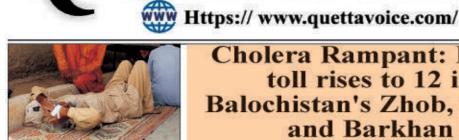
JETTA VOICE

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



Editor : Asim Khan

Trade activities resume at Pak Iran border

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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 Barkhan, and areas of the areas 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

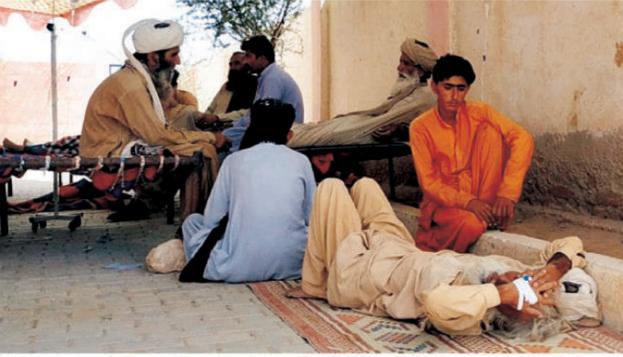
Superintendent of Wadh hospital said. Over 100 patients including women and children were admitted to Wadh hospital for medical treatment in the aftermath of the cholera

Syed Muzaffar Shah, the District Health Officer (DHO) said. Most of the patients were women and

2,176 patients were brought to the DHQ Zhob

outbreak.In Zhob, a total

Balochistan govern-



cholera, gastro and diarrhea patients have been admitted to governmentrun hospitals

At least six people

various parts 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 treat-ment to the patients. "I

am personally going to Zhob to review the situation", Saleh Muha mmad Nasar, Secretary of Health Balochistan said. He informed that the major reason behind the outbreak of diarrhea was the mixing of sew-erage 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.

various parts of the dis-trict. "Most of the patients are women and children", Dr. Marri informed. of doctors, Lack medicines across Balochistan

patients were admitted

to the district head-

quarters after the out-

break of gastro. Dr.
Asghar Marri, the
M e d i c a l
Superintendent of

Kohlu hospital said the patients belonged to

Doctors in remote

250 patients were admitted to the DHQ Kohlu



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,

Balochistan 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.

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 sonnel 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 injured are under treatment in the

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

Manan Mandekhail

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 hos-

Police said the accused fled unhurt from the spot.

Negotiations only within the Constitution of Pakistan: CM Bizenjo

Mir Salam Jogezai

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo on Sunday evening made it clear that negotia-tions 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

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

"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 oper-ations in the aftermath of flash floods unleashed by tor-



rential 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 Jogezai

QUETTA: Trade activities resumed at Pak Iran bor-der 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

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

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

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

QUETTA VOICE

Torrential rain exposed drainage system in Quetta

Torrential rains badly exposed the drainage system in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province. Heavy rainfall brought joy to the people living in posh areas of the city, whereas, woes to people living in poor neighborhoods and marginalized areas. A heartbreaking video of two teenage boys being swept away in the rainwater in Quetta's Sariab Road area was widely shared on social media. This really pained

Hundreds of heartbreaking images of rain survivors were shared on social media outlets. This simply exposed the system in general and Quetta's drainage system in

Rains-related incidents claim 7 lives

Rains-related incidents claimed seven precious human lives as per the statistics shared by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). Women and children were also among the dead. PDMA's media managers were sharing videos of their operations when people were facing the brunt of heavy rainfall in various parts

Most streets and roads in poor neighborhoods of Quetta were inundated by the rainwater. It was not possible for the people to walk or drive on roads completely

Billions of rupees were spent but with no impact

Billions of rupees have been spent on the drainage, construction of roads, bridges beautification and master plan of the city. However, one hour's heavy rainfall exposed all claims on behalf of the concerned departments.

Thousands of people have settled in the middle of nullahs/waterways over the years without the permission of the Metropolitan Corporation. MCQ appears to be a silent spectator when it comes to people constructing their houses on waterways.

PDMA has rather become a ghee and sugar distribution agency rather than coping with natural disasters in Balochistan.

Rainfall also exposed the traffic system Rainfall has also exposed the traffic plan of the city. Nevertheless, the traffic policemen and Seargent deserve to be appreciated for ensuring the flow of traffic as streets and roads were giving an image of river flooding.

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Quddus Bizenjo must have mercy on the provin-

cial capital, which houses around 3 million people. Beyond political and personal interests, the provincial government should improve the drainage system, stop illegal settlements on waterways, ensure transparency in funds allocated for the construction of roads, bridges and etc.

Rainy water needs to be reserved to maintain the depleting water table in Quetta

Palestinian universities are under attack once again Later this month, the Israeli authorities are expected to put into effect a 97-page ordinance, called Procedure for Entry and Residence for Foreigners in Judea and Samaria Area (PDF), which would grant the Israeli Ministry of Defence and thus, the military, absolute power to determine how many and which foreign academics and students can visit, study or work at all 15 Palestinian universities and colleges in the West Bank.

The "procedure" limits the number of staff allowed to work for any of these 15 universities and colleges to no more than 100 "distinguished lecturers researchers," noting that "applications for a permit under this section will be approved if it is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the authorised [military] official, that the lecturer contributes significantly to academic learning, to the area's economy, or to advancing regional cooper-

ation and peace" Moreover, under the new the Israeli authorities will not only determine who can or cannot teach in Palestinian universities but will also restrict the time foreign scademics can reside in the West Bank to one semester. which ensures that foreign professors will no longer be able to become permanent members of the academic staff at any of West Bank's institutions of higher eduFinally, the procedure will only allow up to 150 service sector.

foreign students to study in the West Bank at any given moment, while restricting their stay to one semester as well. Israel's attempt to exert total control over Palestinian universities is, of course, nothing new. But its approach to Palestinian higher education was once significantly different. Back in the early 1970s.

when Israel's occupation of the West Bank was in its early years, the Israeli authorities provided Palestinians with permits to establish universities in the occupied territories Security officials were under the impression that the establishment of universities could help Israel normalise the occupation and thus foster Palestinian support for Israeli rule.

This policy backfired. The universities established under occupation rapidly became sites for political organising and mobilisation for Palestinian liberation.

Furthermore, within a relatively short period, these universities produced a fairly large Palestinian professional class. The abour market in the occupied territories did not have much to offer these young graduates - Israel was almost exclusively hiring unskilled manual labourers for its construction and agricultural industries, and military authorities were attempts by Palestinians to

industries or develop the

Not surprisingly, the lack of jobs created bitterness among unemployed and underemployed graduates. Alongside thousands of university students - who were equally concerned about their future prospects these graduates eventually served as a primary force in bringing about the first wave of mass resistance to Israeli rule: the Intifada of

Seeing the prominent role students and graduates took on during the first Intifada, Israel swiftly learned its lesson and began imposing severe restric-tions on Palestinian universities. Birzeit University, for instance, was practically closed year round from 1988 to 1992. All of the other universities also faced long-term closures.

In the decades that followed, numerous proce dures have been introduced to restrict Palestinian higher education. The primary aim of these policies, rang ing from limiting the movement of lecturers and students to putting restrictions on subjects that can be taught, was to undermine Palestinian economic development and the circulation of knowledge that can be used to mobilise generations vounger against colonial rule.

Given this half-century long history of academic restrictions, obstructions and repression, it is difficult

to find anything new in the freedom that Israel is due to introduce in the West Bank later this month. The "procedure" is, after all, just one more draconian policy in a long line of draconian policies targeting Palestinian darity it first appears to be. higher education. And vet,

there has been an interesting development since the announcement of the procedure in February.
In addition to Palestinian
universities themselves,
international human rights

organisations, and professional associations such as the Middle East Studies Association and the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (in which I serve as chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom), an Israeli university publicly voiced concern in an official capacity over an Israeli policy that would undermine the academic freedom of Palestinians.

In an arguably unprecedented move, the General Assembly of the Hebrew University sent an official letter to the Israeli military commander of the West Bank, emphasising the problematic restrictions set out in the procedure. At first glance, the pen-

ning of this letter appears to be a step in the right direction - until now, the only support Palestinian higher institutions education received from Israeli academia came from Israeli academics organising, protestopen letters criticising the

attacks Palestinian academic freedom in their personal

By Neve Gordon

capacity Nevertheless, a careful reading of the letter quickly shows that this is hardly the important gesture of soli-

The general assembly insists that the military should not intervene in decisions regarding a person's academic qualifications, but still accepts that the occupying military has whether lecturer. researcher or student poses a security threat and deny them access to Palestinian

universities. "There are," it argues, "no security considerations that justify this kind of intervention because it is clear that in any case all lecturers, researchers and students need to receive an individual entry permit from security officials."

In other words, the Hebrew University accepts basic assumptions informing Israeli rule over Palestinians: the legitimacy of one ethnic group dominating another ethnic group, and the use of laws and official policies to sustain and enhance that domi-

The letter is tepid, at best. But it does raise an important question: why, after nearly half a century did an Israeli university suddenly decide to voice concern about repressive Palestinian universities?

So much for independence

Every year on July 4, to much fanfare and revelry, the United States marks its 1776 independence from Britain.

The date is also an official holiday in Puerto Rico and other de facto US colonies. So much for

"independence I was born in the US in 1982, and, before definitively freeing myself from the "land of the free" in 2003, got to experience many a Fourth of July celebration. One year, when I was 12 or 13 and living in the Texas capital of Austin, my family and I attended a massive Independence Day gath-ering by the river, complete with deafening music and fireworks that permanently traumatised our dog Bounder. Although this was more than 25 years ago, I can still recall being dispro-portionately moved by the Lee Greenwood song, God Bless the USA - a staple of July 4th fesconvulsed Bounder

beside me begins: "And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free - and, indeed, as I stood there surrounded by my fellow Americans in a city named for a colonis-er and slaveowner, I felt my heart swell with pride at the thought of this inexplicable freedom that, according to the tune, we somehow col-

lectively enjoyed. Anyway, that's pretty much how cheap patriot-ism works.In her acclaimed book Notes on a Foreign Country, jour-nalist Suzy Hansen incidentally cites this very same Lee Greenwood anthem, which she and her classmates sang one day on the school bus in New Jersey during the US invasion of Iraq in 1990 - not to be con-fused with the 2003 US invasion of Iraq or the apocalyptic US sanctions that, as late American diplomat Madeleine

Albright admitted, had killed some half a million Iragi children as of 1996. To be sure, Iraq is far from the only place on Earth that has long had to suffer the deadly reper-cussions of self-righteous American entitlement and ignorant nationalist fervour. As Mark Twain reportedly said: created war so that Americans would learn

geography". But just how "free" are Americans, at the end of the day? Even as the country manages to spend trillions upon trillions of dollars on belliendeavours, themselves Americans deprived basic rights as affordable healthcare, education and housing. Homelessness is a veritable epidemic in the US – and has reached a level not seen in drasti-

cally poorer countries.
In April, the New York
Times quoted San Francisco emergency room doctor Maria on the recent dreadful uptick in homeless deaths in America: s like a wartime death toll in places where there is no war". Then again, maybe there is in fact a

and one that America is waging on its

own people. only Americans decidedly not "free" from poverty or homelessness, but the US also boasts the highest incarceration rate in the world - an arrangement that has traditionally filled the coffers of the private prison industry to the detriment of, well,

And following the June 24 Supreme Court ruling on abortion, women in the US can dispense with any illusion of freedom of control over their own bodies - especially poor women of colour, who do not have the relative socioeconomic freedom to pursue alternate options that override the reproductive fascism of

Nor are children in the US free to go to school without having to worry about being mown down by a semi-automatic weapon or other lethal device. Recall the case of a survivor o May 24 massacre of 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. CNN reported Cerrillo "feared the gunman would come back for her so she smeared herself in her friend's

blood and played dead".

I dare say that is not what freedom looks what freedom looks like. This Fourth of July, I am not "proud to be an American" – and I never should have been. Anyway, that's pretty much how cheap patriot-

works.In acclaimed book Notes on a Foreign Country, jour-nalist Suzy Hansen incidentally cites this very

same Lee Greenwood anthem, which she and her classmates sang one day on the school bus in New Jersey during the US invasion of Iraq in 1990 - not to be con-fused with the 2003 US invasion of Iraq or the apocalyptic US sanctions that, as late American diplomat Madeleine Albright admitted, had

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Anyway, that's pretty much how cheap patriotism works.In her acclaimed book Notes on a Foreign Country, jour-nalist Suzy Hansen.

Dear Pakistani women: you are not welcome

n what now seems a firm pattern, Pakistan plummeted down near the absolute bottom in the recent Global Gender Gap report published by the World Economic Forum.

shows The report progress on closing the gap between men and women across four pillars: economic participation, education, health and political empowerment. Pakistan ranks 145th out of 146 countries, beating Afghanistan. Last year, Pakistan ranked 153rd out of 156 countries. It will take 197 years for South Asia to close the gender gap. This is the worst performing region in the entire world. What we live and expected just came out in black and white -Pakistan is a terrible country for women. The only place, in the world, that is worse for women is

Afghanistan. Pakistan has managed to close the gender gap by 56.4 per cent. This is momentous by Pakistani standards, but still an international embarrassment. The report is measured in terms of gaps, and not of levels. This makes international comparisons possible. The idea is to report the gap to a country's existing resources by its people. This is important because comparing levels puts the Global South at a disadvantage as it has less resources. Measuring gaps also makes assessing the developed world easier as despite a multifold excess of resources there, the gender gap exists. Not a single country in the world has achieved gender parity - although Iceland is close and sits at the top of the gender gap

Compared to global averages, Pakistan lags behind on every single pillar. The worst performance is on economic participation and opportunity. Pakistan bottoms out on labor force participation and the income gap between men and women. That makes sense. Of all the women that could be working, only 21.4 per cent work, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Most women in Pakistan are employed in agriculture sector where the pay gap is high. The nature of work that women do is hard labour unskilled mostly work. On the other end of the the spectrum, fewer women are seen in senior and managerial positions. There are more women in low-paying jobs, and fewer women in high-paying jobs - amounting to a rising gender gap. While Pakistani women's income, in relation to

changes cannot meaningfully reduce the gender Women's representation in the domain of leg-islators, senior officials

men, has gone up by less

than five per cent this past

year, such incremental

and managers in Pakistan is abysmal. Things are a little better in the domain of professional and technical workers.

The state of affairs renders one speechless. We see this reality unfold every day in our lives. We see the sort of jobs women are offered, we see very few of them in the formal sector but a disproportionate amount of them in the informal sector. The informal sector offers next to no legal and organizational protection and no health insurance. Yet, when one sees the reality painted in black and white in international comparisons, it is heartbreaking. Women and men in Pakistan appear to work very hard and then we learn that women here are only bet-ter off than women in Afghanistan. Other things start making more sense. Like the 16.5 million Pakistanis that have left Pakistan in the previous decade, in search of better economic opportunities: if there ever was a wakeup call. How do we ensure a Pakistan that works for half of its population? We need to get more women working and we need to create better jobs for them. Now, before we do that, we also need the economy to grow - which it won't for the next couple of years on account of the structural reforms underway. But after the reform there is a tiny window to improve things. That's when we get women to work.

'Picturesque' protests

In March, as Sri Lanka's economic crisis unfolded, desperate people started gathering in front of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's respective official residences to protest endemic corruption, nepotism and mismanagement in the country.

They set up an encampment on the Galle Beach in front of the Parliament, which came to be called GotaGoGama (the village demanding that 'Gota' - President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resign from office). The University Students' Federation joined the protests in massive, well-organ-ised rallies. Hundreds of trade unions called a island-wide general strike in support.

As I monitored international media's coverage of these protests, I recognised some familiar discrepancies often seen in the coverage of such events in the Global South.

Most news sources, for example, initially referred to the people at GotaGoGama encampment as "protesters. But as the police and military moved in, deploying tear gas and water cannons, and at times, live bullets against these same people, rather than describing the events as they are attacks on protesters by

security forces - news reports started referring to what was unfolding

When members of the Rajapaksa family their political reportedly cronies bussed in their supporters - themselves destitute people paid a few thousand rupees and bottles of arrack - to attack the protest site and destroy the 'village', reports containing references to 'mobs', 'rioters' and 'clashes' further prolif-

As Dilini Algama, a PhD student of English Linguistics at Justus-Liebig-Universitat Giessen in Germany, noted in a conversation on Twitter, it was always clear who was armed, and who instigated the violence. Yet German news outlets referred to chaos and 'unruhen'. which, explained Algama, can also mean 'riots'. There was "little to no clarification about the violence of pro-govern-ment and pro-Rajapaksa groups, or that tear-gas and water cannon toting military provoked and assaulted protestors". Moreover, "phrasing the violence as a 'clash between two groups' delegitimises

the protests and equates

people practicing their democratic right to protests with the vio-lence of groups dis-

patched by the state to

intimidate and stop them", she added. This

is nothing unique to Sri Lanka - we often see similar narratives of clashes' and 'riots' in the international coverage of protests and police actions against them across the Global South, most infamously evident in Palestine.

In Sri Lanka's case

however, the reality of the protests was not misrepresented through narratives about "clashes". Due to the island's colonial past, and the fact that Europeans many Scandinavians Germans, Russians and Britons - regularly holiday there, other prob-lematic attitudes that reduce the protests into one-dimensional Orientalist fantasies have also crept into the coverage.

Sri Lanka's protest movement is idealistic and focused on collective care. Organisers at GotaGoGama, for example, set up a free food station that provides meals for protesters and the destitute, a medical aid tent, and a library, where anyone can come and read books or organise a "People's University" session hosting discussions on social and political issues. The protesters at the village have been consciously and strategically educating each other, through "teach-outs", about the conditions that created this economic crisis, and the way successive leaders

used nationalism to obtain votes and power. They have been working to bring together people who have purposefully, and for political ends, been divided across ethnic, religious, and class divides since Sri Lanka's independence.

ethno-

also put on educational shadow-puppet shows, sung raucous island (catchy tunes, often accompanied by cheeky lyrics com-menting on social conditions), chanted inventive slogans, and made some of the most hilarious protest posters I've ever seen.In some international reports, however, these strategic and undeniably effective efforts to bring about change and bring a nation together have been portrayed as youthful naivete, infantalising the movement

The protesters have

and impactful than its Western counterparts. Throughout these protests, people from different religious and ethnic groups, who have been trained to be deeply suspicious of each other, broke fast together during the month of Ramadan, celebrated Easter, and had fun on the Buddhist holiday Vesak. On a few occasions, a kat-tadiya, or an exorcist came to do an exorcism ceremony to cast out evil demons from the

island. They've educat-

and making it look somewhat less serious

By M Neelika Jayawardane ed each other about the state's violence against their communities especially violence tar-geting the country's Muslim and Tamil people; Ambika Satkunanathan and oth-Ambika ers repeatedly noted Tamil people, especially those in the North and the East could not, without inviting further state surveillance and bodily harm, protest as freely as did the Sinhala in Colombo. They honoured the Tamil victims of the civil war together, and invited the surviving families of those forcibly 'disappeared' in the North and the South to speak

Representatives of various religious organisations also attended the protests to bear witness to the events, and try to offer some protection to protesters from the violence of police. Sri Lankan Armed Forces and extrajudicial groups looking to harm them.

held vigil, overnight, at

the main protest.

Images of Catholic nuns forming human chains to protect protestors were undeniably potent. So were those showing Catholic and Anglican priests, Muslim imams and Hindu maulanas, priests, and Buddhist monks, all in their religious robes sitting together at Galle Face Beach, chatting and sharing views. Together, they have

Palestine's victories

November 2006, the Israeli military prevent-Palestine-based footballers from partici-pating in the final match of the Asian Football Confederation qualification group stage. The news had a major demoralizing effect on all Palestinians. Even rare moments of hope and are crushed by Israel. As disappointing as the

Israeli decision was, it was hardly compared to the collective shock felt by Palestinians every-where when, in 2007, Palestinian players were not allowed to participate in a decisive World Cup qualifying game against Singapore. Instead of Singapore. Instead of showing solidarity with Palestinians and con-demning Israel, the International Football Association decided to award an autovictory matic

Singapore of 3-0.
This is why Palestine's latest qualification is historic, as it is more proof that Palestinian resilience has no bounds. It sends a message to Israel as well, that its unjust draconian measures will never break the spirit of the

Palestinian people.
The latest achievement should also be placed within another context. It is the third time in a row that the Palestine national team qualifies for the Asian cup finals, thanks

to an impressive squad that represents all Palestinian communities, at home and in the Diaspora. This moment, is bittersweet. however. Many Palestinian foot-ballers, who should have been present in the Sports Center Stadium in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia – where the qualification rounds were held – were missing. Some are in Israeli prisons, others are maimed or killed. Much of the killings happened in 2009. Indeed, 2009 was a ter-

rible year for Palestinian footbáll. In January 2009, three Palestinian footballers, Ayman Alkurd, Shadi Sbakhe and Wajeh Moshtaha, were killed during the Israeli war on the besieged Gaza Strip. All three were seen as promising athletes with bright futures. Two months later. Darwish was killed by an Israeli sniper near Ramallah The 18-year-old was slated to become

a big name in Palestinian football, too. In July of that same year, the tragedy of Mahmoud Sarsak began. Sarsak had only been a member of the Palestine National Football Team for six months when he was arrested and tortured by Israel in a painful saga that lasted for three years. He won his freedom after undergoing a hunger strike that lasted for over 90 days. The permanent health issues Sarsak was left with, however, meant By Ramzy Baroud

that his once-promising sports career was over. Arrests, torture and killings of Palestinian footballers became a reg-ular headline in Palestine. This includes the killing of former Palestinian football star, Ahed Zaqqut, in 2014, and the deliberate shooting of the feet of Jawhar Nasser Jawhar, 19, and Adam Abd Al Raouf Halabiya, 17. The two players were attempting to cross an Israeli military check-point in the occupied West Bank to return home after a long training ses-

These are but mere examples. The targeting of Palestinian sports is a constant item on the Israeli military agenda. Palestinian stadiums are often bombed during Israel's brutal wars on Indeed, 2009 was a ter-

rible year for Palestinian football. In January 2009, three Palestinian footballers, Ayman Alkurd, Shadi Sbakhe and Wajeh Moshtaha, were killed during the Israeli war on the besieged Gaza Strip. All three were seen as promising athletes with bright futures. Two bright futures. months later, Darwish was killed by an Israeli sniper near Ramallah The 18-yearold was slated to become a big name in Palestinian football, too In July of that same year, the tragedy of Mahmoud Sarsak began. Sarsak had only been a member.

No interference

in polling

process to be tolerated: CEC

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Sunday said that no

interference in polling process will

Election Commissioner visited central control room set up to monitor crucial by-elections being

held in 20 constituencies of

The CEC further warned viola-tion of law and unrest will not be allowed under any circumstances.

Earlier, he appealed to the voters to keenly participate in the election process and cast their vote for their

favorite candidates in by-elections of the Punjab Assembly.

ticipation of voters, the democracy will further flourish and the coun-

try will get stability and more strength He directed the law enforcement agencies to ensure the

rule of law and peace during the election process without any dis-crimination.INP

He said that with the active par-

According to details, Chief

be tolerated.

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

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

Sikandar Sultan Raja directed the chief secretary and inspector general of police (IG) Punjab against any political victimization during bypolls on 20 constituencies of the provincial assembly.The ECP spokesper-son 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 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 con-stituencies of Punjab remained peaceful and

satisfactory," he said. Earlier in the day, Chief 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 bypolls on 20 constituencies of the provincial assembly.The ECP spokesper-son 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

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 Planning, 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 trans-

formed 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 phasewise manner. This will be a landmark initiative that will ease the work of officials, and will also prove

Punjab by-polls: ECP CEC

directs chief secretary, IG against

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 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 transformations. Digital transforma-tion 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 signifi-cant push towards digitization during the Covid-19 pandemic, but was unable to reap the promises of this

ECP secretary orders to resume halted polling

LAHORE: Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan visited PP-158, PP-167 and PP-168 and ordered to resume the polling process for the Punjab by-polls as soon as possible.

According to details, the polling halted at the above-mentioned Punjab Assembly constituencies due to clashes between PTI, PML-

N and TLP workers. ECP secretary Umer Hameed visited multiple polling stations in the three PP seats and inquired about the polling readiness of the polling agents and supplies.
Umar ordered to sort out all

complaints and resume the polling process. He also visited the ECP's control room in Gulberg Lahore.

Voting had been halted at polling stations 50 and 51 of PP-168 in the Punjab by-polls after a clash broke out among Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz and Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan workers. According to details, the polling

process was suspended at polling stations 50 and 51 of the Punjab Assembly constituency PP-168 Lahore after a clash broke out among PTI, PML-N and TLP

TLP and PML-N workers rained down on each other at ps 50 with kicks and fists while a clash broke out between PML-N and PTI workers at ps 51.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 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 oneand-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 confirma-

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

The provincial election commissioner further stated that the polling agents verified by political parties are allowed to sit at the p o l l i n g 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 of secretary province that no retaliatory action should be taken against any civilian/people

The CEC has warned of strict action if retaliatory action is taken against anybody, the spokesperson added. He maintained that the CEC directed to take all possible measures to ensure free and fair elections in the province.

The provincial election commissioner fur-ther 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.

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political victimization ISLAMABAD: Chief Election PTI leader Shehbaz Gill has 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

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 offi-cer. The polling for the 'do and die' by-elections on 20 con-

stituencies 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 candi-

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



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 trans-

port 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 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 pro-cure the buses Similarly, the government has dealer to connect Ghulam Khan in the North Waziristan tribal district with Motorway 14 under a project of CPEC Dr. Nadeemul Haq, a promi-nent economist and Vice-Chancellor of the Pakistan

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

the future economic direc-tion of Pakistan.
"However, the recent urban transport projects by Chinese companies will 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 effi-ciency to the trade and

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

sectors Pakistan. The projects being executed under CPEC will help traders to transport their goods with-in a short span of time at a lower fare. These projects will also increase the geo-graphical size of the graphical 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 improv-ing logistics in Pakistan. "CPEC may help Pakistan. to 'save distance' in terms of transport," he added INP

'All possible measures should be taken to ensure polling in a free and fair manner," he said. PML-N non-existent, PTI competing against

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

foreign conspiracy, ECP: Hammad Azhar

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 Gul 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 responsibil-

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 chil-

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

OUETTA: Resident of chaghi Muhammad holding a press conference regarding his 7 year old daughter at OPC 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 offi-cials 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 result-ing 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 boogies were derailed, leaving the rou-tine 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 acci-

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 oods trains which were stopped at Dalbandin allowed to proceed towards Iranian city of Zahedan Earlier a goods train coming from

Zahedan was derailed in the Dalbandin

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services for 72 hours The sources cited the tracks' dilapidated condition as the cause of the accident 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

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 agricul-ture 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 soy-bean 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 saidHe 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 inter-

cropping. In the inter-cropping system, several species are grown simul-taneously between one another. It is beneficial for the farmers, as it pro-vides 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 culti-vation 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 nutrientsrich 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 soy-bean," he added. "The main problem

has not developed.INP

Pakistan is facing in soy-bean cultivation is that it

July, 2022.

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 quettta thrrough its registrar, Airport Road, Quetta. Appellant/plaintiff

Nadia Ali shah d/o syed sadat Ali shah, Research Associate, Department of Management Sciences BUITEMS. Syed Sadat Ali shah s/o syed Muhammad Ali shah. Resident of Bungalow NO.5 Government Girls college Quetta. Miran Bakhash s/o Muhammad Islmail.

Village Muhammad Ismail Magsi Taluka Shahdad- Pur. Respondents/defendants

be initiated against you respondents / defendants.

Nadia Ali shah d/o Syed Sadat Ali shah, research Associate, Department of Management Science BUITEMS. 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 delibreately 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 hear ing i.e. 22nd July, 2022 in case of your absence ex-parts proceedings would

> Given under my hand and he seal of the court on this 06th dayof (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 alleged-ly carrying and displaying weapons on his visit to polling stations PP-272 and PP-73 during the Punjab by-

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 Muazzam Ali along with his guards. They have been taken to an undisclosed location,

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-



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 regis-tered 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

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

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 oper-ation against terrorists in Warchoom,

During the ongoing recovery opera-tion 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 sophis-ticated 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 Warchoom towards Khalifat Mountains.

As per the assessment, the terrorists had killed Omer 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 tweed 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 develop-ment and bright future of your children. I have full faith in your power of choice," he stated.INP

Bhabi, dewar clash in Muzaffargarh by-poll

woman (bhabi) and her brother-in-law — brother of her husband (dewar) — are vying for PP-272 constituency in Shaher 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

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

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

Among them are Allah Wasaya, Beenish Haron Zareena Kausar, Sardar Sami, Syed Haroon Ahmed, Syed Zahra Basit Bukhari, Muhammad Ibrahim,

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 per-son came to vote Syeda Zahra Basit Bukhari

Basit Bukhari.
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ECP directs chief secretary, IG against political victimization

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PIT 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 offi-

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 candi-

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 conduct-

ed 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 MPA Jaleel Sharaqpuri tenders his resignation

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) received a big blow on Sunday before the Punjab bypolls 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 Sheikhunura Mian

MPA from Sheikhupura, Mian Jaleel Ahmed Sharaqpuri, submitted his handwritten resigna-tion to Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi.

"How can I get along with Shehbaz Sharif when he is taking the proclaimed offenders along," Jaleel Sharaqpuri 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 philos-ophy of Imran Khan. That's why we are with him," he stat-

"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 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 sta-

tus, 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 tweeted 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

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 property clearly dominated the prop

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 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 lime-light. This included an early morning resigna-

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. footage showed

leagues wrapping a piece of cloth around PML-N worker's head to block

Also, PML-N candi-date Rana Ahsan Sharafat

and PTI leader Jamshed Iqbal Cheema also

last 20 years, by-polls are being field 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

Akram Usman is the son of former IJI MNA Mian Muhammad Usman and also related to PTI

senior leader and parlia-mentary leader in Punjab Assembly Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed INP

Another Indian

plane makes

emergency

landing at

Karachi Airport

I S L A M A B A D : Another Indian passenger

plane made an emergency

reported on Sunday.
It is to be noted here that the Airbus A320 was

carrying more than hun-

dred passengers on board.INP

PML-N MPA

Ghiyasuddin

denies he has

resigned

SHAKARGARH: PML-N MPA Abu Hafs Muhammad Ghiyasuddin on Sunday has denied

rumors about his resigna-

told media Hamza Shehbaz was his leader and he stood with his

party in the testing time. He denied all the news

circulating on TV chan-nels and social media about his resignation from the PML-N.

Talking from Shakargarh, he said that he had not met with Punjab Assembly Speaker Peraiz Elahi INP

The MPA from PP-47

at Karachi it has been

fanding Airport,

exchanged hot words. Pertinent to note that for the third time in the

bleeding.

Sharafat engaged in a heated argument with PTI leader Jamshed Iqbal Cheema.Web Desk Anger boils as Depression in Arabian PML-N, PTI Sea to bring rainfall in Sindh workers clash and Balochistan: PMD

carrying weapons.

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

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 process of the parties o

workers during the polling process in Lahore's PP-158 constituency. As a result, one of the

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

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 bend in jury.

Meanwhile, PML-N candidate Rana Ahsan

PML-N workers sustained a head injury.

conditions would remain very rough during next 2 to 3 days advising fish-ermen of Sindh and Balochistan not to venture into open sea till tomor-

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

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 sta-tion," 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 can-didates. 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. 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

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, includ-

ing 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 con-

A total of 9,562 polling booths have been set up for the by-polls. The ECP has declared 1204 polling sta-tions sensitive and 696 highly sensi-tive. Polling stations from Lahore and

Multan have also been declared sensitive Provincial 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

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

strong at the moment.

In the house, there are five inde-pendents, of which Chaudhry Nisar, the former interior minister, is unlike-ly 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

