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# UETTA VOICE

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> Monday 27 February, 2023

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Coalition seeks SC full court for suo motu case



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**Gender Responsive** Budget for Balochistan urged

# 5 killed 16 injured in a blast in Barkhan Balochistan

Asif Kareem Khetran

At least five people were killed and 16 injured in a blast in Balochistan's Barkhan district on Sunday. The bomb went off in the Rakhni Tehsil of the district,

police sources said. Police said unknown miscreants had planted an improvised explosive device (IED) in a motorcycle parked outa intotocycle parked outside a barber's shop in the Rakhni bazaar. The IED exploded with a big bang, killing four people on the spot. However, another injured succumbed to injuries on way to the bosnital on way to the hospital.

#### 10 serious injured shifted to DG Khan

The condition of the 10 injured out of a total of 16 is stated to be serious, police informed. The seriously injured by the blast have been referred to Dera Ghazi Khan for medical treatment.

Initially, all of the injured were rushed to the Rakhni hospital for medical treat-

#### CM Balochistan condemns the blast

Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo strongly condemned the blast and directed the administration to provide better health facilities to the injured. In a statement issued after the blast, Mr. Bizenjo said that government would



not spare the elements involved in this act of terror-

"The terrorists would be brought to justice", the Chief Minister said.

#### Rana Sanaullah condemns the attack

Federal Interior Minister, Rana Sanaullah also strongly condemned the attack and directed law enforcement agencies to arrest the culprits behind the attack. The interior minister said that stern action would be taken against the perpetrators of the blast and they would be brought to

#### President, PM condemn Barkhan blast

President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday con-demned a blast in Barkhan, Balochistan province which resulted in loss of precious lives.

The president and the prime minister expressed their deep grief over the loss of lives and expressed condolences with the bereaved families.

They also prayed for the high ranks of the departed souls and for the early recovery of the injured, President Secretariat and PM Office media wings said in

their separate press releases. The prime minister summoned a report from the chief minister and inspector general of police over the incident.

#### Security tightened in Barkhan

Security was tightened in and around the Rakhni bazaar in the aftermath of the blast that rocked the town of Balochistan bordering Punjab province. Levies and police personnel were deployed at all entry and exit points of the district to maintain a law and order situation. "We deployed additional levies force on all sensitive points", another senior administration official told Daily Quetta Voice. He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the media.

# **Govt to send PTI** leaders, workers to 'far-off jails' first

Minister Sanaullah on Sunday said that the government will first direct Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and workers who voluntarily presented themselves for arrests - to far-off jails before sending them to prisons in Lahore or Rawalpindi.

Speaking at a press conference Islamabad, the minister said that between 100 to 150 people have thus far courted arrests as part of the PTI's 'Jail Bharo' movement -- a drive that seeks to mark a protest against the govern-ment's policies and to put pressure on the rulcoalition announce elections.

"Eighty per cent of the arrested ones are asking to be released," said Sanaullah as he revealed that all participants of the PTI's drive

have been taken into custody for 30 days.

"You wished to go to jail, so you have been sent there," he said mockingly, "we are having you visit jails so that you can acquaint yourselves with the conditions there"

It may be noted that several petitions have been filed at the Lahore High Court (LHC), expressing fears that the arrested PTI leaders and workers may be falsely

accused of involvement former Punjab chief in unlawful activities to minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi.

cause them "maximum harm", adding that they Sanaullah urged the have been transported to apex court to take suo "some unknown place" motu notice over the to "torture" them. alleged close ties that Without referring to Elahi maintains with a the matter that remains subjudice, Sanaullah said "we will first fill Supreme Court judge.

jails in far-off areas and

afterward fill the jails of

ary in utmost respect and regard," he added as

he stressed that "weak-ening" the judiciary

would be synonymous

with "increasing the dif-

However, the interior

ficulties of the country"

minister simultaneously

stressed that "bench-fix-

ing" allegations must be

probed, hinting at a series of controversial

audio leaks attributed to

"We hold the judici-

Lahore Rawalpindi"

Turning his attention towards former premier Imran Khan, he said that 'he is a trouble-maker, and never once did something for the bet-terment of the country. He noted that first Imran was bringing a sea of people to tread on

the capital, then he said he was going to fill the jails, "but now the people know him for what he is". Sanaullah alleged that Imran was "spread-ing instability in the country" and called the 'Jail Bharo' movement a shame". Web Desk

# The Barkhan tragedy

Syed Ali Shah Analysis

The recovery of three mutilated dead bodies in Balochistan's Barkhan district pained every person. The way dead bodies were retrieved from a well in the Haji Kot area of Barkhan and brought

to Quetta, put many questions about our justice system.

All Pakistan Marri Itehad staged a three-day sit-in in the Red Zone of Quetta to mount pressure on the authorities to recover hostaged family members of Khan Muhammad Marrin in Barkhan. Marri's wife Granaz, her daughter, and four children were recovered by the levies force. No arrest was made and it was not offi-cially announced that they (Khan Muhammad's family members) were in whose custody?

### Marri accused Sardar Khetran of murdering his family members

Marri had accused Balochistan Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran of murdering his family members. However, the FIR was lodged by Barkhan police against the unknown accused.

The minister surrendered before the police without registration of

any case against him. He is likely to get bail from court very soon since there is no evidence against the latter.

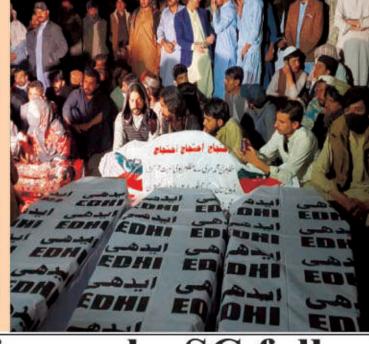
first day of the protest announced that the protest would continue till the arrival of the Prime Minister and the registration of an FIR against the minister. Nevertheless, the Itehad ended up the protest without the arrival of any provincial minister and registered of FIR against the minister on the third day of the protest.

This gives more questions than answers. Khan Muhammad Marri's sons were buried in Quetta and the latter preferred not to comment on the incident of killing his sons anymore.

#### The 'heirless' girl was laid to rest in Quetta

The unfortunate 'heirless' girl was laid to rest by the Edhi foundation in Quetta the other day. "No one came for the body of the teenage girl who had been raped and then shot dead and acid was thrown on the face so that she could not be identified," a volunteer of the Edhi foundation told Daily Quetta Voice.

To be precise, it is the responsibility of the provincial government to conduct a DNA test of the teenage girl and bring the killers of the triple murder to book. This will ensure rule of law and writ of the State and restore the confidence of the masses in State institutions



# Bilawal accuses judiciary of having double standards

KARACHI: Foreign Minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has accused the judiciary of having double standards.

While addressing an event in connection with the Constitution's Golden Jubilee in Karachi today, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that PPP is celebrating the golden jubilee of the 1973 Constitution. He said that the Sindh Assembly took lead in passing a resolution in lead in passing a resolution in favour of Pakistan.

He added that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed is the founder of the Constitution and they are proud of it. Each Pakistani is equal in accordance with the Constitution. The PPP chief said that the Constitution is being continuously attacked since its formulation.



Bilawal said that the country is facing the consequences of religious hatred spread in the Zia era. The Constitution is an agreement between the state and the nation. The Constitution has given us the Islamic federation and Pakistan is a country of pro-democracy people.

He said that PPP passed the 18th amendment and introduced Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). In the previous govern-ments, the rulers used to send their opponents behind the bars. Bilawal claimed that PPP gave the chance to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz

(PML-N) which led to the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Bilawal alleged that a 'selected prime minister' came into power to not fix the prices of essential commodities but to benefit his own family. "We became successful in the no-trust motion against the man who was instating in violation of the system and the Constitution."

"18th amendment is not a real problem for them but the 1973 constitution Web Desk

# Coalition seeks SC full court for suo motu case

ISLAMABAD: Three parties from the ruling coalition on Saturday petitioned the Supreme Court for the formation of a full court — comprising all judges except Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan and Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi — to conduct suo motu proceedings on the delay in the announcement of a date

for elections to the Punjab and KP assemblies. The joint petition, filed by senior counsel Farooq H. Naek, Mansoor Usman Awan and Kamran Murtaza on behalf of the PPPP, PML-N and JUI-F, respectively, says the prayer has been made "in the best interest of justice and to strengthen the people's confidence in the Supreme Court"

It is imperative that the full court — minus the two judges, who have already disclosed their minds in the matter — be constituted to hear the case in the interest of justice and fairness, contends the petition, which has been moved under Order 33 Rule 6 of the Supreme Court Rules 1980.

The petition argued that when the case was taken up by the nine-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of



Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial on Feb 23, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel read out a note and raised objections to the effect that since the two-member bench consisting of Justice Ahsan and Justice Naqvi had already rendered a definite opinion on the issue as recorded in the court's Feb 16 order, it would amount to a violation of Article 10A if they remain part of the larger bench.Web Desk

# Gender Responsive Budget for Balochistan urged

Razzaq Sheikh

QUETTA: Parliamentarians, economists and civil society representatives of Balochistan have emphasized the need to link the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)'s Five goals to the formulation of the provincial budget based on gender equality. Gender Responsive Budget and equal distribution of resources will help achieve sustainable development goals effectively.

They expressed these views during a consultative session held on the progress of the Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) and

Compliance with the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Five under the auspices of Asghar Khan Foundation and Shirkat Gah

Acting Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Sardar Babar Musa Khel, Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture Abdul Khaliq Hazara, Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Chairperson Women Parliamentary CAUCUS Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Parliamentary Secretary Minority Affairs George Khalil, Shahina Kakar, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Local Government Qadir Nail, MPA Nasrullah Zere, Bano Khalil, Fauzia Shaheen, Chairperson Commission on Status of Women Economist Oniser Bengali, Executive Director Status of Women, Economist Qaiser Bengali, , Executive Director of Umar Asghar Khan Foundation, Rashida Dohad and Executive



Director of Shirkat Gah Fareeda Shahid addressed the session Farida Shaheed, Executive Director of Shirkat Gah, shed light on the progress in Pakistan related to the goals of CEDAW and SGD-5 and presented suggestions for their implementation. Whereas, the Executive Director of Omar Asghar Khan Foundation Rashida Dohad, , presented an analytical report on the budget of Balochistan for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and presented

practical suggestions to align the budget allocated to various sectors with gender equality, which the participants agreed with.

She said that the gap in the public welfare projects in the provincial budget of Balochistan will be gradually eliminated by reducing the gap on the basis of gender.

She noted that the Umar Asghar Khan Foundation has presented the best analysis of Balochistan's budget.

the best analysis of Balochistan's budget. "If implemented, by linking the resources available in the provincial budget to the SDGs, not only gender-based discrimination can be eliminated, but it can also pave wary for sustainable development goals," she stressed.

The other speakers including parliamentarians and members of civil society said that the problems faced by the people can be eliminated by ensuring the provision of resources at the grassroots level through the Provincial Finance Commission.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said that the infrastructure of the forensic lab in Balochistan has almost been completed the legislation is also in progress and we are try-

been completed, the legislation is also in progress and we are try-ing to bring it to completion as soon as possible. She recalled that a better implementation plan will be made to maintain gender equality in the projects proposed by the Department of Science and Information Technology.

# 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 join-

ing the party
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

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

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

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 parties for joining.

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

# A shining Hazara football player of Quetta

Rajab Ali Hazara was 10 when he pursued his dream of playing football despite the challenges that came his way.

His family initially wanted him to focus on his studies, he said. However, Ali continued playing football as it was his passion. The lack

resources to train for his dream sport didn't discourage him "In those days, there was no playground," he said, "so I played on the streets" the streets.

Ali participated in the under-13 format of football after seeing an announcement about the tournament. He selected for the Balochistan under-13 football team, he said

He also played for the under-14 and under-15 teams

But when the underchampionship was taking place at Malibagh, Quetta, Ali's parents were wary about the securi-



challenges ty challenges in Balochistan, so they didn't wish to see him train for the champi-onship, he said.

I have reached here with great difficul-ties," Ali said, pointing ties," Ali said, pointing to the challenges that he faced early in his

The Hazara commu-

nity is an ethnic minority in Balochistan, the southwestern province of Pakistan Approximately 800 Hazaras were killed in 2012 and 2013 in attacks of sectarian violence, making the situation precarious in

the province. Ali participated in the 10-day training

threats and against his family's profests, he said. His hard work paid off when he was selected for the Balochistan Balocu Championship and to Lahore

went to Lahore Football house. Ali has played nine international football games. On the first international tour, he went to Nepal for 45 days and played against the football teams of Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India and Afghanistan.

In 2014, he was selected as a captain for the Pakistan national football team after playing in the

qualifying round, he

In 2016 he played with the Pakistan police department for the National Champion Challenge Cup. Pakistan army and air force were also participants in the sports

After seeing his per-formance, the Khan Research Laboratories team (KRL) invited him to play by their side. He has played 50 matches for the KRL. The team has a record of winning two cups and one league. They went to Qatar as a sen-ior team in 2018, he said

Ali has 5 medals to his name. He turned his passion to train an upcoming generation of youth who love football.

> **Opening** Hazara Football Academy

Ali said he wanted to make a football ground for young Hazara foot-

By Feroza Juma Khan ball players.

However, it was not possible due to a lack of

resources. He decided to open a training academy instead with the help of academy a few senior citizens and his friends in the community with similar interests as him. In 2014 he opened the Hazara Football Academy. "We don't have as many resources as other countries and we are running every-thing on our own," Ali said in an interview.

Initially, the academy only trained men players. "It is our dream to see our youth progress and make the country proud," he said.

In 2020, the academy expanded the training program to women players too. It is providing a future for talented players who play on the streets instead of playing in football stadi-

Feroza Juma Khan is an undergraduate journalism student at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University. She is passionate about journalism and wants to tell the important stories of Balochistan.

# Obviating the obvious

By Salaar Khan

We begin with what appears to be the most obvious: when a legisla-tive assembly is dis-solved, elections must be held within ninety days. But, it would appear the obvious has escaped the attention of the governors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Or, more likely, they hope the obvi-ous will be obviated.

In both provinces, the chief ministers 'advised' the governors to dissolve the assemblies. In KP, the governor agreed. Punjab's governor claims that, though he did no such thing, the constitu-tion automatically dissolved the assembly within forty-eight hours of the CM's advice.

This makes KP more straightforward. Under the constitution, when a governor dissolves a provincial assembly they, themselves, must announce a date for the next elections. Such a date must fall within ninety days of the dissolution, and the governor must also appoint a care-

But in Punjab, the gov-ernor gestured listlessly at an apparent gap in the law. Article 105(3) of the constitution tells us what is supposed to happen when a governor dis-solves an assembly. It doesn't tell us who must announce the date of elections in an automatic

dissolution. Yet, while neither governor appears keen to announce the dates for elections, they promptly

appointed caretaker cabinets. Some have inter-preted this as contradicto-ry compliance with ry compliance with Article 105(3). But, to give it its worth, it may, instead, indicate compliance with another provision – Article 224(1A). That is to argue that under the first variant, the appointment of a caretakappointment of a caretak-er cabinet may be grounded in Article 105(3) and, under the lat-ter, in Article 224(1A).

But, to be clear, none of this changes the nine-ty-day limit. Even as both governors shrugged their shoulders, the constitu-tional clock was ticking away. And, of course, the scene for the next act was

a courtroom. The Lahore High Court agreed that there were two separate categories of dissolution. And also, that it was unclear who was to announce a date for the elections in an automatic dissolution. But it had to be someone's responsibility. Otherwise, we would have to accept that just because one person decided not to act, no one else was allowed to act

Relying, importantly on the Supreme Court's 2012 decision in the Workers' Party case, the court declared that this someone was the Election Commission. And - in this specific variant of a dissolution it's hard to argue against

its reasoning So things appeared simple enough. The Lahore High Court directed the ECP to "immediately announce" the date of elections for

the Punjab Assembly. What was slightly less simple was that it direct-ed it to do so "after con-sultation" with the gover-nor, who did not seem particularly inclined to be consulted. Even so, if the torpor persisted, the Lahore High Court could always enforce its order through its powers of contempt of court. KP could, if it chose to, follow suit with a similar

But for one person on Constitution Avenue, this was not enough. The Hippocratic Oath is, after all, not the latest oath that the president took: he had also sworn loyalty to the

constitution.

Dusting off his copy of the Elections Act, the president turned to the Election Commission and prodded at Section 57.
Here was a law that he read as giving him the power to announce the date for "general elections after consultation" with the Commission' And so, while Justice Jawad directed the ECP to consult with the governor (in a judgement that the president's own party hailed as all shades of 'historic'), the president just wasn't feeling it. It was he who was to be

consulted. And, now, it was the ECP who did not seem inclined to be consulted. The president sensed his moment and announced a date for both elections,

Amongst some of the justifications later provid-ed was the idea that refusal to consult itself, a form of consultation. Such a possibility has not escaped the attention of other laws. Under the constitution for instance, the chief election commissioner is to be appointed by the prime minister, "in consulta-tion" with the leader of the opposition. When there is no consensus, each can send independ-ent nominations. But there is no such language

there is no such language

in the Elections Act.

There is also the question of how much consultation' is enough con-sultation, and what degree of resistance is a 'refusal'. Naturally, the president can't enforce consultation. But, if on the very first day of the dissolution, the ECP indi-cated that it wasn't as enthusiastic about the whole exercise, is the president justified announcing elections himself? Or is a more appropriate reading that the president can only use Section 57 to announce a date prior to Day 90, when meaningful consul-tation does take place? This is all to say nothing of Section 57's apparent dissonance with the con-

Some argue that the president was quite aware of all this: the real purpose may simply have been to end up before the Supreme Court. If so, it worked. To take the Supreme Court's word it, the constitution came knocking the constitution itself seems to have forgotten to knock on a few doors of a few judges' cham-bers is another matter. That, strictly speaking

before the president went rogue, two judges had already knocked, through a request in an earlier case, is another yet.

But with the stage set for the Supreme Court to undo one knot, a portion of the bench suggested another: what if the dissolution was, itself, unlaw-

Against a landscape darkened by the shadows of unregulated judicial overreach, the concern that followed is not with out cause. Yet, it is true, as pointed out in these pages yesterday, that this would not be the first time a court would consider such a question Courts have reversed the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly in 1993 and the Balochistan Assembly in 1988. In doing so, they have also held that dissolution is a "legal ques-tion", and not a purely political one. Importantly in both cases, they did so not just to protect the rights of not just the members of the assem-blies, but that of the elec-

torate, as well. But both of those instances involved chief ministers whose legal capacity to provide such 'advice' was in question. In Balochistan, the CM had not yet obtained a vote of confidence. In Punjab, the CM appeared to be attempting to fore-stall a vote of no-confidence – a situation not too dissimilar from Imran Khan's reversed dissolu-tion of the National Assembly in April. That is not the case here: there is no challeng CM's capacity. no challenge to either media vehicles such as

#### A changing media By Bilal I Gilani

the past years, the five since launch of 3G internet Pakistan, media landscape undergone a paradigm change. The media mar-ket both on the demand side (media consumers)

as well as on the supply side (media producers/channels) has had a huge transforma-

First, among the bouquet of media, internet and social media use has exponentially According to a Gallup Pakistan Media Habits survey in 2018 close to 20 per cent adults claimed to use the internet. In 2023, the figure is close to 45 per cent. The data analysis for internet use shows two other interesting trends. Nearly everyone is using the internet on their phone (95 per cent) and the use of the smartphone is now half of all mobile phone users.

Similarly, internet use quality has improved sig-nificantly with a reasonable proportion among the non-young category also using the internet and the amount of time spent on the internet having increased significantly (a number corroborat-ed by the data usage figures from the telecom sector). All of this has meant that social media use, especially for entertainment and news, has gone up considerably. When Gallup asks what people use for news content now almost a quarter to half mention social media. Unconventional

podcasts are also having a heyday with up to 10 per cent internet users saying they listen to podcasts. All this bend towards social media has meant taking away from the time people use to consume other media (given the limited time available during the day). The biggest casualty of the internet revolution in Pakistan has been TV. Newspapers and radio were already on a decline. In the case of newspa-

pers, the decline was camouflaged for many years under state adver-tisements. Even though readers had switched to TV in the 1990s and 2000s and other advertis-2000s, and other advertis-ers switched, the state kept sustaining the mar-TV has seen a dramatic

decline in two decades which has precipitated in the past five years. In 2004, an average Pakistani was watching close to 240 minutes of TV every day. In 2018 TV every day. In 2018, the number fell to 120 minutes. In 2022, average TV minutes watched was close to 80 minutes (a third of the TV minutes reduced in five years). A few other changes in the TV market are also taking

First, the share between news and entertainment content within TV viewership is sliding. Contrary to popular opinion, most Pakistanis spent most of their time watching enter-tainment rather than news. Back in 2004 when the local entertainment cable channels were being launched the most viewed TV channel in the country was Star Plus. This has become increasingly true with now almost 3 in 4 TV minutes going to entertainment. Second, there are two segments that have dropped TV use in a further dramatic manner: the 18-30 age group males and the educated /urban segment. Both these seg-ments have shifted their media use to social

media.
The increasing lack of relevance of news channels is also not equally distributed though. The top channels have continued to maintain their dominance: the top five most watched TV channels continue to occupy almost 80 per cent of time people spend on news. The rest of the two dozen to three dozen channels are airing but have a few thousand viewers at

prime time.
Within social media within social media use however it is possible and the case that conven-tional media players are getting the biggest pie. For example the biggest news websites in the country are those of the major news channels. Similarly, the largest local entertainment channels are also the most viewed YouTube entertainment in Pakistan. However, this space is seeing a major change with online-only content slowly but surely disrupting the space For most of the media market, the use of media vehicles is no longer defined by class or region. Urban vs rural rich vs poor and educated vs uneducated used to be a good determinant of who was consuming what media. This is increasing-ly less so the case: social

# 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 reg-ularly 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 ses-sions, 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 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

parliamentary affairs 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 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 fac-tories 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. Community resilience

xtremism is deadliest e m e r g i n g threat to global security, rights. peace, well-being, and sustainability. The rise in extremism in various regions of the world is caused by inequalities and an increase in sentiments of intolerance toward marginalized pop-

ulations.
Pakistan ranks third in extreme violence and terrorism worldwide. The recent rise in violent extremism in Pakistan is affecting the country's rich, pluralistic, and cultural ethos.

People can radicalize towards violent extrem-ism in a variety of ways and at different levels Violent extremism is influenced by several institutional, psychological, and socio-economic factors. 'Push factors' such as marginalization, inequality, discrimination, a sense of persecu-tion, a lack of education, the denial of rights, and other complaints cause people to become violent

'Pull factors' such as well-organized violent extremist groups that offer services, income and jobs draw people to violent extremism. In addition, the extremist groups claim to provide a place to belong and a positive environment to radicalize the people towards violent extremism. Since extremist groups are a part of and interact with the commu-

nities, they try to radical-ize and take advantage of the situation. Furthermore, problems in rule of law, issues of corruption, education sys-tem, and criminality are examples of contextual variables that foster the growth of violent extremist groups. Organizations engaged

in community engage-ment-based countering violent extremism (CVE) programmes are crucial to maintaining peace and harmony in these com-munities. Until you are rooted in these communi-ties, it is impossible to resolve these problems inside the community through building

Community resilience is the ability of a community, state, people, or region to adopt new norms, new processes, and strategies for con-ducting their lives and new societal relationships in response to violent shock or uptick in aggres-sion and brutality to prevent, mitigate of recover from violence. Community resilience cannot be possible with-out community engagement. Community resilience refers to a net-work of interrelated sys-tems, including the

socioeconomic, ecologi-cal, and constructed environments that directly impact human society at the local level.

Many experts have talked about the issue of violent extremism and shed light on the focus to

counter violent extremism, but a sustainable approach is needed. Violent extremism is a persistent threat to peace and sustainable development. It is not only a societal issue but a develop-ment issue as well. Furthermore, the role of parents is highly affected in the proliferation and prevention of violent extremism, especially the influence of mothers' thinking on children's understanding of society and extremism.

The first step in reducing violent extremism is frequently ensuring secu-rity, but this is not a susapproach Countering violent extremism/PCVE is generally seen within the security paradigm, but it is also important within politics, policy, and gov-emance. Somehow, they all are connected. Steps that can be taken; prevention or preventing the next crisis by focusing on the root causes, moving from reactive to proactive, proactive policies or interventions can deal with potential conflicts. This is possible through community engagement.

Unlike the traditional security approach a pro-

security approach, a peo-ple-centric approach must be taken for sustainable peace and development. Dealing with structural violence is key. Only physical violence won't help. We must act on the group that is threatening the state. The reasons behind this are deprivation and frustration

## First-ever woman elected LHCBA secretary

LAHORE: First-ever woman has been elected secretary of the Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) since its inception way back in 1893. Sabahat Rizvi secured 4,310 votes against her two male rivals to become secretary of the LHCBA in the election held for the year 2023-24 on Saturday.

on Saturday.

Ms Rizvi, who contested the election first time, has association with the Independent group, also known as Asma Jahangir group, however, a majority of the lawyers support. ty of the lawyers supported her beyond groupings. In another record of

simultaneously making two women to represent it in the cabinet, the bar elected Rabbiya Bajwa as vice president.

Bajwa, who is a senior leader of the Hamid Khan-led Professional group, secured 3,590 votes against her five male rivals in the election. She was previously elected finance secretary of the bar in 2006.

The Professional group also notched the slot of the president in a massive victory as its Chaudhry Ishtiaq A Khan defeated Lehrasib Khan Gondal of the Independent group with a big margin. Khan bagged

votes against 3,372 secured by Gondal Sabahat Rizvi secured

4,310 votes against her two male rivals to become secretary of the LHCBA in the election held for the year 2023-24 on Saturday.

Ms Rizvi, who contest-ed the election first time,

has association with the Independent group, also known as Asma Jahangir group, however, a majori

group, however, a majority of the lawyers supported her beyond groupings.

In another record of simultaneously making two women to represent it in the cabinet, the bar elected Rabbiya Bajwa as vice president INP

## **Highnoon Laboratories** profit increases 41% in 9MCY22: WealthPK

gross profit of pharma-ceutical firm Highnoon Laboratories Limited increased 25% to Rs5.9 billion in the first nine months of the calendar year 2022 (9MCY22) from Rs4.7 billion over the corresponding peri-od of 2021.

The operating profit of the company also increased 37% to Rs2.1 billion from Rs1.5 billion in the two compara-ble periods.

The profit-before-taxation increased to Rs2.3 billion in 9MCY22 from Rs1.6 billion in 9MCY21.

9MCY21.
The profit-after-taxa-tion jumped 41% to Rs1.7 billion in 9MCY22 from Rs1.2 billion in 9MCY21, reports WealthPK. Earnings Growth

Analysis The company has maintained a double-digit growth rate in earnings in the past three years, indicating that it has been performing well in a series of ing well in terms of profitability. The company registered a high growth rate of 46.31% in 2020 and a low of

2021

trend has been positive, with an average earnings growth rate of around 27% over the past three years.

Investors should also

consider other factors such as the company's financial health, market conditions, and industry trends before making investment decisions. It's also worth noting that the pharmaceutical industry can be subject to regulatory changes and competition, which can impact earnings

growth.
Industry Comparison
Searle Company
Limited, AGP Limited,
GlaxoSmithKline
Pakistan Limited, and
Abbott Laboratories
(Pakistan Limited) (Pakistan) Limited have all been regarded as rivals of Highnoon Laboratories Limited, which has a market cap-italisation of Rs20.1 bil-

Profitability The pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan is subject to regulatory changes, such as changes in drug pricing policies, which can impact the profitability of companies

The probability of Highnoon's success

depends on its ability to compete effectively with other players in the industry, such as by introducing innovative products, maintaining high-quality standards and managing costs.

The company's finan-cial health also impacts the probability of its future success. The company's ability to generate profits, manage debt, and maintain liquidity are key factors in determining its abili-ty to invest in research development, expand its product portfolio, and compete in the market.

Company Profile
H i g h n o o n
Laboratories Limited is engaged in the manufacture, import, sale, and marketing of pharma-ceutical and allied consumer products in Pakistan. The company's portfolio contains products for all major therapeutic areas, with a focus on alimentary tract and metabolism, antihistamines, anti-infectives, cardiovascular, endocrine, hematology, musculoskeletal, nervous system, parasitology, respiratory and urinary.INP



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf hold a protest rally in favor of their demands S M Taufig Road.

## PM Shahbaz to unveil 100 MW Iran-Gwadar power supply project

ISLAMABAD: Minister Shahbaz Sharif is all set to inaugurate the 100 MW Iran-Gwadar power transmission project to stamp out electricity woes in Gwadar.

With this project, accord-ing to Gwadar Pro, Gwadar will import uninterrupted

electricity from Iran.
In this regard all pre-paredness has been given in collaboration with officials Gwadar Port the Authority (GPA), Development (GDA), China Port Holding Gwadar Authority Oversea Port Holding Company, Balochistan sec-

Supply Company (QESCO) and National Transmission National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC).

According to the sources, final testing for the 100 MW power project has been conducted successfully. Supply will formally commence after unveiling of project by the premier. Iran's highlevel delegation from its power division has already speed of warder to seed the reached Gwadar to seal the power purchase deal with

During Gwadar, his visit in Primer Minister Shahbaz Sharif will also inaugurate the project of first-ever facility of cross

stuffing at Gwadar Port, commencement of dredging at Gwadar Port and distribution of cheques to deserving fishermen of Gwadar regarding boat-engines. New infrastructure has

been put in place under the new project, which involves installing the 29-kilometre-long double circuit 132 KV transmission line from Kalatu (Pakistan city) near Gabd-Remdan (Pak-Iran border) to Jiwani Grid Station.

A 75-kilometre-long dou-ble transmission line from Jiwani Grid Station to Gwadar Grid station has been laid down already.INP

ter about the deadlock with the

## Earthquake hits Awaran, other parts of Balochistan

AWARAN: Earthquake tremors were felt early Sunday morning in Awaran district of Balochistan and adjacent areas.

An earthquake of magnitude 4.6 on the Richter scale jolted Awaran and surrounding areas on Sunday morning. The residents came out of their homes reciting the 'Kalma-e-Tayyaba'.

The Seismological Center fur-thered that its depth was 76 kilo-meters. However, it didn't confirm the epicenter of the earthquake.

As per initial reports there was no loss of life or any financial loss. On February 24, earthquake tremors of 4.2 intensity jolted Islamabad and its adjoining areas. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC), the tremors were felt at 6.06 in the morning.

People came out of their houses in fear by reciting Kalma-e-Tayyaba. No loss is reported as per initial reports. It is to be mentioned here that the tremors relatively closer to the surface are likely to bear long-term adverse effects on the buildings INP

### NA-193 Rajanpur: polling underway amid strict security

JAMPUR: Polling for the by-election in the National Assembly's constituency NA-193

Assembly's constituency NA-193
Rajanpur got underway on Sunday
amid strict security.

The polling began at 8am and
will continue until 5pm without
any pause. The seat fell vacant due
to the death of Pakistan Tehreek-eInsaf (PTI) member Jaffar Khan
Leghari. He died in Lahore on
December 31, 2022, after a prolonged illness.11 candidates are
contesting A-193 Rajanpur bypoll, but the main contest is
expected between the Pakistan
Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) candidate Emaar Owais Leghari and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's

(PTI) Mohsin Leghari.
237 polling stations have been set up in the constituency, of which 68 are declared sensitive. 2,650 police personnel have been deployed to deal with any untoward situation while Rangers and Army personnel will also patrol the area Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) accused the district administration of non-cooperation in the organi-sation of by-polls in NA-193 Rajanpur constituency INP

## Najam Sethi reaches out to PM to resolve deadlock over **PSL** matches in Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Chairman Najam Sethi has reached out to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday, over the deadlock with the Punjab government regarding PSL 8 matches in Rawalpindi and Lahore. Lahore.

Sethi contacted premier, who is also the PCB's Patron-in-Chief, to brief the latter about the deadlock with the caretaker Punjab government over security expenditures of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight's Lahore and Rawalpindi

at Sindh Museum on Sunday.

The PCB chairman told PM that the matches will have to be shifted to Karachi if the government does not stop demanding money for security, said sources. They say that PM Shehbaz Sharif has assured the PCB chief of complete support and assistance. "PSL is a national institutions are responsible for institutions are responsible for its arrangements," said Najam its arrangements," said Najam Sethi. According to the current PSL 8 schedule, Rawalpindi will stage 11 fixtures and Lahore will host nine matches. Sethi contacted premier, who is also the PCB's Patron-in-Chief, to brief the lat-

ter about the deadlock with the caretaker Punjab government over security expenditures of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season eight's Lahore and Rawalpindi leg. The PCB chairman told PM that the matches will have to be shifted to Karachi if the government does not stop demanding money for security, said sources. They say that PM Shehbaz Sharif has assured the PCB chief of complete support and assistance. According to the current PSL 8 schedule, current PSL 8 schedule, Rawalpindi will stage 11 fix-tures and Lahore will host nine matches INP Mehran

The increase in sugar dispatches was a major factor in the turnover improving over the same quarter the previous year. However, the gross profit of the company decreased by 56% to million Rs102 million in 1QFY23 from Rs234.7

But the company post-ed a big jump in net profit, which swelled to Rs289.3 million in 1QFY23 from Rs81.5 million over the corresponding period of FY22, showing a massive positive growth of 255% year-on-year,

During the fiscal year 2021-22, the company's gross sales swelled to Rs7.98 billion from Rs6.97 billion in FY21 posting an increase of 14% year-on-year

The gross profit for FY22 stood at Rs807 million, 27% up from Rs636.8 billion in FY21.

Similarly, the profit-after-tax for the year shot up by 1315% to Rs289 million from a loss of Rs23.8 million in

the company's earnings per share stood negative at Rs-0.49, the EPS remained somewhat healthy with a dip in 2020 and a massive growth of Rs12.89 in 2018. The EPS stood at Rs5.34 in 2022.

Mehran Sugar Mills was incorporated in Pakistan as a public limis principally engaged in the manufacturing and selling sugar and its by-products INP

#### Sugar Mills posts 255% increase in HYDERABAD: The eighth edition of two-day Hyderabad Literature Festival (HLF) has begun net profit in The festival was inaugurated by Culture and 1QFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Mehra n Sugar Mills Limited's revenue from sales increased by 56% to Rs2.3 billion in the first quarter of the ongoing financial year 2022-23 (1QFY23) from Rs1.5 billion in the correspon-ding period of the previous fiscal.

million recorded in 1QFY22.

255% year-on-year, reports WealthPK.

Performance in 2021-

Except for 2021, when

About the company ited company in December 1965 under the repealed Companies Act, 1913. The company

FAISALABAD: A vendor is preparing polyester sewing in old traditional style alongside a road at Ghulam Muhammad area.

## Chinese hybrid wheat demonstration fields in Pakistan cover about

BEIJING: Chinese team's hybrid wheat demonstration fields in Pakistan have been main-

tained at about 3,000-5,000 hectares.

"From Peshawar and Islamabad in the north, Lahore in the center to Karachi in the south our Karachi in the south, our hybrid wheat has per-formed well in all the major producing regions", said Prof Zhao Changping, Chief Scientist of Hybrid Wheat Research Institute, Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN)."What's more gratifying is that through the cooperation of scientists from both sides, we discovered that using the Pakistani wheat varieties as distant parent to cross with Chinese wheat, the varieties produced are more dominant.

In addition, hybridization of spring wheat in the southern wheat region and winter wheat in the northern wheat region can also produce domi-nant hybrids."

The report stated, "The World Food Day high-lights the need for global efforts to ensure food security in various countries of the world," last year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif tweeted, expressing his concerns over the impending food shortage in the wake of floods. In 2022, devastat-ing floods in Pakistan have destroyed standing crops on millions of

hectares.
Undoubtedly, wheat, a staple food, has also been hit hard. About 80 percent of farmers in Pakistan are engaged in wheat production, and the total area of wheat cultivation occu-pies as much as 40 per-

3,000-5,000 hectares cent of the total agricul-tural land in Pakistan. The importance of

production Pakistan cannot be over-stated In addition to natural disasters such as floods and high temperatures, a series of chal-lenges such as high seed and fertilizer prices also make Pakistan's "wheat revolution" increasingly

revolution" increasingly urgent. Over the years, a group of Chinese wheat experts working diligently and quietly here.
"Hybrid wheat is considered to be the first choice to solve the food crisis in the international agricultural science community," "When it comes to China-Pakistan hybrid wheat cooperation, the wheat cooperation, the selection and breeding of hybrid wheat varieties suitable for the local environment requires the cooperation of both par-ties. INP

#### Famous writers, intellectuals, and poets from across Sindh attended the festival. They shed light on the ancient culture and history of Sindh. Some international scholars also attended the festival On the first day of the colourful event, children performed tableaux on national songs while local artistes entertained the participants with Sufi

The festival also featured the exhibition of various books on history, science, literature and classical music.

Two-day Hyderabad

Literature

Festival begins

Moreover, it also showcased the products made by skilled women from underprivileged areas which enthralled the participants and infused the air with the fragrance of art.INP

## Vaccinators' shortage hits children vaccination campaign

LAHORE: The children immunization programme is facing severe manpower crisis as there are 980 vacant positions of vaccinators across the province including Lahore.

As per details, the children immunization drive is badly affecting since 202 seats of vaccinators out of 546 are vacant in Lahore.

The government has failed to induct vaccinators on the vacant seats for a long time. It merits mentioning here that the decision to

recruit vaccinators was made last year but it proved to be a mere verbiage because it could not be implemented

It is becoming exceedingly difficult to achieve the goals of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) programme owing to short-age of vaccinators. INP

# Pricey ferrochrome imports continue at cost of own chrome deposits: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Pakista n is endowed with vast reserves of chromite for the production of fer-rochrome, but they remained untapped, causing the country to import this expensive alloy at the cost of hard-earned for-eign exchange, reports WealthPK.

WealthPK
The latest report by the
Trade Development
Authority of Pakistan
(TDAP) shows that the
chromite sector presents
a highly promising
avenue for investment.
The report bighlights

The report highlights immense potential for growth in this sector, with significant opportunities for establishing a chromite processing plant to produce upgraded chrome, as well as a state-of-the-art fer-rochrome production lant.
The report states that at

present, the raw chromite ore is priced at around \$280 per ton, but with the transformation of this material into its value-added product, the potential for generating significant revenue is enor-mous. In fact, the final product – ferrochrome – can be sold for up to an impressive price of \$4,145 per ton, representing a highly lucrative prospect for investors, it adds.

The latest report sheds light on the potential for ferrochrome production in the country. By utiliz-ing the indigenous resources, the steel industry can benefit from a lower cost and larger quantity of raw materials, ultimately reducing the need for expensive imports of ferrochrome. The report also recom-mends the Boston and

Lasbela Special Economic Zones (SEZ) as ideal locations for establishing a fer-rochrome production plant. Situated in close proximity to the key chromite-producing dis-tricts of Muslim Bagh,

Khanozai, Nasai, Gawal, Wadh, and Sonaro, these locations provide an easy access to the CPEC routes for transportation of finished goods to the steel industry, which is located in various parts of the country, according to the report. It is worth noting that

Pakistan has an abun-dance of natural resources. The country has around 92 minerals, of which only 52 are currently being commercial-ly exploited, the report says, adding that the country largely exports its minerals in raw form, with no substant value-addition to date substantive

The report suggests that the potential for value addition in the form of ferrochrome produc-tion represents a signifiopportunity investors looking to capi-talize on the untapped potential of Pakistan's rich natural resources. The global market for

ferrochrome, a highly sought-after alloy used in the production of stainless steel, is estimated at a staggering \$11 billion. According to the report, the demand for high-car-bon ferrochrome is significantly higher than that for low-carbon ferrochrome. The report cites data from INP

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposal for selection of Consultancy service invited on Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) from well reputed national/International firms (JV) / service provider meeting with eligibility criteria, viz having registration with FBR for Income Tax and BRA and who are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL), and are not black listed in any procuring agancyv or authority for prepration of Hiring of "Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms" Titled as Study on Solid Waste Management in Zhob, Loralai, Hub and Quetta. Security 5% TSE-222302253294 Detail as under

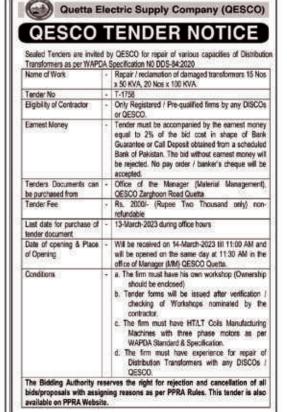
S.No. Description E/Cost Study on Solid Waste Management in Zhob, 20,000,000/-

Loralai, Hub and Quetta. Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 5 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity. Turn over of at least 10,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List. BRA Registration Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan PKR 1500 Green Challan Head of Account (BEPA) Account Number (C03849). Professionals must include specialists in solid waste management, environmental economics and urban planners. At least two PhD scholars with at least 5 years' experience in relevant field. Procedure Of Procurement:Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of 5 % specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. The FINANCIAL PROPOSALS shall be opened of those consultants whose technical proposal is considered and approved. The Selection of Consultants shall be made as per Evaluation Criteria method as mentioned in the 'Date Sheet' of this "Request for Proposal" document. The incomplete request for proposal or received after due date mentioned above will not be considered. The RFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPRA Website (www.bppra.gob.pk). Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 14 March, 2023 till 12:00 PM Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: Electronically Through EPPS Phone no: 0819201840 Email: mobeenhaq79@gmail.com

PRQ No.2604/24-2-2023

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY QUETTA

PID(Q)255/2022



Published by Asim khan at C-7 Kabir Building Printed at AlSaeed Printing Press Mando Khail Plaza Mission Road Quetta.

# Over 1,000 traffic cops to be deployed during PSL matches in Lahore

LAHORE: Over 1,000 traffic police personnel will perform duty during the Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in Lahore, it has been learnt on Sunday.

According to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Mustansar Feroze, 20 forklifts and three breakdowns have also been deployed on the routes and roads adjacent to Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore.

The cricket fans, coming to see the match, will be able to park their vehicles at Government College Gulberg, Liberty Parking and Lahore Development Plaza (LDA) Plaza.

"Foologies of tarffic arrangements have been made from the hotel to Gaddafi Stadium" the CTO said.

"Foolproof traffic arrangements have been made from the hotel to Gaddafi Stadium," the CTO said.

"Roads will be closed for minimum time on arrival and departure of the teams," he added.

"As soon as the teams pass, all diversions will be opened for traffic. No road will be closed permanently," he

"Except for the arrival and departure of teams on Mall Road, Jail Road, and Canal Road, traffic will continue as usual," he declared and added that the traffic would move normally on Ferozepur Road and Main Boulevard



FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan addressing a press confer-

#### Lahore tops list of most polluted cities of world

LAHORE: Lahore on Sunday again topped the list of most polluted cities of the world as the air quality index

(AQI) in the city reached 235.
To make matters worse, the weather department forecast no rain for the

Punjab capital in the next 24 hours.
The AQI was the highest in Defence
Housing Authority's Phase-8, where it
was recorded at 485.
It was 440 at Syed Maratib Ali
Road, 309 at Kot Lakhpat and 258 at

Shahdara. Minimum temperature in the city was recorded at 14 degrees Celsius, while it was 27 degrees Celsius on the maximum side. INP

#### Man shoots dead sister in Lahore over domestic row

LAHORE: A man killed his sister in a suburban village of Kahna, Lahore on Sunday, apparently due to domestic dispute.

Safdar opened fire at his 32-year-old sister Saira in Ghunghar village. The woman received a bullet in her

head and died on way to hospital. The body was later shifted to the

Police said the incident appeared to be the consequence of domestic dis-

The police further said that hunt had

been launched for the assassin.

Meanwhile, taking notice of the incident, CCPO Bilal Siddique Kamyana sought a report from the SP

Model Town The CCPO ordered the immediate arrest of the suspect. INP

#### Pakistan logs 36 new coronavirus cases

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has logged 36 new coronavirus cases with a posi-tivity ratio of 0.72% and no fatality was reported during last 24 hours, showed the statistics released by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on

Sunday morning
According to the NIH data, the death toll in the country remained unchanged at 30,641 whereas the number of total infections now rose to 1,576,915 after adding the fresh 36

During the last 24 hours, 4,982 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan as compared to previous day's nearly 5,019 whereas the positivity ratio has reached to 0.72%. The number of patients in critical care stood at 12.INP

#### Women **University Swabi** removes age restriction for admission

SWABI: Women University Swabi has waived the age limit for enroll-ment of women students and announced that there will be no age-related restrictions on women seeking admission in any department of the University.

The decision was taken in the 25th

The decision was taken in the 25th meeting of the Academic Council of the University with Vice Chancellor, Shahana Arooj in the chair, said a press release issued here on Saturday. The move was taken in view of dropping out cases of women after marriage, leaving their education incomplete The meeting also took varincomplete. The meeting also took var-ious crucial decisions relating to the academic affairs of the University, All heads of the departments and adminis-trative officers also attended the meeting In wake of the landmark decision of opening the doors of the university to women of all ages, prospective stu-dents will be able to apply for admission on open merit. The meeting also approved the minutes of the first Board of Studies of the Language and Literature at the Department of English at the university as well as minutes of the 24th, 4th, 5th and 6th Advanced Studies and Research Board INP

## Narowal journalist falls prey to lady doctor's negligence

NAROWAL: A senior journalist fell prey to the negligence and inexperience of a lady doctor at Narowal District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, it was surfaced

on Sunday.

Muhammad Shahid was operated on for gallstones at the DHQ Hospital. During the operation, the doctor cut the intestine too along with the gallbladder.

He was rushed to Mayo Hospital in Lahore where he succumbed to his injuries.

cumbed to his injuries.

Brother of the deceased told the media that butcher doctor of Mayo Hospital had performed the opera-tion. He said Shahid died due to the alleged negligence and inexpe-

rience of the doctor,"
"Lady doctor Uzma Shaheen performed the operation even though there was a surgeon in the DHQ Hospital. Our brother's operation was scheduled to be per-formed by surgeon Dr Shafiq," he added. "Despite the surgeon being

bespite the surgeon being there, the operation was performed by an inexperienced lady doctor," he regretted.

It is to be noted here that Muhammad Shahid had been associated with the field of journalism for along time and have nalism for a long time, and he was a reporter for a private TV chan-

Citizens and journalist organi-sations in Narowal have appealed to the Punjab chief minister to to the Punjab chief minister to take immediate action against the doctor. Muhammad Shahid was operated on for gallstones at the DHQ Hospital. During the operation, the doctor cut the intestine too along with the gallbladder. He was rushed to Mayo Hospital in Lahore where he succumbed to his injuries. Brother of the deceased told the media that butcher doctor of Mayo Hospital had performed the operation. He said Shahid died due to the alleged negligence and due to the alleged negligence and inexperience of the doctor," INP

## Jail Bharo Tehreek: Gujranwala central jail refuses to keep PTI workers

GUJRANWALA: The admin-istration of Gujranwala Central Jail on Sunday refused to keep Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers in the prison, who are surrendering themselves for the Jail Bharo Tehreek. The jail administration in a

letter has informed the police and the district administration. According to the jail officials, Gujranwala Jail is already over-crowded as it is keeping 3,300 prisoners against its capacity of 1,500.

The PTI workers arrested in Gujranwala will be shifted to the other jails of the province,

the sources. It may be noted that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has kicked off Jail Bharo Tehreek at the direc-

tions of party chief Imran Khan

from Wednesday. Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Rawalpindi leaders,

Insaf (PTI) Rawalpindi leaders, who volunteered their arrest under party's 'Jail Bharo Tehreek', were transferred to Shahpur jail from Adiala.

According to sources, PTI senior leaders Zulfi Bukhari, Sadaqat Abbasi, Fayazul Hassan Chohan, Ijaz Khan Jazi, Latafat Abbasi and Chaudhry Sajid were shifted to Shahpur jail.

The police also moved 41 PTI activists from Adiala jail to the Hafizabad jail.

After Lahore, Peshawar and Rawalpindi, the court arrest drive will reach Multan today where more than 200 PTI activists will voluntarily surren-der themselves to police INP

## CCTV cameras installed at Gaddafi stadium for PSL security stolen

LAHORE: Eight CCTV cam-eras worth millions of rupees eras worth millions of rupees installed for monitoring Pakistan Super League (PSL 8) Lahore leg matches have been stolen from Gaddafi Stadium. According to details, the stolen items include generator batteries and fibre cables for closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras worth millions

millions.

Batteries of generators installed for lighting at Gaddafi Stadium have also been found missing.

Meanwhile, two cases have been registered against the thieves at Gulberg police station.

It is pertinent to mention here that the fate of matches in Lahore and Rawalpindi remains undecided due to the ongoing tussle between PCB and interim Punjab government over security expenses. The Punjab government has reportedly lowered its demand for security funds — from Rs450 mil-lion to Rs250m.

According to PCB sources, the Lahore and Pindi matches will be shifted to Karachi if Punjab government keeps asking the board

for paying the said amount.

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The cricket fans coming from Mall Road, Jail Road or Canal Road can park their vehicles at Government College for Boys from its Ferozepur Road gate.

The cricket fans coming from Thokar Niaz Baig will be able to park their vehicles at Government College for

Boys from Kalma Underpass.

Those coming to see the match from Cantt, Defence, and Cavalry can park their vehicles at Hussain Chowk, Liberty Parking and Sunfort Hotel Parking from Firdous Market.

Those coming from Kasur, Kahana, and Model Town will be able to park their vehicles at the Government College along with Ferozepur Main Gate and Central Park.

Those coming on foot will be able to enter the stadium from Cricket FIFA Gate, Liberty and Government College. "Citizens and the cricket fans will not have any traffic problems. Citizens will be kept informed about the traffic flow through Rasta App and Rasta FM 88.6," the CTO said. INP

# Chinese company gifts shoes worth Rs38m to flood affectees

A Chinese shoe company on Sunday gifted sports shoes worth Rs38 million to victims of last year's catastrophic floods in Pakistan.

The company, China Leather Industry Association (CLIA), launched an initiative named "Put on Chinese Shoes, Rebuild New Home" in

According to the shoe company, it took this initiative to "express its care for the flood-affected people in Pakistan."

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque expressed his sincere thanks to the company for its generous help to the flood-stricken groups in the

Haque said the donation once again made him feel the warmth of the Chinese people towards the people of Pakistan.

Torrential rains and unprecedented floods brought a third of Pakistan under water in 2022, affecting some 33 million people, and washing away hundreds of thousands of animals, houses, bridges, schools, hospitals, and other infrastruc-

tures.

The near-apocalyptic floods also killed over 1,700 people, in addition to causing a whopping loss of 30 billion dollars to the already sputtering economy

#### Horse and **Cattle Show** cancelled due to security reasons

LAHORE: The three-day Horse and Cattle Show, that was scheduled to be held in Lahore's Fortress Stadium, has been cancelled due to

security reasons, it has been learnt on Sunday. The show was can-celled after mutual con-sultation between the Punjab caretaker government and senior military leadership. It is to be noted here

that a three-day Horse and Cattle Show is held in Lahore every year during Jashan-e-Baharan. It is an important festi-

val that represents the cul-ture and history of Punjab. Other celebrations of Jashan-e-Baharan will be observed throughout Punjab as per the sched-ule, the official sources have said INP

#### Pakistan to conduct first ever digital census

ISLAMABAD: economic census is one of the comprehensive measures of a country's economy that provides statistics on its various industries, sectors and markets.

It is necessary for the growth and development of a country, for it tells about the sectors in which the government needs help in order to increase employment or build

more infrastructure.

Pakistan is going to conduct a digital census for the first time since its formation.

What will be the proce-dure, and how will it be carried out? These are some questions that pop

up in everyone's mind.

For the digital census, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has recruited 126,000 enumerators and purchased the same number of tablets Each enumerator will be the in-charge of collecting information from two census blocks. A 'block' is a geographical unit for the census, con-sisting of 200-250 houses. Currently, there are

185,509 census blocks in the country. This survey will also include those people who do not pos-sess a National Identity Card (NIC).PBS chief statistician Dr Naeem-Ul-Zafar told the BBC.INP

# Haque said the donation once again made him feel the warmth of the Chinese people towards the people of Pakistan. Torrential rains and unprecedented floods brought a third of Pakistan under water in 2022, affecting some 33 million people, and washing away hundreds of thousands of animals, houses, bridges, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructures. The near-apocalyptic floods also killed over 1,700 people, in addition to causing a whopping loss of 30 billion dollars to the already sputtering economy. The monsoon torrent came after Pakistan was seared by a spring heatwave, with pockets of Sindh sporadically suffering temperatures of 50C (122F). Web Desk 'Jail Bharo' movement runs out of steam in Gujrat, Gujranwala

the country.

GUJRANWALA: It appears that the PTI's 'Jail Bharo' movement is losing its momentum, at least in Hafizabad, where the party is split on whether to

where the party is split on whether to surrender to police or not, it has been surfaced on Sunday.

Only dozen PTI workers gathered in the city to turn themselves into police. Former members of Punjab Assembly (MPAs), belonging to the party, have simply vanished, while member of the National Assembly (MNA) Shaukat Bhatti, too, is in no mood to surrender himself to police either. However, he has said that the PTI Hafizabad president and general secretary will surrender to the police. "Our workers are going to Gujranwala for the purpose," he said

In Gujranwala, too, PTI workers and ticketholders are looking for excuses to

The monsoon torrent came after Pakistan was seared by a spring heatwave, with pockets of Sindh sporadically suffering temperatures of 50C (122F). Extreme weather events are increasing in severity as a result of climate change, scientists say.

Pakistan -- the world's fifth largest population --

Pakistan -- the world's fifth largest population -- is responsible for only 0.8 per cent of global green-house emissions but it's one of the most vulnerable to extreme weather caused by global warming Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque expressed his sincere thanks to the company for its generous help to the flood-stricken groups in

ticketholders are looking for excuses to evade arrests.

Ali Ashraf Mughal, ticketholder for NA-78, has said he is sick; so, therefore, he cannot go to jail.

However, sources in his family have confirmed that Mughal has not been feeling well since last night.

Similarly, in Gujrat, the city of PTI Central President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, the party workers are not so enthusiastic about the 'Jail Bharo' movement, and some of them have even disappeared.

However, some PTI workers, led by However, some PTI workers, led by former MPA Salim Sarwar Jorra, are heading to Gujranwala to turn themselves into police. INP



Abdul Haq and volunteers of Balochistan Reforms are inaugurating the tree planting campaign.

# Ramazan moon likely to be sighted on March 22: PMD

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted that there is possibility of the sighting of Ramazan 1444 AH moon on 22 March this year.

The new moon of Ramazan, 1,444

AH, will born on the crossing con-junction point at 22-23 PST on 21-03-

According to astronomical parameters, there is a chance of sighting the new moon of Ramazan, 1444 AH on the evening of March 22, 2023 i.e. on the 29th of Shaban, 1444 AH.

The PMD has said that according to climate according to the weather is expect.

climate records, the weather is expect-ed to be fair or partly cloudy in most parts of the country on the evening of March 22.

In case the holy month begins in line with the PMD's forecast, the first Ramazan will be on March 23,

Ramazan-ul-Mubarak, the month of

Ramazan-ul-Mubarak, the month of fasting, is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, uring the fast, Muslims must abstain from eating, drinking, gossip and cursing, and are encouraged to focus on meditative acts like prayer, reading the holy Quran and charity.

The new moon of Ramazan, 1,444 AH, will born on the crossing conjunction point at 22-23 PST on 21-03-2023. According to astronomical parameters, there is a chance of sighting the new moon of Ramazan, 1444 AH on the evening of March 22, 2023 i.e. on the 29th of Shaban, 1444 AH.

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climate records, the weather is expected to be fair or partly cloudy in most parts of the country on the evening of March 22.INP

## Mini-budget may not do any good to economy: experts

ISLAMABAD Financial experts observe that the mini-budget presented by the government in the parlia-ment and the increase in the General Sales Tax (GST) and prices of petroleum products will not serve any purpose but instead exacerbate inflation and poverty.

Talking to INP-WealthPK, renowned financial expert Dr. Shahid Hassan Khan said it was not the IMF's demand to increase the prices of elec-tricity, gas and petroleum products, but the government increased the prices on its own.

He said the people were being misled by the government that it increased the prices on the IMF's

Dr. Shahid Hassan said the IMF had asked the government of Pakistan to impose taxes on the income, but the government imposed taxes on the item being used by ordinary people to fetch loans from the Fund.

"Though Pakistan will get loans

from the IMF, followed by other donors and development partners, including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB), the current financial crisis will be temporarily over. It will also facilitate trade and business activities and opening of LCs at the ports but cause an increase in inflation and poverty, thus further widening the gap between the rich and the poor. As a result, the government will have to approach the Fund again for help," he observed.

Talking to INP-WealthPK, renowned business leader and coordi-

nator to the Federal Tax Ombudsmen (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis said the increase in taxes and prices of electricity and petroleum products would put more pressure on the businesses and increase inflation.

He called for rationalizing the prices, especially of petroleum prod-ucts, putting less burden on the inflation-stricken people, including busi-

KARACHI: People gather at the site after a two-story residential building collapsed, in Provincial Capital.