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JETTA VOICE

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Sobia Khanam appointed as the first female SHO in Balochistan



ABC Certified

Petroleum dealers threaten shutting down stations in protest

Balochistan: 20 killed as passenger bus fell into a ravine in Dana Sar

Ali Khan Mandokhail

ZHOB: At least 20 people were killed when a passenger bust fell into a ravine in the Dana Sar area on the Quetta-Islamabad highway on Sunday morning. Mehtab Shah, Assistant Commissioner Sherani Assistant Commissioner Sherani said that 14 passengers were also injured as a result of the deadly incident. The bus was coming from Rawalpindi to Quetta when it fell into a deep ravine in the Dana Sar rugged mountains, Mr. Shah informed. "Over speeding and rainfall in the area caused the incident", the Assistant Commissioner explained.

Women, children, and two students were also among the dead.

dents were also among the dead. Four dead bodies were brought to the district headquarters hos-

pital Zhob. "Remaining dead bodies would be shifted to the hospital soon", the AC informed. All of the injured in the deadly traffic accident were evacuated and brought to Zhob district headquarters hospital for medical treatment. An emergency was imposed in the hospital to provide medical treatment to the injured in the traffic accident.

Levies personnel and senior administration officers reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

the incident went underway Reckless driving and narrow roads continue to cause deadly traffic accidents in Balochistan. Such untoward and deadly accidents have become the order of the day on all national highways of Balochistan linking the province with the rest of the country.Balochistan covers half

of the country in terms of area. However, the province has not a single motorway. Masses of Balochistan and political parties have demanded of the tederal government to start work on the dualization of the Quetta Karachi and Zhob highways to reduce the number of increasing

traffic accidents in the province.
Chief Minister Balochistan,
Mir Quddus Bizenjo has
expressed grief and sorrow over
the deadly traffic accident. In a the deadly traffic accident. In a condolence statement issued after the incident, Mr. Bizenjo directed the administration to provide better medical treatment to the injured in the traffic accident Journalists Mir Salam Jogezai in Quetta, Mohibullah Khan in Quetta, and Sardar Muhammad Khondai in Chaman also contributed to this report.

Syed Ali Shah



QUETTA: People stand near a accidental bus, At least 19 passengers died after a Quetta-bound bus travelling from Islamabad fell into a ravine in Zhob district of the Balochistan province.

Sobia Khanam appointed as the first female SHO in Balochistan

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: Sub-Inspector Police Sobia Khanam has been appointed as the first female Station House Officer (SHO) Police Quetta Cantonment. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Quetta, Syed Fida Hassan Shah has appointed Sobia Khanam. "This is an honor for all women of Balochistan", she told Daily Quetta Voice in an exclusive interview.

According to a notification issued by the DIG's office, Sobia Khanam has been appointed as the SHO Quetta Cantonment. She is the first female police officer to take charge as the head of any police station. The news of her appointment as the SHO went viral on social media. "Women of Balochistan should come forward and play their due role in the development of country and nation", Sobia Khanam said. She had also the title of Madam Quetta when the first news about her appointment as traffic police woman sergeant went viral by this newpaper earlier.

People belonging to various walks of life appreciated her appointment as the first female officer leading a police station in Balochistan. Sobia Khanam was appointed as an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) in the police department through the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC). She has been the United States on a police training course.

Earlier, people had appreciated the appointment of Pari Gul Tareen as the Superintendent of Police in Quetta.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inquires about health of JUI-F leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman at ttefaq Hospital in Lahore.

Balochistan talent: Amir Chakar passes 3 exams at BPSC simultaneously

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

QUETTA: A talented young candidate from Balochistan's Kharan district passed three competitive examinations at the

sustainable

competitive examinations at the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) simultaneously. As per the BPSC notification, Amir Chakar from Kharanhas cleared the exams of the Research Officer (BPS 17), Assistant Mine Labour Welfare Commissioner (BPS 17), and Assistant Director Labour And Child (BPS 17) Balochistan.

Amir Chakar belongs to Balochistan's Kharan district. This is one of the most backward districts of the province. It must be noted that he has already cleared the post of Assistant (BPS 16) In the Divisional Development Directorate, planning and devel-In the Divisional Development Directorate, planning and development Department. The news of Amir Chakar went viral on social media. People belonging to various walks of life have appreciated Amir Chakar for his struggle and simultaneously cleared three competitive examinations.

spreads across Balochistan

Nestled deep in the midst of rugged mountains, Hanna lake Quetta has dried up as drought spreads across Balochistan. The lake, which is considered to be a famous tourist point is now giving a deserted look. Cracks appeared in the lakebed as a result of no rainfall in this part of the country. Dead fish and wrecked boats are lying on the shore of the lake.

"Global warming and fewer rains are the main reasons behind turning Hanna lake into a decart." A mind Pashead a wall known anytion.

main reasons behind turning Hanna lake into a desert", Amjad Rasheed, a well-known environmentalist tells Daily Quetta Voice. Despite this all, scores of tourists were roaming the lake to enjoy pleasant weather "We are here to enjoy this pleasant weather", Ikramullah Khan, a young tourist said Mr. Khan stated that the authorities should take benefit of this situation and state cleaning the lake. and start cleaning the lake.
The scenic beauty of Hanna lake attracts



Hanna lake Quetta dries up as drought

The scenic beauty of the lake attracts tourists from Balochistan and across the country. "Weather is cold and we pray for rainfall to see water inside the lake", Hyder Abro, a tourist from Jaccobabad Sindh said. Mr. Abro was leading a family from Sindh Jacobabad to enjoy cold pleasant weather in Hanna lake, nestled

deep in the midst of rugged mountains.

Quetta and most parts of Balochistan are under the clutching of severe drought. Most green parts in the province have turned into deserts recently. The drought-hit-like situation has forced growers to cut green trees in Pishin, Mastung, Kalat, Killa Abdullah, and other parts

"Lake dried up but tourists are still coming"

"Lake dried up but tourists are still coming",

"Lake dried up but tourists are still coming",

Muhammad Ajmal, a tea stall owner on the edge of the lake said. A crowd of tourists was sipping tea outside the tea stall

Every evening, traditional Pashto music reverberates in the valley. Youngsters coming from various parts of the province were dancing to traditional music to enjoy the cold weather.

British rulers constructed Hanna lake in 1884. The major objective behind this was to maintain depleting water table, promote tourist activities, and agriculture purposes, and a place for birds and livestock

Energy

crisis soars as

shortfall nears

8,000 mw

ISLAMABAD. The electricity

hortfall in the country has reached 7,787 Mega watts as production is stagnated at 21,213 MW and

According to the power division of the country, the electricity short-fall has reached near 8,000 MW.

The demand for electricity in the

country has exceeded 29,000 while

the production lags at 21,000 MW.

power is being produced by hydropower while 705 MW are being produced via Thar mill plants. The production via the pri-

vate sector is 10,241 MW while

Wind and solar plants throughout the country are producing 1,742

Biogas plants are producing a total of 120 MW, while 2,275 MW

are being produced using nuclear

power, the power division said. The load shedding duration in the country has gone up to 14 hours. Areas with greater fine loss-

es are suffering from higher dura-tions of load shedding, the power

On June 30, according to the

power division, the demand for electricity peaked at 29,200 MW against the available supply of

The power division said that

division said.

,900 MW.

MW of electricity, it added.

The power division told that currently, a total of 5,430 MW of

demand reaches 29,000 MW.

Health emergency declared as cholera claims 2 lives in

Sardar Muhammad Khondai

The hapless student Anwar ul Haq was also among the dead in a deadly traffic incident in Dana Sar Zhob on Sunday morning.

ZHOB: This

young student

Anwar ul Haq

also among

the dead

At least 20 passengers were killed when a passenger bus fell



into a ravine in Dana Sar. Anwar ul Haq was travelling from Islamabad to Quetta when the tragedy struck. He was studying in Islamabad Islamic University Another stu-dent from Balochistan's Ziarat, Allauddin was also among the

Govt announces five Eid-ul-Azha holidays

ISLAMABAD: Government has announced five holidays in connection with Eid-ul-Azha, a notification stated that was released on Sunday.

According to a notification from PM Office, Eid-ul-Azha holidays will be observed from July 8 to 12. Pakistan is to celebrate Eid-ul-

Azha on July 10. Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee on Wednesday said Eid-ul-Azha will fall on Sunday (July 10).INP Barkhan

Asif Kareem Khetran, Yousaf Marri

BARKHAN: Balochistan government declared a health emergency in the Barkhan district after cholera claimed two lives including a child on Saturday morning. The cholera outbreak was reported in remote areas of the district, bordering with populous Punjab province.
"15 patients are admitted to the district headquarters hospital Barkhan"

Abdul Hameed Lehri, the District Health Officer (DHO) Barkhan said. He said an emergency was imposed in the district to cope with any emergency situation. Six patients are admitted to the hospital and the remaining patients have been discharged after the provision of medical treatment.

Cholera cases were reported in Vitaki and Nahar Kot areas, the DHO mentioned. "Contaminated water has caused the outbreak of cholera", Mr. Lehri said. He said medical staff and medicines were dispatched to the



area to provide timely medical treatment to the affected people from cholera. This outbreak has come twelve days after cholera claimed three lives in the Barkhan district.

In view of the outbreak of cholera, Deputy Commissioner Barkhan, Abdullah Khoso has directed all health professionals to ensure their presence for 24 hours at the district headquarters hospital. "People are being affected by cholera", Mr. Khosa said in a letter addressed to the health department and other concerned quarters in the district.

Balochistan Finance Minister, Sardar Abdul Rehman Kheteran has taken notice of the outbreak of cholera and directed the health department to step.

notice of the outbreak of cholera and directed the health department to step up efforts to tackle the situation. Mr. Khetran who is elected from Balochistan's Barkhan district has asked the Chief Secretary to take notice of the outbreak.

"Government would ensure the provision of medical facilities to the masses", Mr. Khetran said in a statement issued to the press on Saturday afternoon. The Minister said the government was aware of the situation and will discharge its responsibilities in an effective way

some of the urban centres and rural

areas were experiencing load shed-ding of 12 to 14 hours. Biogas plants are producing a total of 120 MW, while 2,275 MW

are being produced using nuclear power, the power division said.

The load shedding duration in the country has gone up to 14 hours. Areas with greater line losses are suffering from higher dura-tions of load shedding, the power division said.INP

Petroleum dealers threaten shutting down stations in protest

The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) on Sunday announced that it will be going on a nationwide strike as of July 18, shutting down petrol stations all over the country, in the wake of rising oil

The PPDA chairman Abdul Sami Khan, in a statement, said that it was not possible to continue petroleum sales at the current rate. He announced that petrol pumps will remain closed following July 18 until the margin on petroleum products is increased.

The statement was issued after an emergency meeting was called by the PPDA where it was decided that a minimum commission margin of six per cent was required for the stations to continue operating The officials lamented that the current margin of 3.5 per cent was not

Yesterday, it was also reported that the demand for petrol and diesel had dropped 12% and 16% respectively in June 2022 compared to the previous month, snapping a long uptrend in sales of petroleum products in the wake of the withdrawal of subsidies and imposition of taxes.

Last year in November, the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had given in to the association's demands after a nationwide



strike. However, instead of meeting the PPDA's demand of six per cent margin - approximately Rs5 per litre on petrol, it was decided that the margin on petrol will be increased by 99 paisas per litre and 83 paisas per litre on high-speed diesel (HSD). Similarly, the margin on HSD was

increased to Rs4.13 per litre from the current Rs3.30.

It may be noted that in June this year, a major oil industry lobby had warned of an impending breakdown in the energy supply chain as companies are facing a financial crisis following the refusal of international banks to accept Letters of Credit (LCs) opened by Pakistani banks

In an SOS call, Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) Chairman Waqar Irshad Siddiqui revealed that the oil industry had come under a financial strain, raising the spectre of breakdown in the country's energy

supply chain. Furthermore, on June 30, the coalition government dropped another oil bomb as it increased the prices by up to Rs18.83 per litre on account of the petroleum levy on these products.

Earlier, the government had been charging zero petroleum levy and general sales tax on petroleum products to absorb the impact of the hike in global oil prices and depreciation of the rupee against the dollar.

QUETTA VOICE

QLF a vibrant platform for birthing new ideas

The Quetta Literary Festival (QLF) has proved to be a vibrant platform for birthing new ideas and it must be supported in a nascent democracy. Leading authors, writers, poets, novelists, etc spoke candidly about the factors, which shape the sociopolitical landscape in all 46 sessions dur-

ing the historic festival.

Despite all odds, the organizers, faculty members, and students of the Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) were able to hold the third QLF on

Thousands turn up to participate in all 46 sessions

In a province where an open expression has become rare, the QLF provided an opportunity for all dissent voices to freely express their opinion without fear and being censured. They spoke with full freedom and shared their ideas. Crowds of the audience attended all 46 sessions held on the premise of the BUITEMS, which is considered to be the educational face of Balochistan.

Also, Read Balochistan University: 85-year old man completes Ph.D

A total of 150 delegates including leading authors, poets, writers, artists, musicians, and journalists from across the country participated in the two-day event. As per rough estimates, around 20,000 people visited the QLF. This was overwhelming keeping in view the narrative of troubles and security issues of the province.

Literature and culture gathered to promote a soft image of Balochistan Literature and culture were brought together and a soft and true image of Balochistan was promoted in all 46 sessions. The organizers had to cancel a Qawali program because of an unruly crowd entering the hall. Youth gathered outside the hall were asked to peacefully disperse. The message of love and peace in Balochistan and Pakistan was echoed in all sessions. This gave hope to the youth of Balochistan, a bright future without violence, and a sense of deprivation.

without violence, and a sense of deprivation.

This was the third QLF. The provincial and federal governments should encourage the organizers, faculty members and students of other universities and colleges in Balochistan to organize such events to give a learning and exposure opportunity to the students.

The deepening crisis after regime change Dr Moonis Ahmar

Historically, no Pakistani Prime Minister has completed a five-year assassinated, hanged, or removed through the imposition of martial law or by the president under the 8th constitutional amendnent. For the first time in Pakistan's history, a regime change has taken place through a vote of no-confidence. Despite former Prime Minister

Imran Khan's allegations of a foreign conspiracy, this time the method for

EDITORIAL

regime change was constitutional Britannica egime change as "overthrowing a government considered illegitimate by an external force and its replacement with a new government according to the ideas or interests promoted by that force. Cambridge dictionary dictionary defines regime change as "a complete change of government, especially one brought about by

Western democracies, elected governments are removed through a vote of no-confidence or popular protests, which compel the party in power to replace the head of government or state through constitutional means. Presently, the West has tried to change

force

the Russian regime by pressuring Russian stake-holders following Putin's invasion of Ukraine. On the other hand, Moscow has tried to have the pro-West Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky removed

One cannot help but wonder why regime change took place in Pakistan and how internal crisis deepened after Imran Khan's removal Pakistan's history is replete with examples of regime change primarily by unconstitutional meas-

by unconstitutional measures. However, Imran Khan's allegations of a US conspiracy with the connivance of opposition leaders are debatable. He claimed that the US Assistant Secretary of State for the South and Central Asia Affairs. Central Asian Affairs, Donald Lu warned the Pakistani envoy to the US that "there would be implications if the Pakistan Prime Minister survived the no-trust vote in the National Assembly" Khan's allegations were rejected by the opposition, and the Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations further clarified that no evidence of a foreign

conspiracy was found.

Now that Imran Khan
has been removed by a
coalition government of

around a dozen political parties, it is time to criti-cally analyse how regime change has triggered a political and economic crisis in Pakistan. The present government claims that Pakistan is better off without the corrupt, vindictive and inef-ficient PTI regime and denies allegations over the ensuing crisis. However, things are not as simple because regime change augmented the political crisis in the country and the country is experiencing an econom-ic upheaval How regime change deepened the crisis needs to be analysed in two ways First, most people now claim that they were better off two months ago because the incumbent government has dropped continuous petrol and diesel bombs besides raising gas and electricity tariffs. If this situation does not improve, the middle and lower-income groups will lower-income groups will be completely wiped out. The public is also harshly critical of the taxes imposed under the 2022-23 federal budget on the pretext of saving Pakistan from default and economic destruction. imports have, however,

announced austerity measures to curtail unnecessary government expenditures, hosted a lavish dinner for the leaders of allied parties at the Prime Minister House This exposes the ruling elites double standards because at a time when the masses are asked to eat rookhi sookhi to help the government cope with the grave financial crisis, the ruling elites continue to indulge in extrava-gance. The recent Turnaround Pakistan' conference held in Islamabad cost millions of rupees and cannot yield results because nations are not made by mere superficial claims or

thollow visions but through hard work, integrity and intelligence. The economic fallout of the federal budget and other measures adopted by the ruling coalition to generate revenue have offered redemption to PTI and its Chairman Imran Khan. Had the PTI government completed its five-year term, it would have struggled to win the 2023 general elections because its inefficient and fascist mode of gover-nance would have become apparent to the people. However, now the people are question-

the regime change, and the PML-N is losing pop-ularity amongst the public. The forthcoming byeelections on 20 seats of Punjab Assembly will determine the fate of PML-N to some extent Before the no-confi-

dence vote against him, Imran Khan claimed he would be more dangerous to the opposition once he was out of power. Now the PML-N will be faced with serious challenges as people have already grown agitated with the incumbents. The PML-N cannot absolve itself of the responsibility of failing to tackle the prevail ing to tackle the prevailing economic crisis by simply blaming the forsimply blaming the for-mer government of the PTI. During bye-election speeches in Lahore, Imran Khan lambasted those who "compromised the country's sovereignty by siding with the US over its conspiracy of regime change". He has been able to amass public been able to amass public support by playing on their sentiments. However, Imran Khan too cannot absolve him-self of inefficiency, corruption, nepotism, target-ing political opponents, vindictiveness, ego-centricity, arrogance and dis-respectful behaviour toward others during his

Climate change: common enemy of Pakistan and India

Imran Jan

There are situations where the enemy of your enemy is also your enemy. Nothing would fit that description better than climate change for Pakistan and India. Pakistan is the 8th most vulnerable and India the 7th most vulnerable country to the ravages of climate change. Climate change is a global threat. Nevertheless, how nations would guard against it makes it a very country-specific threat. The devastating results of The devastating results of it are very much specific to nationality, class and race Poorer nations, lower classes and discriminated races are affected by climate change worse than others as if climate change had a human mind filled with human mind filled with all the prejudices our societies have conjured

for.
The news headlines or social media memes about this year breaking excessive heat do not become obsolete and can be used every year. No need to delete those memes because the year ahead would be hotter than the one we are in right now and so on and so forth.

lived with and died

This March, heatwaves in India broke a 122-year record. A farmer in the Punjab region of India

interviewed by The New York Times said, "We used to wear jackets in March." Well, now they wear blankets of heat. Pakistan saw a cholera outbreak in Sindh this year while also grappling with multiple wildfires including in the supposedly cooler capital city of Islamabad. India is the major grain supplier of major grain supplier of this region and supplies food rations to its farmers as well. With as much as 30% reduction in wheat yield, the longstanding concerns about food security have resurfaced in India and the region including Nepal and Bangladesh which rely on India for wheat

imports.

In August 2020, right during the height of the pandemic, the climate change driven extreme rains Pakistan drenched Karachi in a 19-inch rain, city with no functional drainage system Thousands of homes of the poor were destroyed. More than a 100 people were killed. The Marriott bombing in Islamabad killed about 54 people. The Mumbai terrorist attack killed 164 people In 2015, the heatwave in

Pakistan' Sindh province killed more than 1,000 people. Between 1998 and 2018, Pakistan has lost over 10,000 lives due to climate change. more than \$4 billion loss-es since 1998 due to climate related events.

The floods in Assam this year affected more than half a million people across 1,000 villages. The Modi-led government has tried to remove from Assam the Bangladeshi immigrants using faithbased discriminatory law called the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) I can confidently state that the Bangladeshi immigrants did not affect more than half a million
people across 1,000 villages. According to the
Assam state water
resources department,
every year Assam loses
nearly 8,000 hectares of
land due to the expanding land due to the expanding Brahmaputra river caused by climate change.

Karachi's severe mon-soon rain of 2020 led to the submerging of the markets and warehouses, causing a damage of \$150 a standstill for about a week, which caused the country to lose \$449 million daily. Do the math. And that does not include the massive off the grid economy, which we all know is much larger than

the official one.

Excessive heat has been found to bring the work performance down among people. India loses 259 billion work hours annually due to excessive heat. It trans-lates as worth roughly \$622 billion Purchasing

Power Parity When I think about the heat, fire, glaciers and water, I want to let the Pakistanis and the Indians know not to fear the missiles we both have made but rather the cars we drive and the electricity we consume. Fear the fire and the water. One doesn't kill the other. They are both killing us. The both killing us. The chances of an Indian dying at the hands of a Pakistani are much small-er than from heat or by drowning. And vice versa.
This March, heatwaves

This March, heatwaves in India broke a 122-year record. A farmer in the Punjab region of India interviewed by The New York Times said, "We used to wear jackets in March." Well, now they wear blankets of heat. Pakistan saw a cholera outbreak in Sindh this outbreak in Sindh this year while also grappling with multiple wildfires edly cooler capital city of Islamabad. India is the major grain supplier this region and supplies food rations to its farmers as well. With as much as 30% reduction in wheat yield, the longstanding concerns about food security have resurfaced in India and the region, including Nepal and Bangladesh, which rely on India for wheat

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change driven extreme monsoon rains drenched Karachi in a 19-inch rain, which usually drowns a city with no functional drainage system. Thousands of homes of the poor were destroyed More than a 100 people were killed. The Marriott bombing in Islamabad killed about 54 people. The Mumbai terrorist attack killed 164 people In 2015, the heatwave in Pakistan' Sindh province killed more than 1,000 people. Between 1998 and 2018, Pakistan has lost over 10,000 lives due to climate change. Pakistan has suffered more than \$4 billion losses since 1998 due to cli-mate related events.

The floods in Assam this year affected more than half a million people across 1,000 villages. The Modi-led government has tried to remove from immigrants using faith-based discriminatory law called the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). I can confidently state that the Bangladeshi immigrants did not affect more than half a million people across 1,000 villages. According to the Assam state water resources department, every year Assam loses nearly 8,000 hectares of land due to the expanding Brahmaputra river caused

climate change Karachi's. shady housing schemes.

It's come full circle By Faizaan Qayyum

ith one foot on a banana peel, we are standing at an abyss. PM Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N face mortal political and economic challenges, and the govemment has shown little resolve to confront them head-on. Domestic petroleum prices are up more than 40 per cent within the last few days, and energy prices have quickly followed suit. It is morbidly satisfy-ing that Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N – of motorway flyover and

still not been reduced. Prime Minister Shehbaz

motorway, flyover, and underpass fame underpass fame -should face rising fuel prices in their ultimate battle for political sur-vival. For decades, our cities have facilitated private car owners at the expense of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. The Shehbaz Sharif model of urban development, albeit with different speeds of albeit execution, pervades other political parties and leaders as well; large-scale gray infra-structure like signal fre-corridors corridors, flyovers, underpasses and ring roads with obscene levels of service have become the norm in cities around the coun-Cities, Islamabad to Turbat, have become sprawling sites of speculatively held vacant plots in

Our current economic crisis is our own Frankenstein's own Frankenstein's monster staring right back at us. Consider these examples. Capital Smart City Islamabad is approximately 40 kilometres from Blue Area. DHA City Karachi is over 60kms from Frere Hall. These and other Hall. These and other projects exclusively tar-get car owners only the most influential five per cent of our urban popu-

expressways, signal-free corridors, ring roads, Lyari Expressways, and Leh Expressways to coddle them. These coddle them. These projects help the elite bypass the city's congestion, often by taking a longer route. Sometimes flyovers and underpasses address particular points of congestion in the city's road network. As these projects material-ize, the richest few begin to travel more and more to reach their workplaces, meet friends, or for other everyday tasks. Because there's no public transit and whatever transit

dential interests move 50kms from the city's economic hubs? Build

The same logic has unfortunately extended to inter-city travel. We have prioritized motorhave prioritized motor-ways and highways over railways. Our railways network has shrunk from over 8500kms of tracks in 1950s to around 7,800kms today. This has been accompa-nied by a drastic drop in the railways' share of traffic: while the service carried over 86 per cent of all freight traffic in the 1950s, its current share stands at a meager 4-6 per cent. Similarly, Pakistan Railways has gone from the single So what to do when the most influential people's financial and resigone from the single

largest carrier of passen-ger traffic in the 1970s to carrying less than 10 per cent of all passengers today. This drastic decline is According to one estimate, the state spent three times as much on intercity road infrastructure than it did on rail-ways. The uniformed state's patronage of entities has combined with private car owners interests to completely overpower socioeconomic efficiencies asso-

ciated with rail travel. All these developments are brazen examples of elite capture. Only around 10 per cent of all urban households own cars, and yet all of our cities have seen massive infrastructural investments that favour

'Picturesque' protests ethno-

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 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

Pakistan has suffered

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 proliferated.

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 many Europeans 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

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. The protesters have 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 and making it look somewhat less serious

and impactful than its Western counterparts. Throughout 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-

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 peo-Ambika Satkunanathan and others 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 Forces and extrajudicial groups looking to harm them.

Together, they have

held vigil, overnight, at

the main protest.

Images of Catholic victory matic Singapore of 3-0. This is why Palestine's 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 reli-Palestinian people. gious robes sitting together at Galle Face Beach, chatting and sharing views.

Palestine's victories

exists is class incompat-

ible - people drive, often in their sparkling

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 Palestimans and con-demning Israel, the International Football Association decided to award an auto-

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

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, however, is bittersweet. 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 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 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 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 regular 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 months later, Saii 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

Karachi: Gang of

Katcha area

bandits nabbed in

defence robberies

KARACHI: South Police has arrested a gang of five most want-ed bandits of katcha area, for rob-beries in Karachi's DHA on

South SSP (Investigation) Dr

Mohammed Imran Khan has said that the accused had committed

dozens of burglaries in bungalows

of the city's posh Defence area. "Police has recovered millions

of rupees' stolen valuables from the accused," SSP Dr Imran said. The police officer named the

accused as Sakhawat Gopang, Abid Indhar, Shehbaz Khan, Kamran and Imran "The accused

were involved in robberies in Defence bungalows for last three years," SSP said. "The arrested men belong to the Katcha area of Rahim Yar Khan district of Punjab," he further said "They were used to work as cook, driver and gardener thus collecting information about the bungalows in the

FPCCI urges govt and private sector to raise forest cover from 5 to 25 per cent to meet local needs

LAHORE: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Irfan Iqbal Sheikh Sunday urged the government and private sector to join hands for raising its forest cover from 5 per cent to 25 per cent to meet the ever

growing needs of furni-ture industry in Pakistan. Talking to Mian Kashif Ashfaq CEO Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) here today Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said currently, furniture and local indus-tries, are experiencing serious supply shocks which are not only impeding their further

growth and but also adversely affecting their international competitive-

As the global economy is expected to be more challenging this year In wake of Covid 19 he urged the furniture industry to remain resilient by innovating, adopting technology as well as diversifying export mar-kets in order to sustain demand in the long run. "We have to overcome challenges to strengthen our market share; we must continue to produce innovative and market-oriented products to meet challenging times," he

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said in the absence of enough supplies of wood, cheaper furniture made of fancy and laminated sheets of chipboard has flooded the local market. He said wooden furniture, like that of shishum wood, is quite expensive that is why Shishum's furniture is made for selected buyers only Mian Kashif informing the FPCCI Chief he said Pakistan needs mass tree planta-tion at plain, hilly and other barren areas with the active participation of private sector and gov-ernment to meet.INP

Demand for Pakistani handicrafts can increase with use of cutting-edge technology: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The handicraft industry has enormous potential to improve women's socioeconomic empowerment through exports, but the quality of craftsmanship has deteriorated over time due to lack of cutting-

edge technology Maryyam Qasim Khan, Chairperson of the Handicrafts Association of Pakistan (HAP), said while talking to WealthPK that the export of handicrafts empowers the human capital associ-ated with it. She said Pakistani handicrafts are famous for their uniqueness, variety, and quality standards, and that's why they have established a mark within and outside She said the handicraft

industry mainly compris-es small-scale entrepreneurs, artisans, manufac-turers, and producers with a major proportion of proletariat women's proletariat women's involvement. Therefore, she said, efforts are being made to provide complete handholding to the endowed. She said the underprivileged women of Pakistan are provided with a direct market link-

Maryyam said handi-crafts in Pakistan are diverse. She said every country has its own handcountry has its own hand-icraft specialty which includes carving, embroi-dery, fabric, and jew-ellery. She added that each colour, style, and design, with a unique symbol, portrays the cul-ture of a particular area hased on people's indigebased on people's indige-nous skills. She said Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and HAP collaborate on the promotion of handicrafts by developing, protecting, and encouraging handicraft-making in Pakistan with

making in Pakistan with
the prime focus on converting the informal
handicraft sectors into a
formal industry.

"Pakistani handicrafts
are in high demand in
Europe and China, and
we have taken the first
step towards promoting
this sector by empowering women through providing them market
access," the HAP chairperson said.

Zehra Shallwani, CEO

edge technology. Handicrafts promo tion addresses several social problems by pre-serving culture and providing a source of income for women," she said Zehra said this industry

is in desperate need of development and promotion in order to revitalize Pakistani culture and eco-tourism. She added that the tourists who visit northern areas of Pakistan like to buy Gilgit handi-crafts which help the natives to earn livelihood. Zehra said production of handicrafts must be carried out in a systemat-

ic and cost-effective manner to increase demand both locally and interna-tionally. She said the coronavirus pandemic had a negative impact on the handicraft industry as most workers in this sector shifted to urban areas in search of work to sup-

port their families She said the majority of women working in this industry are uneducated and unable to learn any ed to women in handi-



LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique and others hold a banner during dengue awareness walk in Provincial Capital.

Rangers, police arrest two accused of Karachi cash van heist

Rangers and Police in a joint intelligence based operation arrested two suspects of the cash van heist last year on Sunday.

Two accused, namely Mudassir Hussain Shah and Abid Mazdoor alias Abid Afghani, were arrested from Gulistan-e-Jauhar's Block-11, a spokesperson of the rangers said.

"The accused have been involved in August 09, 2021, cash van robbery at I.I. Chundrigar Road," spokesperson said. "They had drove away a cash van with Rs205 million." Other accomplices of the arrested men have

KARACHI Sindh govern-ment has decided to establish a

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)-like authority at the provincial

The power authority will be named Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority (SEPRA)

and as per the proposed law, SEPRA will determine and noti-

fy power tariffs in the province.

identified Zulfigar, Hussain Shah and Hanif Salman, "Raids being conducted for arrest of other suspects, rangers official said.

"Arrested accused have been handed over to police for legal proceed-ings," he added. Karachi's South Zone police had arrested Hussain Shah in

November, who drove away with the cash van. The main accused was at large since the crime committed.

Police has so far arrested 16 accused in the mega

Sindh govt plans Nepra-like power

regulatory body in province

Energy Imtiaz Shaikh in

February this year and a report quoted him saying that the gov-ernment of Sindh has decided to constitute the Sindh Electric Power Regulatory Authority (SERPA)

(SEPRA).

arrested from Peshawar for their alleged involvement in a Rs205 million heist. An amount of Rs seven million and the car used in the crime were recovered from them.

On August 09, the driv-er of a cash van had fled with Rs205 million from a bank on I.I. Chundrigar Road in Karachi. A case was registered against the driver and his accom-plices at the Meethadar

police station.

The police had said that after guards of a private company left to deliver cash to a bank located at cash heist in the metropo-lis.

Three persons were

I.I. Chundrigar road, the driver of the cash van ran away with the vehicle.INP I.I. Chundrigar road, the

Transmission and Dispatch
Company (NTDC) under the
NEPRA," the minister said.
"We are aimed at providing

cheaper energy to the province,

the energy minister said. The regulatory authority will function at the provincial level

like the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) works at the federal level.

SEPRA will grant approval of the wind power and other power projects in Sindh.

Provincial Minister of Energy Imtiaz Shaikh forwarded a sum-mary to the Chief Minister of Sindh in this respect. Imtiaz Shaikh has said that the

SEPRA will fix the tariff and power price in Sindh INP

National

mation about the bungalows in the neighborhood," police official said "After committing crime, they used to return to their jobs," Dr Imran said He said, police has recovered stolen jewelry, precious watches and other valuables from their possession.INP Raging inflation leaves Pakistanis struggling to buy

sacrificial cattle

for Eid ul Adha

Customers at a market in Pakistan said on Friday, July 1, that they were struggling to buy sacrificial cattle for the upcoming Eid ul Adha festival amid skyrocketing prices after the country's inflation rate hit a 13-year high."Last year, I made a deal in just one hour. Today, I have been wandering here since the morning and haven't bought an animal, because in the price range I had last year, the traders are only offering small cattle," said a customer, Abdul Qayyum, at the sprawling market in Karachi filled with livestock Livestock trader, Umar Farooq, said transportation costs were making the cattle even more expensive Eid ul Adha: Sindh govt ensures animals being brought to mandis virus free, says official Cattle are costly. The prices are higher also because of transportation, as petrol and diesel prices have been raised. An animal we sold last year for Rs220,000 (\$1,075), we are selling it for Rs420,000 (\$2,053) now. This Rs200,000 (\$978) increase is because of inflation. Fuel prices have risen about 90% since end-May, after the government scrapped costly fuel subsidies in a bid to cut its surging fiscal INP

(SEPRA). The regulatory authority will function at the provincial level like the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) works at the federal level. SEPRA will grant approval of the wind power and other power projects in Sindh. Provincial Minister of Energy The provincial cabinet will mull over a bill for the establish-Zehra Shallwani, CEO of Dastan Tours and an language other than their native tongue. "Proper training should be providment of SEPRA on July 05 and Provincial Minister of Energy Imtiaz Shaikh forwarded a sum-mary to the Chief Minister of Sindh in this respect. Imtiaz Shaikh has said that the SEPRA will fix the tariff and power price in Sindh, "We won't the authority would be mandated to regulate the power generation and licensing process. The law also allows the authority to monactivist who promotes handicrafts in Pakistan, told WealthPK that the craft sector to create their age to multi-label retail stores under the brand name of "HAP Store". itor power distribution in the province The idea was initially floated by Provincial Minister of quality of craftsmanship awareness about the use of latest machinery and technology, INP has deteriorated over time due to lack of cutting-

Two Covid deaths reported as positivity rate hovers at 4%

ISLAMABAD: In the first two days of July, six people succumbed to Covid-19 infection as the disease hits back with a vengeance, driving national positivity ratios up.

by the National Institute of Health Data released NIH) Sunday morning showed that as many as 650

people tested positive for the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in the past 24 hours.

The nationwide positivity ratio stood at nearly 3.88%, slightly below than 4% reported on Two people died in this period and 138 patients

were in critical condition, the NIH said. The positivity ratio for Karachi stands at 21.39% as samples were taken from over 2,000 suspected patients and at least 430 tested positive.

Earlier four deaths were reported on Saturday Two of the deaths took place in Karachi while one patient each died in Rawalpindi and Lahore. The health authorities have advised the general public to restart following precautionary measures to prevent another outbreak of the virus Social dis-tancing must be part of the seating plan in offices

and this must also be ensured during prayers INP

Rare gemstones can bring huge economic benefits for

Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: A variety of rarest gemstones in sizeable quantities still remain unexploited in Pakistan. Proper exploration and trading of these treasures can

To deal in the rare gemstones, whether they are of museum quality, collector's edition, or enthusiasts

choice, the ultimate gem resource mentioning and excellent marketing is very important.

Talking about the rare gemstones in Pakistan, Project Director of Mineral Resource Mapping Balochistan (MRMB), Mines and Minerals Development Department, Syed Muzaffar Ali Bokhari said earthen

crypts in Pakistan are rich in precious, semi-precious and rare gemstones. From transparent to opaque and translucent, every type of gemstone is found in Pakistan. The treasures of a great number of remote

"To explore all these treasures and get proper benefits from them, Pakistan must invite foreign investors

companies/individuals to mine or set the gemstones

business in the country. In this way, the lack of capital

technology and exploration can be covered in a good manner, he said.

In a discussion with WealthPK, Gemmologist and

Miner Zakirullah said most of the rare gemstone vari-

eties and also few world-famous but rare gemstone

varieties i.e., Alexandrite, Pink topaz, Bastnasite, Parisite, Halloween, Rutile, Vivianite, are found in

Alexandrite found in Pakistan is wonderfully unique

to react in a different type of light i.e., it seems yellow in artificial light, while it glitters in red color in sun-light. Russian Alexandrite in the artificial or night lights is green, while in sunlight exposure, it shows fire

red color. Sometimes, shimmering diamonds lag

behind from the beauty of rare gemstones i.e., Benitoite, Bixbite, Paraiba tourmaline, Jadeite, Tanzanite, Burma Ruby, Ammolite, Alexandrite, Kashmir Sapphire, Anatase, Brookite, mostly found in the areas of Katlang, Gilgit, Shamozai, in the nearest area to Warsak Dam, Mohmand, Bajaur, Khyber, Skardu, Kharan, Chagai, Saindak, etc. In these areas covering the range of about 50 to 60 kilometers, totally unaverlated capactone pockets are found.

Rare gemstones can open a door of prosperity for Pakistan Fortunately, about 2,000 types of rare crystals are found in Pakistan. Most of them are still not named

or valued. The known varieties of rare gemstones are enough to pay the debts of Pakistan three times. But they need to be exploited and well marketed. Proper

apidary and trade strategy hold the key to success in

this segment of mining. Another difficulty is that vil-

lagers living in the areas where the gemstone pockets are not much cooperative. They think that only they can mine the gems. Their unawareness about the value and

unexploited gemstone pockets are found

lack of technical expertise concerning INP

areas in Balochistan still remain untapped.

bring a fortune to the country

LAHORE: Hamza Shahbaz Chief minister of Punjab meet Shehbaz Sharif Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Holds Ceremony to Pay Tribute to Famous Critic & Scholar Dr. Gopi Chand Narang

Karachi: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi held a function to pay homage to Indian critic Dr. Gopi Chand Narang at Hasina Moin Hall which was presided over by renowned scholar, writer, and poet Iftikhar Arif on Sunday Gopi Chand Narang was the greatest benefactor of Urdu, and the famous poet, and writer Iftikhar Arif Prof. Shafi Qadwai (India), Nasir Abbas Nair (Lahore), Satya Pal Anand, Mohammad Hameed Shahid, and Asghar Nadeem Syed spoke online, while Dr. Ambareen Haseeb Amber performed

the duties of moderator. Iftikhar Arif said that Urdu is the national language of Pakistan. Its greatest critic was Gopi Chand Narang Urdu became very poor without him. The passing away of Shams-ur-Rehman, Shamim Hanafi, and Gopi Chand Narang is a loss for us.He also expressed sorrow by saying that Narang loved me very much. This is also my loss.Narang was a very good friend, father, and husband, he continues, I have never seen Gopi Chand Narang as a hardworking

person in his life. INP VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IP-22-18

A leading Scientific and Technical Organization in Rawalpindi / Islamabad vicinity is looking for a Competent, Talented and Result Oriented individual for the position of Director Sales & Marketing on contract basis, initially for a period of 02 years, extendable on the basis of performance of the individual and requirements of the organization:

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Possess experience of contract negiotations and execution Skill.

Upper age limit is 45 years, relaxable on the basis of

Terms and Conditions expertise in specialized field. Only Shortlisted candidates will be contacted and called for

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S. No	Name of the Post & Grade	Posts	Qualification & Experience	Age Limit
L	Bursar (B-17)	:01:	M.Com at least 2 nd Division or equivalent from a recognized university with 05 years' experience in the field (Female will be Preferred)).	25-35
2,	Lecturer Biology (B-17) (Zoology/Botany)	01	MA/M.Sc (in the relevant subject) from a recognized university with teaching experience preferably in residential institution, (Female will he Preferred). For post of Lecturer Biology both M.Sc Zoology and Botany can apply For Lecturer Computer Sciences Masters in Computer Sciences MCS (at least 2nd Division)	21-30
3.	Lecturer Chemistry (B-17)	02		
4.	Lecturer Physics (B-17)	02		
5.	Lecturer Math (B-17)	02		
6,	Lecturer Computer Science (B-17)	01		
7.	Lecturer Urdu (B-17)	01		
8.	Lecturer Islamiat (B-17)	01		
9.	Lecturer Pak Studies (B-17)	01		
10.	Lecturer English (B-17)	02		
11.	Admin Officer (B-17)	01	MA / MBA (2nd Division) preferably LLB from a recognized university with at least 05-years in the field, and excellent communication skills. (Male only)	25-30
12.	Messing Officer (B-16)	01	Diploma in catering from a recognized Institute (at least 2nd Division) with 5 years' experience in A-class Officers Mess./ Hotel (Male only).	18-30

attraction allowances are · Application will not be submitted until you enter fee challan number and pic of fee challan in online form Application fee can be submitted in any branch of National Bank with same job will be prescribed depositing slip of National Bank in the Account PK71NBPA0173004002291529 of Director BACT Quetta

Application processing fee is Rs. 1000 for BPS -16 to 17 Shortlisted candidates only will be called for interview Date and venue of the written evaluation

test and Interview will be informed on the given website therefore candidates have to visit the web site regular basis, no call letter will be issued separately

All the applicants from BPS-16 TO 17 will have to undergo through a written evaluation test only written qualified applicants will be called for interview. · Roll number slip will be auto generated in

time of submission of application · Bring all original testimonials if and when called for interview · Bring all original testimonials if and when

July 2022.

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SC registrar's office rejects Imran's petition against NAB law tweaks

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court registrar's office has refused to entertain Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairperson Imran Khan's petition wherein he challenged the amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999, raising five objections against it.

The former premier had argued that tweaks to the ordinance would pave way for public office holders to get away with white-collar crimes. The constitutional petition was filed under Article 184(3) through renowned lawyer Khawaja Haris, the counsel for Nawaz Sharif in the Panamagate case.

The apex court registrar's office in their objections on Friday stated that the petitioner had not highlighted what matter of public importance was involved regarding the enforcement of fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution so as to directly invoke the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article

184(3).

"The ingredients for involving extraordinary jurisdiction of this court under Article 184(3) of the constitution have not been satisfied," the office stated.

The RO also objected that the petitioner had not approached the appropriate forum available under the

law and had also not provided any justification for not doing so. Read SC permits Punjab CM to hold office till July 22

Earlier, the former premier had declared his intention to challenge the amendments in the apex court and

had said they were tantamount to "legitimising" corruption.

Last month, the National Assembly and the Senate passed the Elections (Amendment) Bill 2022 and the National Accountability (Second Amendment) Bill 2021, with a view to bringing the necessary reforms the



ISLAMABAD: A view of sacrifice animals in a cattle market at Sangjani area ahead of the upcoming Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha in Federal Capital.

Hot, humid weather expected in most districts of country

ISLAMABAD: Hot and humid weather is expected in most districts of the country with chances of rain-wind and thundershower in Kashmir, Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, lower Sindh and northeast Balochistan during the next 24 hours.

Temperature of some major cities recorded this morning.

Islamabad twenty-eight degree centigrade, Murree seventeen, Lahore and Karachi thirty, Peshawar thirty-one, Quetta twenty-six, Gilgit twenty-two and Muzaffarabad twenty-four degree centigrade. ISLAMABAD: Hot and humid

centigrade.

According to Met Office forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, cloudy weather with chances of rain-wind thundershower is expected in Srinagar, Leh, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian and Baramulla, while partly cloudy weather with chances of rain-wind thundershower in lammu. thundershower in Jammu

Temperature recorded this morn-

Srinagar, Pulwama, Anantnag and Baramulla, twenty-one degree centigrade, Jammu twenty-six, Leh fifteen and Shopian twenty degree centigrade INP

Heavy rainfall, urban flooding expected in Karachi from Sunday

KARACHI: Karachi is set to experience heavy rainfall from Sunday as the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast moderate to heavy rains in Karachi from Sunday afternoon or evening under the influence of a

strong monsoon system.

Due to the heavy rainfall, the MET department has warned of urban flooding in the low-lying areas of the city.

Opposition leader Sindh Haleem Adil Sheikh said that the govern-ment of Sindh did not clean more than 500 small drains of the city and due to the waste material stuck in the drains, they are badly blocked.

He further said despite the fear of urban flooding, the government did not do anything.

He went on to say that the institutes who are supposed to work regarding flood issues are not oper-ational. Haleem Adil added that Sindh government is famous for its corruption in the past as the govern-

ment has been named in several cases regarding Machar Dani and Ration in the past. Haleem Adil further lamented that the Sindh government did cor-ruption on Zakkat money and are not concerned about the problems

of people.

He urged the government to take necessary actions to prevent the damage INP

Sindh govt to launch heavy-handed crackdown on wheat hoarders

KARACHI: The Sindh govern-ment decided on Sunday (today) to launch a heavy-handed crackdown on the hoarders after reports of wheat hoarding in different areas of

the province. According to the official sources there were reports of wheat hoard-ing in Khairpur, Ghotki, Sukkur, Larkana, Kashmore, and Qambar following which the Sindh govern-ment has decided to launch a vigor-

ous crackdown on the hoarders. For the purpose, the services of the additional deputy commission-ers (ADCs) of six districts have been handed over temporarily to the Food Department.

The additional deputy commissioners (ADCs) and the assistant commissioners (ACs) of the six districts will work under the Food

Department secretary.

Khairpur ADC Iqbal Hussain
Jandan, Sukkur ADC Gul Beg
Larkana ADC Majidano, Larkana ADČ Muhammad Ali Gopang, and Ghotki AC Imtiaz Mohsin are among the officers whose services have been handed over to the Food Department. INP

Narcotics smuggling gang nabbed at Isb airport

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) on ISLAMABAD: Sunday, arrested a gang of three narcotics smugglers from Islamabad International Airport

According to details, the ANF confiscated 5 kg of Heroine from a three-member gang at Islamabad International Airport A passenger named George was caught carrying 2.6 kg of nar-cotics at the airport's entry

The ANF told that the Heroine was expertly hidden in the luggage trolley. Two more gang -members llyas and Rizwan were nabbed at George's identification. The gang members have confessed to smuggling narcotics to for-

eign countries, the ANF told. Another 2.7 kg of Heroine was recovered from a parcel at

An ANF spokesperson said that the drugs were hidden inside 20 women's suits expertly. The parcel was booked under Sialkot resident Liaquat Ali's name.

The parcel was to be received by British resident Mehmood. The ANF has confiscated the parcel and started an investigation.

case has been filed against the three gang members under the anti-narcotics

In another operation on April 1, ANF Islamabad recovered 86 narcotic cap-sules hidden inside the belly of a passenger at Islamabad Airport The passenger was set Airport The passenger was set to travel to Bahrain from Islamabad via an International Airline, ARY News reported.INP

PPP leader receives critical wounds in Larkana firing

LARKANA: A local Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader sustained injuries after unidentified men opened fire at his guest house in Larkana.

According to police, the incident occurred owing to a dispute between two rival gangs of the Jatoi community in a Larkana village. "The suspects opened fire on the guest house of PPP leader Amir Zeb Jatoi,

resulting in the immediate death of his guard and serious injuries to him," they said.

The PPP leader has been shifted to hospital where doctors have declared him to be in tors have declared him to be in a critical condition, the police said, adding that the suspects fled the crime scene and police have launched a search operation to nab them

It is pertinent to mention here that recently concluded local government elections in 14 districts of the Sindh province were also marred by

At one of the polling stations in Sukkur, the polling was postponed after a shooting at the station kills one and leaves three injured.

According to details, local body elections in Sukkur have been postponed after a shooting incident at the polling sta-tion Allah Jurio Jagirani. The district monitoring officer has issued a notification postponing the elections. One person had been reported dead and at least three were injured after a group of men attacked the polling station INP

Imran Khan thanks people for participating in PTI rally in large numbers

minister and PTI Chairman thanked all those people who came out in droves against the 'imported government of crooks' and participated in the PTI's rally in Islamabad Saturday.

Taking to his Twitter handle on Sunday, Imran said: "I want to thank the people of Islamabad & Pindi for coming out in such large numbers and standing up against this imported govt of crooks."

While addressing the rally, former prime minister Imran Khan said a powerful army was a need of Pakistan adding that Pakistanis did not accept the government of thieves. The PTI held a public meeting against inflation at the Parade Ground last night. A good number of people participated in the public meeting and chanted slogans against inflation and imported government Addressing the workers, Imran Khan said PTI Chairman Imran said Nawaz Sharif was waiting for another NRO to return to Pakistan. He said the sitting rulers of

Pakistan had no sincerity with the country as they had stashed their wealth and assets abroad. Former premier Imran said he

wanted to make Pakistan a wel-fare state to show the real soft The PTI chairman said 'Umpires' are with the imported government and its candidates in

the by-elections but his party would defeat them on the polling He said he did not come to the streets to fight or harm the state institutions but for saying that the imported government was not

acceptable. The PTI chairman said he had set out the reason to show all the institutions what the nation wanted and there was still time to save the country.INP

QUETTA: People stand near dead bodies of passengers, At least 19 passengers died

after a Quetta-bound bus travelling from Islamabad fell into a ravine in Zhob district

coalition parties had promised.

The government's decision to steer the legislation into law was vehemently condemned by Imran, who had termed it a "black day" in the country's history, charging the "imported government" with ending accountability. He had claimed that the ruling elite would reap the biggest fruits from the tweaks.

President Arif Alvi had also sent back the bills, following which the government convened a joint sitting of the NA and Senate, which approved them. The president had again refused to sign the amended bills, terming them "regressive" and had sent them back.

However, 10 days after a joint sitting passes a bill, it is considered law even if the president refuses to give assent. The RO also objected that the petitioner had not approached the appropriate forum available under the law and had also not provided any justification for not doing so.

Read SC permits Punjab CM to hold office till July 22

Earlier, the former premier had declared his intention to challenge the amendments in the apex court and had said they were tantamount to "legitimising" corruption.

Last month, the National Assembly and the Senate passed the Elections (Amendment) Bill 2022 and the National Accountability (Second Amendment) Bill 2021, with a view to bringing the necessary reforms the coalition parties had promised. The government's decision to steer the legislation into law was vehemently

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Pakistan logs 650 new Covid cases, down from previous day

ISLAMABAD. The countrywide positivity ratio, at 3.88 per cent, was also down from 4.47pc a day prior. According to the NIH, 16,755 tests were conducted during the last 24 hours.

In addition, 138 patients were in critical care, up

from 126 a day earlier.

Sharing the citywide breakdown, the NIH data showed Swabi has the highest Covid positivity ratio at 42.8pc, followed by Karachi's 21.3 per

It is noteworthy that the number of tests carried out in Swabi were only seven, out of which three were positives. On the other hand, there were 2,030 tests carried out in Karachi, out of which 430 turned up positive.

Other cities' test positivity ratios remained in the single digits, with 7pc in Muzaffarabad; 3 7pc in Abbottabad, 3pc in Peshawar, 2.8pc in Quetta; 2.5pc in Islamabad; 2.3pc in Nowshera and 2.17pc in Lahore.

Earlier in a statement, federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel had 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 had said. "But we want the public to adopt precautionary measures and follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) religiously."

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

The NCOC had on Thursday issued new guide-

The NOC had on Thirdsday issued new guide-lines suggesting unvaccinated people should not be allowed to enter government offices. They suggested that Covid awareness pro-grammes should be arranged in government offices and employees be also guided to protect their fam-ily members as well.

They must also be guided to avoid overcrowded places. Mask wearing is mandatory. Social distanc-ing must be part of the seating plan in offices and this must also be ensured during prayers. Hand sanitisers at all entrances and washrooms should be

made available. The officer responsible must ensure strict adherence to all Covid-19 protocols issued by the NCOC like vaccination, mandatory mask wearing, social distancing and hand sanitisation. Vaccination status should be checked and handshakes avoided," the

guidelines stated.
It has been advised that temperature checking should be ensured at entry points and people with Covid-related symptoms should not be allowed to

enter office premises.

"Any person/staff with symptoms like fever, cough, sneezing and shortness of breath must be tested through Covid-19 PCR or Antigen testing. All staff coming back from leave must get negative PCR before joining. Vaccination/booster status must be ensured. Mask wearing, social distancing, and hand sanitisation must be adhered by all staff, the guidelines stated.INP

Tharparkar: Two brothers killed by poisonous snake bite

THARPARKAR: Two brothers were reported dead after a poisonous snake bit them while they were sleeping in

their house.

According to details, fear grips locals as two brothers died after a poisonous snake bit them while asleep in home

Tharparkar. Locals claim that snakes have come out of their dens due to higher temperatures and humidity. The locals have been gripped with fear after the horrible

The commonly known and shown 'suck the venom' remedy is fake. It does not help to take the venom out of the body. Medical experts do not recommend sucking the spot the spake. ing the spot the snake has bitten INP

After Punjab, Sindh also lifts restrictions on market timings for Eid ul Adha

KARACHI: Following the lifting of restrictions in Punjab Government Sindh Sunday decided to revert the notification issued regarding time limitations for businesses on account of Eid ul Adha.

According to a notifi-According to a notifi-cation issued by the province's home depart-ment, the restriction will come into effect once again from July 11. Earlier in June, the Government of Sindh directed all markets across the province to close at 9pm in order to

close at 9pm in order to save electricity as the country was witnessing constant power outages. It was said that the measure would remain

in effect till July 16, however, with Eid ul Adha just around the corner, the provincial government has decided to lift the restrictions temporarily.

According to the noti-fication, the decision to suspend the closure orders has been taken in the "interest of the peo-

"On the eve of Eid ul Adha, the Government of Sindh is pleased to suspend the operation of this department notifications [...] regarding imposing restrictions on closing hours of various shops, restaurants, wed-ding halls, etc in the territorial jurisdiction of Sindh province with immediate effect INP

Sindh LG Polls: Final lists of candidates for phase 2 on display

KARACHI: The final lists of the candidates for the second phase of the

local government elections in Sindh have been displayed on Sunday. The lists of candidates in 16 dis-tricts of Karachi and Hyderabad divisions for local council elections have been displayed.

The Election Commission had earlier announced the schedule for the second phase of local government elections in Karachi and Hyderabad divisions, to be held on July 24

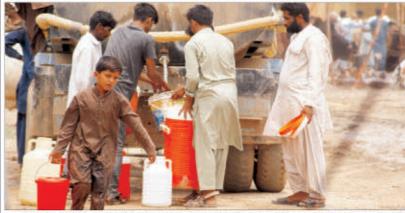
In seven districts of Karachi, elec-tion of chairmen and vice chairmen of 246 union councils will be held. Moreover, the candidates of political parties and independents will con-test for 984 seats of ward

of ward Councillors. In second phase of LG Polls in Sindh 9,150 candidates are contesting

for local councils seats

will printed for the election in 16 districts, and the printing has been started from today.

The election commission will set up 5003 polling stations, and 8.4 million voters will exercise their right to vote in second phase of the local government election. The Election Commission had earlier announced the schedule for the second phase of local government elections in Karachi and Hyderabad divisions, to be held on July 24. In seven districts of Karachi, election of chairmen and vice chairmen of 246 union councils will be held Moreover, the candidates of political parties and independents will contest for 984 seats of ward Councillors. In second phase of LG Polls in Sindh 9,150 candidates are contesting for local councils seats. INP



RAWALPINDI: July03- Vendors filling water cans from a water tanker for sacrifice animals in a cattle market organized by Cantonment board in the city.

Maryam blames Imran govt for lack of trust by IMF

LAHORE: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz has said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) did not trust Pakistan because of the "wrongdoings" of Imran Khan's gov-

ernment.

Daughter of the ousted premier Nawaz Sharif said this while addressing a rally held to launch the by-election campaign of the PML-N candidate for PP-167, Nazir Chauhan, in

Green Town here on Saturday.
Quoting Prime Minister Shehbaz
Sharif, she said the IMF was dealing with Pakistan strictly due to the conduct of the previous government led by Imran Khan. "IMF doesn't trust Pakistan due to violations [of agree-ment] committed by Khan's govern-ment." Maryam said the current government had to take difficult decisions due to flawed policies of the previous government. "I will talk about tomato and potato prices and will stand with the people in this dif-ficult situation," she said, indirectly referring to Imran Khan's remarks as premier that he did not come into

power to check prices of vegetables.

She said Prime Minister Shehbaz
Sharif was providing subsidies on
flour, sugar, maize and other food
items and if the government had
ample resources at its disposal, the
subsidy on other items, including
petrol, would have been increased.

She said Imran Khan had pushed

She said Imran Khan had pushed she said Imran Khan had pushed the country on the verge of bankruptcy "Khan had stolen the mandate of the people of Punjab and handed the province over to Usman Buzdar, Pinki Peerni and Farah Gogi and jeopardised its development," she said "Pinki Peerni's son Ibrahim Maneka has become a billionaire in the last four years after receiving Maneka has become a billionaire in the last four years after receiving kickbacks in every project," she alleged She said Khan was taking revenge from the people of Punjab because he knew they would vote for Nawaz. She said the PTI MPAs who defected to the PML-N couldn't be called lotas (turncoats) as they changed loyalties to get rid of an incompetent government to save the country from default. Web Desk

Climate-resilient wheat varieties needed to improve yield: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Effects of climate change have shrunk Pakistan's wheat production over the last few years, highlighting the need for research to develop climate-resilient seed vari-eties for better yields.

Wheat, which is a major food crop of Pakistan, is used in a variety of ways to make byproducts. Pakistan used to be among the top 10 wheat-producing countries till recently. However, climate change has impacted the wheat productivity due to a variety of factors such as fluctuation in rainfall patterns, rise in tempera-tures and inadequate water availabili-

Talking about the factors contributing to low productivity, a senior sci-entific officer of the National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC) told WealthPK on condition of anonymity that heat stress was the biggest factor contributing to low

wheat yield. "Wheat production is affected due to terminal heat stress caused by heat temperature."

"March and April is the grain-fill-ing time for wheat, but heat stress has shortened the grain-filling phase, resulting in low grain yield. An unusually low rainfall in February and March also reduced production, forcing the government to import wheat to meet the domestic need, he said.
The NARC official further said that

last year Pakistan had seen a bumper crop due to normal rainfall and mod-

erate temperature However, during 2021-22, area under wheat cultivation decreased to 8,976 hectares (2.1%) against last year's 9,168 hectares. As a result, the production of wheat declined to 26.394 million tonnes (3.9%) compared to 27.464 million tonnes last year INP