

QUETTA VOICE

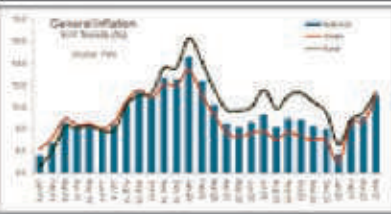
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Inflation hits 21.3pc in June, highest in over 13 years



FM Bilawal Bhutto invites us congress woman to Pakistan

BISP to provide 25 mobile vans to facilitate women in Balochistan

Abdullah Lehri News Desk

QUETTA, KALAT: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Shazia Atta Marri on Friday announced the provision of 25 mobile vans to facilitate the women of Balochistan. Addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club, she said mobile vans would be provided in various areas of Balochistan to address the grievances of deserving and needy women timely.



Kalat and inaugurated a BISP center. Member National Assembly from the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Rubina Irfan also accompanied her BISP to establish offices on the tehsil level. Shazia Atta Marri said the BISP would establish offices on the tehsil level to support and facilitate deserving and needy families. "Our priority is to support needy and deserving women and families", she said. The federal minister arrived in the provincial capital of Balochistan and

addressed party supporters. BISP Balochistan Chief, Abdul Jabbar, and PPP leaders received her at the Quetta international airport. Shazia Marri stated that previous rulers had tried to abolish the BISP for political interests and reasons. "We have again made it functional and active to accomplish Shaheed Mohtarma's dream of alleviating poverty from Pakistan", the Federal Minister said. The country was on the verge of economic collapse due to Imran Khan's policies, Marri



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurating Innovation Hub.

Protesters block Quetta Karachi highway against load shedding

Abdullah Lehri

KALAT: Protesters blocked the main Quetta-Karachi highway on Friday as a protest against unannounced load shedding in the area. In scorching heat, the passengers suffered on both sides of the highway because of the blockade. "These power outages are paramount to the economic murder of growers", Agha Laal Jan Ahmedzai, one of the central leaders of the growers' action committee said. He said the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) had failed to provide power supply to growers and other domestic consumers. "Our standing crops have been destroyed due to unannounced and prolonged load shedding", Mr. Ahmedzai lamented. The protesters were also chanting

slogans against the QESCO and provincial government for their failure to provide power supply to the area. Growers threaten blockade on highways on July 4. Mr. Ahmedzai thus warned that growers would block all highways across Balochistan on July 4, if QESCO failed to provide an uninterrupted power supply to the growers. However, he urged the masses to avoid traveling during the protest of growers in the province.



QESCO Chief Engineer Karim Jamali however complained that the growers were not paying their bills. He said QESCO's outstanding in Balochistan had crossed Rs.4 trillion and most of the outstanding were against agriculture consumers. QESCO facing a shortfall of 1000 megawatts currently. Growers in Balochistan's Mastung, Killa Abdullah, Pishin and other parts of

Inflation hits 21.3pc in June, highest in over 13 years

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation reached 21.3pc during the week ending on June 30, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said in a report.

According to the stats provided by the PBS, the inflation rate in the country in the previous week was recorded at 21.3 percent, the highest since December 2008.

During the week under review, out of 53 items, prices of 28 items increased, prices of 05 items decreased, and prices of 18 items remained stable.

During the week under review, out of 53 items, prices of 28 items increased, prices of 05 items decreased, and prices of 18 items remained stable. The commodities, which recorded increase in their average prices included: Tomatoes (31.53pc), Onions (7.86pc), Tea Lipton (4.60pc), Eggs (2.56pc), Pulse Mash (2.30pc), Pulse Gram (2.17pc), Pulse Moong (1.83pc), Milk Fresh (1.81pc), Potatoes (1.67pc), Bread (1.59pc), Cooking Oil 5 litre (1.40pc) and Pulse Masoor (1.34pc), non-food items Electricity charges for Q1 (27.89percent), Washing Soap (2.56pc) and LPG (1.15pc), with joint impact of (3.78pc) into the overall SPI for combined group of (3.63pc). INP

Saidal Khan Luni posted as Secretary Information Balochistan

News Desk

QUETTA: The government of Balochistan posted Saidal Khan Luni, a grade-20 officer as the



Secretary of Information Balochistan on Friday. According to a notification issued by the Services and General Administration Department, Mr. Luni has been appointed as the Secretary of Information.

Saidal Khan Luni has served as the Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, Commissioner Mekran Division, Director General (DG) Environment and other important positions in the province.

Mr. Luni's appointment has come after the Balochistan government-appointed Imran Khan, the outgoing Secretary of Information as of the Secretary of Forest and Wildlife the other day.

Sindh CM rides peoples bus service, takes public feedback, suggestions

KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah rode the recently launched Peoples Bus Service, and took public feedback and suggestions regarding the service.

According to details, CM Sindh took a ride in the people's bus service on Friday, asked the public about the service and took suggestions about improvement.

Administrator Karachi Murtaza Wahan posted the CM's photos while travelling in the service. People were happy at the launch of the landmark transport service in the metropolitan city and wanted its extension on more routes.

Murtaza Wahan said that the CM distributed masks among citizens during his ride from Metropole to Shahrah-e-Faisal. The CM urged all passengers to follow Covid standard operations procedures (SOPs), he added.

Moreover, the commercial operation on the second route of Sindh Peoples Intra-District Bus Service commenced today morning.

Transport Minister Sindh Sharjeel Inaam Memon announced the operation launch on his Twitter account. INP

Billions embezzled in name of development: Quetta Development Forum

Staff Reporter

Quetta Development Forum (QDF) on Thursday claimed that billions

concern about the poor quality of development works in the city.

The speakers said that billions of rupees are being wasted in

petent selection on the people have reached the point of incompetence. Therefore the public must be organized, the speakers demanded. Fake lead-



of rupees were embezzled in the name of development projects in the provincial capital. The QDF organized a post-budget dialogue and alternative approach for the development of Quetta at the press club.

Senior parliamentarian, Nawabzada Haji Mir Lashkari Raisani, former chief secretary Mehfooz Ali Khan, Abdul Muteen AKhundzada, the founder of QDF, Dr. Laal Khan Kakar, the Chairman Shaheed Baz Muhammad Foundation, Nazir Muhammad Bareech and others addressed the seminar. The speakers expressed

our province every year. Hin is also the diamond of words in this budget. The province is so rich that we can stand in the ranks of the developed nations of the world, they mentioned.

This is the city for which no master plan has been made yet, they lamented. It is a deserted city. The relentless wastage of the city's resources must be stopped until a master plan is drawn up for Quetta. The speakers said that the incompetent people have to be deprived of power and the conscious people have to move forward.

Those who have imposed such incom-

PM Shehbaz, COAS discuss security situation

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and held a discussion with him on country's security situation.

Reportedly, Army Chief Bajwa and Prime Minister Shehbaz held a one-on-one meeting here at Prime Minister House. The duo discussed matters related to Army's professional preparedness. They also held consultation regarding internal affairs of country's security situation.

On this occasion, the Prime Minister also congratulated the Army Chief on receiving the Saudi Civil Award.

It is pertinent to mention here that Chief of Army Staff Gen Bajwa was on an official visit to Qatar on Thursday. He called on Emir of the State of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani and Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of State for Defence Affairs, the State of Qatar His Excellency Doctor Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Attiyah.

During his meetings with Qatari royalty and political leadership they discussed matters of mutual interests, defence & security cooperation and regional environment.

The COAS said that both countries shared a great history of cordial relations and a deep spirit of brotherhood, which were being transformed into an enduring partnership.

Both sides underscored the importance of further enhancing cooperation in all fields.

It may also be recalled that Pakistan is currently facing energy crunch and has failed to find a bidder for liquefied natural gas (LNG) slots. The government is in discussion for increased deliveries of LNG from Qatar to help ease the crippling fuel crisis. But on June 24, Pakistan had received the most expensive bid for a single cargo shipment from Qatar which had added to the list of INP



ISLAMABAD: THE Ambassador of Turkiye, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, presenting his credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

FM Bilawal Bhutto invites us congress woman to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto on Friday addressed Congressional Pakistan Caucus via video link and invited its Chairperson Sheila Jackson Lee to visit Pakistan.

Speaking during the interaction, Bilawal said that the Pakistani diaspora in United States plays an important role in strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

US Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee said that she would write a letter to the International Monetary Fund for improving economic conditions of the country.

The meeting was also attended by Pakistani envoy to US Masood Khan, Democrat leaders Tahir Javed, Asif Riaz Qadir and others.

On May 18, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to mend broken ties between the two countries.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto participated in a ministerial meeting and debate at the United Nations Security Council on food security. Bilawal and Blinken vowed to mend ties between Pakistan and America and strengthen bilateral bonds. The American Secretary of State said that the USA is looking forward to encouraging economic and trade ties with Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasised the importance of multilateralism and the United Nations in Pakistan's foreign policy.

Antony Blinken also thank the Pakistan Foreign Minister for his participation in the Food security debate at the UN. Bilawal Bhutto assured Blinken that US investors in Pakistan will be provided with maximum assistance. INP

Political parties demand restoration of Musakhail MPA seat

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: All political parties in Musakhail have demanded of the Election Commission of Pakistan to restore the member provincial assembly seat of the district. Their demand has come after the ECP proposed the inclusion of the Musakhail district in the Barkhan recently.

"ECP must hear our concerns", Sardar Babar Musakhail, the acting Speaker Balochistan Assembly told a crowded press conference on Friday evening at the Balochistan Assembly Secretariat. Former provincial minister, Maulana Ghulam Sarwar and other political leaders from the Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) and other political parties were also present on the occasion. The political leaders informed that they have already lodged a complaint with the Chief Election Commissioner in this regard.



"It is the constitutional obligation of the ECP to address our grievances", the acting Speaker said.

"It is the constitutional obligation of the ECP to address our grievances", the acting Speaker said. Political parties have also staged protest demonstrations in Musakhail and outside the ECP's office in Quetta to mount pressure on the commission to restore the old status of the district's constituency.

As per the 2017 statistics, the population of district Barkhan is 1,71,0000, and district Musakhail's 168000. The political parties complained that the ECP had adopted a step-motherly treatment with Musakhail when it comes to the formation of new constituencies in the province.

"We will not step back from our demand", Maulana Ghulam Sarwar Musakhail who is also the provincial office-bearer of Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (JUI) said. He warned that political parties would intensify their protests if the government and ECP failed to address their grievances.

QUETTA VOICE

Editor Asim Khan

LBs results Balochistan: independents won thumping majority

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Syed Mansoor Ahmed

Climate change steams unbeatable challenges in the future. According to the World Bank report, Pakistan stands 6th in affected of climate change. The awful and deadly floods of 2010, and 2011, extremely dry weather in a rainy area, and fluctuation in actual climate pattern is alarming and despairing signs among all the dwellers of the town.

Climate Change and Agriculture in Pakistan

In addition, Pakistan is a semi-arid country. The focal and dependent source of water is from the snow-covered Himalayan and the Karakorum in the Northern Areas, Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and the Sutlej rivers flow through this area. Within the water calculus, the country's entire agriculture is dependant on water flow from the Indus river. Glacial flood outburst also poses a serious threat to the country's climate in the Karakorum range. The sole aim was reaching and understanding the possible nodes of surge-type glaciers, which are characterized by unsteady movements and frequent frontal advances of glaciers. As result, it causes natural

hazards by obstructing river channels, forming ice-dammed lakes, which will ultimately cause GLOFs and pose threats downstream of the water. After meaningful analysis, it revealed that a surge between 1998 and 2002 generated 6 GLOFs. Damages by Climate Change.

Meanwhile, rigorous critical exploration of the Attabad Lake of Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan is the distinctive event to justify the future threats of climate change in the center of freshwater. The lake flooding displaced more than 6,000 people from upstream villages and inundated over 19

Multivariate Aspects of Climate Change in Pakistan



kilometers of the Karakorum Highway. Recently, global warming and subsequent climate change have increased the constant state of fear and the risk of massive outburst flooding in the respective mountainous region. The comprehensive field evidence, local testimonies by the natives, modern applications of remote sensing, and cross-correlation feature-tracking techniques provides the improved understanding of glacier surges and ice-dam formation disclosed the scale future threat. Glaciers in Pakistan. It is also noted, historically, in the

Karakorum Range 39 glaciers are responsible for ice-dam formation. On the other hand, 36 glaciers build ice barriers in the running rivers due to frontal advance, near to the densely populated areas of the Karakorum region. By constant observation of the prevailing and growing threat of climate change, it is ailing the endless future threat only due to the GLOFs. For instance, the Indus River System (IRS) is the jugular vein of irrigation in Pakistan. It is providing water for almost 90% of the food product in Pakistan. The ice-dam formation due to the GLOFs will slow

down the water flowing pace downstream. And could raise a deep impasse among the units for water distribution formula. In the end, it will ultimately surface the challenge of food insecurity in Pakistan.

The Karakorum Range, more importantly, is the home of the anticipated One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) by giving with a potential corridor through the Karakorum Highway from Khunjerab to the seaport at Gwadar in Balochistan (CPEC) on the Indian Ocean. Therefore, the smooth running of the traffic on the roads is the keynote for progressive economic development. While the ice barriers in rivers due to frontal advance could inundate the blacktops of the Karakorum Highway. The dislocation and dissolution of roads will give birth to never-ending challenges due to the factor of GLOFs. In the same run, these lakes and GLOFs attracted media, political, and scientific attention because of the repeated outburst of floods. So, it needs the heart blood as well as collective effective efforts to bring down the scale of the future threat without causing infinite miseries.

A change for the worse

By Hussain H Zaidi

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

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

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

Taking due cognizance of this fundamental convention of parliamentary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Accurate representation

By Dean Baker

It was very frustrating to read Noam Scheiber's profile of Jaz Brisack, the person who led the first successful union organizing drive at a Starbucks. Brisack does sound like a very impressive person and it is good to see her getting the attention her efforts warrant.

However, Scheiber runs the story by repeatedly telling readers that the neoliberals, who have dominated political debate in recent decades, want a free market. Nothing could be further from the truth. I will start the indictment with their support of intellectual property. Government-granted patent and copyright monopolies transfer many hundred billion dollars annually from the rest of us to the top 10 percent, and especially the top one percent. Bill Gates would still be working for a living if the government didn't threaten to arrest anyone who made copies of Microsoft software without his permission.

Then we have 'free trade'. The neoliberals made it a top priority to make it as easy as possible to bring in cheap manufactured goods from developing countries. This cost millions of manufacturing jobs, and put downward pressure on the pay of non-college educated workers more generally. By contrast, if you talk to most neoliberals about removing the barriers that make it difficult for foreign doctors to practice in the United States, or other highly paid professionals, most suddenly get really stupid, like they don't know what "free trade" is. Neoliberals have been happy to lower the trade barriers that protect the wages of less-educated workers, but then it comes to the barriers that support the pay of people like them, they are the most protectionist people around.

The financial sector is another example. When people buy clothes or food in most places they pay a sales tax. But that's not the case for purchases of financial assets. Suppose we ended the special treatment for the financial sector and imposed a very modest 0.1 percent on sales of stock and other financial assets. This would radically reduce the incomes of many very rich Wall Street types, while having a minimal impact on the ability of the financial sector to carry through its pro-

ductive purposes. It is also not the free market to give Facebook and other social media behemoths Section 230 protection against defamation suits that print and broadcast outlets don't enjoy. Mark Zuckerberg and other Facebook insiders would be much poorer without this protection, but we would be moving towards a free market by taking it away.

I could go on (see Rigged [it's free]) but the point should be clear. Neoliberal types are just fine with all sorts of government interventions that redistribute income upward. They just get upset when the government intervenes in ways that redistributes from those on top to the rest of us.

It is understandable that neoliberals would like to be seen as big advocates of the free market. After all, it sounds much better to say that you favor a free market than to see that you favor redistributing from the poor and working class to the rich and very rich. But the neoliberals self-description is not accurate, and people like Scheiber should not be repeating it. Neoliberals need to be exposed for who they really are.

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

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

Trump stepped outside that sandbox on the night of the 2022 presidential election when he tweeted, "This election is a total sham and a travesty. We are not a democracy!" He mistakenly thought that Obama had won the election without the majority popular vote. Four years later, Trump won his presidential election without winning the popular vote, but he didn't mention that fact. Instead, when the polls indicated that he might lose the 2016 election to Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton, he claimed it would have been rigged if she had won. Then,

Mad, bad and dangerous to know

By Dr Naazir Mahmood

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

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

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

The prime span of fascism and Nazism was

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Selling lies

By Nick Licata

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

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

In response to the mounting evidence that smoking cigarettes damaged one's health, the tobacco industry hired the nation's leading public relations firm. The industry followed the consultant's advice and focused its efforts on disrupting the usual processes of knowledge production in medicine, science, and public health. Consequently, the leading tobacco companies embraced the scientific discourse that assumes there is always more to know. The tobacco industry's strategy was to exaggerate that principle in order to spread doubt and uncertainty about the known facts. The tobacco industry's campaign did not attack the validity of scientific institutions to analyze the facts; instead, they accused scientists of not wanting to find the correct data. Eventually, the tobacco industry lost its battle by paying over \$206 billion through a court settlement. However, that punishment was only achievable because it was delivered by an independent court system that fairly weighed the facts.

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

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

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

Trump stepped outside that sandbox on the night of the 2022 presidential election when he tweeted, "This election is a total sham and a travesty. We are not a democracy!" He mistakenly thought that Obama had won the election without the majority popular vote. Four years later, Trump won his presidential election without winning the popular vote, but he didn't mention that fact. Instead, when the polls indicated that he might lose the 2016 election to Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton, he claimed it would have been rigged if she had won. Then,

PM Shehbaz Sharif holds PTI govt responsible for loadshedding

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has held Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government responsible for the loadshedding, saying that challenges were being faced in energy sector due to PTI's bad policies.

Addressing a meeting held to review measures to end power outages, PM Shehbaz said that ending loadshedding was the responsibility of the coalition government despite the inherited baggage of crisis from the previous government.

The prime minister

reiterated that the government was focused on taking effective measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity to consumers.

He said the government was cognizant of the problems faced by the people during high mercury levels, adding that every effort would be made to address the genuine challenges.

PM Shehbaz mentioned that to resolve the problem, the government banned the import of machinery for raw materials and avoided the purchase of expensive gas.

The premier pointed out that the lack of maintenance of power plants during the tenure of the previous government resulted in power shortage.

He said quashing the transparent and cheap deal with Qatar for the supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) at a 13 percent rate in a period of 15 years was big negligence on part of the previous government.

Also, the prime minister said, despite commitment, the revolving account was not opened with China INP.



QUETTA: WASA employees hold protest in favor of their demands.

Imran Khan blasts govt for burdening poor instead of buying cheap Russian oil

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has lashed out at the government saying that instead of buying cheaper oil from Russia, the rulers have burdened the poor masses with price hike, besides lambasting them saying they have given themselves a second NRO to the tune of Rs1,100 billion.

In his tweet on Friday, Imran Khan said: "Instead of buying cheaper oil from Russia Imported govt, brought in by US regime change conspiracy, continues to put unbearable burden on people while giving themselves NRO2 worth Rs 1100 bn. Total increase Rs 99 for petrol, Rs 133 for diesel. Join our protest against this tomorrow."

On the other hand, former

interior minister and Awami Muslim League Chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has criticized the government for raising petrol prices saying that people will be administered more injections of price hike in the month of July.

On his Twitter handle, Sh Rashid wrote: "After an increase of Rs15 in petrol price and Rs14 in diesel rate, there will be more injections of price hike in July. The people will not get any relief, rather they will have to suffer. People are living by selling their household goods and now the electricity bill is also coming. The turncoats are being rewarded with party offices and party tickets. Soon the political funeral of the government will come out with a bang."

This is a dummy government

whose agenda is just to end its corruption cases and dance to the IMF tune. They have no interest in what is happening to the poor. They will depart after putting country in severe economic and political crisis. They will try to steal by-elections."

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Cases against two student groups involved in clash at Urdu University

KARACHI: Cases were registered against the members of two student organisations for clashing with each other at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences and Technology (FUUAST) in Karachi on Friday.

The case was registered against the students at Aziz Bhatti police station on behalf of the government.

Earlier on Thursday, at least six students were injured when two student groups clashed with each other at the FUUAST.

According to police, students of both the groups attacked each other with batons and stones, resulting in injuries to six of the students.

Taking notice of the matter, the university administration called the police that reached the spot and arrested several students of both groups.

The students had also clashed with the police personnel. The injured students were shifted to the hospital for medical treatment. The reason behind the clash was yet to be ascertained. INP

Election for CM Punjab to take place on July 22: SC

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: The Supreme Court Friday announced that the election for the Punjab chief minister's slot would be held on July 22 after the provincial government, PTI, and PML-Q reached a consensus on the matter.

The PTI had filed a plea in the top court seeking the annulment of Lahore High Court's (LHC) decision that had ordered the governor to hold the elections for the Punjab CM's slot today at 4pm.

During today's hearing, after much back and forth, Punjab Assembly Speaker Pervez Elahi — a contender for the CM's slot — had initially agreed that Hamza Shahbaz could remain the chief minister till July 17, but the PTI disagreed.

In a bid to break the deadlock, the top court directed Elahi to speak to PTI Chairman Imran Khan and come up with a solution — as it adjourned the hearing for the third time.

After the hearing resumed, all the parties agreed that Hamza would remain the chief minister till July 17. In a 4-1 split decision a day earlier, the LHC wrapped up PTI's case against Hamza's election to the CM's slot, while ordering INP

'Ambiguities in Transgender Act 2018 harming society'

ISLAMABAD: The legislative developments in Pakistan on the transgender persons have caused confusion and chaos instead of guaranteeing the rights of the marginalized population of the gender variant population in the country. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018 has been legislated without recourse to local realities, cultural implications, and even the judicious safeguards.

These views were presented during a round-table consultation regarding this 2018 legislation at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad in collaboration with Shaybani Foundation and National Law College, Rawalpindi. A diverse group of experts reviewed the law and the developments emanating from the legal, social, religious, and cultural aspects. Medical and psychological aspects of the issue were also discussed thereabout.

It was pointed out that the right to gender identity on the basis of self-perception is the major flaw in this law and is already harming the social structure and violating the legal framework of the country. There are

detailed guidelines in Islam related to those individuals who are born with ambiguities related to their sex. Their gender and rights are ordained under a scheme that ensures their welfare, rights, and participation in normal life to their maximum potential.

Despite this fact, the law in Pakistan has been promulgated without recourse to these injunctions or understanding the domestic context of the khawasara population. In its current form, the law serves the purposes of the western campaign for LGBTQ persons and fails to eliminate the factors bringing agony to the lives of gender-variant persons in Pakistan, like the infamous guru culture.

The participants highlighted that there are several petitions in the superior courts challenging various aspects of the Act and a clear divide is already visible in different segments of society. The Council of Islamic Ideology, too, has shared its strong reservations on definition of transgender persons and has held it against the letter and spirit of the Shariah and the law. The Council has also given recommendations for a law that takes into

account the problems faced by hermaphrodites.

The freedom to identify one's gender as per personal desire is problematic at its core. Apart from being a direct challenge to religion including Islam, it undermines the basics of humanity and human society, it was argued. The challenge is another episode of the western imperialistic paradigm that wants to prevail over all other cultures, civilizations, and thoughts. The deceptive title of human rights is constantly being used to invade Islamic and other Asian and African cultures. "The west, on the one hand, emphasizes universality even for its recently explored 'values' and on the other hand it is promoting intellectual and social anarchy in the name of post-modernism," a social science professor stressed in the meeting.

Practitioners in the fields of psychology and medicine shared that there were elaborate mechanisms, guidelines, and practices to help ascertain the true gender of an individual and help a gender-variant person better integrate in the mainstream. The idea of separating sex from gender is already INP



QUETTA: Daily wages labors sitting with their work tools along side Bacha Khan chowk while waiting for customers.

PTI challenges LHC's decision of Punjab CM election vote recount in SC

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Friday filed an appeal in the Supreme Court (SC) against the Lahore High Court's (LHC) decision of recounting the MPAs' votes in Punjab Assembly for the election of Punjab chief minister by excluding the votes of 25 dissident PTI MPAs.

The PTI pleaded with the apex court to accept its appeal against the LHC's decision. "The PTI assembly members must be given adequate time to attend the assembly session," it demanded.

"Hamza Shehbaz should be removed from the office so that a clean and transparent election could be held. The election of Punjab Chief Minister should be

stopped till decision on the petition [appeal]," it added. "Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif's notification of success should be suspended. The election of Chief Minister in Punjab Assembly should be suspended immediately," it demanded further. "A suitable time should be given to convene the assembly session by changing the decision of the high court. The parties in the case have the constitutional right to clean and transparent elections," it added. It is to be noted here that the appeal had been filed by the PTI lawyers — Faisal Chaudhry and Imtiaz Siddiqui, who prayed to court to take up their appeal today. Earlier on Thursday, the LHC had declared the oath of Punjab Chief Minister

Hamza Shehbaz as illegal and ordered recounting of votes for the election of Punjab's chief minister held on April 16, directing that the votes of 25 dissident PTI MPAs be excluded from the recounting process.

While commenting on the LHC's decision, Fawad Chaudhry, a leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said that the decision had amplified the political crisis in Punjab.

"Hamza's government is gone, but this verdict will not end the crisis," he had said in a tweet.

"There are many flaws in the decision. A meeting of the party's legal meeting has been called. We will approach the Supreme Court regarding flaws in the high court's decision," he had added. INP

Karachi: 10-year-old girl raped by three men

KARACHI: A 10-year-old girl was reportedly raped by three men including a local shopkeeper in the Chanesar Goth area of Karachi.

According to details, the father of the girl has filed a rape case in the Mehmooodabad Police Station. The girl was taken in a rickshaw to a house forcefully, where the local shopkeeper Khairu and his two accomplices raped the 10-year-old, the father claims.

The girl's father said that she had gone to Khairu's shop to buy something where he made her sit in a rickshaw forcefully and took her to an empty house. There he called another person who then took her to an unknown location, he added.

He added that the culprits left the girl near the corporation gate at 8:30 pm, and warned her to not tell anyone about what they did to her. The girl was crying when she got home and told everything to her parents.

The police officials, upon filing the complaint, arrested the shopkeeper Khairu, while the search for the two other men is underway. A lady doctor conducted an initial checkup of the girl, but it could not give any conclusive evidence. A complete medical of the girl will bring clarity to the situation. INP

Heavy rainfall, urban flooding expected in Karachi

KARACHI: Heavy rainfall is expected in Karachi from Sunday morning, which would result in urban flooding in the metropolis, the Met Office said on Friday.

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the city received light rain on Thursday night and is expected to receive light showers during the day today.

"The spell of heavy rainfall will begin from Saturday night and it is expected that the city will receive 100 mm rain during the spell that could result in urban flooding," the met office said.

Currently, the temperature in Karachi stands at 31 C and will remain upto 35 C during the day along with winds at a speed of 25 kilometers per hour.

"A monsoon system will enter Pakistan from central India tonight and will become functional from the next day and will result in heavy showers in Tharparkar and other parts of interior Sindh," met official Sardar Sarfaraz said. He added that the heavy rain spell will hit Karachi on July 03. Earlier, the Met Office said that the sea conditions may become rough to very rough from July 03 — 05 and advised fishermen to take extra care while venturing into the sea during the period. INP

NORINCO interested to invest in wind power and other sectors in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Chinese company NORINCO called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and expressed their interest to invest in Pakistan in renewable energy, optical fibre, iron and copper ore mining and infrastructure in major Pak cities.

According to Gwadar Pro, Prime Minister welcomed the Chinese investment in Pakistan and assured of all-out support of the government in this regard, a statement said.

The delegation was led by vice-president NORINCO Int'l Wang Xiaobing and CEO NORINCO Int'l (Pakistan) Li Chen. Federal Ministers Khawaja Saad Rafique, Syed Naveed Qamar, Chaudhary Salik Hussain and senior officials of the relevant ministries were also present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said that Pakistan is open to investment and that the government is taking steps to remove all impediments for further facilitation of investors. INP

Karot Hydropower to promote Pakistan's energy construction: Spokesperson

BEIJING: "Let me extend congratulations on the start of full commercial operation of the Karot Hydropower Plant. It will promote energy construction and economic and social development in Pakistan," said the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian at routine press conference. According to Gwadar Pro, Zhao made the remarks in response to the full commercial operation of Karot Hydropower Plant. Zhao Lijian said that the Karot Hydropower Plant is a priority project for energy cooperation and the first large-scale hydropower investment project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The project was listed in the joint statement of the Chinese INP

Punjab, AJK, Sindh receive first monsoon showers

ISLAMABAD: After several days of intense heat and extreme humidity, eastern parts of Punjab, Kashmir and southern Sindh received the first rain of this monsoon season last night and early Friday morning, bringing much-needed relief to the people.

The north-eastern city of Punjab, Narowal, and its surrounding areas were lashed by heavy rain which brought smiles on the faces of heat-stricken people.

At the same time, however, low-lying areas of the city were inundated with water and several feeders were tripped due

to which the power supply. Parts of the Punjab capital Lahore and its suburbs also received rain that brought down the mercury level and the people heaved a sigh of relief.

Dark clouds hovering over the central Punjab city of Samundri and its outskirts coupled with cool breeze led to a marked decrease in the temperature and the Met Office predicted that the maximum temperature would fluctuate between 29-37 degrees Celsius. The moisture level in the air stood at 50 per cent early in the morning.

However, the weather department forecast that there were 10 per cent chances of rain in the city during the next 24 hours. The case was no different in Faisalabad, the second largest city of Punjab, and not far away from Samundri, where two dark clouds and cool breeze led to drop in the temperature which was recorded at 29 degrees Celsius in the morning and was expected to go up to 35 degrees Celsius later in the afternoon.

The humidity level in the air stood at 79 per cent while the breeze was blowing at the speed of 19 kilometers per hour.

The Met Office, however, predicted drizzle for the city.

Light and heavy rain was reported from different cities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) such as Rawalakot, Muzaffarabad and others during the last 24 hours.

While Rawalakot and the areas lying in its vicinity received light rain, AJK capital Muzaffarabad was visited by heavy rain which turned the low-lying areas of the city into pools of water besides flooding streams.

The situation prompted the authorities to issue an advisory for the tourists

to exercise caution and restrict their movements.

The weather was overcast in Islamabad.

The Met Office predicted that there were chances of thundershowers in the federal capital accompanied by strong winds during the next 24 hours. The department forecast partly cloudy weather for different parts of Punjab and rain coupled with strong winds for the upper, central and western areas of the province. Similarly, the department said that rain was expected in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), southern INP

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT BALOCHISTAN AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBAL QUETTA

SUIT NO. 28/2022

Habib Bank Limited through its Manager, Uthal University Branch. Plaintiff

Defendant:

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF RS: 50000/- ALONG WITH COST OF FUND US & OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE 2001.

Notice to: - The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: 50000/- balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

In the default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled at any time after expiration of such 30 (thirty) days to obtain decree as prayed in the plaint.

Leave to appear may be obtained on an application to the court supported by an affidavit or declaration showing that there is defense to the suit on the merits, or i.e. it is reasonable that you should be allowed to appear in the suit. Date of hearing is 16-08-2022 at District & Session Court Hub.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of the court, this 1st day of July, 2022.

(MUNIR AHMED MARRI)
JUDGE Banking Court
Quetta

BEFORE THE JUDGE BANKING COURT BALOCHISTAN AT DISTRICT COURT/KACHEHRY SHARA-E-IQBAL QUETTA

SUIT NO. 29/2022

Habib Bank Limited through its Manager, Uthal University Branch. Plaintiff

Defendant:

SUIT FOR RECOVERY OF RS: 40000/- ALONG WITH COST OF FUND US & OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (RECOVERY OF FINANCES) ORDINANCE 2001.

Notice to: - The above noted defendant.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you under section 9(5) of the Banking Companies Ordinance XLVI of 2001 for RS: 40000/- balance of principal & interest/mark up/rent due to him of which copy can be obtained from this court, on or, hereby summoned to obtain leave from the court within 30 (thirty) days, from the service hereof to appear and defend the suit, and within such time to cause an appearance to be entered for you.

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JUDGE Banking Court
Quetta

Punjab CM re-election to be held on July 22, orders SC

After an hours-long hearing on the PTI's petition against the Lahore High Court's (LHC) order to recount the votes cast in the April 16 Punjab chief minister election today, and conduct a second round of voting if required, the Supreme Court on Friday said that this process would now take place on July 22 — five days after by-elections on 20 Punjab Assembly seats are conducted on July 17 — and that incumbent chief minister Hamza Shehbaz would remain in office till then.

The apex court issued the verbal order as a three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, took up the petition filed earlier today.

The LHC had passed its order on Thursday while hearing the PTI and the PML-Q's pleas against Hamza's election and oath-taking, requiring the Punjab Assembly to convene today at 4pm to conduct the recounting exercise, excluding the votes of PTI dissident lawmakers.

The high court said if the required majority for Hamza — which is 186 votes in the 371-member strong house — to stay the CM is not secured after recounting, which is a certainty after the exclusion of 25 votes cast by dissident PTI lawmakers, the election will be held again under Article 130(4).

According to Article 130(4), in the second round of voting, a member will not require 186 votes but simply needs a majority of those "present and voting" to be elected the chief minister.

Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz and Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervez Elahi, who is the PTI's candidate for chief minister, also appeared before the court via video link as the PTI sought to defer the

PA proceedings by seven days.

At one point, PTI's counsel Babar Awan said that PTI had reservations against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Justice Bandial, however, said that orders would be issued regarding the implementation of the election code of conduct.

He stated that the court would issue a general order and that the parties should not waste time on small matters. "It would be better if you don't make the case a family dispute," he told Elahi and Hamza.

PTI lawyer Imtiaz Siddiqui later told the court that consultation was held with the Advocate General of Punjab and Hamza's lawyer and a consensus was reached on Hamza staying the CM till July 17.

At this, the CJP remarked that the court was glad both the parties had reached a consensus. "This is success for both the groups," he said.

The CJP said that both sides had been at odds for three months and the matter had finally been resolved in the apex court in three hours.

He then asked, "CM sahab, do you have any intentions of rigging (the polls)?" To this, Hamza replied that he would compete in the assembly and whoever is the suitable candidate would win.

"I am a political worker. I have spent years in jail. We will ensure free and fair elections are held," he said.

Subsequently, Justice Bandial said that the court would use words acceptable to both parties in its written order. INP



QUETTA: Shazia Marri Federal Minister for Benazir Income Support Programme addressing a press conference.

Pakistan reports nearly 700 Covid-19 cases as positivity rises to 3.9pc

Amid fears of a resurgence of Covid-19, Pakistan on Friday reported nearly 700 new cases as the positivity rate rose to 3.9 per cent.

According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), 694 new coronavirus cases were recorded during the last 24 hours, up from 641 a day earlier. The number is the highest since March 10 when 723 infections were detected.

The positivity rate also rose to 3.93pc from 3.41pc a day earlier. Further, 17,640 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours while 101 patients were in critical care.

However, no deaths were reported during this period.

In a statement, federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel said that the government was taking several measures to control the surge in cases.

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) has been holding meetings on a daily basis to overview the virus situation in the country, he said. "But we want the public to adopt precautionary measures and follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) religiously."

"Specially during Eidul Azha, make sure you are wearing masks in public spaces and practicing social distancing," the minister stressed. Avoid going to crowded areas, don't hug or shake hands on Eid and get immunised against the virus, he added.

Patel also urged the ulema to ensure social distancing inside mosques and at religious gatherings.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah held a meeting of the provincial task force on coronavirus, during which he emphasised that the positivity rate must be brought down before Eidul Azha.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Nasir Shah and Sharjeel Memon,

Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab, Parliamentary Secretary for Health Qasim Soomro, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Inspector General of Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Principal Secretary to CM Fayyaz Jatoi, Interior Secretary Dr Saeed Ahmed Magnejo, and other officials and health experts.

The health secretary informed the meeting that the positivity had started rising in the province from June 24. The number of cases on that date was 248 while infections during the last 24 hours rose to 465, he said.

The Sindh chief minister said that hospital admission rates appeared low for now. Shah noted that Karachi had the highest weekly positivity rate — 19pc — followed by Hyderabad at 0.39pc. Elsewhere, Jacobabad and Jamshoro's positivity rates were recorded at 3pc while Sukkur and Thatta both had a weekly positivity rate of 2pc. Giving a breakdown of district-wise positivity rates in Karachi, he said the rate in the metropolis' East district stood at 29pc, followed by West at 21pc, South at 18pc, Korangi at 10pc, Central at 8pc and Malir at 7pc, respectively. CM Shah directed the public to follow SOPs and get vaccinated. "Eidul Azha and Muharram events are coming up. We have to bring down the coronavirus positivity rate prior to these events. People should take precautionary measures and reduce the rate," he said.

The chief minister warned that the government could be forced to take stricter measures if the positivity rate was not reduced. An official of the Ministry of National Health Services earlier told Dawn that unfortunately, the pandemic had bounced back in the country. "Cases double every five days, the number of patients being hospitalised is increasing and deaths are also being reported. It is worrisome that detection beyond Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore still has no signs of improvement despite repeated push," he said. INP

Shehbaz, Hamza skip money laundering case hearing

LAHORE: An accountability court was requested on Friday to grant one-day exemption from personal appearance to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz for hearing in the money laundering case.

The lawyers for Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz adopted before the court that their clients would not be able to appear before the court.

They said that the prime minister was engaged in official meetings in the federal capital, whereas, his son Hamza Shehbaz was busy in the Punjab Assembly session for the recount of votes as per the Lahore High Court's orders.

"The court is requested to grant one-day exemption from personal appearance to both Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz," they pleaded. INP

PTI MNA Niazi booked for 'torturing' trailer driver

LAYYAH: Four people, including Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) MNA Abdul Majeed Niazi, were booked in the case of torturing a trailer driver in Fatehpur area of Layyah, police said on Friday.

The driver told the police that MNA Niazi and his men beat him up when he denied him the way during a road crossing.

Following the incident, the driver had blocked the MM Road to register his protest. MNA's son, Abdur Raheem Niazi, on the other hand, has said that right now his father is in northern areas. "The government is politically victimizing us by registering false and fabricated cases against us," he alleged.

He has asked the police to see the facts before registering false against him and his family. INP

Plea for stay order against auction of Nawaz's property adjourned till Aug 15

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court on Friday heard a petition for restraining order against the auction of the property owned by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and sought arguments from the lawyers of parties in the case on next hearing on August 15, 2022.

Accountability Court No. 1 Judge Asad Ali heard the petition. It is to be noted here that the court had ordered to auction the properties of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

A petition for restraining order was filed through Qazi Misbah Advocate against the court orders of auctioning the properties of Nawaz Sharif.

"If Nawaz Sharif returns to the country, the process of auctioning the property will be challenged. It is better to stop the auction for a while," the petitioner said.

"The Shamim Agricultural Farm and other properties are with the tenants. The auction will affect the rights of tenants of Shamim Agricultural Farm," he added.

"The inheritance of the property has been transferred, therefore, the court should reconsider its decision and issue a restraining order against the auction," he pleaded. INP

Permission for PTI rally at Parade Ground linked to GHQ nod

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad on Thursday night gave permission to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) to hold a public gathering at Islamabad's Parade Ground tomorrow (Saturday, July 2, 2022) on the condition that the GHQ should also not object to it, it was learnt on Friday. The deputy commissioner (DC) of Islamabad said that if the GHQ's Staff Duties Directorate allowed the party's rally at the Parade Ground, the no objection certificate (NOC) issued by him would be valid because it was the GHQ, and not the district administration, that was authorized to allow the use of Parade Ground for the purpose. INP

Honda, Yamaha announce another jump in bike prices

ISLAMABAD: The country's top motorcycles companies have announced a hefty increase in the prices of all models of their motorcycles.

The Honda company registered a jump in prices from Rs5,000 to Rs15,000 in its whole range of motorbikes while Yamaha company raised prices of its all brands from Rs23,000 to Rs26,500.

Honda's best-selling model CD-70 registered an increase of Rs5,000 in its price and will now be available at Rs111,500. Its other brand CG-125 can now be purchased for Rs174,500 after a raise of Rs6,000 in its price. The rate of CB-125F has been increased by Rs10,000 and its actual price will now be Rs263,900. Honda 100cc bike will be now available for Rs150,900 after it become dearer by Rs6,000. Yamaha's YB-125C will now cost Rs255,000

after a surge of Rs23,500 in its price. YB-125ZDX's price was raised by Rs25,500 to Rs273,500. YBR-125's price was up by Rs25,500 to Rs280,500 while the rate of YBRG will now be Rs292,000 after an increase of Rs26,500. YBR-125G's new price is Rs295,000 after a surge of Rs25,600. The new prices have been enforced from July 1 (today). The Honda company registered a jump in prices from Rs5,000 to Rs15,000 in its whole range of motorbikes while Yamaha company raised prices of its all brands from Rs23,000 to Rs26,500.

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COVID-19: Pakistan's positivity ratio nears 4pc

ISLAMABAD: The Covid-19 positivity ratio in Pakistan is nearing 4 per cent amid a steady surge in infections across the country, as 694 new cases were reported during the last 24 hours, National Institute of Health (NIH) data showed Friday morning.

According to the National Institute of Health, 17,640 Covid tests were conducted across the country in past 24 hours, out of which 694 turned out to be positive. The national positivity rate now stands at 3.93 per cent, the data showed. The NIH said that no Covid-19-related death was reported in past 24 hours, while the overall death toll in the country stands at 30,393, adding that 101 people are in critical condition. The National Command and Control Centre (NCOC) yesterday issued new standard operating

CM Punjab election: SC forms three-member bench to hear PTI plea

ISLAMABAD: A three-member bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear a petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) against the Lahore High Court (LHC) verdict for the recount of votes for the election of Chief Minister Punjab.

The three-member bench will be headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial along with Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Jamal Mandokhail. The bench will begin hearing at 1:30 pm.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) filed an appeal against the Lahore High Court's (LHC) decision to recount votes in the CM election in the Punjab Assembly.

According to details, PTI has filed an appeal against the LHC decision about the CM Punjab



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Minister of Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with others dignitaries cutting cake during Mango Festival celebrating 75th Pay Kuch Khas organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Man trying to smuggle heroin to Bahrain held at Faisalabad airport

FAISALABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), in its operation at Faisalabad airport on Friday, arrested a man who was trying to smuggle heroin to Bahrain via Gulf Airlines.

According to the ANF officials, Isahad had concealed 103 capsules of the drug in his abdomen.

On the other hand, the ANF and the Frontier Constabulary, in their two joint operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), have arrested seven persons besides recovering over 228 kilograms of narcotics from them.

Those arrested have been booked under the Anti-Narcotics Act. The Forces have taken into custody six persons and recovered 82 kilograms of Chars from them at Ghareebi checkpoint in district Kurram of the province.

In yet another operation in the district, the Forces have recovered 146 kilos and 400 grams of Chars that had been concealed in secret portions of a truck. INP

Sindh Revenue Board collected record taxes in 2021-22

KARACHI: The Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) collected a record tax of Rs153 billion in the fiscal year 2021-22, the Chief Minister Sindh told.

According to details, CM Sindh has appreciated the Sindh Revenue Board's (SRB) performance as it collected a record Rs153.5 billion in tax in the FY 2021-22. The tax collection target for 2021-22 was Rs150 billion. The SRB has exceeded the tax collection target by Rs3.5 billion, the CM told. The CM added that a total of Rs8.2 billion were under the Workers Welfare Fund. The Federal Board of Revenue had also exceeded its tax collection target for FY 2021-22. It collected a tax of Rs6 trillion in the fiscal year 2021-22, exceeding the target of Rs5.8 trillion for 2021-22. Rs2.2 trillion was collected in income tax, while an amount of Rs2.7 trillion was collected as sales tax in 2021-22. FBR spokesperson told that a total of Rs1,007 billion were collected in customs duty in 2021-22. While the FBR issued an amount of Rs305 billion in refunds.

Earlier in May, the Sindh Excise and Taxation Department claimed to have recovered over Rs252 million in taxes from defaulting vehicles in nine days during its tax collection drive.

Overall, 7,354 vehicles were checked in Karachi, 6,988 in Hyderabad and 2,575 in Sukkur, 3,602 in Larkana, 2884 in Mirpurkhas and 1471 in Shaheed Benazirabad, the data showed. The CM added that a total of Rs8.2 billion were under the Workers Welfare Fund. The Federal Board of Revenue had also exceeded its tax collection target for FY 2021-22. It collected a tax of Rs6 trillion in the fiscal year 2021-22, exceeding the target of Rs5.8 trillion for 2021-22. Rs2.2 trillion was collected in income tax, while an amount of Rs2.7 trillion was collected as sales tax in 2021-22. INP

Raise in salaries and pensions notified

ISLAMABAD: Much to the delight of government employees, the government has notified 15% raise in salaries and 5% increase in pensions on Friday.

The finance ministry issued the notification in this regard on Friday saying that the raise will take effect from July 1, 2022.

According to the notification, the increase in salaries was made on the basis of basic salary of 2017.

The ministry has also reviewed the pay scales of government employees. The new pay scales will be applicable from July 1, 2022, the notification said adding that the new pay scales will be applied in place of 2017 pay scales.

The notification elaborated that after the new pay scales, all five ad hoc reliefs will be merged together.



QUETTA: Balochistan Higher Education Grand Alliance President Dr Kaleem addressing a press conference.

PTI, PML-Q set to boycott Punjab CM vote recount today

LAHORE: In compliance with the Lahore High Court Thursday's order, the Punjab Assembly will hold a recount of the votes polled during the April 16 election of chief minister at 4pm today (Friday) after excluding votes of 25 PTI dissident members. But the PML-Q and PTI have decided to boycott the process while the latter has already challenged the LHC's decision in the Supreme Court.

Though the court has ordered the recount to bring the province out of political crisis, but the opposition PTI and PML-Q, on the other hand, have decided not to participate in today's exercise, maintaining their presence would validate the process.

Sources divulged that a decision has been taken by both the parties but it will be announced before the start of the assembly session.

The LHC in its eight-page written verdict on Thursday ordered the presiding officer to recount the votes

polled during the election of chief minister by excluding 25 votes of the PTI rebel MPs who voted for Hamza Shehbaz on April 16 last. If the required majority for Hamza — which is 186 votes in the 371-member strong house — to stay the CM is not secured, the election will be held again under Article 130(4), unless another candidate has majority votes.

According to Article 130(4), in the second round of voting, a member will not require 186 votes but simply needs a majority of those "present and voting" to be elected the chief minister.

The court said that Hamza would cease to be the chief minister if he loses the required majority after the exclusion of 25 votes by the presiding officer. However, it pointed out, functions performed and powers exercised by Hamza will be "protected under the de facto doctrine" in accordance with the law. INP