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> Tuesday 21 February, 2023



Firing outside Session Court Quetta leaves 2 injured

President has nothing to do with poll dates: Sanaullah

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No medicines in CENAR Cancer hospital Quetta despite official promises

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Syed Ali Shah

No medicines were provided to the CENAR hospital established for cancer patients despite repeated assurances by the Balochistan government.

"My patient is without medi-cines for the last week", Muhammad Anwar, a young attendant with an aged patient woman said. Anwar belongs to the Zhob district of Balochistan and his patient was gradually

I assure you the provision of medicines within the next 24 hours, Babar Yousafzai

Babar Yousafzai, Coordinator to the Minister present inside the hosminister present inside the nos-pital assured that the matter was already brought to the notice of the CM. "I assure you the provision of medicines within the next 24 hours", Mr.

Yousafzai announced.

Medicines to CENAR hospital under the Balochistan government endowment fund remains stopped for the last two months. This has compounded the problems of the patients battling the dangerous disease.

"We have no medicines in our controlled the problems of the patients battling the dangerous disease." "We have no medicines in our stock", Dr. Feroz Khan Achakzai, one of the senior doctors said.

Over 100 patients approach the CENAR hospital for medical treatment on daily beginning

ical treatment on daily basis. "We treat the patients but they can't purchase the expensive



medicines", Dr. Achakzai

No awareness among the people about this fatal disease, Dr. Feroz,

A crowd of patients encircled this scribe inside the hospital to narrate their ordeal. "My family sold out all assets and jewelry to save the life of our father", Abdul Hanan, another attendant with his father said.

Most of the cancer patients approach this government-run

approach this government-run hospital in the fourth stage i.e dangerous stage, Dr. Feroz Achakzai informed. He said

there was no awareness among the people about this fatal dis-ease. We can treat them well if they come in the initial stage, he mentioned.

A summary of the purchase of the medicine was lying in the finance department. Babar finance department. Babar Yasafzai stated that he would make tooth-and-nail efforts to get the summary signed for the purchase of medicines.

There are also reports of nonavailability of medicines in other government-run hospitals in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. People have demanded of the government to direct the concerned quarters to ensure the availability of medi-

President Alvi unilaterally announces April 9 as Punjab, KP

election date President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday unilaterally announced April 9 as the date for holding general elec-tions for the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assem-

blies, according to a press release issued by the President's Secretariat's Press Wing.

The elections are to take place in both provinces after previous PTI governments had dissolved their assemblies before the expiry of their five-year mandated term on the orders of party chairman Imran Khan.

Ministers criticise 'unconstitutional' move

The president's unilateral announcement of the elec-tion date came after his invitation for consultations on

tion date came after his invitation for consultations on dates for elections was turned down by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Quoting a letter sent by President Alvi to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja, the statement said the president had made the decision under Section 57(1) (notification of election programme) of the Elections Act, 2017 and was asking the CEC to issue the election programme under Section 57(2) of the same Act

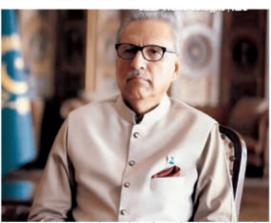
57(2) of the same Act.
Saying he was "under oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution" under its Article 42 (oath of president), he defended his announcement by adding

that there was "no impediment in invoking the power and authority vested in him" as there was "no restraining order from any of the judicial fora".

He said he had "felt it necessary to perform his constitutional and statutory duty to announce the date of elections to avoid the infringement and breach of the Constitution and law i.e. holding of elections not later than ninety days".

He also alleged that President Alvi was "toeing his party's line"

President Alvi criticised Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman and KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali for anot performing their constitutional duties for appointing a



date not later than ninety days from the date of dissolu

tion" of the provincial assemblies.

He also lambasted the ECP for "not fulfilling its constitutional obligation for holding polls" of the assem-

stitutional obligation for holding polls" of the assemblies concerned.

Referring to an Urdu proverb, "Pehlay aap. Nahi, pehlay aap" [You first. No, you first], he said that "both the constitutional offices are placing the ball in each other's court [...] thus, resulting in delay and creating a serious danger that constitutional provisions may be violated" President Alvi pointed out that the ECP had already indicated the possible dates for the elections in its various communications to the constitutional functionaries showing its own responsibility of holding the

tionaries showing its own responsibility of holding the elections within ninety days.

Referring to the recent back-and-forth communications between the ECP and himself, he said he had initiated a "serious consultation process" with the ECP for

the date announcement but the electoral body had replied that the commission "could not participate in a meeting on the subject matter" with the president.

Addressing the development during today's National Assembly session, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif indicated that Alvi violated the Constitution by

announcing elections.

He said the president crossed his constitutional limits. "What the president has done is against the law and Constitution," Asif added Web Deskssssss

National Assembly passes finance bill to meet IMF conditions

Assembly (NA) on Monday passed the Finance (Supplementary) Bill, 2023, aimed to amend certain laws relatamend certain laws relat-ing to taxes and duties to raise an additional Rs170 billion in the next four and half months to meet the last prior actions agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The government is in a race against time to implement the tax measures and reach an agree-ment with the IMF as the country's reserves have depleted to a critically low level of \$2.9bn, which experts believe is



enough for only 16 or 17 days of imports. The agreement with the IMF on the completion of the ninth review of a \$7bn loan programme would the NA on February 15, started on it after moving a motion by Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar on Feb 17. In his concluding speech in today's NA ses-sion, Dar said that the bill

proposed to impose new taxes of Rs 170bn to min-imise the fiscal deficit. He said that his eco-nomic team had a "hectic

routine" during the last 10 days and it held talks with the IMF to revive the programme, during which it agreed to take some "tough decisions" for streamlining the dete-riorating condition of the

Dar said the new revenue measures would not affect the poor segments of society as most of the of society as most of the new taxes were being imposed on luxury items not used by them. In order to help the poor cope with the rising inflation, he said the government had also proposed a Rs40bn increase in the budget of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

He said the Senate Standing Committee on Finance had proposed some amendments related to federal excise duty on

to federal excise duty on air tickets to different countries which were adopted Web Desk

Security high alert in Balochistan after Karachi attack: IG Police

From Our Correspondent

HUB: Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh on Monday said security was beefed up in Balochistan after the Karachi terror attack. He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of Saddar Thana. Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Zahid Saleem, and other senior officers were also present on

the occasion.

Mr. Sheikh stated that the security of the Mr. Sheikh stated that the security of the police offices and other important offices has been increased following the terrorist attack at the Karachi police chief's office the other day. He said that 1000 policemen and officers sacrificed their lives for peace in Balochistan. A Karachi-style CPLC will be established in Balochistan, which will be centered in the Hub, and with the help of modern technology, law and order will be maintained throughout Balochistan. Regarding the smuggling of diesel and



Iranian petrol in the passenger buses, he said that the coach owners are strictly obliged not to keep Iranian oil in the passonger buses, otherwise any passenger buses found to be smuggling Iranian oil will be punished. Strict legal action will be taken against them."I have told the police to take immediate action against those who smuggle in passenger buses", he said. In Balochistan, there have been accidents due to bringing oil in passenger buses and to bringing oil in passenger buses and human lives have been lost. No one will be allowed to play with human lives, he

President has nothing to do with poll dates: Sanaullah

not only lead to a dis-bursement of \$1 2bn but also unlock inflows from

friendly countries.
Finance Minister Ishaq
Dar introduced the bill in

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has assailed President Dr Arif Alvi, saying the President should stay within the limits of the constitution, advising him to refrain from

using the office as a base for blackmail. In a tweet uploaded on Monday, the PML-N stalwart said that President has nothing to do with the election dates. The Election Commission of Pakistan

(ECP) is not your slave to obey what you say, he said adding President cannot force the ECP to comply with illegal and unconstitutional orders. According to the interior minister,

Imran Khan has harmed the economy, international relations and national interests, and now he is using the position of the head of state for conspiracy. Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Broadcasting



Marriyum Aurangzeb said the ECP was being pressurized unconstitutionally to get a date of the elections

In a statement on Monday, the minister said the Election Commission of tion and no one would be allowed to transform it into Imran Khan's Tiger

She urged that the office of the President should be loyal to the Constitution and any violation could invoke Article 6.

The minister said the office of the President did not allow favouring of any particular political party.

The minister alleged that President Arif Alvi had already violated the constitution by dissolving the National

stitution by dissolving the National Assembly illegally last year.

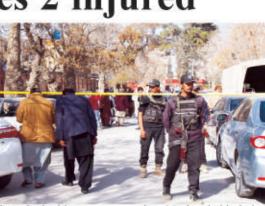
According to the interpretation of the Supreme Court, the office of the President was symbolic, Marriyum Aurangzeb said and pointed that as per Supreme Court verdicts, any collusion with a political party was a violation of the office and oath of the President INP

Firing outside **Session Court Quetta** leaves 2 injured

Staff Reporter:

Unknown accused opened fire outside the Session Court Quetta and injured two people on

Monday morning. Police sources said a policeman and a civilian sustained injuries in the attack. The injured were rushed to hospital for medical treatment.Poli cemen deployed outside the court quickly retaliated and arrested the armed accused Police reached the spot and started an investigation



incident hap-

Motive behind the attack could not

LHC grants Imran protective bail till March 3 in 'rioting, terror' case

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday granted PTI chief Imran Khan protective bail until March 3 in a case related to PT protestors' alleged rioting and clashes with Islamabad police in October in the aftermath of his disqualification by the Election Commission of Pakistan in the

Toshakhana reference.

His plea for bail in another case — which was also registered in Islamabad and pertained to protests outside the office of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) — was disposed of after the ex-premier withdrew

his petition. The proceedings in both the petitions culminated only after the high court had to wait for



hours and set multiple deadlines for Imran to arrive. Once the PTI chief reached the court premises, a number of his supporters had

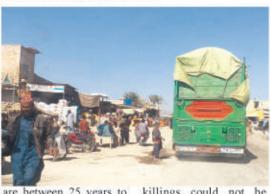
gathered around him. Earlier today, Imran had filed a plea seeking protective bail in a plea seeking protective bail in the case registered at Islamabad's Sangjani police station, which also carries offence under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, through Advocate Azhar Siddique. On Thursday, the LHC had dismissed a similar petition due to non-prosecution. In the petition, Imran urged the court to grant him 15-day protective bail so that he could approach the relevant court for

approach the relevant court for pre-arrest bail. The petition was fixed for hearing. Web Desk

Three dead bodies recovered in Barkan Balochistan

Yousaf Marri Asif Khetran

BARKHAN: Levies force on Monday recov-ered three dead bodies from Balochistan's Barkhan district. Levies sources said the dead bodies were recovered from Haji Kot area of Barkhan. The dead bodies of two men and a woman were shifted to the district headquarters hospital in Barkhan, Levies reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. The ages of the victims



are between 25 years to 30 years, Levies said. The behind

killings could not be ascertained immediately, Levies said

QUETTA VOICE Editor Asim Khan Destination of electables is

PPP in Balochistan nowadays

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which failed to win a single seat during the general elections of 2018 in Balochistan is finally back. Electables, commonly called the ever-green and influential politicians have been joining the party for last more than a month. The seismic political shift in Balochistan is nothing new. Switching of loyalties and changing political parties normally take a place before every general election in the province, which covers half of the country in terms of area.

Winds of change blowing in Balochistan

"Winds of change are blowing in Balochistan", is a commonly held notion in villages and cities of the province these days. Earlier this year, it was the Jamiat ul Ulema e Islam (F) with electables joining the religious party. However, PPP filled the vacuum.

Asif Zardari has no time to visit Balochistan because of crowds joining the

Asif Zardari has no time to visit Balochistan because of crowds joining the

PPP supremo Asif Ali Zardari has no time to visit Balochistan to announce the joining of the electables because of the rush. The electables/evergreen politicians thronged the Bilawal House in Karachi and started joining the PPP and the party leaders preferred to receive them there.

Electables from Balochistan pose for a photograph with Asif Ali Zardari:

Block taken from social media

Photo taken from social media

Photo taken from social media

Former federal minister Sardar Fateh Muhammad Muhammad Hassani, his son Umair Muhammad Hassani, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, the son of Nawabzada Siraj Raisani, former Balochistan Minister, Tahir Mehmood Khan, Mir Mohyuddin Baloch, the former central leader of the Baloch Students Organization (BSO), Mir Fareed Raisani and others joined the party in Karachi. Three former provincial ministers including Mir Zahoor Buledi, Saleem Khan Khoso and Arif Jan Muhammad Hassani have already joined the party.

Sardar Noor Ahmed Bangulzai also joined the PPP
Sardar Noor Ahmed Bangulzai who is likely to contest elections against former Chief Minister Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani in Mastung has also joined PPP.

As the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) nears its permanent collapse, its leaders and workers have started joining other political parties. The BAP, which emerged as the largest parliamentary party prior to the 2018 general elections has practically collapsed since its incumbent CM Mir Quddus Bizenjo, and president Jam Kamal Khan are in contact with other political par-

ties for joining.

Despite ruling the province for five years, currently, none owns the party and gradually everyone parts ways with it.

Plunging back into the past

The monstrous regime change experiment was a local fabrication which found ample resonance with some foreign forces. This was pushed through by moving a vote of no-confidence executed by disbursing tonnes of pelf

EDITORIAL

and inducements

It will, however, remain a humiliating chapter in our national history regarding how those who have nothing to do with governing the country have dictated its fate through eventful decades, thus forcing it to remain captive in the clutches of decadent influences perpetrated by a few inflexible and high-ly arrogant mindsets.

regime change experiment was not an act unto itself. It is the after-effects of this wicked enactment which have started visiting us with lisastrous consequences. The decision to stay away from the Multilateral Conference of Secretaries of the Security Councils of regional countries to discuss Afghanistan, held recently in Moscow, marks only the beginning of a sequence of immensely damaging repercussions which will likely define our conduct

in the future The conference was attended by representatives from China, Iran, India, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan with and Uzbekistan with Russia as the host. The Foreign Office's self-effacing plea that Pakistan "will continue to participate in all constructive meetings on Afghanistan", and the insinuation that it had abstained because of the presence of India at the conference, makes the decision even more embarrassing. Pakistan, thus, became

the lone regional country to earn the notoriety of staying away from a huddle to discuss and "find efficient solutions that are adequate to the chal-lenges and threats ema-nating from the territory of Afghanistan" – a sub-ject that is critically important for its security as also for curbing the menace of terror which, ostensibly, has origins

across its western border.

In his address at the conference, while conference, white acknowledging the pres-ence of other conflicts in the area including the one in Ukraine, President Putin elaborated that "this does not reduce the significance of the situation in Afghanistan'

He went on to state that "we are also worried about attempts to use the situation in Afghanistan to allow extra-regional forces to expand or build their infrastructure. These countries will create this under the pretext of countering international terrorism, but they are not doing anything that is necessary in the counterterrorism struggle". This

is an ominous warning regarding such efforts which are apparently underway, spearheaded by the US and the west-ern world, to influence the situation in Afghanistan. Who are these countries and why are they engaged in reigniting the conflict whose flames burned the

whose frames burned the region for four decades? While there is little doubt that such efforts could well unfurl in due course of time, is it that Pakistan will become a partner and a conduit in this conflict again? It is to safeguard against such case emphatically, that Pakistan should have been at the conference to secure its interests. Instead, it opted to stay away. Was this to hide its palpable complicity, or just an expression of inability to weather the pressure that it has faced to reverse the policies of the Khan era? the Khan era? Let us also not forget

that outreach to Russia by the Imran Khan government became a major issue which ultimately issue which ultimately contributed to his ouster. The contents of his speech at the Islamabad Policy Dialogue regarding improving relations with Russia were repudiated by the then COAS the very next day which ultimately paved the way for a reversal of policy for a reversal of policy once Khan's government had been dismantled

through a regime change

operation with support from the US. Pakistan, it seems, has

learnt little from its foreign policy blunders of the previous decades and the previous decades and is, once again, plunging perilously into bloc politics of the past. Having borne the brunt of rubbishing the invitation from the former Soviet Union to the then Pakistan prime minister for a visit to that country and, instead, proceeding and, instead, proceeding to become part of the US-sponsored treaties SEATO and CENTO, fighting a war against the USSR and then the war on terror as a non-Nato ally, and generally pursu-ing extra-regional poli-cies, Pakistan has remained infatuated with

While America may have escaped their direct damaging consequences. Pakistan has not. For all the years since attaining independence, it has reaped the fruits of this Ill-advised policy syn-drome which keeps coming back to haunt it. This same syndrome is loom-ing again, burying a hap-less country under its expanding shadows, and enveloping it in irremedi-able darkness.

its ceaseless romance with the US misadven-

The consequences of the removal of the consti-tutional government of Khan keep growing with time. From the unceremonious reversal of key policies which were

being implemented to bring benefit to Pakistan and its people or plunging the country into possible economic default and unleashing state terror on political opponents. political opponents, Pakistan has been reduced to a shadow of its former self. But espousal of doom is now written as a key constituent of the national policy as it appears well beyond the reach of some actors pretending to be the government to reverse the tide. Pakistan seems to be

By Raoof Hasan

adrift turbulent currents of deceitful self-inflicted circumstances which are taking it further away from the foundational principles of a progressive and welfare state that was poignantly elaborat-ed by the Quaid himself from the floor of the first constituent assembly back in 1947. That declaration of intent is unceremoniously buried at some far-flung and unknown location which can nei-ther be reached, nor probed.

This monumental tragedy is embedded in a mala-fide policy of rendering dysfunctional, even eliminating those who care and who can make a meaningful con-tribution to the building of the state. Instead, power is perpetuated in the hands of those who neither have the character to be leaders of peo-ple, nor the ability to think and competence to

Disaster diplomacy

By Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani

Eighteen years ago, on October 5, 2005 Pakistan faced a natural disaster in the form of a terrible earthquake that shook many parts of the country, including the capital city of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Balakot and the

As a result of this earthquake, countless villages were affected, and around 87,000 peo-ple lost their lives. Similarly, numerous houses, roads, hospitals, buildings, education institutions and infrastructure were severely

surrounding areas.

damaged

During this great tragedy in our national history, Turkiye was the first country that came forward to help us. A ural disasters in history. History tells that nothmedical team consisting of doctors and nurses was dispatched immediately, who ensured the provision of the best medical aid to Pakistanis trapped in the disasteraffected areas. government \$150 million - \$100 million in financial assis-tance and \$50 million in relief items. Turkish rescue teams built a temporary tent city and provid-ed shelter to thousands

Our close friend, Turkiye, which enjoys great respect in the eyes of Pakistanis is facing a similar tragic situation. Last week's massive earthquakes in Turkiye and Syria have led to the deaths of

of the earthquake vic-

around 41,000 people. As many as ten Turkish cities have been badly affected, and multiple buildings have been destroyed. According to media reports, it is esti-mated that as much as 70 per cent of the buildings in Antakya, the capital of

Hatay province, now stand destroyed. The earthquake hit Turkiye on February 6, and nine hours after the massive earthquake, another one hit the country, further damaging infrastructure and buildings. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Organization (WHO), the recent earthquakes are one of the worst nat-

ing has ever been so fear-ful for a person than an earthquake. The disaster occurs when the inner plate of the earth – con-sisting of layers of soil, stones and rocks - breaks or moves from its place due to some geological pressure and generates on the earth's surface. Most of the damage is due to the collapse of buildings that cannot withstand the earthquake waves and the subsequent lack of timely rescue activities.

In my view, earth-quakes actually bring a message that humans, despite so much scientific progress, are power-less before God. Just an earthquake strikes and everything collapses. However, in this time of difficulty, various incredible news reports

also emerged, strengthen our belief in God's mercy. That a young girl was rescued after 178 hours is undoubtedly a miracle

The real test after the earthquake is now for the international community to move forward to prohumanitarian aid and selflessly help peo-ple in need. Most recently, a Pakistani-American citizen has won the hearts of those who care about humanity. The said person reportedly provided a huge amount of aid to the Turkish Embassy while keeping his identity hidden. The Pakistan Hindu

Council has decided that special prayers will be offered for the victims of offered for the victims of the earthquake in Turkiye and Syria on the occasion of the religious festival 'Maha Shivratri' on the 18th of February. Eighteen years ago, Turkiye was in the lead for the rescue of earth-

for the rescue of earth-quake victims in our country. Today, while Turkish people, I would like to appeal to every Pakistani that we should try our best to help the people living in Turkey and Syria in this critical time. There should be joint efforts by the international community to tackle such disasters without any discrim-

ination.
As a result of this earthquake, countless villages were affected, and around 87,000 people lost their lives. Similarly, numerous

houses, roads, hospitals, buildings, institutions and infrastructure were severely damaged. During this

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History tells that noth ristory tells that nothing has ever been so fear-ful for a person than an earthquake. The disaster occurs when the inner plate of the earth – con-sisting of layers of soil, stones and rocks – breaks or moves from its place due to some geological pressure and generates pressure and generates invisible waves on the earth's surface. Most of the damage is due to the collapse of buildings that cannot withstand the earthquake waves and the subsequent lack of timely rescue activities

In my view, earth-quakes actually bring a message that humans despite so much scientific progress, are power-less before God. Just an earthquake strikes and everything collapses. However, in this time of incredible news reports have also emerged, which strengthen our belief in God's mercy. That a young girl was rescued after 178 hours is undoubtedly a miracle.

The real test after the earthquake is now for the international community to move forward to provide humanitarian aid and selflessly help peo-ple in need. Most recent-ly, a Pakistani-American citizen has won the hearts of those who care salient purpose for which the SBP is promoting digabout humanity.

Policies for digital banking: Part - I

he Bank Pakistan recently grant-ed five licences for Starting digital banks that would provide the whole range of banking services for selectoric platforms or electronic channels from the com-fort of homes and offices without making trips to brick-and-mortar branch-

es of the banks.

Two types of banks -digital retail banks and digital full banks - have been allowed both in the conventional as well as Islamic variants. The minimum capital require-ment for digital banks is much lower than those for banks that are operating branches. A diverse range of applicants including domestic com-mercial banks, microfi-nance banks, electronic money institutions and Fintech players both from within and outside the country had applied for

these licences.
As this is a path-break ing step, it is necessary to lay down the objectives and public expectations as well as the policies that should guide the future evolution of digital banking. These should be laid down in the larger context of the Digital Pakistan Strategy and financial-sector reform. While dig-ital banking and e-com-merce are ingredients of the overall strategy, this article focuses on financial sector reforms. The

ital banking is aimed at strengthening financial intermediation in the country in the pursuit of equitable and sustainable dévelopment.

Of course, financialsector performance can-not be isolated from the overall macroeconomic environment. When the environment is stable and the track record in macroeconomic management and governance is favorable, the financial sector will do well. Under the present fragile, fluid and uncertain environment, it

would be unfair to expect that banks and other financial sector institu-tions will do well. The first-generation reforms that started in the 1990s but got an accelerated momentum in the early 2000s centered on liberalization of the financial system, privati-zation of nationalized commercial banks, autonomy and capacity building of the central bank, decontrol of the pricing of financial products abolition of directed cred-

it ceilings and reliance on market mechanism to allocate credit. allocate credit.

Recovery of non-performing loans was stepped up through a Corporate and Industrial Restructuring Corporation (CIRC) which helped in the revival of sick units at the same time. A code of corporation is a code of corporation of sick units at the same time. same time. A code of corporate governance was enacted and enforced through a four-tier structure. Appointments of the chairpersons and CEOs

were made on a set of fit and proper criteria. A number of banks were either asked to wind up business or merge, and delinquent boards suspended or dismissed creating a deterrent effect against malpractice.

Minimum paid capital requirements were dou-bled, and capital adequacy was related to risk weighted assets. Continuous off-site monitoring of the banks/DFIs ensured that they operated in a safe

and sound manner and complied with the param-eters acceptable under the Framework. Timely and effective enforcement actions were taken against those found in contravention. Disclosure of financial conditions was aligned with interna-tional financial account-ing standards. External auditors were prequali-fied and divided in two categories to audit the banks according to their paid-up capital. Credit ratings by independent certified agencies were made mandatory for the banks and publicly disclosed. As a result of these

first-generation banking reforms, assets under the control of private banks increased from 20 per cent to 80 per cent. Lending rates dropped to single digits while non-performing loans fell drastically. Instead of subsidies from the exchequer, the banks subsidies from the exchequer, the banks became profitable.

Growing discontent

By Abdul Sattar

Interacting with people has always been one of the main components of the art of ruling. In India, the panchayat system in villages ensures that people from the ruling class regularly interact with the ruled. In modern democracies like the UK, local parliamentarians invest their energies in schemes that appease their voters. They also prefer to meet their constituents by regularly visiting their constituencies and sparing some time for those who vote them into power.

In the past, Greek city states, including Athens, used to have a mecha-nism that could help them learn about people's sen-timents. Even Sparta, which was dictatorial in nature, had crafted some principles that would enable them to have firsthand knowledge of peo-

ple's feelings. In Pakistan, there has been a lack of interaction between the ruling elite and the people. Many parliamentarians prefer to stay in federal and provincial capitals, provincial capitals, enjoying luxuries of life in elite housing societies and upscale neighbour-hoods. It is true that they show up at the funerals of some local notables in their constituencies, but mostly they remain away from their native towns and only bother to meet their voters at the time of

elections. These politicians do not have proper offices in constituencies to meet their voters and learn about their prob-lems. After becoming public representatives, they completely ignore their voters who come in droves to cast their votes and help them win. Our prime ministers, who should be in the

upper and lower houses of parliament to answer the questions of public representatives, find excuses to avoid these sessions. It is true that some former prime ministers did attend the sessions, but it is also a bitter truth that most of them frequently offer excuses to remain absent from such gatherings. For instance, former

prime minister Nawaz Sharif was criticized by a number of critics for giving less time to parlia-ment during 2013 and 2017. He reportedly attended 63 days during his tenure after which he was disqualified. was disqualified. Nawaz's nephew Hamza Sharif attended only 31 sessions. His younger brother Shehbaz Sharif was criticized for skip-ping various sessions of the Punjab Assembly despite being the leader of the house During the same term,

the political rival of the Sharifs, Imran Khan, also had the lowest attendance in parliament. During the 2013-2018 term, he attended only 20 National

Assembly sessions out of the total of 465. Not only do prime min-isters and chief ministers love to ignore parliamen-tary sessions, but federal and provincial ministers also follow in the foot-steps of their political

mentors when it comes to attending legislative ses-sions. Many ministers and advisers spend their time in different countries, attending various conferences or accompanying the prime minister as a member of the dele-Those who monitor

affairs

parliamentary

often witness the anger of various committee mem-bers over the absence of ministers and advisers. It seems that members of our ruling elite are not only indifferent to the problems of their con-stituents, but are also accustomed to skipping the meetings held to discuss such problems. This indifference prompts them to come up with anti-people policies.
Their development schemes and social projects indicate that they cater to the needs of the select few. They seem to have less awareness about the issues being faced by the people. For instance, since

1988, the country may have witnessed hundreds of development and infrastructure projects, and most of these projects were designed in a way that led to the demolition of numerous slums and low-income areas.

From the Lyari Expressway and Gujjar Nullah affectees and farmers around Ravi in ahore to victims of the dam Mirani Balochistan, millions of people have either been displaced or their liveli-hoods destroyed because of these projects. Due to anti-encroachment drives, thousands of peo-ple lose their sources of employment every year. It is amusing that authorities never pay attention to elite schools or expensive hotels or thousands of private-property owners who encroach upon costly public land. The ruling elite still plans to launch such schemes that will largely affect the poor residents of various local-ities. We are yet to see if those who have encroached railways land will be evicted or not when the railway upgrade projects are carried out in the next few years. But why do sections of

our ruling elite demon-strate such nonchalance towards ordinary people' The answer lies in lack of interaction between the rulers and the ruled. There was a time when sections of the elite would send their siblings to low-cost schools, public universities and government colleges where rich people would get an opportunity to interact with students from differ-ent financial backgrounds. But with the rise of gated communities and ultra-modern housing societies, such interaction

has come to an end. Elite and posh neigh-bourhoods have their own schools and higher education institutions which are affiliated with foreign education institutions. Small markets and ven-dors outside these areas used to be one of the ways connecting the rich of the country to veg-etable sellers or shopkeepers. With the rise of shopping malls, such

interaction is also over. Most factory owners in the past would visit their manufacturing plants, interacting with their employees. Now with the rise of modern technology, the owners can monicCTV or any mobile application. The fall of trade unions, which used to protest against harsh working conditions or non-acceptance of their demands, has also reduced the need for cap-italists to show up at factories and talk to workers Most politicians from

the bottom layer of social stratification made it to parliament through student and trade union poli-tics. Jehangir Badar, Iqbal Haider, Taj Haider, Mairaj Muhammad Khan and others were involved in either trade unions or student politics. Our rul-ing elite has weakened trade unions and banned student organizations deliberately. Consequently, it has

come almost impossible for a low-income per-son to participate in poli-tics, and entering the Pakistani parliament has now become just a dream for ordinary people. It is no wonder then that an overwhelming majority of our lawmakers in provincial assemblies and parliament are million-aires and billionaires. And these people serve

the same class.
If our politicians want to consolidate democratic traditions, they need to reconnect with the people and interact with them.

Enabling digital transformation

By Jorgen C Arentz Rostrup

igital technologies in Pakistan could create up to Rs9.7 trillion (\$59.7 billion) in eco-nomic value by 2030, if they are fully leveraged. This is equivalent to about 19 per cent of the country's GDP in 2020. 'Digital Lives Decoded

2022, a study conducted by Telenor Asia, found that 54 per cent of Pakistanis believe mobile devices and mobile technology have significantly improved their careers and aided in developing their skills, with women reporting that their mobile devices have significantly improved their quality of life. Mobile phones are also

widely seen as a way of generating income. Nearly half of the people surveyed in the study feel mobile usage provided work and income opportunities that were unavailable before the pandemic. In Pakistan, 38 per cent of the respondents believe mobile access has created new opportunities for

Our research points to mobile connectivity being an enabler of productivity, progress, eco-nomic opportunity, and flexibility. Enabling people to connect to what matters most to them, accessibility to information, increasing produc-tivity and an easy and safe way to manage their finances, are just a few of the many advantages of an increasingly digitized

However, privacy and security have become serious concerns in every country we surveyed for the Digital Lives Decoded 2022, including

Pakistan.
In the World Economic
Forum's Global Risk
Report 2023 unveiled last
month, the failure of cyber security measures, including loss of privacy, data fraud or theft, and cyber espionage was identified as one of the top five risks that Pakistan faces. The Global Cyber Security Index, which measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity, placed Pakistan 18th out 38 Asia-Pacific nations, trailing Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India.

As key providers of connectivity and digital access, telecommunica-tion and the financial industry can today be seen as important gate-keepers of security. Companies need to build resilience and have robust capabilities to detect cybersecurity attacks, minimize impact and be able to quickly restore operations as top priori-ties of their business security agenda in the years to come.

However, many coun-tries including Pakistan are currently facing an unprecedented rise in the cost of living and busi-ness operations. Further, economic volatility has severely impacted the business sector's financial health. The need for future investments to protect and secure customers and businesses against cyber threats may thus not have the focus it requires. There is therefore an increased need for close dialogue and engagement within all ecosystem players including the government to work in tandem in strengthening capabilities and capacities in cyber security in the country.

There is a clear need and opportunities for Pakistan and its young, entrepreneurial community to leverage on new technologies and modern telecommunication and digital infrastructure. However, the current business and regulatory environment in the coun-try is restricting further investments in the indus-With critical digital

infrastructure still recovering from the damage of serious floods last year, an emphasis on launching 5G especially in Pakistan where mobile broadband usage is still low, may not drive maximum benefit to end users and the economy. 4G technology should continue to be developed as it still has immense potential to support society's current and short-term future short-term future demands quite effective-ly. Good and effective use cases on 5G should be explored based on local needs as the technology further matures. Due to an unprecedented rise in the cost of operations in Pakistan, the sector's financial health has been severely impacted.

PPP writes letter to ECP over delay in Karachi mayor's election

KARACHI Pakistan People's Party on Monday expressed its concerns over delay in the mayor's election in Karachi.

Senator Taj Haider, who has been in-charge of the central election cell of the PPP, in a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner, has expressed People's Party's concern over expressed People's Party's concern over delay in the mayor's elec-tion in the largest city of Pakistan.

"It is not justified to halt 250 members of the city council from electing mayor due to deferred election on 11 seats," Taj Haider argued in the letter He demanded of the ECP to hold the mayor's

election without any delay. Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman had earlier demanded the ECP to announce the schedule for elections on the remaining 11 union committees (UCs) in

Karachi. He said that the local government elections were held in the city on January 15 but the ECP is yet to announce the poll schedule for the 11 UCs where elections had been

more elections had been postponed because of the candidates' deaths.

He also reiterated the JI's demand that the ECP decide the cases of six UCs, declaring them UCs, declaring them open-and-shut cases on the basis of Form 11 and Form 12 Earlier in January, the ECP released January, the ECP released the official results of 229 out of 235 union commit-tees in the Karachi Division According to the party position, the PPP having the highest count of seats, 91, fol-lowed by JI having 85 an d PTI with 42 seats INP



HYDERABAD: Children are donations, in a relief camp for the victims of Earthquake in Turkia, organized by Sohni Dharti Youth Council, at Hyder

Several injured as another lift falls in Karachi

KARACHI: Several people including two women were injured as another lift fell in a residential area of Clifton in Karachi on Monday.

This is the second incident of lift calleges as a woman had

lift collapse as a woman had died when elevator at a private hospital in Kareemabad area of Karachi fell last week. In the latest incident, the lift

of an apartment building in Clifton Block IV came down crashing at 11:00 pm on Sunday night injuring four people who were rushed to a private hospital for treatment. for treatment.

The lift came straight down from the upper floor, as a result of which the four people inside sustained minor injuries, who were shifted to a private hospital by an ambulance of a rescue

The injured included two

Islamabad:

Felecommunication

motorways and highways across

the country, to evaluate the per-formance and quality of services offered by Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) to their cus-

The survey results revealed that

CMOs are compliant with respect to upload and download speed to a

great extent, while network laten-

cy and webpage loading time was found below the threshold. Some

being involved in corruption.

ees and dismissed all of them.

these dismissed persons.

FIA initiates probe against 730 PIA workers with fake degrees ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Monday launched an investigation against 730 employees of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) for allegedly possessing fake degrees and

According to details, people with fake degrees were recruited and they worked for PIA for 10 years; later, PIA took the action against the employ-

PIA, however, did not recover the salaries paid to

FIA sources quoted as saying that no action was taken against those who recruited the persons with

Hence, an inquiry will be formed to investigate that who benefited from recruitment on fake degrees. FIA detailed that approximately 6 billion

were paid in salaries to only 113 employees with fake degrees, and that they were recruited over the

FIA will investigate that why degrees of employees were not verified at the time of recruitment in

course of the last fifteen years at various times.

women and as many men who were now being treated for their wounds at South City Hospital.

In the earlier incident, a woman had died in a lift at a pri-vate hospital in Karimabad fell on Wednesday last Family members of the woman had threatened to take legal action against the hospital administra-

The woman, who had given birth to a child in the morning, was being carried on a stretcher into the elevator. When she entered the elevator, it fell down, resulting in her immediate

Uncle of the woman told that the incident took place due to negligence on the part of the hospital administration, and he and other family members did not need any sympathy. "We will take legal action against the

PTA conducts QoS

survey to evaluate performance

hospital administration instead," he said

This is the second incident of lift collapse as a woman had died when elevator at a private hospital in Kareemabad area of Karachi fell last week.

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of an apartment building in Clifton Block IV came down crashing at 11:00 pm on Sunday night injuring four people who were rushed to a private hospital for treatment.

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gations," he recalled while com-menting that false accusations landed people in trouble. "My wife and children cried when I was in the jail," he said INP PBF urges Punjab govt to revise wheat support price

Miftah Ismail

loses temper

over question

about his BMW

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former finance minister

Miftah Ismail lost his temper when a person accused him of commit-

Mr Ismail, who served as the finance minister for some months when the PML-N made a coalition

government in April last, got furi-ous after a journalist put an unwel-

coming question regarding obtain-ing a BMW vehicle while being in

"How can you dare to ask me such a question? Now you sit down, and listen to me. Which BMW, I have obtained?" this was

the first response the finance czar gave to the questioner. Setting the record straight, the PML-N leader

said he used to drive his personal car and bear fuel expense when he

Whatever I have purchased, I have earned it due to my hard

work. I did not obtain any BMW. People level false allegations. "I had to spend five months in jail over the false corruption alle-

served as the finance minister.

LAHORE: The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has urged Business Forum (PBF) has urged upon the Punjab government to revise the wheat support price from Rs 3000 to Rs3,900 per mound for the upcoming procurement season of 2023.

According to detail, PBF Vice President, Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad said that uniformity in wheat support price can eliminate

wheat support price can eliminate market distortion, so the provincial cabinet must make the timely decision to revise the support price

rate. He said that after the Sindh government's decision to raise the price of wheat to Rs4,000 per mound, an upward revision of the support price in Punjab is inevitable. He said the difference of Rs. 1000 of wheat price between Punjab and Sindh has increased wheat smuggling from Punjab to Sindh. Last year the grain market remained stable due to the uniform price of Rs2,200 per mound in Puniab and Sindh.

He also stated that the cost of production minus profit for wheat cultivation in Punjab INP

Senate denies tabling two amendment bills about BISP, State Bank

Senate on Monday denied House members permission to table two bills - The State Bank of bills - The State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2022 and The Benazir Income Support (Amendment) Bill, 2022 Senator Zeeshan Khan Zada of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sought permission to present The State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment)

Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2022, before the

Bill, 2022, before the House.

The Senate, rejected the bill with majority vote. Seventeen members opposed the motion whereas 11 lawmakers supported the move.

Likewise, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri wanted permission to table The Benazir Income Support Income Support
(Amendment) Bill, 2022
The bill was rejected by
Senate with 17 supported
the motion while 22 law
makers opposed the makers opposed the

The Senate rejected the bills moved by the mem-bers of the House on bringing amendments to the State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956 and Benazir Income Support

Act, 2010. The bill was proposed to shift SBP to Islamabad

which was currently in Karachi and therefore, all banks had their head offices in Karachi. The Senator mentioned that if it was shifted to the federal capital then it could eral capital then it could help resolve issues of banking and other mone-tary matters faced by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan. The motion was opposed by the House

and was rejected after voting Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) moved the Bill to amend Benazir Income Support (BIS) Act, 2010. She maintained that the BIS programme was con-ceived for supporting the poor which was not con-forming to the spiking up inflation. "If inflation is at 40% then whatever they are giving to the people it is not beneficial for the poor masses," she added

After the opposition of the House to her motion, Senator Zehri requested the Chairman to refer the motion to the committee and the committee members should be allowed to discuss on the matter. The Senator also sought response from the Law Ministry on rejecting the

Minister of State for Law, Shahadat Awan opposed the Bill pertaining to SBP Act, 1956.
Moreover, he also
opposed the Bill on BIS
Act amendment that was proposed to link the funding with inflation. He added that it was not advisable as it would impact the budget of the federal government. "The intentions of the

Senator are good but it is not advisable as per arti-cle 44 as it was linked to the finances of the gov-ernment and budget that will add more to its financial budget," he

The Bill was granted ascent to be presented before the house whereas the Chairman Senate put the motion before the house twice but remained

house twice but remained indecisive and ordered for voting. Some 17 members voted in favour and 22 opposed the motion and was rejected. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla of Pakistan People's Party said that he would suggest the mover of the motion on BIS Act amendment Bill BIS Act amendment Bill to discuss it with the ministry and a revised Bill would be tabled in the House as her intention was noble and good.INP

offered by CMOs of the Voice Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have also been (PTA) carried out independent Quality of Service (QoS) surveys in 22 cities of Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as 13 found below the licensed thresh-

old in few areas. During the survey, QoS KPIs of Voice, SMS and Mobile Broadband including Mobile Network Coverage were assessed in accordance with Next Generation Mobile Service (NGMS) licenses and Cellular Mobile Network Quality of Service (QoS) Regulations, 2021, using state-of-the-art automated QoS Monitoring & Benchmarking Tool. The drive test teams selected survey routes to cover main roads, service roads and majority of sectors/colonies in surveyed areas.

Based upon the compliance level of each KPI against threshold defined in the respective licenses and QoS Regulations, CMOs have been ranked between 1st to 4th position in Mobile Network Coverage and Voice Services for surveyed cities and roads/motorways. Similarly, in Mobile Broadband Speed segment, the ranking is with respect to the highest data download and upload speed, network latency and webloading time.Necessary instructions have been issued to the operators for taking corrective measures to ensure improvement in service quality up to licensed standards.INP



QUETTA: A vendor selling foods along roadside.

Death toll climbs to 15 in Kallar Kahar wedding bus crash

KALLAR KAHAR The death toll of fatal Kallar Kahar wedding party bus accident has reached to fifteen and sixty-four other injured as some of them in critical condition. At least 15 members of a wedding party, including women and children, were killed and 64 people were injured on Sunday night after a bus fell into a ravine and overturned

near Kallar Kahar. was learnt that twelve passengers passed away at the spot while three others expired at the hospital, rescue and police officials said, adding that the driver of the bus was also killed in the fatal accident. Soon the incident the injured persons have been taken to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Kallar Kahar. According to Chakwal eputy Commissioner Deputy Quratulain Malik, the wedding party was going back to Lahore from Islamabad. The vehicle was passing through a curved patch of the Islamabad-Lahore motorway when its brakes failed and the bus smashed into two cars

coming from the opposite side," she told. "Six passengers received critical injuries and they were rushed to Rawalpindi," the DC added. Meanwhile, Dr Atique Ahmed, the district in charge of Rescue trict in charge of Rescue 1122, said a car was still stuck under the bus. "The bus was damaged to such an extent that we had to cut it to take out the

A case has been registered at the Kallar Kahar police station. A police official, while talking said that the accident occurred on the dangerous patch of the motor way which passed through the hilly area of Salt Range near Kallar Kahar. "Most accidents Motorway were prone to meet such fatal

occur on this patch as it is curvy and sloppy," he said, adding that drivers not accustomed to Islamabad-Lahore mishaps.In a message after the accident was reported, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed sorrow and condoled the bereaved families of the deceased. He also directed the authorities to pro-vide the best medical facilities to the injured

Cabinet okays agreement with Saudi Arabia on customs cooperation

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Monday has given approval for an agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for customs cooperation to check tax evasion, commercial fraud, prohibited goods and money laundering.

Cabinet Division took approval of the federal cabinet through a circulation summary. Sources said that the agreement will help promote bilateral trade, mutual cooperation and affairs relating to customs between both countries. The agreement with KSA will be helpful for Pakistan in many ways. The deal will also be useful to check tax evasion and duties. The inter-ministerial consultative process was completed before finalization of the deal, the sources added. INP

TENDER NOTICE

The Assistant Director Local Govt, Mastung invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates, Tender fee Rs.2000/- an bid Security 2%

E/COST NAME OF WORK/S 1 PROVISION OF TUFF TILES, STREET LIGHTS

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 10,500,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 2,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 06 March, 2023 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid subm The Tenders must be submitted latest by 06 March, 2023 till 11:00 AM . Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Mastung Phone no: 1234567812

PRQ No.2523/20-02-2023

LOCAL GOVT, MASTUNG



FAISALABAD: President of FCCI Dr. Khurram Tariq addressing a press conference at his office in the city.

Colgate-Palmolive revenue up 43% to Rs54bn in 1HFY23: WealthPK Exchange with the symbol of COLG, is the largest company listed

ISLAMABAD: Colgat e-Palmolive Pakistan Limited (COLG) earned a revenue of Rs54 bil-lion during the first half (July-Dec) of the fiscal year 2022-23, 43% higher than what the company achieved in the same period of the last fiscal year, reports WealthPK

The company reported gross profit and net profit ratio of 19.91% and 7.71%, respectively, during 1HFY23.

ket capitalisation, Colgate-Palmolive Pakistan Limited, listed on the Pakistan Stock

On the basis of mar-

The company netted a revenue of Rs38 billion In 1HFY22, In 1HFY23, COLG's gross profit value increased to Rs10 billion from Rs7.7 billion in 1HFY22, posting a growth of 40% year-on-

in the chemicals sector.

COLG has a market

Rs169.9 billion.

COLG reported a net

profit increase of 44% in IHFY23 as its profit value increased to Rs4.2 billion from Rs2.9 bil-

lion in 1HFY22 The earning per share (EPS) value also jumped 44% year-on-year as the EPS cranked up to Rs50. 37 in IHFY23 from Rs35.07

in 1HFY22 COLG Profitability Quarterly Analysis FY23During the second quarter (Oct-Dec) of fis-cal 2022-23, COLG reported a gross sales increase of 15% compared to the first quarter (July-Sept) FY23. The revenue earned in 1QFY23 stood at Rs25 billion, which moved up to Rs29 billion in 2QFY23 INP

injured persons and dead bodies," he stated. people and prayed INP Pakistan can bring revolution in online AND CONST: OF DRAINS KILLI GHAZGI DISTRICT MASTUNG business with China's help: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD Pakistan can bring a revolution in online business with the help of Chinese companies already work-

ing in the country.
Ten legal fintech companies are working in Pakistan. Four of them are Chinese companies," Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan, head of the China Study Centre (CSC) at Comsats Iniversity.

WealthPK He said that three companies including Seed Creed Financial Services, Micro Creed Financial Services Limited and Hammra Financial Services Limited are active in the

"I am sure that many people may not know about these Chinese fintech companies which are already operating in Pakistan," said Dr Tahir.

He added that those companies could also connect the Pakistani fintech industry with WeChat and Alipay. He said that WeChat

has already revolu-tionised online business in China. Users can buy and sell their daily items online through WeChat. The second option is Alipay but it is for the international community Transfers through WeChat are preferred in

daily life. "Whenever I go to China I never take cash or carry a card with me. However, I always carry a power bank with me because I have to keep my phone charged and all the money is being trans-ferred through the phone. WeChat is one of the strong financial systems, said Dr Tahir.

He said that Chinese fintech companies are already working with Pakistan. "It is just needed to synchronise these brands with the fintech industry of Pakistan and the state-run financial institutions added.INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(0) The Medical Superintendent Bolan Medical Complex Hospital Quetta invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for following tenders of Bolan Medical Complex Hospital, Quetta:

NAME OF TENDERS Procurement Security Single Stage-Two Framework Contract of medicine supply on day-to-day basis 600000 (Emergency Medicine/Local purchase) TSE-222302249581 Envelope Procedure Repair and Operation & Maintenance of Medical Computed Single Stage-One 150000 Tomography (CT scan) Machine TSE-222302249492 Envelope Procedure Operation & Maintenance of Medical Magnetic Resonance Single Stage- One Imaging (MRI) Machine TSE-222302249572 Envelope Procedure

Note: There will be separate package for each tender. Procurement will be made under BPPRA rules-2014. Eligibility:- a) The bidder must have completed (02) assignments of similar nature, as mentioned in bidding document. b) Turnover certificate from scheduled bank of at least PKR 3.00 million in last three years showing financial capacity of the firm. c) Registration with relevant Tax Departments and firm name shall be on Active Taxpayer List (ATL) of FBR. d) The firm shall have valid Drug Sales License for above serial No. 01. Method of Procurement: - As mentioned against each above. Bid Security: - The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee of the fixed amount mentioned against each above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: - The NIT & bidding document can be obtained electronically from BPPRA website www.bppra.gob.pk. The firm has to deposit Rs. 1000/- (non-refundable) bidding documents fee of for each above tender through Green Challan under the head of accounts C02845- Health Receipts. Issuance of Tender Documents:-Bidding documents can be downloaded from the date of publication of tender to 07.03.2023. Last date of tender submission: Bids shall be submitted electronically latest by 07.03.2023 till by 11:00 am through supplier dashboard. Tender Opening: tenders will be opened on same day i.e 07.03.2023 at 11:30 am on EPPS system. Address: - Office of the Medical Superintendent, Bolan Medical Complex Hospital, Brewery Road, Quetta. Phone No: 081-9213037, Fax No. 081-9213040. Email: msbmchq@gmail.com

Medical Superintendent Bolan Medical Complex Hospital

PRQ No.2511/20-02-2023 www.dpr.gob.pk. @ @dpr_gob @ dpr.gob f @dgpr.balochistan

Tandlianwala Sugar Mills sales up by 21% to Rs8bn in 1QFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Tandlianwala Sugar Mills Limited's sales increased by 21% to Rs8 billion in the first three months (Oct-Dec) of FY23 ending Dec 31, 2022 compared with Rs7 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year, reports WealthPK.

The gross profit shows an increase of 34% from Rs726 million in the first quarter of FY21 compared with Rs972 million in the corresponding period of FY23.

The profit before taxation during the first three-month period of FY23 reached Rs419 million from a profit of

Rs307 million in the corresponding period of FY22.

The profit after taxation shows an increase of 44%, standing at Rs300.9 million in the three months of FY23

compared with Rs208 million profit over the corresponding period of FY22.

The sugarcane crushing season commenced on 25th November 2022. The mills crushed more sugarcane producing more sugar till 8th January 2023 in comparison with the same number of days last year with better recov-

eries too.

The company management expects an increase in production and revenue targets and better performance in the current year in both sugar and ethanol divisions.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Rothschild and Co. calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz.

Rupee extends winning streak against dollar, gains Rs7.5

ISLAMABAD: The rupee continued its streak of gains against the US dollar on Monday as it appreciated by 0.36% in the interbank market on

According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on the first day of the trading week on Monday, the rupee gained by 94 paisas (Rs0.94).

(Rs0.94).
As a result, the rupee appreciated from Rs262.82 – the level at which it closed last week and opened the trading week on Monday morning.
By the end of the trading day, the rupee had appreciated to Rs261.88.
Thus far, the rupee has appreciated by Rs7.56 from last week when it fell to a low of Rs269.44.
Open market

Open market the open currency market, the dollar appreciated by a rupee to improve its standing to Rs265.INP

No trust in PPP moves MQM-P to look up to 'powerful', says Faroog Sattar

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Farooq Sattar on Monday said it was looking up to "powerful circles" as it did not trust the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

Talking to the media, he said the census was not a single political party's concern and everyone living in Karachi should be counted. "Census takes place after ten years, however, the last census took place after a lapse

the last census took place after a lapse of 17 years and the recent is going to be held after five years", he added.

He said they foresaw the census being mired by politics too as the number of Karachi residents would again be dropped [in the census].

"Every apartment must be counted separately as there is not a single home. separately as there is not a single home in a building", he added. The number of union councils, he said, was brought down. INP

ECP summons emergency meeting to discuss polls in Punjab, KP

ISLAMABAD: In connection with President's announcement over holding elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) summoned an emergency meeting on

The meeting will review the dates announced by the president for hold-ing the elections in both provinces.

As per the ECP spokesperson, the electoral watchdog will take any decision as per the law, after receiving the president's letter.INP

LHC directs Khan to appear before court by 5pm

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) gave on Monday former prime minister Imran Khan last chance to appear in court by 5pm today while hearing the PTI chief's protective bail petition in a case pertaining to protests. outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Pakistan (ECP).

Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh passed these orders after Imran failed to meet the court's order to appear in person by 2pm today. On Feb 15, an Islamabad anti-terrorism court on grounds of non-appearance had rejected Imran's request for an extension in his interim hall in a case pertaining to his interim bail in a case pertaining to violent protests outside the ECP after it disqualified him in the Toshakhana case.The PTI chief has been conva-lescing in his Zaman Park residence in Lahore ever since he was wounded in an assassination attempt during a pit-stop his caravan made in Wazirabad while they were marching on Islamabad. At the previous hearing, Justice Sheikh had warned of issuing a contempt notice to Imran and instructed him to appear in the court in person by 2pm on Feb 20. The court had also advised Punjab Inspector General Dr Usman Anwar to meet the PTI chief's legal team and decide on security.INP

PTI people 'begging' to join PML-N, claims Maryam

RAWALPINDI Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and chief Maryam addressing an organizational meeting of the party in Rawalpindi, claimed the incumbent government was not responsible for inflation.

She also claimed PTI members were 'desperate' to join the PML-

Maryam said people were aware who brought the economic disaster and said it will take a few years to get rid of the 'destruction' caused in four years of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

She further said former premier Nawaz Sharif's arrival will change the political situation in the country.

She also claimed cases against PTI chief Imran Khan were not instituted on the basis of political revenge. Everyone knew Imran Khan committed robberies in Toshakhana and was also proven guilty in the foreign funding case, she remarked.

In the meeting, the organiza-tional affairs of the party's Rawalpindi division were dis-cussed, It was attended by presi-dents and general secretaries of various districts of the division.

The chief organiser said she will make the party organizations active at all levels

PML-N leaders Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Rana Sanaullah, Pervaiz Rasheed, Tahira Aurangzeb, Sheikh Aftab, Malik Abrar, Hanif Abbasi, Khurram Dastgir, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Afnanullah Khan, Talal Chaudhry, Bilal Kayani were also present.

Former prime minister Abbasi was welcomed with an applause by the party members.INP

Govt speeds up outsourcing of Islamabad airport

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has speeded up the outsourcing of Islamabad International airport on

As per details, the outsourc-ing plan will be made in asso-ciation with the international financial institution.

The process will also start on the recommendations of Islamabad airport outsourcing and an invitation will be sent to international operators.

The Director General Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said that the decision has been made to outsource the Islamabad international air-

Earlier, the federal govern-

ment formed an eight-mem-ber committee to begin process of outsourcing three major airports of Pakistan -Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

The committee was headed by Director-General Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Khaqan Murtaza. In this connection, the com-mittee had written a letter to managers of all three major airports, directing them to provide data of airports avia-

tion ministry.
The letter stated that the committee would also collect information from all direc-torate branches of three air-

Imran writes letter to CJP, other SC judges over audio leaks

Lahore: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan has penned a detailed letter to all judges of the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice of Pakistan on the issue of audio and video leaks. PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Monday wrote a letter to Khan on Monday wrote a letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and other Supreme Court judges, and sought "enforcement" of the fundamental rights of the public — including the Constitution's Article 14 (fun-damental right to privacy) — in connection with a series of private telephonic conversations of politi-cal leaders that have surfaced online over the past few months.

The letter comes days after a phone call of PTI Central Punjab president Dr Yasmin Rashid with the former CCPO Ghulam Mehmood Dogar was released on

According to media reports, in a detailed letter, former prime min-ister Imran Khan has requested the Supreme Court to immediately hear the constitutional petition filed in October last year for hear-ing and steps should be taken for protection under Article 14. In his letter, Imran Khan also put the eight most important questions before the Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial

and other judges. Chairman PTI written that 'suspicious, unverified' audios and videos have been going on for the past several months. These alleged audios and videos are based on conversations between current and former politicians and ordinary people. Mr Khan urged the judiciary to take notice of the development.INP

credit risk, with poultry feed being primarily used in controlled sheds, where 90% of sales are conducted on credit. This puts all players in the sector at risk of cred-

redit. This puts all players in the sector at risk of credit-related issues.

The report stated that the poultry feed sector in Pakistan is highly competitive, with 150 registered feed mills and an additional 200 unregistered mills serving the industry. It said the poultry feed's key ingredient, maize, is grown mainly in the province of Punjab, which is highly dependent on the nature of climate, whereas other key inputs like soybean meal are mostly imported.

mostly imported.

Despite these challenges, the sector has a strong presence, with an estimated production capacity of 1.9 million tons in FY22, the report said. It highlighted the importance of maize and soybean as major raw materials for the sector, noting that their availability and price linkages to the international market significantly

ANF recovers over 45 kg drugs; arrests three

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in four operations managed to recover over 45 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that ANF conducted a raid near Attock Burhan Toll Plaza and recovered 250 grams Ice drug from the posses-sion of two accused.

In another raid on Multan Road, Sahiwal, ANF recovered nine kg heroin, two kg Ice drug and six kg suspicious material besides netting an accused resident of

an accused resident of Gujranwala.

In the third operation, ANF seized 10 kg of heroin concealed in bushes near the Pasni area. The spokesman informed that in the fourth operation, ANF managed to recover 18 kg charras from a parcel booked at Quetta Airport Cargo.

He said that separate

cases have been regis-tered against the accused while further investiga-tions are under process INP

Indus River successfully diverted through tunnel at Dasu

ISLAMABAD: under-construction Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP) has achieved a major milestone, as River Indus was successfully diverted after the completion of one of the important diversion tunnels according to Gwadar Pro-

The length of the diver-sion tunnel is 1.3 kilome-tres with 20-metre width and 23-metre height. The completed tunnel is one of the two diversion tunnels while the second one is under construction. Instead of its natural course, the Indus River is now flowing through a 1.3-kilometre diversion

DHPP termed the achievement as "a major milestone and said it is a historic day in the water-sector Development of Pakistan" A Chinese construction and engineering company, the contractor of the main work, is leading the construction of the project It is apt to mention here that upon comple-tion, Dasu will become the project with the highest annual energy genera-tion in Pakistan i.e., 21 billion units on average WAPDA is spending Rs 17.34 billion on schemes relating to resettlement, environmental manage-ment.INP



LAHORE: A view of clash between police and PTI workers during Chairman PTI and former Prime Minister Imran Khan hearing in Lahore High Court

generation of ethanol exports due to better prices of ethanol in the international market as well as the depreciation of PKR currency Earnings Growth Analysis: In 2019, the EPS growth was rather good, but it slowed down considerably in 2020. The EPS increased to Rs353.14 in 2021. There was a significant decrease in 2022. Industry comparison: Tandlianwala Sugar Mills Limited has competitors, including Al-Abbas Sugar Mills Limited, Habib Sugar Mills Limited, Matco Foods Limited, and Thal Industries Corporation Limited. The investors can use market capitalization to contrast the sizes of several companies because it shows the price investors are willing to pay for a company's stock Al-Abbas Sugar Mills Limited has the greatest market capitalization of Rs6.8 billion in contrast to Tandlianwala Sugar Mills Limited, which is valued at Rs6.6 billion.

Profitability. The profitability of the company is indicated by net profit markin and gross profit markin and gross profit markin and gross profit markin and gross profit markin.

Profitability: The profitability of the company is indicated by net profit margin and gross profit margin. In 2019, the net profit margin and gross profit margin were high, but there was a significant drop in 2020. Company profile: Tandlianwala Sugar Mills Limited was incorporated in Pakistan on 1st November 1988 as a public limited company. The company shares are quoted on Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited. The principal activities of the company are the production and sale of white crystalline sugar, ethanol and other related allied by-products. The manufacturing facilities of the company are located at Kanwani (Unit-I) Dera Ismail Khan (Unit II) and Muzaffargarh (Unit-III).INP

Rising interest rates impeding poultry feed ind ustry's viability: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD The poultry feed sector plays a cru-cial role in maintaining food security, as it occupies a central place in the poultry meat supply chain. The recent hike in interest rates presents a formidable chal-

recent hike in interest rates presents a formidable chal-lenge to the industry's profitability, with 75% of total borrowing being comprised of short-term loans. A recent report of Pakistan Credit Rating Agency highlighted that poultry feed turnover grew by 6.7%, reaching Rs111 billion in the fiscal year 2021-22, com-pared to Rs104 billion in the previous fiscal year. This growth underscores the significance of the poultry feed sector to the national economy. The report highlighted that the sector is subject to credit risk, with poultry feed being primarily used in

tions in international maize prices. Despite being locally procured, the report suggested that the local maize prices are heavily influenced by international prices.

On the other hand, the local production of soybean seed is minimal, and the country meets its demand through imports. The report said this dependence on imported soybean can put the sector at risk and highlights the importance of promoting and supporting local agriculture to increase self-sufficiency. This exposes the sector to changes in international prices and exchange rates as well.

The report shed light on the current financial stand-The report shed light on the current financial standing of the poultry sector as of November 2022 with total borrowings recorded at Rs48.497 billion, depicting an increase of 6.4% compared to Rs45.570 billion in November 2021 INP

President's poll announcement just a 'piece of paper', experts weigh in

ISLAMABAD: Reacting to the presi-dent's announcement of April 9 as the date for elections to Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies, legal experts and political parties have termed it a 'piece of paper'.

Legal expert Justice (rtd) Shaiq Usmani said the president does not have the authority to announce a date for elec-

He called the president's ruling about the elections nothing but a 'piece of paper'. He said it was the job of the governors, not the president, to set a date for elections in provinces. Justice Usmani said political parties could approach the court against the

president's announcement. Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira said the president has to act on the advice of the prime minister while announcing a date for elections to the

The report pointed out that maize, in particular, plays a crucial role in the agricultural economy of Pakistan, being the third most important cereal crop after wheat and rice, and contributing 3 2% to the value added in agriculture and 0.7% to gross domestic product (GDP). The report said that in FY22, maize was cultivated on an area of 1.653 million hectares compared to 1.418 million hectares the previous year, showing a growth of 16.57% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis. The production grew by 19% to 10.635 million tonnes in FY22 compared to 8.94 million tonnes in FY21.

The report highlighted the self-sufficiency of Pakistan in meeting its maize demand, however, it also brought to light the sector's vulnerability to fluctuations in international maize prices. Despite being locally procured, the report suggested that the local maize

The report pointed out that maize, in particular, plays

legislature.
Pakistan Institute of Legislative
Development and Transparency
President Ahmed Bilal Mehboob also reiterated that the president could not, on his own, give a date for elections.

Former attorney general for Pakistan Irfan Qadir said he did not think the president is constitutionally authorized to announce elections in Punjab and KP, without meaningful discussion with the lection Commission of Pakistan (ECP).
"Even if we accept that the there is a

provision in the Constitution, the presi-dent has no right to hold elections," he commented INP



QUETTA: A view of large number of people waiting for buying Government

Cabinet approves agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance with Saudi Arabia in customs matters

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has approved an agreement on coopera-tion with Saudi Arabia in the matters related to customs for preventing tax evasion, commercial fraud, smuggling of prohibited goods and money launder-

According to sources the approval from federal cabinet with reference to accord was obtained through a circulation. Under the agreement both the countries will forge cooperation and mutual assistance in customs related matters. As per government sources the agreement with Saudi Arabia will be beneficial for Pakistan in several aspects. The possibilities of tax and duties evasion will reduce due to this agreement.

Inter ministerial consultation process has been completed in regard to this agreement. Consultation was made with

and foreign affairs in this regard.

The draft agreement was got endorsed According to sources the approval from federal cabinet with reference to accord was obtained through a circulation. Under the agreement both the countries will forge cooperation and mutual assis-tance in customs related matters. As per government sources the agreement with Saudi Arabia will be beneficial for Pakistan in several aspects. The possibilities of tax and duties evasion will reduce due to this agreement.

Inter ministerial consultation process has been completed in regard to this agreement. Consultation was made with ministry of interior, defence, commerce and foreign affairs in this regard.

The draft agreement was got endorsed from ministry of law and justice. Online

LHC suspends EC notification on denotifying PTI MNAs from Punjab

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) has suspended Election Commissioner (EC) notification to denotify PTI MNAs from Punjab.

The petition against the EC step in connection with acceptance of resigna-tion of more 70 MNAs of PTI came up for hearing before LHC Monday.

The court while seeking reply from all respondents including EC on next hearing has remarked the matter to the extent of speaker notification will be heard on

March 07.
Justice Shahid Karim heard petition from 70 MNAs of PTI including Fawad Chaudhry, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Pervez Khattak, Asad Umar and others.
The speaker National Assembly, Election Commission and others have

been made respondents. They have taken the stance in the peti-tion that the speaker NA did not hear the stance of MNAs before accepting their resignation. EC denotified the MNAs following the acceptance of their resig-

The PTI MNAs requested the court to nullify the step regarding acceptance of resignations besides ordering the EC not to hold by polls in respective constituencies.
The LHC also issued order to EC for

not holding by polls to the extent of MNAs of PTI from Punjab province.

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