's verdict, on the other hand, Hamza Shahbaz is not meeting the 20 turncoats of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) who are willing to get party ticket of PML-N. Regarding the political situation in the Centre, Pervaiz Elahi said that both Imran Khan and Maryam Nawaz are demanding fresh elections. He said that the rulers will face severe political outcomes if they choose to arrest Imran Khan. He praised Imran Khan for ending the Islamabad long march to avoid bloodshed in the country. He said that the political crisis in Punjab will be ended after the ouster of Hamza Shahbaz. Highlighting an illegitimate move, the politician questioned how a National Assembly (NA) speaker can administer the oath to the chief minister which is the jurisdiction of a governor. The PML-Q leader condemned the police brutality against PTI protestors by resorting to direct firing at them and tear-gassing the marchers which led to three deaths. He also condemned the attack on Dr Yasmin Rashid - a cancer patient and senior politician of PTI - during PTI's long march by Punjab police officials. INP

Saudi Arabia changes Covid guidelines for Hajj pilgrims

KARACHI: Saudi Arabia has issued fresh COVID guidelines for Hajj pilgrims travelling to the Kingdom and warned airlines of strict action in case of violations.

The fresh guidelines were issued by the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) Saudi Arabia, directing the airlines including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to ensure that Hajj pilgrims carry a COVID test report conducted 72 hours prior to the flight.

Previously, the pilgrims were asked to carry a report of the COVID test conducted 48 hours prior to the flight. The GACA warned of strict actions against airlines if rules are flouted.

It further reminded that all pilgrims visiting the kingdom should be below the age of 65.

It is pertinent to mention here that the national flag carrier - Pakistan International Airline (PIA) - will begin this year's Hajj flight operations from June 6.

According to PIA spokesperson, the first Hajj flight will depart for Madina from Islamabad on June 6. PIA said the Hajj flights to Saudi Arabia would fly to Jeddah and Madinah.

"The national flag carrier will operate overall 400 pre and post-Hajj flights from May 31 to August 13," Pakistan's national flag carrier said in a statement.

Hajj operation will be carried out from 8 cities of Pakistan including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Multan, Peshawar and Quetta, the statement read.

The PIA will operate Boeing-777 for Hajj operations while Airbus A-320 would be used for flight operations from Quetta, according to

the spokesperson.

Hajj quota According to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, 31,253 aspiring pilgrims will perform the pilgrimage this year under govt scheme as Pakistan was given the quota of 86,000 pilgrims in 2022. The names of 32,000 successful applicants will be announced after balloting in accordance with the 40 per cent government quota.

Hajj pilgrims under the government scheme will arrive in Saudi Arabia via PIA, Air Blue, Serene Air and Saudi Air.

The quota for pilgrims has been divided into 60% and 40% for private and government tour operators respectively, it was learnt.

It has been further recommended to charge Rs945,000 for government-facilitated Hajj while private tour operators will be allowed to charge above Rs1.2 million for the pilgrimage.

It is to be noted that Saudi Arabia has allotted the second-highest quota of Hajj pilgrims to Pakistan after the Kingdom allowed one million people to perform the holy pilgrimage this year.

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ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing during "All Parties Consultative Conference on Kashmir Issue" at Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council Secretariat in Federal Capital.

Sh Rasheed granted bail in two cases over vandalizing in long march

ISLAMABAD: Former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed has been granted bail in two cases pertaining to vandalizing during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) May 25 long march.

The local court took up the bail plea of Sheikh Rasheed in two cases pertaining to vandalizing during PTI's long march. Sessions Judge Kamran Basharat Mufti granted bail to the former federal minister against surety bond of Rs 5,000 each.

The court also summoned the police for June 13 along with the record. INP

Babar Bharwana, Ikramullah Khan administered oath as ECP members

ISLAMABAD: All vacant positions of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) have been filled after Babar Hassan Bharwana and Justice (ret'd) Ikramullah Khan on Wednesday took oath as new members of ECP.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Election Commission Secretariat while Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja administered the oath to the new members and the function was attended by Election Commission members, Secretary Election Commission, former Secretary Election Commission Kanwar Dilshad, and family members of the members.

Earlier, President Arif Alvi on Monday appointed Babar Hassan Bharwana and Justice (ret'd) Ikramullah Khan as members of the ECP from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, respectively.

Both the positions fell vacant due to the retirement of Justice (R) Altaf Ibrahim Qureshi (member Punjab) and Justice (R) Irshad Qaiser (member KP). INP

Registrar's Office objects to PTI's request for permission to protest

ISLAMABAD: The Registrar's Office objected to the PTI's long march petition in the Supreme Court and said that the SC has already ruled on the point raised in the petition.

According to sources, the objection stated that a case cannot be re-heard once it has been decided. The petitioner did not approach the relevant forum. Despite the availability of alternative forums, the Supreme Court was approached.

The Registrar's Office objected and referred the matter to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for a final decision.

Earlier, PTI filed a petition in Supreme Court seeking court's permission for Islamabad long march. Ali Zafer Advocate submitted the petition in the Supreme Court on behalf of PTI Secretary General Asad Umar, while the Interior Ministry, IG Islamabad and Home Secretaries were mentioned as the parties.

The petition referring to the Pakistan's constitution added that it is the right of every citizen to protest as the constitution of Pakistan grants the right of peaceful protest and also as per Article 4, all citizens have equal rights. INP

Congratulations to Miranda Tibbling IWGA Athlete of May 2022 from Sweden

Birmingham: The 18-year-old tracer is setting the pace in Parkour! Gold medals in the Speed category at both the Sofia (BUL) and Montpellier (FRA) Parkour World Cups make Tibbling the one to beat in Birmingham (US) when the best athletes gather for The World Games 2022. The specialists in this discipline of Gymnastics were among the last to qualify for the Games from 7 to 17 July. At the same time, Miranda Tibbling has the chance to be the first woman to win a gold medal in Parkour at The World Games. The discipline is making its debut at the Games. Competitions in the medal events Speed and Freestyle will thrill spectators at the Sloss Furnace venue on Sunday, 10 July and Monday, 11 July.

Miranda Tibbling is a medal hope for her country in both disciplines for good reason. On the last weekend in May, in Montpellier. INP

ECP seeks timeframe from PTI lawyers for completing arguments in funding case

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan on Wednesday ordered the lawyers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to complete their arguments as soon as possible while demanding a timeframe for the completion of arguments.

During the foreign funding case hearing at the Election Commission of Pakistan, financial expert Najam Shah gave briefing on the PTI transactions.

A three-member commission headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the case.

The commission expressed its displeasure over the late arrival of the PTI financial expert at the commission hearing. Besides PTI lawyer Anwar Maqsood and PTI financial

expert Najam Shah, petitioner Akbar S Babar also appeared before the court.

The PTI lawyer requested the court to adjourn the case. But Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja rejected his plea saying the case had already been facing delay and the commission would not permit any further postponement.

The CEC said that an impression was being created that the case was deliberately put on hold asking the PTI lawyer to tell the court about party's financial transactions by tomorrow (Thursday).

Contesting the haste being shown by the CEC, PTI lawyer Anwar Mansoor said that the party's reputation was put at stake internationally because of the case. INP

KP govt announces to launch Insaf Food Card

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has announced to launch Insaf Food Card program across the province in the first week of June.

The decision was taken during a meeting in Peshawar under the chair of Chief Minister Mahmood Khan.

The meeting was informed that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) had been signed between the provincial food department and Bank of Khyber for execution of the Insaf Food Card scheme.

The scheme would cost Rs25.5 billion annually while the provincial cabinet had already approved funds to this end.

Under the Scheme, deserving households would be provided with Rs2,100 per month for purchasing essential food commodities. A total of 5 million individuals in the province will benefit from the food card scheme which is 12 percent of the total population of the province.

Kashmiris' sacrifices for freedom unforgettable: Raja Farooq Haider

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan said that sacrifices of Kashmiri people for freedom movement were unforgettable.

While addressing at the All Parties Consultative Conference on Kashmir Issue, The Way Forward here Wednesday, he suggested that a delegation of Kashmiri leaders should visit different countries to highlight the Kashmir cause.

"We are grateful to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto and the entire Pakistani nation for raising their voice on Kashmir. It needs to be made effective and all suggestions need to be implemented", he expressed.

Farooq Haider said that a Cell on Kashmir was formed in the Foreign Ministry, adding that that Kashmiris should be given

an opportunity to present their case before the world where Kashmiris would be listened more attentively which would have more effect.

Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider addresses the All Parties Kashmir Conference. I responsibly say that our embassies have not played a dynamic role in Kashmir in the last four years.

"We should talk openly about the 35A. We should talk about the ground realities.

The economy of India and the economy of Pakistan must be compared talk to UAE not to invest in Indian oppressed Kashmir.

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan called on members and leadership of Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly Imran Khan asked Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi to draw up a road map on Kashmir. INP

Inflation hits two-year high in May

ISLAMABAD: The monthly inflation climbed to 13.76 per cent in May a two-and-a-half-year-high in the previous month on the back of increasing food prices, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data released on Wednesday.

Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), accelerated from 13.37pc year-on-year (YoY) in April, marking a 0.44pc month-on-month (MoM) rise in May.

Other categories that saw a double-digit increase included furnishing and household equipment maintenance (16.11pc), restaurants and hotels (15.98pc), miscellaneous goods and services (13.52pc), recreation and culture (12.28pc), clothing and footwear (11.29pc), health (10.59pc) and alcoholic beverages and tobacco (10.13pc). INP

Kaira vows to expose Indian aggression, cruelties in IIOJK at all Int'l fora

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira, has reiterated government's resolve to expose Indian aggression and cruelties in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) at all international fora.

Qamar Zaman Kaira also paid rich tribute to the spirit of Kashmiri leadership of IIOJK for its continuing struggle for achieving their inalienable right to self-determination. INP

Another polio case reported in North Waziristan, tally jumps to 7

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday reported seventh polio case of the year 2022 as a minor girl from North Waziristan was left paralysed by wild poliovirus.

Health officials confirmed that an 18-month-old baby girl, a resident of Mir Af, tested positive for the virus. The overall tally of this year's poliovirus cases has risen to 7. It is learnt that the said child was not administered anti-polio drops during the drive against the crippling disease. After staying in a polio-free country for almost 15 months, Pakistan has reported seven cases of poliovirus in 2022 so far. INP

Imran Khan gets PTI's performance report during Azadi march

ISLAMABAD: Former minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan has received a performance report of the party during Azadi Long March, held on May 25.

The report compiled by a four-member committee stated the role of the party, leaders and workers during the Azadi March. Furthermore, details about the departure of caravans from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are also mentioned in the report. The details of media reports during the march are also included in the performance report. The sources said the ousted prime minister will announce his future course of action after reviewing the findings in the report.

Earlier it was reported that Imran Khan was not happy with the performance of the PTI leaders and workers during the march and had ordered to prepare a performance report.

On May 25, the former prime minister held a long protest march against the present government, demanding the dissolution of the National Assembly and to conduct the next general election. Earlier it was reported that Imran Khan was not happy with the performance of the PTI leaders and workers during the march and had ordered to prepare a performance report. INP

ECP rejects PTI's request to postpone hearing of foreign funding case

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Wednesday rejected the request of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer to postpone hearing of foreign funding case against the party. CEC said that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will not let the case to be delayed anymore.

The CEC, while questioning the PTI lawyer, said that you promised to submit the balance sheet of the funds, adding that we are ready to hear but PTI is continuously raising questions on the funds.

The ECP chief further questioned that how much time your financial expert wants to submit the balance sheet? Replying on the question, PTI lawyer Anwar Mansoor said that the case in ECP is affecting the case of Islamabad High Court

(IHC) and till the verdict of IHC, ECP must postpone the process of scrutiny.

On PTI lawyer's arguments, CEC said that ECP and IHC work on different grounds and the case is already delayed which is also picturing a bad image of PTI internationally.

Anwar Mansoor said that he will let ECP know after consulting with PTI's financial expert that how much time they want to submit their reply. On which CEC said that this a work of 5 minutes and we remember your record verbally. While CEC directed the PTI lawyer to inform tomorrow (Thursday) that how much time they want to complete their arguments.

The ECP Chief adjourned the date of hearing till 12:30 pm on Thursday. INP

ANF seizes 145kg Ketamine concealed in Hong Kong-bound container

KARACHI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Wednesday seized 145kg Ketamine drugs during action at the South Asia Port terminal in Karachi.

According to the ANF spokesperson, the action was taken at the South Asia Port terminal in Karachi in which Ketamine drugs, weighing 145 kg concealed in a Hong Kong-bound container were recovered.

The container actually loaded with clothes was booked by a private company in Karachi. The ANF has arrested Naimatullah, a resident of Karachi who booked the container for Hong Kong.

The case has been registered under Anti-Narcotics Act.

What Is Ketamine? Ketamine got its start in Belgium in the 1960s as an anesthesia medicine for animals. The FDA approved it as an anaesthetic for people in 1970. It was used in treating injured soldiers on the battlefields in the Vietnam War. Emergency responders may give it to an agitated patient who, for example, they have rescued from a suicide attempt. INP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail held a meeting with delegation of telecom sector comprising of CEO-Jazz, Aamir Ibrahim, and CEO Telenor Group Wahat Khan, at Finance Division.