WWW Https:// www.quettavoice.com/

ABC Certified

ICE

Email adderss: quettavoice@gmail.com

> Thursday 25 August, 2022

🔰 🏏 Quettavoice



Shehbaz Sharif directs to accelerate relief efforts in flood-hit area



Qatar Investment Authority to invest \$3b in cash-strapped Pakistan

BHC dismisses application of Qasim Suri in foreign funding case

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Wednesday dismissed a consti-tutional petition submitted by former deputy speaker of the national assembly, Qasim Suri in a foreign funding case. Mr. Suri had pleaded before the court that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has convened him in the foreign funding case.

funding case.

He had demanded of the court to stop FIA from convening him in the case. A division bench of the BHC comprising Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Mr. Justice Sardar Ahmed Haleemi dismissed the constitutional petition filed by the former deputy speaker national assemFIA convened Mr. Suri, former Governor **Balochistan Syed**

Zahoor Agha

The FIA had convened Mr.
Suri, former Governor
Balochistan, Syed Zahoor
Agha, and two other leaders of
the former ruling Pakistan
Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) in the foreign funding case. The PTI had
challenged the FIA's decision
of convening in the Balochistan challenged the FIA's decision of convening in the Balochistan High Court. The inquiry having lawfully been initiated by the FIA Banking Circle Quetta on the instruction of the Federal Government i.e. Ministry of Interior Government of Pakistan on the basis of the order of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on August 8, 2022, cannot be



al jurisdiction, the BHC order mentioned. throttled by this court at this inquiry stage in its constitutionFIA forms teams to probe foreign funding of PTI

funding of PTI
On August 5, FIA announced the initiation of investigation in the prohibited funding case and said that 5 different inquiry teams have been formed by FIA against Tehreek-e-Insaaf. Various inquiry teams have been formed and these inquiry committees will work in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Islamabad, and Quetta
This notice has come after the election commission of Pakistan issued the muchawaited decision about the foreign funding case of the former ruling party i.e. Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI). S Akbar Babar, one of the founding members of the PTI had challenged the foreign funding case. The verdict was announced after seven years by the ECP.

Pakistan seeks assistance from international community after devastating floods

Pakistan has urged the international community and philanthro-pists to help with relief efforts as it struggles to cope with the aftermath struggles to cope with the aftermath of torrential rains that triggered massive floods, killing more than 900 people According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), heavy monsoon rainfall and floods have affected some 2.3 million people in Pakistan since mid-June, destroying at least 95,350 houses and damaging a further 224,100.

Sindh in the southeast and Balochistan in the southwest are the two most affected provinces. More than 504,000 livestock have

been killed, nearly all of them in Balochistan, while damage to nearly 3,000 km of roads and 129 bridges have impeded movement around flood-affected areas July's national rainfall was almost 200% above average, Sardar Sarfaraz, a senior official at the metrological office told Reuters on Wednesday, making it the wettest July since 1961 Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, in a Twitter post, revealed that over 900 people have died and thousands of people have been displaced due to floods, adding that a "humanitarian crisis' had arisen across the country. The main supply route from the



port city of Karachi has been cut for more than a week after a bridge linking it to Balochistan was swept away, while dozens of small dams in the province were over-whelmed Web Desk

US dollar gains 34 paisas in value against Pakistani rupee

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar sustained its upward journey on Wednesday as the greenback gained 34 paisas in value against the Pakistani rupees

According to the forex dealers in the interbank market, the Pakistani rupee suffered 34-paisa depreciation during the early trading activi-ty on Wednesday At the moment, the US dollar was being traded at Rs218.On Tuesday, the greenback ended the day at Rs217.66 with a one-rupee gain. The ongoing politi-cal uncertainty is another factor that keeps dragging the local cur-rency down. The sky-high inflation in the country, rising trade deficit, and falling foreign exchange reserves are putting extreme pressure on the local currency. The IMF tranche which is expected to reach Pakistan by the end-month is likely to give a much-needed boost to our economy and revive confi-dence in the value of the Pakistani rupee. INP

Punjab govt allocates MPAs quota for 16,000 grade-4 jobs

LAHORE: The Punjab govern-ment has allocated MPAs quota for

ment has allocated MPAs quota for 16,000 in grade-4 jobs across the province on Wednesday.

As per the list presented before Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi, each MPA will be given a quota ranging from 20 to 80 jobs in grade 4. Also, there would be a separate quota for the ticket-holdseparate quota for the ticket-hold-ers. In Lahore, 1,720 jobs quota will be distributed among provincial lawmakers. According to the documents, lawmakers of Attock will get 556 jobs quota, Rawalpindi 478, Chakwal 843, Jhelum 196, and Gujrat MPAs will get 283 jobs quota.INP

Zahid Saleem appointed as Home Secretary Balochistan

News Desk

The Balochistan government appointed Zahid Saleem, a grade-20 officer as the Additional Chief Secretary of Home on Wednesday According to a notification issued by the Services and General A.d.m.in.s.tration Administration Department (S&GAD), his predecessor Hashim Ghilzai, a grade-20 offi-cer has been posted as the Secretary of Finance Balochistan.

The government has appointed Salman Mufti, a grade-20 officer as a



member Chief Inspection Team (CMIT) Zahid Saleem has Zahid Saleem has served as the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Balochistan and other important posi-tions in the province.

NP stands for supremacy of the parliament: Dr. Malik Baloch

From Our Correspondent

Karachi: Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, the cen-tral president of the National Party (NP) said that the biggest problem in the country is the supremacy of the Parliament. "NP stands for the supremacy of the Parliament and whenever NP comes to power i will preserve the rights

of the people in a better way", he expressed these views while addressing party workers in Karachi on

Wednesday.
Former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, addressed the leadership of Sindh Wahdat in the Sindh Secretariat, While addressing he said that the ban on media and pressure on the judiciary have further complicated matters. The sectarian and ethnic problems in the country are becoming more and more serious, he said. Chieftains, landlords, and capitalists are all at one stage, he noted. A capitalist is also a landlord and a chieftain. The older conflicts still exist with their intensity across the country and this only political approach offers a panacea, the Baloch nationalist

Central Secretary General Jan Muhammad Buledi, Provincial President Taj Marri, Wajah Abu Al Hasan, Majeed Sajidi, Ayub Qureshi, and other leaders were also present at the meeting. Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch said that the supremacy of the establishment of the stablishment of the stablishment. lishment is the same as earlier, Pakistan has become a security state, and we have failed to make this state a welfare state.

He said that there is no such thing as the govern-ment in Balochistan, the floods and rains have caused havoc in many areas including Balochistan, Sindh, and Koh Sulaiman's Taunsa Rajanpur. The current federal and provincial governments are failed at providing relief to the people.

"Whenever the National Party comes to power, they will first try to solve the issue of insurgency and missing persons in Balochistan", Dr. Malik Baloch stated. If fair and transparent elections are held, the National Party will be in a better position than it was in 2013, he predicted.

BHC bars **Balochistan Govt** from appointments in prisons department

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

QUETTA: The Balochistan High ourt (BHC) barred the Home Department Government of Balochistan from making appoint-Balochistan from making appointments in the prisons department. A division bench of the BHC comprising Senior Judge, Mr. Justice Hashim Khan Kakar, and Mr. Justice Gul Hassan Tareen passed this order on a constitutional petition filed by five candidates in the high court.

high court. The successful candidates in the resuccessful candidates in the previously held tests and interviews had challenged the recent advertisement in newspapers regarding the recruitment in the prisons department. The bench asked the Balochistan Home and Tribal Affairs Department and Prisons



Department not to make any appointments in the department.

The candidates pleaded before the court that the recruitment com-mittee has prepared the final merit list after a set procedure of tests and interviews. However, the department has issued fresh advertisements instead of issuing them orders as per the previously prepared ment list.

17m consumers being given relief

Minister for Energy Khurram Dastagir Khan on Wednesday said that 17 million consumers were being given relief in fuel price

adjustment charge
During his visit to the
Hyderabad Electric Supply
Company's (HESCO) headquarters, energy minister said that the government was providing a relief of Rs 22 billion to power con-

sumers.

This relief is being given to the consumers of up to 200 units in view of the IMF issue, he said.

in fuel adjustment: Minister The power consumers who have paid their bills, their bills will be adjusted under the new package, federal minister said.

"Fixed tax on traders has also been withdrawn," energy minister said. "Providing cheaper electrici-ty to consumers is a challenge for this government," Dastagir said. "We are going to launch a 1320 megawatt project in Thar Thursday," he said.

He directed the HESCO authorities to increase recoveries so that

uninterrupted power supply could be ensured to the consumers INP

Shehbaz Sharif directs to accelerate relief efforts in flood-hit areas

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the concerned authorities to expedite rescue and areas, considering the prediction of more rains in those areas

According to details, the prime minister – who is currently on a two-day official visit to Qatar – is monitoring the rescue and relief efforts in the country for relief of

the flood-stricken people.

He directed the National
Disaster Management Authority
(NDMA) and all the relevant ministries and departments to collabo-rate with one another as consecu-tive rain spells were deteriorating

the flood-caused destructions.

The premier further said that as the flash floods had inflicted huge losses on the people, it was the nation's responsibility to support

nation's responsibility to support their countrymen.

"The rehabilitation in the calamity-hit areas is a gigantic task. This is possible only through collective efforts," he said, requesting the local and international charity organisations to extend their support for the rehabilitation of affected population INP population.INP

Sindh rains: MQM-P appeals to COAS Bajwa to help flood-hit people

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has appealed to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa to help flood-stricken people in interior Sindh.

In a statement, MQM-P Rabita Committee has urged the COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa to issue immediate orders for the rehabilitation of the people and infrastructure in flood-hit areas where hundreds have been killed and thousands rendered homeless.INP

raising trade exchange and promot-ing investments through the Qatar Investment Authority," Emiri Diwan said Bloomberg reported default. The country's currency is continuously losing ground against the dollar and inflation is constant-ly on the rise. Web Desk 'Humanitarian crisis': Over 900 people killed in monsoon rains across the country since June, says minister

Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman on Wednesday revealed that over 900 people were killed during monsoon rains across Pakistan since June this year, while 1,293 were left injured.

"Heartbreaking scenes of rain and flood devastation are emerging from

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

meets Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Ameer of the

Qatar Investment

Authority to invest \$3b in

cash-strapped Pakistan

that Qatar's \$445 billion sovereign wealth fund was currently assess-

ing the strategic investments in the key economic sectors of the South Asian nation.

It added that people familiar with the matter said that the investments might be in Pakistan's "main air-ports in Islamabad and Karachi, as

well as in the renewable energy, power and hospitality sectors".

power and hospitality sectors."
The publication, citing an official, added that the QIA investments could partly overlap with the \$2 billion in bilateral support Qatar has already planned for Pakistan.
"The fund may end up investing more or less than \$3 billion depending on the asset valuations and opportunities, the people said, without sharing a time frame."

Qatar's support comes as Pakistan desperately seeks to shore

up its foreign reserves and avoid

without sharing a time frame.

State of Qatar at Deewan-e- Ameeri in Doha.

Qatar's Emiri Diwan Wednesday onfirmed that the Qatar

confirmed that the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) aims to invest \$3 billion in Pakistan

lending support to the South Asian nation's cash-strapped economy. "The Qatar Investment Authority announced its aspiration to invest \$3 billion in various commercial and investment sectors in the

and investment sectors in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,"

Emiri Diwan said, without giving

Emiri Diwan said, without giving details. The announcement was made during a visit to Doha by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who held official talks with Qatari Ameer Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on Wednesday after a meeting with the QIA on Tuesday. "His Highness stressed the importance of the brotherly and strategic relations between the two countries and their aspiration to enhance economic partnership by

enhance economic partnership by

confirmed

"Heartbreaking scenes of rain and flood devastation are emerging from all over the country," she said in a series of tweets today. "Since June, 903 people, including 326 children and 191 women, have died in various incidents of monsoon rains and floods." According to the data shared by the minister, the highest number of deaths and injuries during the time period was recorded in Sindh and Balochistan. The PPP leader said that thousands of people had been displaced due to floods, claiming that a "humanitarian crisis" had arisen across the country. "The government is utilising all available resources to help the flood victims," she assured, stressing that the local administrations and provinces needed more resources to deal with the catastrophe Rehman underscored the need to meet the shortfall in resources, emphasising attracting partners and donors at the national and international levels. "Thousands of people trapped in floods are waiting for rescue and relief. This is not the time for division, but for unity. We have to deal with and overcome the humanitarian crisis as a nation, not separateto deal with and overcome the humanitarian crisis as a nation, not separately," she added Pakistan is currently in the grip of a monsoon system that has caused heavy rains and catastrophic flooding. Among the worst-hit provinces are Sindh and Balochistan where the downpour has broken a 30-



Videos and photos emerging on social media show towns, villages, and cities inundated with no sign of life. Teams of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Army have been deployed in flood-affected areas across the country to rescue people. Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb urged the nation to donate money for the rain-affected areas today, adding that donations could be deposited to the Prime Minister Relief Fund Account 2022 "All commercial banks and their branches can collect donations in the Prime Minister Flood Relief Fund 2022 as per State Bank of Pakistan circular," she said, adding that overseas Pakistanis can also send donations through wire transfers, money service bureaus, money transfer operators and exchange houses. Her announcement comes a day after the government decided to launch an international appeal seeking funds for relief and rehabilitation of flood-hit people and restoration of damaged infrastructure. The decision was taken during an urgent briefing on the flood emergency in NDMA, which was summoned to reassess the damage done by floods and to apprise the development partners and donors of the magnitude of the crisis. Torrential rains have spelled disaster in the province as another devastating spell of monsoon rains continued in most districts on Aug 23. While urban centers were hit by flooding due to the slow pace of drainage of rain-fall runoff, the rural areas witnessed massive losses to standing crops and

QUETTA VOICE Editor Asim Khan Torrential rain exposed

drainage system in Quetta

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

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

Rains-related incidents claim 7 lives

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

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

Billions of rupees were spent but with no impact

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

Thousands of people have settled in the middle of nullahs/waterways over the years without the permission of the Metropolitan Corporation. MCQ appears to be a silent spectator when it comes to people constructing their houses on waterways. PDMA has rather become a ghee and sugar distribution agency rather than coping

with natural disasters in Balochistan. Rainfall also exposed the traffic system

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

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Quddus Bizenjo must have mercy on the provincial capital, which houses around 3 million people. Beyond political and personal interests, the provincial government should improve the drainage system, stop illegal settlements on waterways, ensure transparency in funds allocated for the construction of roads, bridges and etc.

Rainy water needs to be reserved to maintain the depleting water table in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan.

Economic cost of uncertainty

ANTICIPATION of the resumption of an IMF bailout package has helped improve market sentiment. But given the turbulent state of politics, there is little reason to be sanguine about the country's political and economic future. Confirmation that the

Fund's executive board will meet next week to approve the loan programme has helped to strengthen the rupee and revive market confidence. It also resulted in a largely buoyant week at the stock market.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has, in an essay written for The Economist, called the programme 'path to safety". But political turmoil continues to cast a shadow over the economy. The nexus between economic recovery and political uncertainty is not to be

underestimated. Under attack by both his own party and his government's principal coalition Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has stood his ground by taking painful but necessary decisions to close the deal with the IMF and thus avert the possibility of default by the country. The acting governor of the State Bank, Murtaza Syed, also played a key role by

skillfully managing a difficult situation. Under his stewardship, the central bank issued thoughtful statements, ensured exchange remained market-driven and made the right, though politically unpopular, decisions on

interest rate policy.
The finance minister continues to face criticism from his party colleagues. But he has been straightforward about the austerity measures the government has had to take to prevent a meltdown of a precarious economy.

The political situation, however, is not proving to be an ally of the government's goal to stabilise the economy.

The confrontation between the coalition government and opposition leader Imran Khan has assumed an ominous shape after PTI secured control of Punjab. The centre and the provincial government are now locked in a stand-off and tit-for-tat actions that are creating more political disarray. The tussle between the two over the custody of Shahbaz Gill is a case in point. As are the arrest orders issued by the Punjab government and police raids on the homes of PML-N leaders, who then fled the province

The federal government, for its part, has been stepping up its drive against Khan over the foreign funding case, ordering the FIA to launch an investigation into PTI's 'prohibited funds'. Discord continues over the transfer of civil servants. The centre-province wrangle and the politics of settling scores has plunged the country into a vortex of turmoil and uncertain-

More seems to be in the offing. Encouraged by the large crowds he has drawn, and his support base remaining unaffected by allegations of malfeasance by his opponents, Khan is in no mood to dial down political tensions. Neither is the Sharif political

government. Even though the prime minister has stressed the need for a "national dialogue" to evolve consensus on an economic charter, his government has done little to further this objective, perhaps because it sees this as an exercise in futility in the present fraught environment. There is a close nexus between economic recovery and political certainty. This means tempestuous politics will continue to heighten economic risk, keep markets edgy

investors in a hesitant state. Moreover, rifts within the PML-N and divisions on economic policy among coalition partners have raised doubts about whether the government will stay the policy course agreed with the IMF. The burden of history

rests heavy in this regard, given Pakistan's stop-start record of previous Fund programmes, which earned it the reputation of being a onecountry. tranche Therefore, questions continue to be raised about the longevity of the IMF programme. The IMF deal in any

case is a necessary but not sufficient guarantor of economic stabilisamuch less of durable economic recovery. The programme itself is not just about fulfilling prior actions but staying on track, implementing measures over time and rebuilding trust with international financial institutions. The Fund has already cautioned the government it might have to take additional measures given the elevated uncertainty in the global economy and financial markets" Pakistan has faced many balance-ofpayments and liquidity crises in the past. But never before has it con-

Maleeha Lodhi fronted a financial crisis in such an adverse external environment, in which the aftershocks of the Covid pandemic and the fallout of the Ukraine conflict have left supply chains and global commodity and financial markets in such a volatile state. Energy and food prices have soared and fuelled worldwide inflation, exacerbating Pakistan's economic difficulties. This at a time when global interest rates are rising, leaving indebted countries vulnerable.

Political uncertainty has many damaging effects on a struggling economy. The exchange rate in particular is a barometer of such uncertainty as it is determined both by economic fundamentals and sentiment. Uncertainty affects the exchange rate as both inflows (foreign investment. remittances. export earnings) and outflows (imports and portfolio flows) are impacted by sentiment. This leads to weakening of the rupee, as the experience of recent months testifies. Depreciation of the rupee in turn fuels higher debt-financing costs and inflation.M oreover, the most important indicator of the country's growth.

The hearts of men

Many years ago, there was an iconic radio show called 'The Shadow' in which the title character would be introduced with the tagline, "Who knows tagline, "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!"

was reminded of the Shadow by the recent proceedings of the Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of the NAB law amendments in which the hon-ourable chief justice of Pakistan posed the query as to whether parliament can make "self-serving legislation".

The short answer to the above question is yes. Parliament can indeed make laws which personally benefit parliamentarians.

Take a simple exam-ple what if parliament passes legislation reducing income tax rates tomorrow? Will the law be invalid because every single parliamentarian benefits from that tax reduction? Clearly not Instead, the law can only be challenged on grounds noted in the constitution. For exam-ple, if the impugned legislation grants tax relief only to parliamentari-ans, it can be challenged as discriminatory. But the mere fact that parlia-mentarians also benefit from a law is no basis for declaring it unconstitutional.

The broader jurisprudential principle here is that no malice can be attributed to parliament. Because once you start examining the motives

behind an individual's yes-no vote, you are operating on pure specu-lation (unless, of course, you are the Shadow and

know what evil lurks in the hearts of men.) In fact, the whole point of parliament is to take individual selfinterested perspectives and, where a majority exists, enact that common consensus in the form of a statute. It is the majority principle that protects the people of Pakistan from "self-serving" legislation, not the moral character of its

parliamentarians.
To take a different example. President Biden announced a \$2.2 trillion 'Build Back Better Act' in January 2021. That proposal died because of opposition from two Democratic senators, namely senators, namely Senators Manchin and Sinema. Subsequently, a less ambitious version of the same proposal managed to find favour with Senator Manchin after which all eyes turned to Senator Sinema of Senator Sinema of Arizona It is a matter of that Senator Sinema then insisted on several changes in the draft act which operated to the benefit of the very wealthy (including pre-sumably backers of Senator Sinema). The rest of the Democrats then swallowed their objections to Senator

objections to Senator sinema's proposals and the renamed 'Inflation Reduction Act' was tri-umphantly signed by President Biden on August 11, 2022. Does the Inflation

Reduction Act serve the narrow personal interests of Senators Manchin and Sinema? Absolutely yes Does that make it unconstitutional? Absolutely not.

To summarize, legislation always serves the interests of one party or another. Yes, some legis-lation is so noble that nobody can object. But or the most part, "laws, like sausages, cease to inspire respect in proportion as we know how they are made."

You may say this case is different. In this instance, the 'krupt Noonies' are changing the law so as to benefit

the law so as to benefit themselves. Look at how many individual leaders of the PML-N will benefit from the amendments to the NAB Ordinance. Shame, Ordinance. shame, shame.

Before I respond to this allegation, it is worth taking a step back and situating the issue, both in the overall context of Pakistan's troubled history since 1947 and more specifically, in the history of the NAB

In terms of the broadhanded use of accountability laws has been a feature of Pakistani polireactive of Paristain poli-tics ever since the Public and Representative Office Disqualification Act, 1949 (PRODA) was enthusiastically used by Liaquat Ali Khan to prosecute trou-blesome politicians like Ayub Khuhro, Nawab Iftikhar Hussain Mamdot and Hussain In 1959, General Ayub updated PRODA and replaced it with the Elected Bodies Disqualification Order (EBDO) Like its prede-cessor statute, EBDO too was a blunt instru-ment used to hammer uncooperative politi-

cians and civil servants

into submission. The next major legislative upgrade to the accountability regime came in 1996 when President Faroog Leghari introduced the E h t e s a b (Accountability)
Ordinance which was subsequently converted to the Ebisch Act by subsequently converted into the Ehtesab Act by the government of Mian Nawaz Sharif in 1997. Then, when General Musharraf took overthrough the October 12, 1999 coup, one of his first steps was to enact the NAB Ordinance. There is no dispute that the NAB Ordinance is a draconian law. The

is a draconian law. The fact that the chairman of NAB can, on his own and without the blessing of any judge or court, direct any individu be arrested and held for 90 days is an abomina-tion. More importantly, the basis for the Supreme Court's Supreme Court's approval of the NAB Ordinance in the 2001 Asfandyar Wali case was very much that hard times called for hard measures. Remember also this was the same Supreme Court which had earlier legitimized General Musharraf's coup on the basis that governance had collapsed and that corrup-

By Feisal Naqvi

tion had become endem-

My point here is that the bogey of civilian corruption has always been a useful stick for the establishment to belabour elected repre-sentatives. And the NAB law is just one more manifestation of the same impulse. Imran Khan himself now con-cedes that NAB cases were manipulated by these powers that before political advantage during his tenure as prime minister.

In this 20-plus year saga of the NAB Ordinance, one would have expected the judiciary to have gradually softened the rigors of a horrific law, at least after the departure of General Musharraf However, the opposite has hap-pened. Let me give two

The first example per-tains to the scope of the NAB Ordinance. Section 9 of the NAB Ordinance provides that a "holder of public office or any other peroffice, or any other percommits corruption if he, for example, takes money to do any official act. Under the rule of act. Under the rule of ejusdem generis, general language which follows a list of particular instances is to be read only as to the types of things identified by the specific words. Hence, the phrase "any other person" in the NAB Ordinance should have been read as extending the scope of the law only to other public represento other public represen-tatives. Instead, in the 2013 case. ed over time to serve

Pakistan at 100? By Farhan Bokhari

the interests of the few ongoing polit-ical and economic turmoil coincided last

week celebrations surrounding the country's 75th anniversary, prompting a powerful question: exactly what must be done to lift Pakistan's prospects to turn the corner by the time the country celebrates its first 100 years of existence in 2047? In brief, the answer to that compelling question lies in undertaking a range of fundamental changes, effectively creating a new way of life for Pakistan.

Since its creation, Pakistan's politics has become increasingly dominated by a self-serving elite with little or no regard for the mainstream population. In sharp contrast to the vision of Pakistan's founding fathers, politics today appears to have become squarely caught in the grip of this moneyed elite rep resenting a range of interests, from influential quarters across the rural belt to industrial and business interests urban centers. Together, this diverse group of individuals have joined hands to become detached from the bulk of Pakistan's population. It is hardly surprising that policies under Pakistan's successive governments have increasingly shiftrather than the most. In one of the most frequently cited exam-ples of a shift away

from protection of public interest, the journey travelled by the Senate, Pakistan's upper house of parliament, repeatedly comes up to underline a growing political disconnect from the mainstream. The founding fathers of Pakistan's constitution of 1973 imagined the upper house of parlia-ment as a model forum that could provide representation to members of the middle class including well trained individuals with expertise in different areas. Tragically how-

ever, reports in recent years of nominations for the Senate being sold at hefty sums by nominating political parties have effectively demolished the idea of at least one house in a bicameral representative structure being unquestionably committed to public serv-Meanwhile

Pakistan's economy for months has been surrounded by warnings from analysts of a possible default on foreign debt repayments, unless the country can undertake unprecedented reforms. Over time, warnings of a default have been set aside as Pakistan has re-established its ties with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). That relationship is expected to mature on Monday (August 29) when the IMF's board of executive directors are due to meet in Washington to discuss Pakistan's request for receiving approximately \$1.2 bil-

Yet, a return to the IMF's fold still leaves Pakistan badly exposed to a series of unattended economic chal-lenges. Though lenges. Though Pakistan has avoided a default on its foreign debt repayments, the country's economy remains in a far from satisfactory shape. One of the biggest chal-lenges confronting the country remains its failure to address major gaps in the quality of daily lives for the bulk of its population.

Fundamental needs such as access to quality healthcare and education cannot be taken for granted for the mainstream population. Often, such needs are met but only through exorbitant costs which place them beyond the reach of individuals with average incomes. Other essential needs such as personal security and rule of law in daily lives cannot be

taken for granted.

Meanwhile over time, a failure to improve the quality of governance has caused a dangerous disconnect between the rulers and the ruled. In parts of Pakistan, a breakdown

vicious cycle [Part - II] How to break a

t goes withsaving that political stability is the sustained effort achieve rapid and inclusive growth. The main drivers of such growth would be small farm agriculture, SMEs and microenterprises, construction and lowcost housing, tourism, IT and IT enabled services, diversification and value addition in diversification

exports.
Thus, the agenda proposed for the short, medium and long term should have a continu-ous chain, linking and consolidating the gains from these sectors and stimulating inter-sectoral synergetic impuls-es over time. Continuity of these policies beyond the electoral cycle is an absolute must. There are multiple pathways
to attain this kind of
growth but the preferred route to be chosen is the one that
expands domestic productive capacity to ductive capacity to meet the higher aggregate demand associated with rising per capita incomes, the relatively high propensity to create productive jobs and support livelihoods, alleviate poverty, and reduce interpersonal and regional inequality. Tough political deci-sions would be required from time to time. The time horizons described are not dis-crete as they would have spillovers but are continuous, interwoven in a chain that leads to the ultimate goal

Short-term Agenda 2022-24: The revival of non-inflationary, sus-tained and inclusive growth would span a much longer time peri-od. What is presented in the following paragraphs is what can pos-sibly be done in the next two-and-a-halfyear time period with great concerted effort. We are fully aware that there will be elections in 2023 but the com-mitment of all political parties to this agenda is to be secured.

For this, first, raise the investment-to-GDP ratio by two percentage points every year, reaching 20 per cent by 2024. Public-sector investment along with public-private partner-ship should not only be stepped up but its quality and composition should be able to crowd in private sector investment. Bank credit-to-GDP ratio, particularly in the fixed investment component, has remained dismally low compared to our neighbouring countries and has to be doubled from the current level. Private equity, devel-opment finance institu-

tions, IPOs, and debt capital markets have to play a crucial role in financing private investment Second, increase productivity of small and medium sized farmers - particularly in wheat, sugar, cotton, oilseeds, live-stock products and improve marpulses infrastructure, confine the role of gov-ernment to strategic reserves for managing

demand supply gap, and maintain price sta-bility. Provision of improved seed, fertilis-er, pesticides, small agricultural implements through targeted subsidies along with water resource use effi-ciency and credit to small farmers who constitute two third of the total farms can boost the national yields of crops. Veterinary serv-ices and artificial insemination would do the same for dairy and livestock. It is paradox-ical that a country with the largest irrigation system has to import food items and cotton amounting to almost \$10 billion The impressive results in rice and maize crops show that government intervention in markets

is to be avoided. R&D in the public sector needs to be integrated and coordinated.
Third, continue focused attention on the construction and housing sector and tourism which would create jobs, induce activity in the allied industries, assist micro. small and medium enterprises and help low-income families in acquiring houses and expanding tourist facil-ities in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Makran Coast and Azad Jammu and Kashmir The domestic cement industry is not only expanding in response to demand within the country but also because of economies of scale it is able to export. The Pakistan Steel Mills

has to be made fully operational under priarrangement and expanded to three million ton capacity and, along with perform-ance linked incentives to manufacture quality products, will reduce dependence on imports. The engineering goods industry has remained stunted and should be incentivized to meet the local industrial demand or compete in Fourth, broaden the FBR and provincial tax

bases to attain tax-to-GDP ratio of 15 per cent (provincial taxes contributing three per cent from one per cent at present) through automation, data inte-gration and data analytharmonization, new surveys and valua-tion of properties, track and trace system, and minimizing interaction between taxpayer and between taxpayer and tax collector, gradually bring down the ratio of indirect taxes from 60 per cent of the total to 50 per cent, expedite income tax and sales tax refunds on the lines of FASTER without any human intervention at any stage in the process Urban property tax is a huge potential that can be tapped if the powers to assess and collect this tax is devolved to municipal corporations. ike Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Faisalabad can generate five to six times more than the present levels if they carry out cadastral surveys.

cadastral

revalue

surveys,

properties

annually and impose heavy penalties on nonutilization of plots. Taxes on the agricul-ture income of large landowners and revision of irrigation charges can prove to be a remunerative source of income for the provinces and also ensure efficient use of water resources that are getting scarce. The reliance on indirect taxes on goods and services is highly regressive and it needs to be replaced by direct taxes on income (irrespective of the source) property, capital gains, assets and inheritance. Fifth, revamp state-owned enterprises

enterprises SOEs) through restructuring, capital market sales, sales to wrong strategic investors, mergers, liquidation, management contracts, public-private partner public-private partner-ship to improve overall economic efficiency and maximize the returns to the excheq-uer All the heads of these enterprises have to be recruited through an open competitive process and the candi-dates selected on the has indulged dates selected on the basis of merit, compensated well but held accountable for the results. The ministry heading this can set the performance agreeentertainment. There Charsadda performance agreements but not interfere ments but not interfere in day-to-day opera-tions. A comprehensive plan and strategy is already in place that has classified the commercial SOEs in two parts — those to be retained in public ownership for strategic or public. Whenever any

Public display of chutzpah rowing up in Charsadda, as a young stu-dent we liked

to repeat a joke everytime we came across any man with a beard who would either drive his car carelessly or indulge in some ridiculous act. The joke was just four Pashto words but the story and history behind those words was common knowledge and so people understood the context everytime we uttered those words, which are Sheikh pa ghalata de. It translates literally as "the bearded one is in the

Attaullah Tarar sports a beard and shaves his mus-tache. Muslim men do this keeping in line with the seriousness and depth of their faith. However, uncouth and irreligious behaviour. Fathers who may have asked their sons and daughters to keep watching and reading news so as to prepare for the CSS exam must have felt very uncomfortable watching this public display of an act, which is usually the stuff of adult

another man indulges in some irreligious or immoral behaviour, the oft-repeated joke is that he is exempt from any repercussions because he holds the licence for being ridiculous and immoral, which is an indirect reference to his beard. It was a double-edged sword. One, anything the labeled pious did was right by default. Two, don't dare criticise the bearded ones as their self-righteous mindset is unstoppable and dangerous. Perhaps this second joke is more relevant here. Because we have kind of forgotten that the same Atta Tarar some weeks ago openly threatened anyone who may dare call him a lota.

Public display of disrespect or profanity toward any faith or God is regarded as blasphemous. The people who adhere to the faith that is targeted the blasphemy feel humiliated and resentful One could argue that faith is a sacred as well as a private matter because it is one human's connection and contract with his Creator. We can disagree with an act of blasphemy but we are not to judge someone's actions or validity of their faith because that work is reserved for our Creator.

An elected or a government official takes oath of office to protect a document where the rights of the people are enshrined. That is a contract between the official and the state as well as the people. Disgracing the Holy Book is wrong and immoral but that is for the Creator to punish not us because that is a violation of the relationship between man and his Creator Disgracing the sacred document called the Constitution is

made with the people. Even the Holy Book Even the Holy Book emphasises on the rights of the people more than on the rights our Creator has over us. It is called Huqooq-ul-ibaad i.e. the rights of the people. The bearded

spokesperson of the Punjab government has openly displayed filthy profanity for the very document, which enshrines the rights the people have over him as a government official. It is not the violation of a specific right but rather the wholesale mockery of whatever rights the people may think they have.

Perhaps, this public display of chutzpah is coming from a greater belief of impunity. This middle finger is not only a mockery of the supposedly sacred document but also an indication of massive support from those who are usually in the business of raising the finger as a third umpire. Speaking of which, there was a lot of noise when Imran Khan some years ago had said that the third umpire had raised his finger. Somehow, there is not much noise at this fin-ger raising as if it is some sort of a halal finger.

The violation of the Constitution used to be benignly labeled as Doctrine of Necessity'. That is obsolete now because now and the constitution of because now our politicians just middle finger the Constitution. Ah, those good of days!

03 NATIONAL

ECP rejects ruling MNAs' plea against Imran Khan in Toshakhana reference

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday rejected a ref-erence filed from MNAs hailing from ruling coali-tion government against Imran Khan with regard

to a toshakhana case.

A four-member bench
of the ECP headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the plea filed from the treas-

ury lawmakers. During the hearing, the counsel representing Imran Khan said that a reference filed from Assembly is already being heard at the ECP and since both of them Assembly pertains to a similar matter, therefore one of them should be quashed. The CEC after hearing

to the arguments quashed the reference filed from the lawmakers and scheduled the hearing on the toshakhana reference filed from the speaker on August 29

During the last hearing the Election Commission of Pakistan Monday rejected Imran Khan's counsel's plea to grant a three-week time for submission of answer in Toshkhana reference. Imran Khan is facing

disqualification reference for allegedly hiding Toshakhana gifts A 5-member commission headed by the Chief Election Commissioner Sultan Raja Sikandar heard the reference.

At the outset of the earing, Gohar Khan hearing, Gohar Khan informed the country's supreme electoral body that they require time to get documents of assets declaration. We are reviewing INP

Ahsan Iqbal distributes certificates among NADRA's software engineers

I S L A M A B A D : Federal Minister for Planning Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Wednesday distributed certificates among National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) software engineers for developing Digital Census Turnkey Solution in shortest time.

Chairman NADRA Tariq Malik briefed the minister on recent citizen centric digital interventions rolled out to complement the initiatives of the federal gov-

During the briefing, he highlighted the spe-cial efforts of the authority to extend its registration services at the door steps of citi-zens through 771 Registration Centers and deployment of 222 Mobile Registration Vans (MRVs) across the country

The chairman also briefed the minister that NADRA was all poised to carry out the project on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in joint collab-oration with the Ministry of Planning, Development Special Initiatives The mir

minister expressed interest in NADRA's record for registration of birth and death at health facilities across the country. During the visit, the

minister was also informed that during the past one year, the NADRA had enhanced cards printing capacity from 60 thousand to 125 thousands per day The chairman

The chairman NADRA also apprised the minister about the security features of smart card which was laden with 36 security features making Pakistani ID card the most secure and unforged.

unforged.

Meanwhile, the minister also visited NADRA high-tech Operations Room where he was briefed about the Centralized Operations Management System.

Ahsan Iqbal lauded the efforts of the chairman for introducing international standards

and world's best prac-tices in the NADRA setting a new bench-mark for the world to look for.

He distributed the Certificates of Excellence among 24 software engineers. The minister appreciated the efforts of all software engineers who worked day and night in developing the solution for the country's first ever digital census.

The pilot phase of the digital census was suc-cessfully carried out from July 21 to August

During the visit, the minister was also informed that during the past one year, the NADRA had enhanced cards printing capacity from 60 thousand to 125 thousands per day. The chairman

NADRA also apprised the minister about the security features of smart card which was laden with 36 security features making Pakistani ID card the most secure and unforged Meanwhile, the minister INP



ISLAMABAD: UN World Food Programme's Special Advisor on Mother and Child Nutrition, Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

NA-118: Plea against acceptance of Imran Khan's papers rejected

LAHORE: An appellate tribu-nal of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has rejected an appeal filed against acceptance of the nomination papers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan for by-election in NA-118, Nankana Sahib on Wednesday.

According to details, the ECP's appellate tribunal has rejected the appeal filed against the acceptance of Imran Khan's nomination papers for NA-118 and directed the petitioner to file election petition. election petition.

A single-member bench head-ed by Justice Shahid Waheed heard the petition filed by Shezra Mansab Kharal, a candi-date of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz from the con-stituency

During the hearing, the elec-tion commission presented the record of Imran Khan's nomination papers before the court. The petitioner's counsel Mansoor Awan also appeared before the

Justice Shahid Waheed noted that all the allegations levelled against the nomination papers were related to election petition. "The jurisdiction of the Election Tribunal is limited", he said, asking the petitioner to present such an objection on which the such an objection on which the tribunal can use its authority.

The judge further said that the nomination papers cannot be rejected on the basis of incom-

plete information.
On August 5, Pakistan
Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman
Imran Khan had announced to

contest by-polls from all nine seats, vacated after the NA speaker accepted PTI MNAs' resignation.

According to the ECP sched-ule, the by-polls on the nine National Assembly seats would be contested on September 25. The PTI chief had announced

to contest elections from all nine constituencies himself. Elections would be held this year, government parties want to single him out, he had said.

single him out, he had said
Earlier, the government had
accepted the resignations of 11
PTI MNAs including Shireen
Mazari, Ali Muhammad Khan,
Ijaz Shah, Farrukh Habib,
Shandana Gulzar, Fazal
Muhammad, Fakhar Zaman,
Akdul Shalos Shad Abdul Shakoor Shad, Jameel Ahmed and Akram Cheema INP

Citizens' safety, our foremost

ISLAMABAD DIG (Operations) Sohail Zafar Chatha has said that no laxity would be tolerated in the safety and security of the citizens.

He was chairing a meeting, the other day, to review the crime situation in the capital city. SSP (Operations)
Islamabad Malik Jameel Zafar
all zonal SsP, SDPOs and SHOs
of all the police stations attended
the meeting. The meeting
reviewed the overall crime situation in the capital.
Statistics of the acception the

Speaking on the occasion, the DIG/Ops warned the officers that no laxity towards safety and security of the citizens would be tolerated and strict disciplinary action would be initiated against them. "We are servants of the citizens and their safety is our

Rawalpindi on August 21.

Assembly (NA).

elections.INP

the country's political situation.

Imran Khan to hold 'power show' in Rawalpindi on Aug 21

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has decided to hold a power show in

The decision was taken during a consultative session of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which was chaired by former premier Imran Khan. The meeting reviewed the important issues including

The meeting also discussed the federal govern-

ment's move to challenge the nomination papers

of Imran Khan for nine vacant seats of National

decided to hold power show in Rawalpindi on August 18 as part of the Haqeeqi Azadi cam-

paign.
"The people of Pakistan have rejected the imported government," he said, reiterating his demand for immediate and transparent

Industrial

production

increased by 11.7 %

in 2021-22: PBS

ISLAMABAD: Industrial production increased by 11.7 % in the fiscal year 2021-22, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) shows.

According to the PBS data, the annual production of big industries witnessed a spike of 11.7 % in the fiscal year 2021-22. An increase of 11.5 % was noticed in June 2022, it added. The production increased by 0.2 % in comparison to May 2022.

Food producing and processing industries witnessed a growth of 8.4 %, while the tobacco sector gained by 15.9% in 2021-22. The PBS data said that Textile grew by 3.5 %, while the automobile sector saw a significant growth of 49.4 %.

The highest growth in production was witnessed.

The highest growth in production was witnessed

in the timber and furniture sector. The Furniture sector grew by a staggering 180%, while the Timber by 115.7%.

According to the PBS data, the annual production

During the meeting, the former premier has

prime priority," he added. He further directed all officers to arrest the offenders involved

priority, says DIG/Ops

gation officers must remain in touch with the complainant and apprise them about progress in the case so that public trust in police could be restored.

He strictly directed the officers concerned not to implicate any innocent in the case during snap-checking. He directed to make stronger patrolling in their respective areas and check suspected and without number plates motorbikes

The DIG/Ops emphasized that, Almighty Allah asks us to protect right of others and it is our duty to ensure it and get inner satisfaction through our actions. He further directed all officers to arrest the offenders involved in heinous crimes especially murder cases adding that the ratio of challan of the cases and recoveries should be increased. The DIG/Ops asked police of female to accomplish all

13 parties want to corner Imran Khan: Sh Rashid

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AMLP) leader Sheikh Rashid on Wednesday said Sheikh Rashid on Wednesday said that 13 political parties want to corner Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He said, "No individual is superior to the institutes and no institution is supreme to Pakistan."

While Jashing out at the

While lashing out at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), he said that the Noon

and Sheen groups of the party are soon to confront each other. Rashid while talking about the voting rights of overseas voting rights of overseas Pakistanis, said that the results of the upcoming elections will be based on the right of vote given to the overseas Pakistanis.INP

Sindh rains: Nawabshah airport closed after airfield gets flooded

SUKKUR: The Nawabshah airport has been temporarily closed on Wednesday after torrential rains battered the city leaving the entire airfield flooded.

According to details, flight operations - including take-off and landing - have been suspended at Nawabshah airport as heavy rains left entire airfield flooded.

The aerodrome will remain closed till August 26 due to the

accumulation of water in the entire airfield. However, the Multan International Airport will be available as an alternate.

Meanwhile, the concerned authorities have been directed to restore flight operation at Nawabshah Airport by clearing the

At least 263 people have been killed and over 700 have been injured in Sindh as heavy rains and floods continued to wreak havoc in the province.

According to the data shared by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh, over 32 people were killed in past 24 hours in different rain-related incidents across the province, with most deaths reported from the Larkana division. 24 people died in Larkana while four each death was reported from Dadu, Sukkur and Jacobabad," said the PDMA, adding that over 700 people were also injured as a result of heavy



protest at Manan chowk.

AIOU organizes speech competition

ISLAMABAD: speech competition was held at Allama Iqbal
Open University
(AIOU) in light of the
ongoing celebrations of
Independence month.

The competition was organized by the Directorate of Student Advisory
Counselling Service
students
colleges, and universities across

the country
The six best speakers
included Muzamil
Taslim, Maryam Bibi, Noman Baqir, Iqra Zulfiqar, Abdul Rehman and Hureen Rasheed Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid, Dr. Malik Akhtar Hussain and Dr. Oasim Yanub were the Qasim Yaqub were the judges of the speech competition

The topic of the com-petition was "Are we following the objectives of Pakistan Movement" sented the basic objectives of Pakistan movement and reasoned that we are following the objectives of Pakistan movement and our beloved homeland is on the path of development in all sectors.

Student Director, Advisory and Counselling, Rana Tariq Javed while explaining the aims and objectives of the competition said that our aim was to inform the generation about the historical background of the establishment

Pakistan.

In order to explain the meaning of Pakistan to the youth, Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum had given instructions to celebrate the entire month of the entire month of August as Independence

Following various instructions, various events have been organ-The participants preincluding

awareness walk nation song competition flag hoisting, cake cutting, and tree plantation are already held, while painting, essay compe-titions and prize distribution ceremony is yet to be held.

The names of best 6 speakers were announced by Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid. He congratulated the students for revealing the objec-tives of Tehreek e Pakistan in a very good

manner final round among the best students in the competitions will be held in the grand prize distribution cere-

The first, second and third place winners will be given cash prizes of 7,000, 5,000 and 3,000 respectively.

All the participants in competitions are invited to which they will be given certificates of participation.INP

to arrest the offenders involved in heinous crimes especially murder cases adding that the ratio of challan of the cases and recoveries should be increased. The DIG/Ops asked police officials to accomplish all their responsibilities in a professional manner. He also directed the officials concerned to submit challans in the cases that had challans in the cases that had been pending since years and also submit a report in this regard to his office. The DIG/Ops said that the SsP, SDPOs, SHOs and investi-



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits 974 Stadium (venue of FIFA World cup 2022); Prime Minister is being briefed with regard to different sections and facilities at the stadium.

Five kids among seven die in rain, flood-related incidents in Sindh

ing a woman and five children died while five others sustained critical injuries in rain and flood-related incidents in different areas of Sindh on Wednesday.

Three children of the same family died after the roof of their house collapsed on them due to rain in Kandhkot, Sindh.

The incident occurred at Pyao Sabzoi village in the jurisdiction of Kandhkot B-Section police which also left two children with critical injuries. Two sisters and one brother were among the deceased. They

Salfullah Khan

Registrar, Banking Court

Quetta

were identified as seven-year-old Waheed, five-year-old Rehmat and three-year-old Nusrat. The injured and the bodies of the

deceased were earlier shifted to a hospital. The bodies of the deceased were later handed over to the families.

Death of the three children left

every member of the family in deep shock and pain. In another incident, two persons died and three others sustained critical injuries after a qingqi rickshaw overturned due to accumulation of rainwater on a road in Kandhkot.INP

The pharmaceuticals industry grew by 13.7%, chemicals by 9 %, Iron and steel by 16.3%, and the Beverage industry by 0.5% INP Female student 'sexually harassed, filmed' for refusing marriage proposal

FAISALABAD: female student was allegedly abducted, sexuwas ally harassed and filmed by men after she refused a marriage proposal in Faisalabad

Paisalabad.
Police said that a female student in Faisalabad was kidnapped and harassed for refusing a marriage proposal. The accused men forcibly took the girl to their home from the their home from the University Town area

The girl was subjected to inhumane torture by the accused who also trimmed her hair and filmed the torture activi-

The female student

stated in the police com-plaint that the prime sus-pect namely Danish had abducted her and her brother Hassan after she refused to marry him.

She revealed that
Danish had also recorded
a video of her being sub-

jected to sexual harassment besides threatening to make the video viral on social media if she did not give her Rs1 million. case was lodged at

the local police station over the complaint of the victim in which six per-sons were nominated and 10 unidentified accused including two women. Police said that the case was registered under

different sections. Police added that most of the accused are currently at large. In the latest develop-

ment, six nominated per-sons were arrested by Faisalabad police follow-ing the orders of CPO Umar Saeed. The arrested persons include prime suspect Danish, housemaid Maham, security guards Khan guards Khan Muhammad, Shoaib, Faizan and Asghar Police told the media

that raids are being con-ducted to arrest another accused namely Ana Ali. CPO Umar Saeed assured of bringing all culprits to

The female student stated in the police complaint that the prime sus-pect namely Danish had abducted her and her brother Hassan after she refused to marry him. She revealed that Danish had also recorded

a video of her being subjected to sexual harass-ment besides threatening to make the video viral on social media if she did not give her Rs1 million.

A case was lodged at the local police station over the complaint of the victim in which six perons were nominated and 10 unidentified accused including two women. Police said that the

case was registered under 10 different sections. Police added that most of the accused are currently

In the latest development, six nominated persons were arrested by Faisalabad police following the orders of CPO Umar Saeed. The arrested persons include prime suspect Danish, house-maid Maham, security guards Muhammad, Shoaib Faizan and Asghar.

The female student stated in the police complaint that the prime sus-pect namely Danish had abducted her and her brother Hassan.INP

اشتهارز روفعه ٨٥ض ف ياكتان ميد بر ٥٥/2020

ميخل ويك آب ياكتان ول مكريزيث كوئد ينام إد باب ووالله مرگاه دارےدو برواس امرکی نائش وی دو کی ہے کہ سمی ارباب وراللہ وارد بیداللہ يروياليم الوركروب ياين الماشين كااك

Complaint 4/S-20 Sub Section of (4) Ordinance 2007 کا جمل کرمز ایجور مقویرات یا کتان کی وفعہ 87 ش-ف می مقررے مرتک ہوا ہے کے ارتکاب برشیہ)اوراز روج ریژن بھنی کیفیت قبیل وارث گرا قراری کے جدیثی اس بالش کے جاری اواقعا معلوم ہوا

گ___ ارباب نواالله ولدحميدالله____ شكور درمتياب خين بومكم اور برگا وحب الميميّان جارے جيت يواب مسمى ارباب نورانله ولدحميدالله برويرانيم : نور روب تاان ای (CNG) انتیش کالک فراور فرار بوگیا بااس فروارند کی قبل سے ار یو کر میکیلیا مین علی رویش کیا ب بدااس اشتهاری روی تحمره باجاتاب که میاد باب تورانشه ولد حیدانشه.... عند فرارو CNG معن كاك - أوازم بك عارف - 23 - الم تيم - 2022

اس عدالت من (يا مار عدد برو) تاش مركوركي جوابدي كيليخ حاضر مو-

الرقيد 23 ـــاهداكت ــ 2022،

Pakistan expected to sell shares of Roosevelt Hotel to Qatar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is expected to sell shares of the Roosevelt Hotel in New York's Manhattan to Qatar in return for the Doha investment in the aviation sector, citing sources, ARY News reported on Wednesday. During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Qatar, a massive investment is likely to be made in Pakistan's aviation sector by Doha. Sources said that Qatar expressed interest in making investments in the air-

It was learnt that the federal government will hand over administrative affairs of Islamabad International Airport to Qatar, whereas, a Qatari company will provide the relevant services of the airport's terminal and

Reports said that the Qatari government will be given shares of the Roosevelt Hotel in New York's Manhattan financial centre in return for the investment. The investment will be received through state-to-state agreements between Pakistan and Qatar.

Earlier in the day, it emerged that Qatar has agreed to make investments of up to \$3 billion in Pakistan as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is currently in the country to cement bilateral ties between the two countries.

Sources closer to Finance Ministry revealed that Qatar will be making immediate investments in multiple

"The Quatar officials have shown their interest in making investments at Karachi and Islamabad airports," they said, adding that the Quatar investment authority will ensure bringing investments in the least possible

The shares and managerial control of the Roosevelt Hotel in the US are also likely to go into the hands of Qatari authorities, it was learnt Reports said that the Qatari government will be given shares of the Roosevelt Hotel in New York's Manhattan financial centre in return for the investment. The investment will be received

through state-to-state agreements between Pakistan and Qatar.

Earlier in the day, it emerged that Qatar has agreed to make investments of up to \$3 billion in Pakistan as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is currently in the country to cement bilateral ties between the two countries. Sources closer to Finance Ministry revealed that Qatar will be making immediate investments in multiple

Pakistan condemns BJP



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong meet Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl

ECP tosses appeals against fines imposed on Imran Khan, Asad Umar

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday tossed appeals by PTI Chairman Imran Khan and senior party leader Asad Umar against the hefty fines imposed by the Commission for violating election code of conduct.

The ECP announced its decision

The ECP announced its decision after no one on behalf of Imran Khan and Asad Umar appeared before the

It may be noted that despite ECP directives, Imran Khan had on March 15 last had visited Swat and addressed a gathering while he was still in office ahead of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's local government elections that were sched-uled for March 31. The ECP had, as a result, imposed a fine of Rs 50,000.

According to the new ECP code of conduct, no public office-holder can visit the districts where elections are/about to being/be held INP

Current account deficit drops to \$1.2 billion in July

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has reported a decline in current account deficit to \$1.2 billion in the first month of new fiscal year from \$2.2 billion in June, last month of subsequent fiscal year

The State Bank attributed the shrink in deficit to wide-ranging measures taken in recent months to moderate growth and contain imports, including tight monetary policy, fiscal consolidation, and some temporary administrative measures.

The import bill fell by 38 percent to \$4.86 billion in July 2022 as compared to \$7.88 billion in June 2022, in line with the federal government's expectations. On year-on-year basis, in July 2022, the imports were lower by \$714 million, or 13 percent, compared to the same month last year, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

In order to curb the deficit and fiscal instability, the federal government and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) took administrative measures to reduce

The government banned imports of more than three dozen of non?essential luxury goods. The Ministry of Commerce (MOC), imposed the ban through SRO No. 598(1)/2022, effective from 19 May 2022.

Moreover, on 20 May, 2022, SBP published a circular requiring authorized dealers to receive approval from the EX operations department before

the FX operations department before issuing or amending a line of credit (LOC), registering, or amending a contract, making an advance payment, or authorizing transactions on an open account or collection basis INP

LHC orders interim relief on electricity bills

LAHORE Providing an interim relief to the consumers, the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday ordered the payment of electricity bills without including in it the amount to be paid under the head of fuel adjust-

During the hearing of petitions filed against the fuel adjustment tax, the court while issuing notices to the federal government, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) and other respondents in the case, sought their replies. The court also said it would hear this and other identical petitions

together on September 14, 2022. The petitioners said that the electricity prices had gone further up following the federal government's deci-sion to include the fuel adjustment tax in the electricity bills. The levy of the tax was not as per the law, they said, and prayed to the court to not only declare the notification issued in this regard null and void but also order the LESCO and other power distributing companies not to include fuel adjustment tax in the electricity bills until the court gave its decision on the peti-

PM accorded a warm welcome at Qatar's Diwan-e-Amiri

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday was accorded a warm welcome as he arrived at the Diwan-e-Amiri to meet Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

On his arrival at the Diwan, the Amir of Qatar warmly welcomed the prime minister.

comed the prime minister.

Later, the Amiri guards also presented a guard of honor to the prime minister, who is here on a two-day official visit on the invitation of the Qatari Amir. Prime Minister and Amir held

talks to discuss ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation. Later today, he would also meet Chairman of Qatar Businessmen Association and CEO of Qatar Airways to pro-mote economic cooperation On Tuesday too, the prime minister had a busy day when he met the Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, besides addressing the Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable conference Later, the Amiri guards also presented the Amiri guards also presented a guard of honor to the prime minister, who is here on a two-day official visit on the invita-tion of the Qatari Amir.

Prime Minister and Amir held talks to discuss ways to further enhance bilateral cooperation.

Later today, he would also meet Chairman of Qatar Businessmen Association and CEO of Qatar Airways to pro-mote economic cooperation between the two countries INP

Sedition case: Police seek seven-day extension in Gill's remand

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police on Wednesday sought seven-day extension of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill's physical remand in sedition case The PTI leader has been brought before the Islamabad district and sessions court today (Wednesday) after the completion

of his two-day physical remand. The Islamabad police along with apprising the court about the investigation pleaded to grant seven-day physical remand.The prosecutor argued that they need to further investigate and therefore the remand should be extended. It is pertinent to mention here that the court on Monday rejected Shahbaz Gill's plea to be sent to jail on judicial remand and granted police anoth-

er two-day physical remand. Shahbaz Gill while talking in the courtroom said that no one is being allowed to meet him, adding that twelve people tied him up and shaved him, they also tried to feed

him forcefully. He further added that he was

not even given new clothes to change and he could not bathe or even wash his face for five days.

The IHC judge remarked that the PTI leader has mentioned of violent treatment but he was not even handcuffed.

The court ordered the reappearance on August 24 and directed the police authorities to provide full facilities and to further arrange a meeting of the accused with the lawyers and fam-ily INP

IHC orders interior ministry to launch inquiry into alleged torture of Shahbaz Gill

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday ordered the interior ministry to launch an inquiry into the allegations of torture of

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill. Acting IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq issued a detailed 21-page verdict, asking the inte-21-page verdict, asking the interior ministry to appoint an inquiry officer under the supervision of a retired IHC judge.

"An SSP rank officer will supervise the physical remand of Shahbaz Gill to ensure there about the no terture of him."

should be no torture of him,"

the court ordered. "Upon his arrival at Adiala Jail, the physical examination of Shahbaz Gill was recorded in the record register. The medical officer wrote in the register that Gill had multiple injuries and marks on his body. He should have had an immediate medical examination as per the rules about the prisoners," the IHC said in its verdict.

According to the law, the jail authorities were bound to report to the sessions judge and the incharge prosecution. But, the jail authorities reported torture of Shahbaz Gill to neither the sessions judge nor the advocate general," it added. A medical board was consti-

tuted on August 13 and August 15 to examine Shahbaz Gill. According to the police, Shahbaz Gill refused to undergo a medical examination by the medical board which gave a report on Gill's health, but made no mention of torture. The IG Islamabad police also denied torture of Shahbaz Gill," it stat-

"The allegations of torture of Shahbaz Gill cannot be ignored. The Constitution and the courts are the guardians of the prison-ers' rights INP

leader's sacrilegious remarks against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the state legislative assembly of the Indian state of

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) spokesperson on Wednesday strongly condemned the disparaging remarks made by Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) lawmaker against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In a statement released by the foreign office, Pakistan called for strict legal action against India's right-wing ruling party stalwart while noting that Raja Singh accused of blasphemy was released on bail within hours of arrest and welcomed by BJP zealots.

The MOFA spokesperson said, "The token and perfunctory disciplinary action taken by the BJP against the said official cannot assuage the pain and anguish caused to the Muslims of India and around

anguish caused to the Muslims of India and around the world."

The silence of top BJP leadership also irked the foreign ministry which labelled the current Indian regime 'obsessively spiteful of Muslim'.

The deafening silence of the top BJP leadership on the abhorrent incident manifestly reflects their approval and full support to the radical Hindu zealots within and beyond the BJP," the statement

Telangana.

Pakistan has demanded that the Indian government should take immediate and decisive action against the BJP members habitually involved in attacking Islam and targeting the dignity of the habitual Prophet (PRUH) beloved Prophet (PBUH).

It also called on the international community to take cognizance of increasing Islamophobia in

Earlier, BJP National Spokesperson Nupur Sharma was suspended by the party in June after several Arab countries boycotted India over her blasphemous remarks about Prophet Muhammad

The BJP leader had made the remarks during a show about the Gyanvapi Mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple dispute on May 26. Besides suspending Sharma, the BJP also put out a statement saying it respects all beliefs and

denounced disparaging remarks against any reli-gious personality. A disciplinary committee also denounced the views stating that the comments were contrary to its standpoint INP

LHC orders interim relief on electricity bills

LAHORE: Providing an interim relief to the consumers, the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday ordered the payment of electricity bills without including in it the amount to be paid under the head of fuel adjustment.

adjustment.
During the hearing of petitions filed against the fuel adjustment tax, the court while issuing notices to the federal government, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Labore Floring the Lahore Electric
Supply Company
(LESCO) and other
respondents in the case,
sought their replies.
The court also said it

would hear this and other

identical petitions togeth-er on September 14, 2022. The petitioners said that the electricity prices had gone further up following the federal government's decision to include the fuel adjustment tax in the electricity

The levy of the tax was not as per the law, they said, and prayed to the court to not only declare the notification issued in this regard null and void but also order the LESCO and other power distributing companies not to include fuel adjustment tax in the electricity bills until the court gave its decision on the decision petition.INP

Islamabad court sends Shahbaz Gill back to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD Rejecting Islamabad police's plea for an extension in the physical remand of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill, who is party chairman Imran Khan's chief of staff, a district and sessions court Wednesday sent him to prison on judicial remand. Judicial magistrate Aman Malik heard the plea seeking a seven-day remand extension in a sedition case. Apart from that, the police also asked the court to grant judicial remand of the PTI leader

in an arms recovery case. Gill was arrested on August 9 in Islamabad after a sedition case was filed against him for inciting mutiny within the Pakistan Army. He has since been back-and-forth in police custody and at the PIMS hospital INP

read further. The accused BJP leader is a member of Daska by-poll rigging: ECP summons Usman Dar, Firdous Awan

Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned PTI leaders, Usman Dar, Umar Dar, Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan and three others in Daska by-poll rig-

According to a notice issued by the ECP, PTI leaders, Usman Dar his brother Umar Dar, Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, Arif Soni, Asif and Iqbal Soni have been directed to appear before the commission on August 30. The notice said in the light of state-

The notice said in the light of state-ments of the witnesses and accused in Daska by-poll rigging, you [PTI lead-ers] were found directly involved in the rigging of the by-poll. After inquiry, it was learned that you peo-ple attended a meeting in the DPO office on February 17 and Rs300,000 each was 'given' to the presiding offi-cers.

Out of 20 presiding officers probed for rigging in Daska-by-poll, some of

them blamed the political personali-

ties for their direct involvement.

In November 2021, the Election
Commission of Pakistan (ECP)
ordered to take action against officials involved in Daska by-poll rig-

ging under criminal charges.

In a written order issued by the election commission, other than the

election commission, other than the criminal proceedings, a departmental inquiry would also be launched against all those involved in rigging in the Daska by-poll.

An inquiry report issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan determined that the NA-75 Sialkot-IV by-election held in Daska on February 19 was not held in a fair, free and transparent manner.

free, and transparent manner.

It may be recalled, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate Nosheen Iftikhar clinched victory on a National Assembly (NA) seat in hotly-contested INP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi calling on Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana

IHC orders interior ministry to launch inquiry into alleged torture of Shahbaz Gill

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday ordered the interior ministry to launch an inquiry into the allega-tions of torture of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader

Shahbaz Gill. Acting IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq issued a detailed 21-page verdict, asking the interior ministry to appoint an inquiry officer under the supervision of a retired IHC

"An SSP rank officer will supervise the physical remand of Shahbaz Gill to ensure there should be no torture of him," the court ordered

"Upon his arrival at Adiala Jail, the physical examination of Shahbaz Gill was recorded in the record register. The medical officer wrote in the register that Gill had multiple injuries and marks on his body. He should have had an immediate medical examination as per the rules about the prisoners," the IHC said in its verdict.

"According to the law, the jail authorities were bound to report to the sessions judge and the in-charge prosecution. But, the jail authorities reported torture of Shahbaz Gill to pather the sessions judge are the neither the sessions judge nor the

advocate general," it added
"A medical board was constituted
on August 13 and August 15 to
examine Shahbaz Gill According to the police, Shahbaz Gill refused to the police, Shahbaz Gill refused to undergo a medical examination by the medical board which gave a report on Gill's health, but made no mention of torture. The IG Islamabad police also denied torture of Shahbaz Gill," it stated.
"The allegations of torture of Shahbaz Gill cannot be ignored. The Constitution and the courts are the guardians of the prisoners rights. INP

Police arrest three for digging Cholistan archeological sites

AHMEDPUR EAST: Local police in a raid arrested three accused allegedly involved in excavation of archeological sites in Cholistan for theft of antique items on Wednesday

Police conducted raid during illegal excavation at ancient archeological sites of Azeemwali and Siddhuwala,

which were said to be vanished by drowning officials said.

Police has arrested three accused involved in illegal digging of the archeological sites and registered case against them, according to offi-

The FIR has been registered at Derawar police station with archeo-logical department official as complainant

Complainant archeological depart-ment SDO said that the illegal exca-vation was underway at the sites for last several days.

"Cholistan have around 400 ancient sites with archeological importance, the official said

Cholistan, was once the center of a sophisticated and flourishing civilization now lays in ruins in the desert -unknown and unexplored. The desert region is stretched upon an area of 26,300 square kilometers. It is also connected to Thar Desert which is extended to Sindh and then into India. The FIR has been registered at Derawar police station with archeological department official as complainant.

plainant.

Complainant archeological department SDO said that the illegal exca-vation was underway at the sites for ast several days.

"Cholistan have around 400 ancient sites with archeological importance," the official said. The FIR has been registered at Derawar police. INP

