

QUETTA VOICE

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Cholera Rampant: Death toll rises to 12 in Balochistan's Zhob, Wadh and Barkhan



Trade activities resume at Pak Iran border

Cholera Rampant: Death toll rises to 12 in Balochistan's Zhob, Wadh and Barkhan

Syed Ali Shah
Yousaf Marri
Manan Mandokhail
Asad Khan Kakar

QUETTA: Cholera appears to be rampant in Zhob, Barkhan, Wadh and Kohlu areas of Balochistan. Cholera has claimed 12 lives in the Zhob, Barkhan, and Wadh areas of the province. Hundreds of

including four children died as a result of a cholera outbreak in Balochistan's Zhob and Wadh areas on Saturday. Cholera claimed three lives in Zhob and three lives in Wadh tehsil of Khuzdar district. Cholera, gastro, and diarrhea continue to affect people in general and children in particular in

Superintendent of Wadh hospital said. Over 100 patients including women and children were admitted to Wadh hospital for medical treatment in the aftermath of the cholera

2,176 patients were brought to the DHQ Zhob

outbreak. In Zhob, a total Balochistan govern-

on beds of the hospital", Syed Muzaffar Shah, the District Health Officer (DHO) said. Most of the patients were women and children, Dr. Shah informed.



cholera, gastro and diarrhea patients have been admitted to government-run hospitals.

At least six people

various parts of Balochistan currently. "Cholera claimed three lives including two children", Dr. Asad Jan Mengal, the Medical

of 2,176 patients were brought to the district headquarters hospital. "We have discharged most of the patients only 200 patients are currently

ment dispatched medicines and doctors to Zhob to overcome the situation and provide better medical treatment to the patients. "I



am personally going to Zhob to review the situation", Saleh Muhammad Nasar, Secretary of Health Balochistan said. He informed that the major reason behind the outbreak of diarrhea was the mixing of sewerage water with water supply pipes in Zhob. An emergency was declared in all government-run hospitals to cope with the situation. All doctors and paramedics were called to the hospital to tackle the situation.

In Kohlu: Over 250 patients were admitted to the district headquarters after the outbreak of gastro. Dr. Asghar Marri, the Medical Superintendent of Kohlu hospital said the patients belonged to various parts of the district. "Most of the patients are women and children", Dr. Marri informed.

Lack of doctors, medicines across Balochistan Doctors in remote

areas of Balochistan have complained about the lack of medicines and the availability of doctors to provide timely treatment to cholera, gastro, and diarrhea patients. Government-run hospitals across Balochistan paint a bleak picture when it comes to health facilities.

However, the Balochistan health department has claimed to have provided the required medicines to patients across the province. "We are committed to treating every patient", Saleh Nasar, the Secretary of Health concluded.

250 patients were admitted to the DHQ Kohlu



FAISALABAD: A woman casting her vote in a female polling station during By-Election of PP-97 in the city.

Quetta: Medical report confirms 17-year-old girl raped

Manan Mandokhail

Quetta: The medical report confirmed the 17 years old girl was raped in Quetta's Samungli area the other day. Saddar Police Station has already lodged First Information Report (FIR) against the accused identified as Samiullah alias Janan, a resident of Nawa Killi area of Quetta.

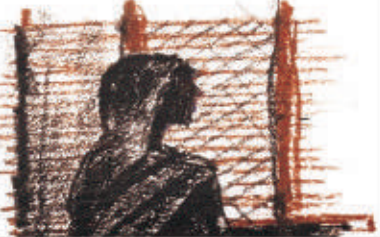
Police sources said the accused had established friendship with the girl through mobile phone a week ago.

"The accused subjected me to sexual abuse in his vehicle on Samungli road", the Police said while quoting the initial statement of the victim girl.

Quetta Police had sent the girl for a medical checkup to Civil Hospital Quetta. The medical report from the hospital confirmed sexual abuse. "We are conducting raids to arrest the accused", Abdul Haq Umrani, the senior superintendent of Police Quetta told Daily Quetta Voice.

Hopefully, the accused would be apprehended very soon, Mr. Umrani said. The Police lodged FIR on an application submitted by the victim.

According to Police sources the incident happened on 14 July on Samungli Road. It may be mentioned here that the accused had convinced the girl through mobile phone to meet him at Samungli road Park. When the girl came, the accused raped her, police concluded.



3 injured in a blast near security forces check post in Quetta

Staff Reporter

At least three people were injured in a hand grenade attack near the security forces check post in the Qambrani Road area of Quetta on Sunday night. Police sources said unknown miscreants lobbed a hand grenade at the forces check post near Khosho hotel Qambrani Road. Three people including two civilians and security personnel were wounded in the attack. Rescue workers shifted the injured to the trauma center civil hospital Quetta for medical treatment. Police and personnel of the frontier corps reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. "We have received two injured of the blast", Waseem Baig, the Spokesman of civil hospital Quetta said. He said both the injured are under treatment in the trauma center.

Quetta: 2 women murdered in the name of 'honor'

Manan Mandokhail

Two women were murdered in the name of 'honor' in Quetta's Pod Gali Chowk area on Sunday evening. Police sources said an accused identified as Fareed opened fire and killed two women on the spot.

Both the women received eight bullets, police said. Rescue workers reached the spot and shifted the dead bodies to civil hospital Quetta. A large number of relatives of the victims also reached the hospital.

Police said the accused fled unhurt from the spot.

Negotiations only within the Constitution of Pakistan: CM Bizenjo

Mir Salam Jogeza

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Qudus Bizenjo on Sunday evening made it clear that negotiations can be held only within the Constitution of Pakistan. He was referring to possible talks with angry Baloch leaders.

The CM visited the office of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to review the ongoing rescue and relief operation in Balochistan. The DG PDMA briefed the Chief Minister about the ongoing operation in the province.

When asked about talks with angry Baloch leaders, Mr. Bizenjo clarified that talks can only be held with those who accept the Constitution of the country. He however said strict action would be taken against the terrorists playing with the lives of innocent people.

"Doors of talks always open for those who accept the Constitution"

"Doors of talks always open for those who accept the Constitution", he mentioned.

Regarding recent ethnic clashes in Sindh province, the CM expressed serious concern over the incidents and suggested the people forge unity among their ranks and foil the nefarious designs of the elements creating such differences.

Mr. Bizenjo directed the PDMA and other concerned departments to make sure better rescue and relief operations in the aftermath of flash floods unleashed by tor-



rental rains in Balochistan. In response to a question about the breaching of dams, he said an inquiry would be conducted regarding the breaching of dams and the responsible people would be brought to justice.

PM assures extending all possible support: Bizenjo The CM informed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also been apprised of the floods situation in Balochistan. The Premier has assured extending all possible support to the provincial government in terms of the rehabilitation of the affected people, he said.

Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili also accompanied the CM during his visit to the DPMA office.

Trade activities resume at Pak Iran border

Mir Salam Jogeza

QUETTA: Trade activities resumed at Pak Iran border Taftan after Eid ul Azha holidays. The officials of the two countries met at Taftan and opened the gate for trade activities on Saturday morning.

"Zero point formally opened for trade today", Zahoor Ahmed, the Assistant Commissioner Taftan said.

A large number of daily wage workers reached the Zero Point and started their jobs.

"Everything is going smooth", Mr. Ahmed said. The jobs of a large number of people on either side of the border are linked with Zero Point at Pak Iran border Taftan.

Pakistan share more than 900 km border with

neighbouring Iran.



PML-N says will accept results as PTI leads in closely watched Punjab by-elections

Celebrations in the PTI camp are in full swing as preliminary, unofficial results in the by-election on 20 constituencies of Punjab, show the party clearly dominating the race.

According to the unofficial count, PTI has won 10, and is in the lead in six of 20 constituencies, while PML-N is ahead in only three, and an independent candidate is winning in one.

PTI's Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi, son of party vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, has defeated PML-N's Muhammad Salman in PP-217 Multan VII, unofficial results from all the city's polling stations show.

Qureshi secured 46,963 votes as against Salman, who bagged 40,104.

The party also emerged victorious in PP-288 Dera Ghazi Khan IV, PP-202 Sahiwal VII, PP-83 Khushab II, PP-140 Sheikhupura VI, PP-282 Layyah III, PP-224 Lodhran I, PP-158 Lahore XV, PP-167 Lahore XXIV, and PP-170 Lahore XXVII.

An independent candidate, Syed Muhammad Rafi ud Din won PP-228 Lodhran V, with 45,020 votes as against PTI candidate Izzat Javaid Khan who bagged 38,338.



A breakdown of the latest unofficial, preliminary results is given below as they come in:

Today's polls remained largely peaceful aside from a few reports of clashes between supporters of opposing parties. No casualties were reported.

Other kinds of drama, however, stole the limelight. This included an early morning resignation, a number of arrests, including that of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill, and a leaked audio allegedly implicating the former interior minister.

Voter turnout was not as large as the parties hoped but was considerable, said by Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah to be 40%.

A scuffle broke out between PTI and PML-N workers during the polling process in Lahore's PP-158 constituency. As a result, one of the PML-N workers sustained a head injury.

Meanwhile, PML-N candidate Rana Ahsan Sharaf engaged in a heated argument with PTI leader Jamshed Iqbal Cheema.

PTI workers were arrested in Lahore when they were found to have been carrying weapons, according to Punjab government spokesperson Attaullah Tarar. Web Desk

ECP receives 13 complaints mostly of clashes

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Sunday said that it has received 13 complaints so far during the by-polls in 20 constituencies of the Punjab province.

The spokesman in its statement said that most of the complaints pertained to clashes between the rival political groups and all of them have been sorted out. "Polling in all constituencies of Punjab remained peaceful and satisfactory," he said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

Sikandar Sultan Raja directed the chief secretary and inspector general of police (IG) Punjab against any political victimization during by-polls on 20 constituencies of the provincial assembly. The ECP spokesperson said that CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja has directed them to avoid any action against any civilian and warned that the ECP would take strict action if the directives are violated. "All possible measures should be taken to ensure polling in a free and fair manner," he said. "Polling in all constituencies of Punjab remained peaceful and

satisfactory," he said. Earlier in the day, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Sikandar Sultan Raja directed the chief secretary and inspector general of police (IG) Punjab against any political victimization during by-polls on 20 constituencies of the provincial assembly. The ECP spokesperson said that CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja has directed them to avoid any action against any civilian and warned that the ECP would take strict action if the directives are violated. INP

PTI raises questions over impartiality of ECP

LAHORE: Lashing out at the Election Commission of Pakistan for alleged errors in voter lists amid the crucial by-polls that are underway on 20 Punjab Assembly constituencies, PTI leader Shahbaz Gill raised questions over the impartiality of the election body.

Sharing a video of a man on his Twitter account, who claimed that the names of two of his family members are missing from the voter list, Shahbaz Gill asked, "Who is responsible for depriving someone of his right to vote?" He suggested lodging a case under Article 6 of the Constitution.

He also shared another video of a woman polling agent who claimed that rigging was being carried out in the PP-167 constituency. The woman polling agent said that she was forced to leave the polling station after her CNIC was objected to and was not allowed to enter the station for one-and-a-half hours and in the meantime, the voting process continued.

Gill asked, "Is this possible without the involvement of the ECP?" In another tweet,

the PTI leader criticised the polling staff at a polling station where he claimed that a woman who came to cast her vote was sent to another constituency because her name wasn't on the voters' list.

He asked who is responsible for the data operator's mistakes.

Reacting to Shahbaz Gill's allegations, the Punjab election commissioner said that the polling process shouldn't be made controversial by levelling allegations without confirmation.

He rejected the allegations of expelling polling agents out of polling stations 46 and 47 in Muzaffargarh.

The provincial election commissioner further stated that the polling agents verified by political parties are allowed to sit at the polling stations. Meanwhile, the returning officer said that PTI's polling agent Amir Bakhsh was present at polling station number 44, but no polling agent of PTI arrived at polling station number 46. Reacting to the PTI leader's statement, a spokesperson of the ECP said that the chief election commissioner has given clear directions to the IG Punjab and the chief secretary of the province that no retaliatory action should be taken against any civilian/people. INP

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LAHORE: A woman casting her vote in a polling station during By-Election of PP-158 in Provincial Capital.

Planning Ministry drives digital transformation within three months: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: In recent years, the Pakistan government has shifted its focus towards digitization. With over 64% of Pakistan's population being under the age of 30, there is an enormous potential for successful digital adoption.

Keeping in view the increasing importance of digitization, the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives has directed its Information Technology (IT) section to convert the paperwork into digital recording.

Speaking to WealthPK, Secretary Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Syed Zafar Ali Shah said the E-Office system is efficient, fast, and cost-effective.

The IT section has been directed to convert all the records from a manual system to digital within three months.

"The prime objective of this exercise is to promote a paperless environment, and the use of the latest technology in the office," said the secretary.

Zafar stated that the entire world has transformed into a digital system, and there is a dire need to use the latest technology in the Planning Ministry. He said the IT section will implement an E-Office system in a phased manner. This will be a landmark initiative that will ease the work of officials, and will also prove cost-effective.

Dr Muhammad Jamil, an economist, told WealthPK that the decision of the Planning Ministry to digitize the record is a right step keeping in view the future needs.

"All ministries and other government institutions should be digitized so that transparency and workload could be mitigated through paperless official functions. Digital transformation can help Pakistan unlock up to \$59.7 billion in annual economic value by 2030," he said.

Pakistan is a developing country that got a significant push towards digitization during the Covid-19 pandemic, but was unable to reap the promises of this transformation. INP

Punjab by-polls: ECP CEC directs chief secretary, IG against political victimization

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has directed the chief secretary and inspector general of police (IG) Punjab against any political victimization during by-polls on 20 constituencies of the provincial assembly.

The ECP spokesperson said that CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja has directed them to avoid any action against any civilian and warned that the ECP would take strict action if the directives are violated.

"All possible measures should be taken to ensure polling in a free and fair manner," he said.

PTI leader Shehbaz Gill has claimed that the rigging has begun in the by-polls on 20 constituencies of the Punjab Assembly and shared that their polling agents in Muzaffargarh were not allowed to check the empty ballot boxes.

Taking to Twitter, Shehbaz Gill said the two polling agents of their candidates in PP-272 (Muzaffargarh) were expelled from polling stations, 44 and 46, and now they were not allowed to check empty ballot boxes and the number of ballot papers available with the presiding officer. The polling for the 'do and die' by-elections on 20 con-

stituencies of the Punjab Assembly has begun after the PTI MPAs and PML-N led by Imran Khan and Maryam Nawaz launched a whirlwind campaign to support their candidates.

The by-polls on the 20 Punjab Assembly seats, vacated after the PTI MPAs voted for Hamza Shahbaz in the Chief Minister (CM) elections, will be conducted on Sunday (today).

The results of the by-polls would be essential for the CM vote count, ordered by the Supreme Court (SC), in the Punjab Assembly in July 2022. INP

PML-N non-existent, PTI competing against foreign conspiracy, ECP: Hammad Azhar

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Hammad Azhar on Sunday completely excluded PML-N from the equation explaining that PTI is competing against foreign conspiracy and ECP, while PML-N has no existence.

Talking to the media in Lahore, former Federal Minister Hammad Azhar showcased much confidence in PTI's victory. He said members of the provincial assembly are leaving the government and coming to the opposition.

Meanwhile, PTI leader Usman Dar visited constituency PP 168 of Lahore. He hoped that the polling process would continue peacefully.

"The wickets of PML-N have started falling, four to five more resignations are coming," said Usman Dar.

Furthermore, PTI leader Shahbaz Gill accused the opponents of casting fake votes in Muzaffargarh. He said that fake votes are being cast in two constituencies of Muzaffargarh and PTI's polling agents were removed from polling stations 44 and 46 in PP-272. INP

Newly-wed couple prefers casting vote to their walima in Lodhran

LODHRAN: A newly-wed couple of Lodhran left their walima ceremony and reached a polling station to cast their vote in the by-election of Punjab on Sunday.

It was learnt that the couple had reached the polling station in full wedding dress, leaving the people there at the polling stations astonished.

Speaking on the occasion, bridegroom Zaman Khan said that the vote was a trust and casting vote to a right person was an utmost responsibility.

He said they preferred to vote first and then they will attend their walima ceremony.

Bride Fauzia said that she considered it necessary to cast her vote for the bright future of children.

"I hope that the preferred candidates will be elected and give hospitals, schools and roads to the area," she added. INP



QUETTA: Resident of chaghi Muhammad holding a press conference regarding his 7 year old daughter at QPC

Pakistan-Iran freight train service partially restored: officials

CHAGAI: The freight train service between Pakistan and Iran, which remain suspended for the last 10 days, has been partially restored, railway officials said on Sunday.

Two freight trains have been sent to Quetta, while a goods train has left for Iran, railway officials said.

A goods train, destined for Iran from Quetta, was derailed near Padag resulting in suspension of the train service.

Earlier a goods train coming from Zahedan was derailed in the Dalbandin area of Chagai district.

According to official sources, five bogies were derailed, leaving the routine operation suspended. The derailment caused the suspension of the train services for 72 hours.

The sources cited the tracks' dilapidated condition as the cause of the accident.

Pak-Iran freight train service was restored after completion of repair and rehabilitation work of railway track damaged due to heavy flash floods near Dalbandin in Chagai district.

According to official sources, the goods trains which were stopped at Dalbandin allowed to proceed towards Iranian city of Zahedan.

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QUETTA: Political Secretary to the Chief Minister of Baluchistan Malik Khuda Bakhsh Long addressing a press conference at party office in Provincial Capital.

CPEC to help reduce transport issues in urban areas: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will boost not only the economy of Pakistan but will also help in resolving the problems related to transport in the country, WealthPK reports.

Recently, a Chinese company announced to launch a bus service in the port city of Karachi along the lines of the People's Bus Service. The new bus service will consist of a fleet of 500 buses, which will reach the city within four months. The Sindh government has given four-month time to the Chinese company to procure the buses. Similarly, the government has decided to connect Ghulam Khan in the North Waziristan tribal district with Motorway 14 under a project of CPEC. Dr. Nadeemul Haq, a prominent economist and Vice-Chancellor of the Pakistan

Institute of Development Economist (PIDE), told WealthPK that Pakistan had been facing an unprecedented issue of urbanisation. "The issue of urbanisation in the country has caused many problems related to transport," he added. He said that CPEC's infrastructure would set the future economic direction of Pakistan.

"However, the recent urban transport projects by Chinese companies will alleviate the urban transport problems in the country, especially in Karachi," he added. Moreover, mass transportation networks have been developed under CPEC, such as the Lahore rail transit Orange Line project. The first transport project under CPEC was inaugurated in 2020. It was completed within six years at a cost of more than \$2.2 billion.

CPEC will bring efficiency to the trade and

transport sectors in Pakistan. The projects being executed under CPEC will help traders to transport their goods within a short span of time at a lower fare. These projects will also increase the geographical size of the labour market besides attracting tourists in a large number.

Adnan Khan, a senior research associate at CPEC, told WealthPK that China's investment in urban transportation in Pakistan would help to reduce burden on public transport. "It will help in transport pooling in the metropolitan cities. The eventual benefit will be green transportation in the urban areas," he added.

He said that CPEC could also help in improving logistics in Pakistan. "CPEC may help Pakistan to 'save distance' in terms of transport," he added. INP

Soybean intercropping to help cut import dependency: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan's population continues to grow, the demand for food also increases. In agriculture (agriculture technologies, government farm policies, modern crop varieties, and research efforts), the majority of concerns are focused on single crop production. With time, the farmers are trying to adopt new methods to enhance the crop output rather than sticking to monoculture farming. Intercropping is an important agronomic strategy that involves growing two or more crops on the same piece of land.

Talking to WealthPK, Dr Danish Ibrar, Senior Scientific Officer at the National Agriculture Research Centre said, "Soybean is considered a miracle crop because of its high protein content, edible oil, essential amino acids, minerals and vitamins."

"In Pakistan, the areas where irrigated agriculture is practiced and enough sunlight is available, intercropping can be an economically viable option for the small growers with respect to sustainability and productivity," he said.

"In soybean roots a bacteria called rhizobium

is present; this bacterium is fixed by the atmospheric nitrogen in the form of nitrate because a plant can't use the atmospheric nitrogen directly.

It is the quality of soybean plant that at whatever land we cultivate it, its fertility increases according to the nitrogen level," he added. "When we intercrop any other crop, such as maize with soybean, that crop (maize) will require nitrogen and its nitrogen requirements will be met by soybean," Dr Danish said. He said Pakistan's maize-soybean strip intercropping demonstration area had reached over 400 acres

this autumn, nearly 2.67 times that of last autumn.

"As Pakistan is facing scarcity of oil, there is a wide gap between domestic production and requirement. There is an urgent need to develop such a type of pattern which facilitates intercropping. In the intercropping system, several species are grown simultaneously between one another. It is beneficial for the farmers, as it provides sustainable yields," Dr Danish said.

"Due to the small amount of soy produced locally, soy meal and soy oil imports are now required to meet the

nation's needs. Its cultivation remains limited to a low acreage and shows a declining trend, as efforts are not made for its promotion." Dr Danish added. "It is a multipurpose crop that is not only grown for its edible oil and nutrients-rich fodder, but it also significantly contributes to poultry feed and industrial raw material (paints, cooking, inks, biofuels, textiles, and gums). To meet these needs, Pakistan imports soybean," he added.

"The main problem Pakistan is facing in soybean cultivation is that it has not developed. INP

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT JUDGE, QUETTA

Civil Appeal No.11/2022.

Next date of hearing 22.7.2022

Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences Balochistan quetta through its registrar, Airport Road, Quetta. Appellant/plaintiff

Versus

- Nadia Ali Shah d/o syed sadat Ali Shah, Research Associate., Department of Management Sciences BUIITEMS.
- Syed Sadat Ali Shah s/o syed Muhammad Ali Shah. Resident of Bungalow NO.5 Government Girls college Quetta.
- Miran Bakhsh s/o Muhammad Ismail. Village Muhammad Ismail Magis Taluka Shahdad-Pur.

Respondents/defendants.

Notice To:

- Nadia Ali Shah d/o Syed Sadat Ali Shah, research Associate, Department of Management Science BUIITEMS.
- Sadat Ali Shah s/o Syed Muhammad Ali Shah. Resident of Bungalow No.5 Government Girls College, Quetta.

That the above titled civil appeal is pending before the court of District Judge, Quetta, where in you being respondents/defendants are intentionally and deliberately avoiding/ eluctant to receive the notices of the Court. Therefore, by means of this publication you both respondents/defendants are directed to make sure your appearance/ attendance on next date of hearing i.e. 22nd July, 2022 in case of your absence ex-parte proceedings would be initiated against you respondents/defendants.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 06th day of July, 2022.

(Muhammad Dawood Khan Nasir) District Judge, Quetta.

Shahbaz Gill arrested for 'exhibiting weapons publicly' during Punjab by-polls: police

PTI leader and former federal minister Shahbaz Gill was arrested from Muzaffargarh on Monday for allegedly carrying and displaying weapons on his visit to polling stations PP-272 and PP-73 during the Punjab by-elections.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in its election code of conduct for political parties and candidates, says: "Carriage and display of all kinds of lethal weapons and fire arms shall not be allowed in public meetings and processions and official regulations in respect thereof shall be strictly observed. Aerial firing, use of crackers and other explosives at public meetings shall not be allowed."

The district police officer of Muzaffargarh told Dawn.com that Gill was taken into custody from a factory owned by PTI candidate Muzammam Ali along with his guards. They have been taken to an undisclosed location, he said.

So far, a first information report (FIR) has not been registered.

Earlier, visuals circulating on television showed Gill with guards clad in Frontier Corps uniform. Prior to his arrest, the PTI leader had tweeted that he was ready to get arrested but refused to let the police take his guards or other party workers into custody.

"Before you reach anyone else, I am presenting myself for arrest," he tweeted, claiming he was "trapped in a factory". "Imran Khan's soldier is not afraid of such tactics. We did not come to do terrorism."

Separately, in a video posted on his YouTube channel, Gill alleged that polling agents in Muzaffargarh's PP-272 had not been allowed to enter the polling stations. "We reached out to the ECP but they refuted the com-

plaints. Now, they have sent police to take my guards. What is their purpose? They want to arrest me," he said. "So, I will do you a favour and present myself for arrest," the PTI leader said. "As long as I am standing here, I won't let you arrest anyone."

Later, a tweet surfaced on the politician's Twitter account revealing that he had been taken to the Saddar Ali Pur police station.

In a press conference later in the day, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that the local administration was empowered to take decisions to maintain the law and order situation, promising that the government would support such measures.

His comments came in response to a question regarding Gill's arrest. "If the officer in charge of overseeing electoral arrangements feels that Shahbaz is misbehaving or has been accompanied by men with no legal status, they could take whatever decision they felt was right."

Sanaullah also suggested the Gill should cooperate with the police and must surrender.

Immediately after the news of Gill's arrest surfaced, PTI leaders took to Twitter to condemn the move and branded it an attempt to "rig the elections".

PTI chief Imran Khan said: "These fascist tactics will not work and our people will not be deterred from exercising their right to vote."

In another tweet later, he demanded the courts to "open now" and act against the brazen violations of the Supreme Court's orders and electoral rules. Web Desk



QUETTA: Administrator Metropolitan Corporation, Abdul Jabbar Baloch addressing a press conference at press club in Provincial Capital.

Pakistan records slight decline in daily COVID-19 cases

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has registered a slight decline in its daily coronavirus caseload as the country reported 605 new infections of the pathogen during the last 24 hours, data from the National Institute of Health showed Sunday morning.

As per the latest statistics of the NIH, 21,233 COVID-19 diagnostic tests were conducted across the country and out of which 605 came back positive, taking the number of total cases of the disease to 1,546,252.

Meanwhile, two more patients succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll from COVID-19 to 30,440.

The NIH said 173 COVID-19 patients are still in critical condition and being treated at different medical facilities.

In addition to this, 429 more COVID-19 patients recovered from the disease during the same period. INP

Bhabi, dewar clash in Muzaffargarh by-poll

MUZAFFARGARH: A woman (bhabi) and her brother-in-law — brother of her husband (dewar) — are vying for PP-272 constituency in Shaheer Sultan, Muzaffargarh on Sunday.

Syed Haroon Ahmad Sultan and the wife of his brother, Syeda Zahra Basit Bukhari, are vying in the by-election of PP-272 constituency.

The election symbol of Syeda Zahra Basit is lion while that of Haroon Ahmad Sultan is Charpoy.

Syeda Zahra is vying for the seat of Punjab Assembly on the ticket of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

It is to be noted here that there are at least nine candidates for the seat of Punjab Assembly in Shaheer Sultan.

Among them are Allah Wasaya, Beenish Haroon, Zareena Kausar, Sardar Sami, Syed Haroon Ahmed, Syed Zahra Basit Bukhari, Muhammad Zahid Raza and Muhammad Moazzam.

As many as 200,000 people will exercise their right to vote in the by-election.

Voting process is underway at the Government Girls Primary School Gobang.

It also merits a mention here that a 100-year-old elderly person came to vote Syeda Zahra Basit Bukhari.

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Voting process is underway at the Government Girls Primary School Gobang. INP

Security forces recover body of Umer Javed, 2 terrorists killed

RAWALPINDI: Pak army troops Saturday recovered a dead body of an abducted cousin of Shaheed Lt Col Laiq Baig Mirza during a search operation against terrorists in Warchoon, Ziarat.

During the ongoing recovery operation linked with the abduction of Umer Javed, another terrorist's hideout has been identified and cleared by security forces.

During the exchange of fire, two terrorists have been killed and sophisticated weapons and ammunition have been recovered.

After the clearance of the hideout, the entire area was sanitized. During the search of the area, unfortunately, a dead body of Shaheed Lt Col Laiq's cousin Umer Javed Shaheed has been found in a nearby Nullah, 5 Kms from Warchoon towards Khalifat Mountains.

As per the assessment, the terrorists had killed Umer Javed immediately after the abduction. The search operation against the terrorists is continued in the area to apprehend the remaining 3 to 4 perpetrators who are on the run. INP

PM Shehbaz urges voters to reject politics of chaos, hatred and divide

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif tweeted Sunday urging the people to reject the politics of chaos, hatred, and divide with the power of their vote.

"While casting your vote in the by-elections of Punjab, you must think about the corruption, incompetence, economic destruction, facilitation and patronage of the mafia and the destruction created in the name of change during the four-year dark period of the Imran Niazi government. Pakistan has moved away from its destination under the PTI's rule. You have to express it with your vote," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said.

"Punjab was subjected to the worst governance for almost four years. Citizens were deprived of free medicines, and students were deprived of scholarships. The government's posts and the transfers of the officers were openly bought and sold. The state of civic facilities deteriorated, and lawlessness remained on the rise. The condition in which Punjab was left is no less than an insult to the people of Punjab," he added.

"Your vote is your power. Reject the politics of chaos, hatred and divide with this power. One person's ego, style of politics and incompetence have ruined the beauty of our society. Cast your vote for national development and bright future of your children. I have full faith in your power of choice," he stated. INP

ECP directs chief secretary, IG against political victimization

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has directed the chief secretary and inspector general of police (IG) Punjab against any political victimization during by-polls on 20 constituencies of the provincial assembly.

The ECP spokesperson said that CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja has directed them to avoid any action against any civilian and warned that the ECP would take strict action if the directives are violated.

"All possible measures should be taken to ensure polling in a free and fair manner," he said.

PTI leader Shehbaz Gill has claimed that the rigging has begun in the by-polls on 20 constituencies of the Punjab Assembly and shared that their polling agents in Muzaffargarh were not allowed to check the empty ballot boxes.

Taking to Twitter, Shehbaz Gill said the two polling agents

PML-N MPA Jaleel Sharaquri tenders his resignation

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) received a big blow on Sunday before the Punjab by-polls as another of its MPAs resigned and announced his support for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

It was learnt that PML-N MPA from Sheikhupura, Mian Jaleel Ahmed Sharaquri, submitted his handwritten resignation to Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi.

"How can I get along with Shehbaz Sharif when he is taking the proclaimed offenders along," Jaleel Sharaquri said. "I was with Imran Khan's vision before. I will get along with him," he added.

"After consulting with the workers of my constituency, I have come to resign prior to the by-election," he claimed.

"Nothing is yet known whether Hamza Shehbaz's government remains or Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi forms government. Today, I have resigned under a thought and ideology," he added. "We admire the thought and philosophy of Imran Khan. That's why we are with him," he stated.

"I appeal to the people, who love their country and Islam, to vote for the PTI in all the by-election constituencies," he appealed.

"I pray for the success of Imran Khan's vision so that we can achieve the goal for which Pakistan came into being," he prayed.

It merits a mention here that one more MPA of the PML-N from Narowal, Ghiasuddin, also announced his support for Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi. INP

PTI far ahead of PML-N in race for Punjab, unofficial results show

Celebrations in the PTI camp are in full swing as preliminary, unofficial results in the by-election on 20 constituencies of Punjab, show the party clearly dominating the race.

According to the unofficial count, PTI has won 10, and is in the lead in 12 of 20 constituencies, while PML-N is ahead in only three, and an independent candidate is winning in one.

PTI's Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi, son of party vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, has defeated PML N's Muhammad Salman in PP-217 Multan VII, unofficial results from all the city's polling stations show.

Qureshi secured 46,963 votes as against Salman, who bagged 40,104.

The party also emerged victorious in PP-288 Dera Ghazi Khan IV, PP-202 Sahiwal VII, PP-83 Khushab II, PP-140 Sheikhupura VI, PP-282 Layyah III, PP-224 Lodhran I, PP-158 Lahore XV, PP-167 Lahore XXIV, and PP-170 Lahore XXVII.

An independent candidate, Syed Muhammad Rafi ud Din won PP-228 Lodhran V, with 45,020 votes as against PTI candidate Izzat Javid Khan who bagged 38,338.

A breakdown of the latest unofficial, preliminary results is given below as they come in:

Today's polls remained largely peaceful aside from a few reports of clashes between supporters of opposing parties. No casualties were reported.

Other kinds of drama, however, stole the limelight. This included an early morning resigna-

tion, a number of arrests, including that of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill, and a leaked audio allegedly implicating the former interior minister.

Voter turnout was not as large as the parties hoped but was considerable, said by Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah to be 40%.

A scuffle broke out between PTI and PML-N workers during the polling process in Lahore's PP-158 constituency. As a result, one of the PML-N workers sustained a head injury.

Meanwhile, PML-N candidate Rana Ahsan Sharafat engaged in a heated argument with PTI leader Jamshed Iqbal Cheema.

PTI workers were arrested in Lahore when they were found to have been carrying weapons, according to Punjab government spokesperson Attaullah Tarar.

PTI's Shahbaz Gill was arrested in Muzaffargarh for allegedly visiting different polling stations in the city with his security guards who were dressed in uniform identical to those of Frontier Constabulary personnel and carrying weapons.

A ban was placed against the carrying of arms ahead of the polls. A scuffle broke out between PTI and PML-N workers during the polling process in Lahore's PP-158 constituency. As a result, one of the PML-N workers sustained a head injury.

Meanwhile, PML-N candidate Rana Ahsan Sharafat engaged in a heated argument with PTI leader Jamshed Iqbal Cheema. Web Desk

Anger boils as PML-N, PTI workers clash in Lahore

LAHORE: A number of PTI workers thrashed a PML-N worker in PP-158 constituency of Lahore during voting for the by-election on Sunday.

The injured Nawaz League worker claimed that he was tortured on the behest of Jamshed Iqbal Cheema. TV footage showed colleagues wrapping a piece of cloth around PML-N worker's head to block bleeding.

Also, PML-N candidate Rana Ahsan Sharafat and PTI leader Jamshed Iqbal Cheema also exchanged hot words.

Pertinent to note that for the third time in the last 20 years, by-polls are being held on this seat where PML-N has fielded its ticket-holder of 2018 Rana Ahsan Sharafat whereas the PTI has come up with Mian Akram Usman.

Akram Usman is the son of former IJI MNA Mian Muhammad Usman and also related to PTI senior leader and parliamentary leader in Punjab Assembly Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed. INP

Depression in Arabian Sea to bring rainfall in Sindh and Balochistan: PMD

KARACHI: The Met Office has said that the Depression in the Arabian Sea has been at a distance of 270 kilometres from Karachi and slowly moved northwestward.

The Depression (Intense Low-Pressure Area) over Northeast Arabian Sea and adjoining Gulf of Kutch has moved with a speed of 5 km per hour during last 18 hours and now lies centred around Latitude 22.8°N & Longitude 68.5°E, at a distance of about 270km southeast of Karachi and 220km from Thatta.

Maximum sustained surface wind is 50-55 km/hour around the system centre. The system is likely to keep moving northwestward for some time and then recurve to westwards (towards Oman coast), weather department said in a statement.

Under the influence of this weather system, rain-thunderstorms with a few heavy falls are likely in Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Thaparuker, Umerkot, Sanghar, Tando Muhammad Khan (TMK), Tando Allahyar, Dadu and Jamshoro districts of Sindh and Lasbella, Uthal, Ormara, Pasni, Gwadar, Jiwanj, Turbat, Awaran and Ketch districts of Balochistan during today and tomorrow.

The Met Office has said that the sea conditions would remain very rough during next 2 to 3 days advising fishermen of Sindh and Balochistan not to venture into open sea till tomorrow.

The windstorm may cause damage to loose and vulnerable structures, the weather office warned. INP



QUETTA: Members of different associations hold a peace rally in favor of their demands in Provincial Capital.

Punjab by-polls: 'rigging has begun' as two PTI polling agents expelled

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Shehbaz Gill has claimed that the rigging has begun in the by-polls on 20 constituencies of the Punjab Assembly and shared that their polling agents in Muzaffargarh were not allowed to check the empty ballot boxes.

Taking to Twitter, Shehbaz Gill said the two polling agents of their candidates in PP-272 (Muzaffargarh) were expelled from polling stations, 44 and 46, and now they were not allowed to check empty ballot boxes and the number of ballot papers available with the presiding officer. "Now we do not know how many fake votes will be polled in these polling stations," he said, adding that the government has begun rigging. Meanwhile, the provincial election commissioner Punjab rejected the allegations levelled by Shahbaz Gill and said that PTI polling agent Ameer Baksh was present at station 44 while no polling agent of the party reached polling station 46. "Only agents approved by the party are allowed to sit in the station," he said and asked the PTI leaders to avoid making the electoral process disputed through unverified claims. The polling for the 'do and die' by-elections on 20 constituencies of the Punjab Assembly has begun after top leaders from PTI and PML-N led by Imran Khan and Maryam Nawaz launched a whirlwind campaign to support their candidates. The by-polls on the 20 Punjab Assembly seats, vacated after the PTI MPAs voted for Hamza Shehbaz in the Chief Minister (CM) elections, will be conducted on Sunday (today). The results of the by-polls would be essential for the CM vote count, ordered by the Supreme Court (SC), in the Punjab Assembly in July 2022. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) needs to win a total of nine seats in today's by-elections to gain a majority to elect their chief minister in the biggest province of the country. INP

Punjab by-polls: Police seize weapons, arrest three in Sheikhupura

SHEIKHUPURA: Police have seized latest weapons and arrested three suspects in Sheikhupura during polling for crucial Punjab Assembly seats.

According to DPO Faisal Mukhtar, police personnel stopped a suspicious car and upon checking latest weapons were found in the vehicle.

Police arrested the three suspects and warned that violation of law on polling day will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

It merits mention that a total of 4.57 million registered voters, including 2.46 million women, are eligible to vote in the by-polls.

A total of 3140 polling stations, including 731 male, 700 female and 1700 combined polling stations have been established across the 20 constituencies.

A total of 9,562 polling booths have been set up for the by-polls. The ECP has declared 1204 polling stations sensitive and 696 highly sensitive. Polling stations from Lahore and Multan have also been declared sensitive. Provincial Election Commissioner Saeed Gul has said that the Election Commission is completely neutral and there is no truth in the allegations, they are working according to the Constitution and the law.

The Punjab Assembly has a total of 371 members, of which 20 seats are vacant at the moment, bringing the total number of MPAs in the Punjab Assembly down to 351.

The PML-N has 163 members. On the other side is the Opposition, therefore the PTI, which is 163 MPAs strong at the moment.

In the house, there are five independents, of which Chaudhry Nisar, the former interior minister, is unlikely to vote. While the PPP has 7 MPAs, PML-Q has 10, and the Rah-e-Haq party has one. As per the rules of the Punjab Assembly, the chief minister is elected with a simple majority, therefore 186 votes out of the 371-seat assembly. INP



LAHORE: A view of clash between political parties sputters outside a polling station during By-Election of PP-158 in Provincial Capital.