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4 coal miners killed 3 injured in Khost Harnai attack



Two soldiers martyred in exchange of fire with terrorists in North Waziristan: ISPR

KP, Punjab polls: Reconstituted SC bench debates governor, president's role after 4 judges dissociate themselves

The authority and role of governor and president were among the Constitutional points pondered upon as a reconstituted five-member Supreme Court bench conducted the suo motu proceedings regarding the delay in the announcement of a date for elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhyan Pakhtunkhwa.

The resizing of the bench to five from its original size of nine was an unexpected devel-opment before the court pro-ceedings began today.

Parliament made it clear that president can give election date: CJP

In their order on Feb 27, all the nine judges sent the matter to the CJP once again, asking to the CJP once again, asking for the reconstitution of the bench in light of the additional notes authored by Justice Mandokhail, Justice Shah, Justice Afridi and Justice Minallah as part of the Feb 23 order by the chief justice.

Two of these judges had also questioned the SC's jurisdiction to invoke Article 184(3), which relates to its suo motu powers.

relates to its suo motu powers, in this matter

CJP Bandial, Justice Shah, Justice Mandokhail, Justice Akhtar and Justice Mazhar heard the case today

Justice Ahsan and Justice Naqvi — whose inclusion to the original bench was opposed



by the coalition government and the Pakistan Bar Council as well as Justice Minallah and Justice Afridi have dis-tanced themselves from the bench. "These four judges have shown grace and stepped away from the bench," said the chief justice at the outset of the hear-

Division in the bench had also emerged in the very first hearing after Justice Mandokhail, who is part of the current bench, objected to the suo motu notice itself as "unjustified". The judge had also mentioned audio record-ings that purportedly featured fellow judge — Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi. The reconstituted bench began hearing the case around

1:30pm today after two delays in its scheduled timings of 11:30am and 12:30pm

Court issues written order of February 23 including dissenting notes of four judges in Punjab, K-P polls delay case

As the proceedings com-menced today, CJP Bandial said that four members of the bench have disassociated themselves from the bench. "The remaining bench, however, will continue hearing the case.

We will continue the hearing for the interpretation of the Constitution because what the

Constitution says depends on its interpretation," he stated.

The apex judge went on to say that the court will again hear the suo motu case at 9:30am tomorrow (Tuesday)

and try to wrap it up.

CJP Bandial also pointed out
that the note of Justice
Mandokhail had emerged on
social media even before the
verdict was released. "We will
take precautions so that such an
incident does not recur in the
future."

At one point in the hearing later in the day, Justice Akhtar

recalled that in 1976 the Constitution was silent on the issue of whose responsibility it was to issue the election date. "[Therefore], an amendment was made to empower the president and governor to give the election date.

"As far as Punjab is concerned, President [Alvi] may have given the correct date," he added

Meanwhile, Justice Mandokhail said it was the responsibility of the governor to issue an order for the assembly's dissolution based on the summary, adding that the gov-ernor would also have to give the election date in the same

On the other hand, Justice Shah asked whether or not the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) could conduct Pakistan (ECP) could conduct the elections automatically if the governor did not give the election date. To this, Barrister Ali Zafar replied: "The election commission is a constitutional institution. It should have the authority." Meanwhile, CJP Bandial observed that the par-liament had "made it clear" in liament had "made it clear" in the Elections Act that the president can also give the election date. "How can the intention of the parliament be evaluated?" the CJP asked Justice Shah then asked who would give the elec-tion date if the governor refused to do anything regard-ing an assembly's dissolution. "Where the chief minister dissolves the assembly, and the governor is not in the picture so what authority. Web Desk

Landmine blast kills a levies man and injured another 6 in Kohlu

Yousaf Marri:

A landmine explosion killed a levies personnel and injured another 6 in Balochistan's Kohlu district on Monday. The injured levies personnel The The condition of the two injured is critical

The condition of two of the injured is reported to be critical. The injured person was shifted to Baker where



were rushed to the Kohlu district headquarters hospital for medical treatment. emergency

declared in the hospital to provide medical treatment to the injured by the blast. According to Levies, elections were to be held

on February 27 at specific seats in Union Council 20 Janat Ali Kohlu. All the election staff was stopped in the Dera Bugti area at night and the road clearance was underway in the morning when a Levies vehicle collided with a landmine, killing 1 Levies personnel on the spot and

they were shifted to CMH Quetta by helicopter, Shaheed Lewis officer Mohammad Aslam was from Kohlu and joined the Balochistan Levies Force a month ago.

The injured personnel includes Abdul Samad, Amanullah, Mohammad Ashraf, Haram Khan, and Abdul Sattar, Meanwhile, provincial education minis-ter Mir Naseebullah Marri strongly condemned the attack on Levies in Janat Ali, saying that the enemy elements are trying to sabotage the law and order in the area. The sacrifices of the security forces will not go unnoticed, Mr. Marri concluded.

Balochistan High Court orders quashing FIR against Shehbaz Gill

Syed Muhammad Qaseem

High Court (BHC) on Monday ordered the quashing of the first information report (FIR) against Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) leader, Shehbaz Gill.

The order to quash FIR against the PTIT leader was passed by Mr. Justice Gul Hassan Tareen of the BHC. A case was registered against the PTI leader for using 'foul' language against State institutions and inciting hatred against them in his speeches.

No multiple cases in one allegation: Judge

The lawyers of Mr. Gill including Syed Iqbal Shah Advocate and Shams Rind appeared before the court and argued that in one allegation multiple cases can not be regis-tered against the same accused. During the hearing of the case,

the former deputy speaker national assembly, Qasam Suri and other central leaders of the

occasion.
"This court orders quashing of FIR against Shehbaz Gill", Mr. Justice Gul Hassan Tareen ordered during the proceedings.

PTI leader Shehbaz Gill arrives in Quetta for hearing of the case

The PTI leader Shehbaz Gill had also arrived in Quetta with regard to the registration of a case against him. "We would case against him. We describe continue our democratic struggle continue our democratic struggle and nation." Mr. for this country and nation". Gill told reporters outside the PTI's provincial office. He lashed out at the present govern-ment for what he claimed putting the country on the verge of eco-

nomic default.

The PTI leader was also arrested in Islamabad last year for delivering stormy speeches



State institutions and inciting hatred against institu-

BHC already ordered qushing of FIRs against PTI leader Azam Khan Swati

The BHC had already ordered the quashing of FIRs registered against Azam Khan Swati, another key central leader of PTI in Balochistan. Swati's son had challenged the registration of FIRs against his father in various districts of Balochistan. Balochistan

4 coal miners killed 3 injured in Khost Harnai attack

Mir Salam Jogezai

At least four coal min-ers were killed and another three injured when armed men opened fire at a mine in the Khost area of Harnai district.

Levies sources said armed accused opened fire at the miners on Monday morning. Four miners were dead on the spot. The attackers escaped unhurt from the spot of the incident. spot of the incident.

Coal miners and levies personnel reached the spot and shifted the injured miners to the Harnai district headquarters hospital for medical treatment.

Levies termed attack a targeted killing incident. A search opera-tion was also launched by



the district administration to arrest the culprits involved in the attack.

Bizenjo condemns the

attack
Chief Minister
Balochistan, Mir Quddus
Bizenjo also condemned the incident and directed the administration to arrest the culprits invol ved in the attack. In a state ment issued after the incident, Mr. Bizenjo expre ssed grief and sorrow over the killing of coal miners.He said the Terror ists involved in the attack would not be spared

Home Minister condemns the

attack Home Minister Balochistan, Mir Ziaullah Langove strongly con-demned the blast and directed the levies and police to arrest the cul-prits behind the attack. He directed the district administration to submit a report in this regard.

E-commerce training being provided to more than 150 girls in Balochistan: Dr. Rubaba

Razzaq Sheikh

Parliamentary Secretary of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Science and Information Affairs Technology Chairperson of Women Parliamentary Caucus Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi said that currently twenty women of Balochistan were involved in international e-commerce, while e-commerce training was being provided to more than 150 girls Along with the deliv-ery of recommendations

to the Federal Ministry of Law regarding social media crime, work is in progress on framing the necessary laws at the local level, she men-tioned.

She expressed these views as part of a consultative session on the role of women in the digitali-



zation process organized the National Commission on Status of Women Pakistan, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, and Jazz here on Monday.

On this occasion. Chairperson of the National Commission on Women Status of Pakistan Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson of Bakhtiar, Balochistan Fauca.
Balochistan Fauca.
Member of Munira Baloch, Coordinator of Chief

Minister Balochistan Shania Khan, Zulekha Mandukhel and Deputy Resident Head of UNDP Ammara Durrani National Gender expert Shabana Arif were also

present.
Dr. Rubaba Khan
Buledi said that the IT department was providing free training in vari-ous fields to expose women and youth to information technology in Balochistan. While various apps have been created at the local level for digitization in government institu-tions, she said that steps were being taken to give men and women equal access to the digitization process in Balochistan. Consultation of National and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women would be welcome to further improve these and the suggestions formulated by them would be made

policy.

Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar,
Chairperson of NCSW,
said that the digital divide has further deteriorated the gender disparity in the country. "The policymakers, leaders and relevant stakeholders, need to understand the importance of having women at the forefront viz a viz technology." Mr. Hafiz Abdul Basit,

part of the digitalization

Ms. Ammara Durani, Ms Ayehsha Ms Meshal Naz, Chief Additional Secretary Development Balochistan, Resident Representative UNDP, Head of UN Women Sub Office Quetta, Jazz respectively spoke on the risks that automatically arise with the increase in technology in the society, namely the risks and dangers for women as well as the increasing digital divide in the nation.

The participants then broke out into the first working session wherein different themes were discussed and the final outcome was then pre-sented by respective

groups. Ms. Fauzia Shaheen, Chairperson of the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women then gave a vote of thanks.

A levies man killed in an armed attack in Chaman

Sardar M,Khondai

A levies man was killed when armed killed when armed accused attacked a levies station in Chaman, Pakistan's bordering city with Afghanistan. A senior administration

official told Daily Quetta Voice the terrorists attacked a levies station in the Killi Sohbat Khan area of Chaman district. He preferred not to be named.He said a levies man deployed inside the thana embraced martyr-The attackers dom. escaped unhurt from the spot. Levies and person-



nel of the frontier corps reached the spot as an incident went underway. Security was tightened in and around the bordering city in the aftermath of the terrorist attack repeatedly targeted law enforcement agencies personnel in the area

Two soldiers martyred in exchange of fire with terrorists in North Waziristan: ISPR

Two Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred in the Spinwam area of North Waziristan tribal district during a gunfight with terrorists, the mili-tary's media affairs wing said on Monday. The statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)

identified the martyrs as 25-year-old Sepoy Imran Ullah from Bajaur and 21-year-old Sepoy Afzal Khan from Upper Dir. "On 26 February, an exchange of fire took



place between terrorists and security forces in the general area of Spinwam, North Waziristan district Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists'

location," the ISPR said.
"Resultantly, two ter-ronsts were killed, while two terrorists were appreammunition. Web Desk

Retired general Amjad Shoaib remanded in police custody for 3 days for 'inciting hatred against institutions'

An Islamabad district and sessions court on Monday granted the police a three-day remand of defence analyst and retired Lieutenant General Amjad Shoaib, following his arrest after a magistrate registered a case against him on charges of inciling the public against state institutions. The first information report (FIR), a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, was lodged at the Ramna police station by Magistrate Owais Khan a day ago, It invokes section 153A (promoting ennity between different groups, etc.) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Pakistan Penal Code. The com-



plaint said that the retired general — in an interview on BOL TV show 'Imran Khan Bol Kay Saath' aired on Saturday (Feb 25) — passed statements that "incited the government officials and opposition from performing their government and legal duties". Following his arrest, the retired lieutenant general was presented in the court of Judicial Magistrate Abbas Shah where Ramna police station's investigation officer (IO) and Prosecutor Adnan were also present. The legal team representing the retired general — comprising Advocate Mudassir Khalid Abbasi. Web Desk

QUETTA VOICE

The Barkhan tragedy

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

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 officially announced that they (Khan Muhammad's family members) were

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.

The Secretary General of the Marri Itehad, Jehangir Marri on the 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.

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 was 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 changes 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 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 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

camp despite security threats and against his family's protests, he said. His hard work said. His hard work paid off when he was selected for the B a l o c h i s t a n 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,

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 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 jour-nalism student at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University. She is pas-sionate about journalism and wants to tell the important stories of Balochistan.

Time for an election

By Mosharraf Zaidi

The polycrisis in Pakistan rages on Urgent questions agitate the con-dition of the Pakistani. A sovereign default may not be imminent, but an exis-tential economic crisis has raged for months, perhaps years - depend-ing on who is measuring what. How long before economic difficulties economic difficulties cause major social unrest

The dissolution of the Punjab Assembly means that an already frayed federal compact could be tested more severely than at any stage since the 7th NFC Award and the 18th Amendment. How much dissonance between provinces and across the federation can the existing system bear before subnational narratives and movements emerge as key variables in gover-

nance? The terrorism of the TTP has surged in recent weeks. Can the country continue to send its soldiers and police personnel in harm's way without a coherent, politically feasible counter terrorism

strategy in place? Significant chunks of post disaster reconstruction remain pending from the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 floods. Will the reconstruction of the damage caused by the climate change induced superfloods of 2022 fol-low a different trajectory?

Afghanistan is relatively stable after nearly four decades, but short periods of stability there have always produced long

periods of instability. Will the Taliban be able to sustain their control over Afghanistan's territory in a manner that eventually leads to the end of terrorist sanctuar-

ies in that country? Saudi Arabia is chang-ing rapidly, and for the better. Does the millennial leadership of Pakistan's most vital

strategic partner have the appetite to continue deal-ing with the dysfunction the dinosaurs of the Pakistani military and civilian elite?

China has responded to the domestic pressures that the strict Covid-19 lockdown in there had generated by opening up to travel. Suddenly there hope that economic growth forecasts could be revised upward. Will a once-again growing China revert to the pre-pandemic laissez faire infrastructure financing binge in countries like Pakistan?

There isn't an obvious right or wrong answer to any of these questions. Many of the determinants of these questions lie out-side the jurisdiction of Pakistan or Pakistanis. Yet there is one thing common to them all, They are substantial questions. Can a weak and internally contradictory government, scared of its own shadow, try answer such questions?

Not even a little bit. Pakistan has been aching for a free and fair election since 2018. The only way the country has any chance at tackling these questions is by conducting a truly free and

fair election. Only a gov-ernment with a fresh mandate – even if such a mandate is conjured up through a coalition - can attempt to tackle these challenges. Absent the public's renewed confi-dence through an elec-tion, there is no version of Pakistan that will work

Of course, an election and a new mandate, even a thumping majority, do not guarantee that the resulting government will be able to tackle these questions capably. But they will be able to tackle them the way they want, the way the Pakistani wants. Since 2018, the decision of the military leadership to install a government of its own liking in Islamabad has meant that elected civil-ian leaders have neither the full agency to sink or swim on their own, nor the liability to be answerable for their decisions.

Imran Khan's populari-ty after losing the vote of no-confidence in 2022 is not easily explicable or replicable, but it is not entirely drawn from his charisma nor the appeal of Khan's lies about a global anti-Khan conspiracy. It is also not hinged on the anti-military tone on the anti-military tone that Khan adopted after being dumped by his once-upon-a-time patrons. What does explain some of Khan's appeal since 2022 is that he very clearly aligned all his weaknesses with the military leadership and all his strengths as his

own.
It seems unlikely that
the PML-N or PPP can
pull off such sophisticat-

ed and effective political messaging in the weeks and months to come - but there should no doubt about their attempts to do so in the not-too-distant future. Both PDM members will attempt to distance themselves from the cool shade of the military's bosom under which they currently reside. This is a manoeuvre both parties have honed over decades, and one that Khan has masterfully taken from under

their noses. The military may have gotten too used to having all power in Pakistan flow to it and through it. Things that feel good are easy to catch and hard to quit. Claims of the military being neutral or having dissociated from poli-tics were clearly greatly exaggerated.
All of these factors make an early and imme-

diate general election even more imperative. No one in Pakistan should be more keen for a free, fair and credible general election than the general election than the military – so it can rid itself of the stench of the post 2016 era and the mistakes' of 2018, 2022 and everything before, during and after. But as ever there are vultures and parasites lined up from here to eternity, ready to argue against the most obvious way for-ward for the country. Three of the arguments merit dismantling, early and often.

The first and most frequent argument against an immediate election is the one used by many that are understandably con-

vinced that absent a PTI victory, Imran Khan will refuse to accept the out-come of any election. This is true and has been proven in 2013. But what happened in 2014 was more important. Khan camped out, kind of, at D Chowk - and he huffed and puffed as is his wont but he could not blow this house down. An electorally legitimate Nawaz Sharif survived the triple threat of Tahirul Qadri, Imran Khan and the invisible hand of Pakistani politics. Winners aren't whiners. Hold a free and fair election. The loser won't have the correction to the correction. the capacity to

destabilize or undermine a real winner - just like 2014. Besides, if Khan is not going to accept any-thing but a victory, then holding an election in October 2023 or holding it in April 2023 will make no difference. Hold the election. As soon as pos-The second argument against an immediate announcement of elec-

tions is that the country and its economy aren't stable enough for an election. But this was true a choppy year ago, and the economy has gotten worse since then. Yes, Shaukat Tarin lined the Finance Division with landmines, Questions galore. but Ishaq Dar is doing the same. The economy can-not recover without difficult decisions that require the electorate's mandate. The desperate retired uncles arguing otherwise as they salivate at the prospects of an unelected cabal of technocrats tak-

Great debates

By Murtaza Solangi So can we. Will we? Will

finally entered the most trying times of our history Economic meltdown with no sign of relief, extreme political polarization and instability combined with

rising terrorism - are all on full display. There is also pressure on various stakeholders after the failed Imran project, and they are sandwiched between attacks from the PTI of Imran Khan and the dis-senting voices from the current coalition. current coalition. Governance is breaking down, ungoverned spaces are popping up all over the country, and the peo-

ple are fast losing hope.

Moral degeneration
and the crime rate are on the rise due to despondency. And the bigotry nurtured over the decades has become an uncontrolled monster manifest-ing itself in the most ugly incidents like the one in Nankana Sahib recently. The great disorder under the sun asks for great leadership. Do we have it? Can we rise up? Can we sail through these waters?

In terms of economic hardships, this probably is the worst time in the three quarters of a centu-ry of Pakistan. The country today looks friendless in the comity of nations thanks to the policies of our power elite. We might avoid a proverbial default after agreeing to the most shameful conditions put up by the IMF, but our problems are not going away even after the IMF

programme goes through. Can we agree on an economic reform agenda to avoid international humiliation and put our country on the path of economic resurgence? We are bordered with the markets of around three billion people to our north and the east. Can we transform our economy to cater to the market needs of just those two neighbours as well as restructure our economy to be a useful part of the global value chain?

These are questions of our survival. Can we create a national consensus on these issues and issue a national economic charter across party lines and commit to our people as the way forward after the elections? The same old same old won't work. In order to reach the consensus, a series of great debates on mainstream and social media are needed. Will our media find time for these useful debates about the very future of our people or continue to get bogged down with silly shouting matches of 'he said he

A cursory look at world history tells us that nations have experienced the worst times of their history including wars and great depression before but only countries with wise leadership and foresight have sailed through. During these depressing times, people with resources to survive have to help other people. That will help a country from soine down a spiral form. from going down a spiral of anarchy. People around the world have stood with their people in distress.

our power elites open their wallets and hearts to help the people of their own country to survive this troubling time? We have seen countries

disappear from the world map despite the mighty military power they used to have. The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia don't exist today. This happens also when reli-gious, linguistic, ethnic and cultural diversity is not treated as a strength. The same diversity becomes your death war-rant if you don't appreci-ate and celebrate it.

Pakistan continues to

develop the population time bomb with every passing day. With no resources available to develop human resources, we continue piling up large crowds of ignorant, unskilled and unhealthy people. unhealthy people. Combine this with the historic nurturing of big-otry and religious intolerance, and we are fast becoming a global nui-

The Pakistan passport today has become one of the most undesirable documents. We need a national consensus on population control as well as the state's equal oppor-tunity to people of all faiths and no preferential faiths and no preferential treatment to any religious group. That is what Jinnah preached on August 11, 1947 while addressing the constituent assembly. Can we educate our people about that in our congregations, homes and other places? Will our media become a source of enlightenment. source of enlightenment and promote.

To survive and prosper

Dr Akmal Hussain & Dr Khalid Malik

That Pakistan is in a profound economic and political crisis is no longer in dispute. Most observers and economists are united in that opinion. What to do about it is less clear. The Chinese character for risk is closely related to opportunity, which is more accurately defined as a 'crucial point when some-

thing begins to change'.
Will it? We hope so. This article is more about 'what' needs to change.

about what needs to change.

There are two distinct thoughts about the current economic crisis. One: adjust now, stabilize the economy and then restart the growth process. Let us call this the traditional view. This thinking underlines the IMF programme: let the exchange rate be determined by market forces, curtail expenditures, increase taxes and so on. Each time this logic has been followed, the subsequent growth spurt hits the foreign exchange barrier with the under-performing export sector seen as the basic culprit. Technical discussions abound about export subsidies being inefficient, and/or the need to revamp the export sector, especially textiles.

The second approach, less successful of late, is to rely on the largesse of friends -China, UAE and Saudi Arabia. And, in earlier days, the USA. The thinking being that the
country can scrape through without major
structural changes in the Pakistan economy
or in the ability of the ruling elite to maintain
their global lifestyles.

their global lifestyles. The government has tried hard to pursue a mix of the two strategies, but it has become abundantly clear that the IMF option is the

only option left.
Will that be enough? Will that lay the base for future prosperity? Will that shift the econ-

omy and society in 'putting people first'?

A quick review of successful development experiences, including South Korea and China, highlight some deeper more critical factors than just macroeconomic issues of balanced budgets and higher tax-to-GDP ratios. These include: a determined long-term policy perspective since development is all about transforming society and the economy; enhancing capabilities, by investing in people, and, by recognizing that social policy is as important as economic policy in this trans-

One, establish (and adequately fund) effec-tive public education and health systems. No

country, bar none, has succeeded in develop-ing without a functioning public education

In a land with little social protection, pur-suing universal health coverage with a focus on the poor is the right step to take now.

There are structural and funding issues which need to be urgently addressed for both subjects. Current income support programmes for instance not only need to be substantially enhanced but have to be condi-tioned on enhancing capabilities.

Two, fix the agricultural sector. First, tax agricultural income, especially since almost 70 per cent of the land is in the hands of large

and medium farmers.

It is a myth (and little evidence) to argue that large farms are more productive than small farms. A cursory look at why East Punjab has done so much better than West Punjab shows that structural changes (land reforms) and incentives (and more educated next generation farmers) are at the heart of

the differences.

If 'putting people first' is our defining slo-If putting people first is our defining slogan, then it is time to support small farmers (defined as less than 7.5 acres) which form 78 per cent of farmers and 32 per cent of total farm area. Start by reallocating state land to poor farmers, with strong technical support for seeds, fertilizer, and advice.

Initiate and scale up a Rural Employment Character programme, ensuring the core

Guarantee programme, enshrining the core idea of employment as a basic right. And, through this, provide a necessary injection of purchasing power into the rural economy, especially for the landless and those affected by the floods. Three, restructure the export sector.

Without getting into a long debate about subsidies, set up a five-year transition plan on a subsidy draw-down, with an agreed structural transition and diversification towards high value added, knowledge intensive exports. But results are likely to take time. Four, remittances: Imagine a Pakistan economy without any remittances. The sys-

economy without any remittances. The system needs to adjust and organize better investment grade products for overseas Pakistanis. Right now, the incentives are mostly about investing in real estate.

Many innovations are possible. Take the example of Ethiopia, a non-oil producer, which set up a \$150 billion sovereign wealth fund, seeking investment for state-owned enterprises and assets as the government. enterprises and assets as the government

pushes ahead with its privatization initia-

tives.

Five, get rid of an open capital account.

Countries like China with \$3 trillion reserves have not opened their capital accounts. Why has Pakistan kept the capital account open for so long? Open accounts limit domestic policy autonomy and can deeply disrupt domes-

ing over Pakistan

tic production arrangements.

A comprehensive study about trade and financial liberalization for the 2014 Global Human Development Report concluded that 'opening up' benefits developing countries only when their human capabilities are high Later studies have reconfirmed this essential point. Even in the EU accession process, less advanced countries like Romania and Bulgaria have tried to argue for selective cap-

ital controls There has been some talk in Pakistan about a one per cent economy. But a deeper con-cern is about a Pakistani elite, which feels as global as any, able to travel and co-exist in UK, US and Dubai spaces. Indeed, many Pakistani business operators tend to have a business base overseas as well. Even experienced Pakistani economists have tended to consider western practices in looking at cur-rent policies, rather than critically examining what has worked in other developing countries and applying those lessons to Pakistan. For a 220 million country we appear to be driven by the needs and values of a few mil-

on people at the most. Six, fiscal space: It goes without saying eliminate all the special SROs, and the associated giveaways (unearned incomes or rents). The last National Human Development Report (for Pakistan) estimated an annual cost of \$70 billion dollars in these legal giveaways to the elites, which contrasts with half that estimated amount for corruption. Just stop!

Rethink the centre-province fiscal arrange-ments, set 'checkable' development standards for expenditures which may also minimize political largesse, and require provinces to raise their own tax revenues as matching funds.It could well be, as has been argued elsewhere, that these steps may not be enough and that a deeper fiscal surgery is now required. There is talk of reducing non-combat military expenditures. What needs to be kept in mind in this regard is that only the government in consultation with the nation's military has the sovereign right to determine the details regarding the financial operational capability of its forces. Not the IMF.

Inequality and hunger

eginning on May 24, the W o r I d Economic Forum is gath-ering in Davos, Switzerland for an in-per-son meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion. Thanks to protests and new research, however, participants will not be participants will not be able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth during the pandemic.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality org have documented over the last two years of a clobal pandam.

years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry, Oxfam found that billion-

aires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farm-

ers.
In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those at just 2 percent for those

with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billion-aires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to life year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world, and deliver universal health-care and social protections for all the citizens of lowand lower-middle-income countries.

A group of over 150 millionaires released a strong statement calling on Davos attendees to face the dangers of runaway wealth inequality and speak out in favor of national efforts to levy progressive income and wealth taxes on the ultra-wealthy. "The truth is that 'Davos' doesn't deserve the world's trust right now," the statement reads. "For all the countless hours spent talking about making the world a better place, the conference has produced little tangible value amidst a torrent of

self-congratulations."
"Until participants acknowledge the simple, effective solution staring them in the face - taxing the rich - the people of the world will continue to see their so-called dedication to fixing the world's prob-lems as little more than a

performance." The letter is signed by actor and activist Mark Ruffalo, as well as sup-porters of the In Tax We Trust movement including Abigail Disney, Morris Pearl, and Nick Hanauer. These millionaires delivered the In Tax We Trust

By Chuck Collins letter directly to the World Economic Forfum offices in New York and Geneva, and attended pro-taxation demonstrations at the out-

skirts of the elite com-pound in Davos itself.

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In January, an analysis In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billionaires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world

Educationist shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI: Undenied attackers shot dead a senior educationist and deputy director of private school system in a targeted killing on Sunday night Gulistan-i-Jauhar

According to the police source, the slain Syed Khalid Raza, 55 was the deputy director of the Darul Arqam Schools system of the Karachi region and was also the vice chairman of the Federation of Private Schools Pakistan.

The police said the incident took place out-side Raza's house in Gulistan-e-Jauhar Block-7. As soon as the victim came out from his home toward his car. suddenly unidentified assailants reached him and intercepted him. Raza inquired why they had stopped him. The assailants opened fire on him and fled

Raza suffered a bullet wound in the head and

died on the spot. The police shifted his dead body to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for a post-mortem examination.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah took notice of the target-ed killing, directing the Karachi police chief to

investigate the case. Governor Kamran Tessori also took notice the incident and sought a report from the police.

The police said the

incident took place out-side Raza's house in Gulistan-e-Jauhar Block-7. As soon as the victim came out from his home toward his car, suddenly unidentified assailants reached him and intercepted him.
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him and fled.
Raza suffered a bullet

Raza suffered a bullet wound in the head and died on the spot.INP

Pakistan International Container Terminal profits dip: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD:Pakista n International Container (PICT) revenue inched up 7% to Rs8.8 billion in the first nine months of the calendar year 2022 from Rs8.3 billion over the same period of the year

The company had one per cent loss in its gross profit, which pushed down to Rs3.7 billion in 9MCY22 from Rs3.8 billion in the corresponding period of the year ago. The profit-before-taxa-

tion, however, saw a big jump of 190% in 9MCY22 and reached Rs3.5 billion compared to Rs1.2 billion in the corre-

But, the profit-after-taxation fell by 14% to Rs2.2 billion in 9MCY22 from Rs2.5 billion over the corresponding period the corresponding period of CY21, reports WealthPK. Global economic chal-

lenges continued to be reflected in high international commodity prices due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the changes in the global geopolitical environment. cant devaluation of the rupee and other fiscal measures.

Moreover, as per the World Bank's report, the cataclysmic floods in Pakistan caused economic damage on a massive scale to the country's already teetering econo-my. The floods damaged crops and caused a dip in food exports. Imports also contracted due to pressure on foreign exchange.

Consequently, Pakistan container market volumes witnessed a considerable decline during the nine months period that ended

on September 30, 2022. It is to mention here that the company handled 286,608 containers dur-ing 9MCY22 compared to 367,302 containers in 9MCY21. While excess capacity available at Karachi Port is a challenge for the company, it is being mitigated through various commercial and operational strategies backed up by continued quality servic-

The company remains determined to provide enduring value to all its stakeholders and has con-

over the past few years. Earnings per share was Rs24.48 in 2020, which further Rs31.05 increased to in 2021. Earnings growth was also on the higher side in 2020 and 2021.

Profitability In relation to its rev-nue, Pakistan enue. International Container Terminal Ltd has had a healthy net profit margin over the past four years. Despite hefty taxes and service costs, the business maintained strong profit margins. The year 2021

had the greatest net profit margin of Rs30.54%. Company Profile Pakistan International Container Terminal was ncorporated as a private limited company. It is mainly engaged in providing container terminal management services. It has a Build-Operate-Transfer contract with Karachi Port Trust for the exclusive construction, development, operations and management of a common user container terminal at Karachi Port for a period of 21 years commencing June 18



QUETTA: Metropolitan Corporation activities' of hold protest in favor of their

Fifth Generation Warfare implications are dire and serious: speakers

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a programme on the Fifth Generation Warfare organized for students of different universities in Islamabad said that the enemy is trying to create chaos in ranks and files by targeting our minds through hybrid generation warfare.

The programme was organized by the Youth Council Pakistan The speakers includ-ing Hurriyat-AJK leaders, civil society activists and intellectuals said that it would not be wrong to say that at this time Pakistan is once again under the influence of the fifth generation war.

Earlier, during the war time, they said, the target of the enemy used to be the army of a country, but now the target of the enemy is not the forces of a

recommendations of the short-

LAHORE:

polls.

country, but directly the people, and goals are achieved by con-trolling their thinking and under-

standing abilities.

In fifth generation war, the real facts are completely distorted, differences are exaggerated. lies and truth are mixed and poured into people's minds, the speakers said The speakers said that in the

ifth generation war, the enemy uses soft powers like lobbying, propaganda, proxy, diplomacy, TV, radio, newspaper, social TV, radio, newspaper, social media instead of their planes, tanks and missiles. They said that the war is not fought on the ground but in the minds. They maintained that the fifth generation warfare is actually a war of ideas, culture and information. The objectives of this war are

PTI shortlists candidates

from Lahore for polls

very dangerous and horrible, they added. The speakers said that under the influence of fifth generation

warfare, a citizen is forced to think that the state and state institutions are not worthy of trust. They pointed out that the alarming report of the European Jnion on the Disinfo Lab has shaken the world. In this report, India's true face has been exposed as to how it has been Pakistan and Kashmir for the last several years. Kashmiri Hurriyat leader

Abdul Hameed Lone on the occasion said that the youth should not neglect their responsibilities but should play their role to defeat the propaganda of the enemy INP

attendance

KARACHI: Several schools in Karachi are closed, while few are open with a low attendance on

Court accepts

Imran Khan's

exemption plea in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD : A sessions

court in Islamabad accepted for-mer prime minister and PTI chair-

man Imran Khan's exemption plea

for one day in the Toshakhana

As per details, the court announced the reserved verdict and Babar Awan assured the court

that PTI chief Imran Khan will

appear before court tomorrow.
The court also rejected the plea
to summon Imran Khan's medical
reports from PIMS.

reports from PIMS.

Earlier, the sessions court in Islamabad reserved verdict on the former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan's plea to transfer the hearing of the Toshakhana case from district Kachehri to judicial complex.INP

Karachi schools

open with low

Monday.

The Karachi Private Schools
Association following the killing
of its deputy director announced to keep schools closed today in profest

As per reports, the students at a few schools were asked to return to their homes due to the suspen-sion of educational activities. It may be noted that the Sindh educa-

tion department announced to keep schools open in Karachi today. The spokesperson of the Sindh education department had said that the school would remain open on Monday (today).

Some media reports suggested that the private schools decided to close education institutions after the killing of an office bearer of the private schools association in Karachi INP

Rao Anwar seeks removal of his name from ECL

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday served notice to the interior ministry over Rao Anwar's petition to remove his name from the exit control list

A three-member bench of the SC Justice Ijazul Ahsan heard the petition of former SSP-Malir

Lawyer of Rao Anwar in his plea submitted to the SC stated that the case against his client has been dismissed on which grounds his name was placed on the



QUETTA: Junior Teacher Association hold protest in favor of their

In effort to promote diversity, Bohra community arranges food fest to present their cultural richness

KARACHI: Different communities have their unique ways to cook and serve food. Pakistan is a country rich in ethnic and cultural diversity with people belonging to a variety

of communities. Karachi, Pakistan's largest city in terms of population. the diversity and uniqueness are even more as this is a metropolitan with almost

25 million people. Karachi's Bohra community has its unique way of preparing and serving food to the people of other groups. This year the Dawoodi's Bohra Dawoodi's Bohra Community arranged the food festival from

February 24 to 26 at the North Walk Mall in the city Nazimabad's neighbourhood.

multiple range with Bohra chicken, Bohra biryani, cutlets, malai khaja, khaosay, gur papdi, bharta, sev puri, paani puri, dosa, pao bhaji, vada pao, and beverages topped the list.

The important aspect about the food fest was a specific way the people consumed food - by adopting Bohra's adopting Bohra's style. In this particular way, eight people sat around one thaal (a large tray) and enjoyed their food. The event organiz-

ers said that the major purpose behind the fest was to make peo-ple familiar with the foods of Bohra com-The food was of munity.

said efforts would be made to make it a yearly event as it promoted diversity and cultural richness.A lot of people attended the event and, meanwhile, there were gaming stations for the children so that whole families take part with the entry fee of only Rs100.

The people said the price of the offered foods was not expensive as compared to the other outlets and there were Gujrati also dishes served.INP

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) shortlisted its candidate from Lahore for the upcoming gen-eral elections on Monday. The PTI had compiled the tickets from Lahore.

listed candidates for Lahore for the upcoming general A non-final list had been prepared for 13 national and 25 provincial constituencies in the Lahore district. The PTI had recommended the reissuance of tickets to most of the former lawmakers. The leader of Narowal on one seat of the National Assembly from

Force will remain fresh in minds of the Hindutva rulers in India as even the incident completed four whole

A report released by Kashmir Media Service on the occasion said that it was on 27 February 2019 when ndian Prime Minister Narendra Modi influenced by Hindutva ideology launched a cowardly attack in Balakot, a day ago. 24 hours had not passed when

Pakistan Air Force made Modi to bite the dust through its 'Operation Swift Retort', the very next day on February 27, 2019. 'Operation Swift Retort' was launched as a befitting reply to the misadventure of fas-cist Modi regime whose air force violated Pakistan air-

space on the night of 26 Feb 2019 and launched an attack in Balakot. The myth of India's conventional military superiority was decimated by the PAF when it

shot down 2 IAF aircraft in a dogfight and caught an Indian pilot, Abhinandan, alive. Pakistan's triumph in the brief air combat on 27 Feb 2019 will continue to

haunt India. The 'Operation Swift Retort' confused Indian Air Force so much so that its air defence system

shot down own helicopter killing crew including pilot sending loud and clear message INP

Usman Buzdar's interim bail

extended till March 7

LAHORE: An accountability court (AC) has extend-

ed the interim bail of former Punjab CM Usman Buzdar in assets beyond means case.

As per details, the court ordered the former chief minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar to become part of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) investi-

The accountability court scolded the NAB prosecu-

The NAB prosecutor informed the court that a writ-

ten answer was sent to the former CM Punjab Buzdar

but he did not become part of the investigation.
The court told Usman Buzdar to become part of the

investigation today but the PTI leader urged the court

to extend his bail for 10 days as he had to attend a wed-ding in Dera Ghazi Khan. The judge remarked that don't make excuses. At this, Buzdar said that attending

a wedding is not an excuse. The court told the former CM Punjab Usman Buzdar if he did not become part of

the NAB investigation then the court will not provide

tor for not providing an inquiry copy to Buzdar and said that the accused should know what he is accused

years, today, on 27 February 2023

Two current members of the Senate were also in the race for the National Assembly

Wajid Azeem and Abrarul Haq were candidates from NA Ghulam Mohiuddin Dewan and Muhammad Khan Madani were candidates from NA 124. Dr Yasmin was a candidate from NA 125. Former Federal Minister Hammad Azhar was a candidate from NA 126. Jamshed Iqbal Cheema, Hamid Miraj, and Misa Ibad Farana wara candi Mian Ibad Farooq were candi-dates from NA 127. Usman Hamza Awan from NA 128. Mian Akram Usman, Humayun Akhtar Khan and Senator Waleed Igbal were

130, Humayun Akhtar Khan and Ali Imtiaz Waraich from NA 131, Chaudhary Mansha Sindhu from NA 132, Senator Ejaz Chaudhary, Jamshed Iqbal Cheema, and Atif Chaudhary from NA 133, Zaheer Abbas Khokhar from NA 134. From PP 145 - Mahmood-

also candidates from NA 129.

Shafqat Mehmood from NA

ur-Rashid, Farooq Khan, and Abrar Khan, From PP 148 Hafiz Zeeshan Rashid. From PP 151 - Mian Aslam Iqbal. From PP 159 - Dr Murad Raas. From PP 160 - Mahmood-ur-Rashid. From PP 163 - Hafiz Farhat Abbas and Bilal Aslam Bhatti INP



Research, Tariq Bashir Cheema meeting a Kenyan delegation.

Dasu HPP creates over 2,600 jobs for the local: WAPDA

under-construction Hydropower Dasu Project (DHPP) in the Upper Kohistan district Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has created at least 2,664 jobs for the local community, the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) stated, Gwadar Pro reported According to WAPDA, DHPP will accommodate more people in the coming days from the local area, which is one of the backward regions of the country. Currently, over 3,700 people (including 2,664 locals)

have been given jobs

ISLAMABAD: The

during the peak construction period, the number of jobs will be increased to 8,000 with the majority from the local areas.

Meanwhile, the work on the project sites is underway to meet the 2026 deadline for power generation.

The under-construction sites include diversion tunnels (Indus River water has been recently diverted to one of the tunnels while one is under construction) underground powerhouse, a flushing and traffic tunnel, right bank access roads, 132 KV transmission line, WAPDA colony, and

China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) has working on DHPP as the Main Works Contractor since 2017, which is one of the top green and low-cost energy projects in the

country

It is apt to mention that upon completion, Dasu will become the project with the highest annual energy genera-tion in Pakistan. tion in Pakistan. WAPDA is spending funds on schemes relating to resettlement, environmental management, and social development in the project area. INP

Micro and macro-level interventions needed to rein in inflation: WealthPK on a year-on-year (YoY) basis, compared to 21.6% ISLAMABAD: The 9% of the population survive, as they bear the is below the poverty line. brunt of the dispropor-

food inflation crisis in Pakistan is having a drastic impact on the country's poverty rate, which can be mitigated through micro and macro-level interventions from the government, says an eco-

nomic expert.
While talking to
WealthPK, Dr Shujaat
Farooq, Dean at Pakistan
Institute of Development Economics, said the unprecedented inflation has significantly impeded
the standard of living of
the Pakistani populace.
According to the
Pakistan Economic
Survey published by the

Ministry of Finance,

In addition, a significant 17% of the population is currently facing food insecurity, a situation with severe repercussions for the health and welfare of the nation.

Data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) shows an alarming trend in the country's inflation rates. Data indicates that rural areas in Pakistan are experiencing significantly higher CPI (consumer price index) inflation than their urban

counterparts. In January 2023, the CPI inflation rate in urban areas rose to 24.4% during the previous month, and a sharp surge from 13% in January 2022.

However, the CPI inflation rate in rural areas was even more staggering, reaching 32.3% on a YoY basis in January 2023, up from 28.8% in the previous month and 12.9% in January 2022.

"Inflation has dealt a blow to the already struggling low-income house-holds," Dr Shujaat said and added that the current economic crisis has made it increasingly difficult for these households to tionate burden imposed

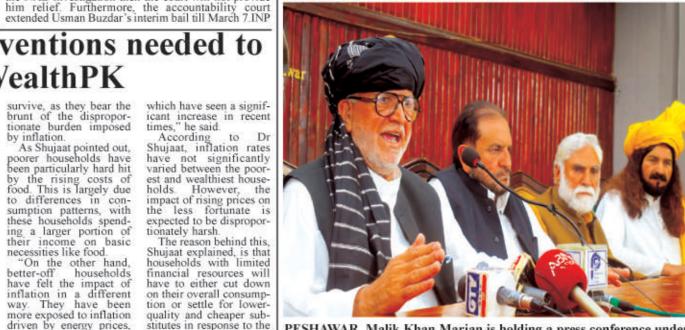
by inflation. As Shujaat pointed out, poorer households have een particularly hard hit by the rising costs of food. This is largely due to differences in consumption patterns, with these households spending a larger portion of their income on basic necessities like food.

"On the other hand, better-off households have felt the impact of inflation in a different way. They have been more exposed to inflation driven by energy prices, particularly fuel prices,

which have seen a significant increase in recent times," he said.

According to Dr Shujaat, inflation rates have not significantly varied between the poorest and wealthiest house-holds. However, the impact of rising prices on the less fortunate is expected to be disproportionately harsh. The reason behind this

Shujaat explained, is that households with limited financial resources will have to either cut down on their overall consumption or settle for lower quality and cheaper sub-stitutes in response to the mounting costs.INP



PESHAWAR, Malik Khan Marjan is holding a press conference under the auspices of All Tribal Jirga.

BHC rejects bail plea of Gwadar's Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Monday rejected post arrest bail plea of Gwadar's Haq do Tehreek (HDT) leader Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman.

Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman was arrested last month by police on charges of inciting violence and other cases registered against him.

registered against him.

A bench of the high court comprised of the Chief Justice and Justice Gul Hassan Tareen ruled over the petition.

The court observed that the rights' movement was turned into a violent campaign over inciting by the petitioner and a policeman was murdered. "The life of a police constable is as precious as of a political worker or leader,"

"It seems the petitioner has been involved in the crime, so as he could not be granted concession of bail," the

Hidayat-ur-Rehman and three other persons, including Naseeb Nosherwani and Hassan Murad, were taken into

custody from the premises of the court.

Police booked Haq Do Tehreek leader Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman on charges of murder, attempt to murder,

inciting people for violence and other charges.

The provincial government attempted to hold negotiations with the protesters, led by Haq Do Tehreek (HDT), but the situation turned violent in the last week of December after a policeman was shot dead by unidentified



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira and Governor Gilgit Baltistan call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif..

Banned outfit target killer arrested in Karachi

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Karachi while conducting an operation has arrested a staunch activist of a banned organiza-tion in the Garden area of Karachi last

According to CTD, the arrested accused Muhammad Siddiq was involved in various criminal activities of communal target killing and belongs to the banned organization

Lashkar Jhangvi.
CTD told that the accused Siddiq on slight rebuking by his Bohari Seth Ghulam Murtaza kidnapped and killed

in 2004. In another case the accused also killed Ayub Naqvi, the owner of a bookshop, on his way home in 2010.

CTD officials told that after these targeted killings by him, police conducted several raids at the house of the accused to arrest him but the accused. accused to arrest him, but the accused was hiding in Hyderabad for fear of arrest. As the accused returned to Karachi a few days ago, CTD caught him and handed him over to the police for legal action and further interrogations. INP

Investigators suspect 'foreign hand' in Khalid Raza's killing

KARACHI: The investigators sus-pected a 'foreign hand' in the killing of vice chairman of the Federation of Private Schools, Syed Khalid Raza, outside his residence in Karachi, ARY News reported on Monday

As per details, the initial investiga-tion of the education expert Khalid Raza's murder stated that the murder was planned and the suspects carried out recce before killing Khalid Raza.

The investigation officials said that modern weapons were used in the murder and the bullets were not used in any attack before.

The investigators are trying to get the footage of the suspects' route INP

Islamabad court seeks security on Imran Khan's appearance

ISLAMABAD: The banking court on Monday sought security from the IG police ahead of former prime minister Imran Khan's court appearance on February 28 (tomorrow), ARY News reported.

In a letter penned by the registrar of the banking court, Abdul Wahab, the IG police Islamabad has been asked to provide security on the occasion of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman

Imran Khan's appearance.

The case registered under Foreign Exchange Act is sensitive, therefore adequate security should be ensured on February 28 for the court and its staff. It may be noted that the Islamabad high court (IHC) ordered the former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan to appear before chairman Imran Khan to appear before court on February 28 in a prohibited funding case INP

Plea filed in LHC to stop nab chairman appointment

LAHORE: A plea has been filed in Lahore High Court (LHC) to stop the appointment of new National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman. As per details, the plea was filed by advocate Azhar Sadiq in Lahore High Court against the appointment of new chairman NAB. The plea stated that notices has been issued on the that notices has been issued on the appointment of the opposition leader Raja Riaz and the new chairman NAB has resigned from his post. The chair-man National Accountability Bureau is appointed with the consultation of the Prime Minister and opposition leader but a letter has been sent to President and speaker National Assembly that the appointment of opposition leader is not under the law. The plea further stated that the PTI has already written a letter that PTI has already written a letter that they want to bring their opposition leader. So whatever consultation.INP

Over 62,000 parents refuse polio vaccine in January drive

ISLAMABAD: In the nation-wide polio vaccination campaign from January 02-29 over 62 thousand parents refused vaccination to their children.

The anti-polio campaign, which was held in January in three phases, 62,411 parents refused to administer polio vaccine to their

children.
Most of the parents who refused polio vaccine to their children were belong to Sindh, according to sources. In Sindh 37,008 par-ents refused polio vaccine, while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 20,305 parents refused vaccine adminis-

Moreover, in Balochistan 4,902 parents, in Islamabad 141 families and in Punjab 36 parents refused polio vaccine administration to their children.

According to the figures shared by the authorities in Karachi East 2.4 percent, Korangi district 1.2 pct, Karachi South 1.1 pct, Keamari district 1.3 pct, Karachi Central 1.7 pct and in Malir dis-trict 0.9 pct parents refused vaccine in the polio vaccination cam-

In Hyderabad district 0.2 pct families' refused administration of polio vaccine to their children.

The drive was started after sewage samples in Lahore tested positive for wild poliovirus in January

According to the national polio lab at the National Institute of Health, the first positive sample of 2023 was detected on January 19 and was genetically linked to the poliovirus found in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan in November 2022.

This was the first evidence of cross-border transmission in more than a year. The second positive sample was reported on January 27, which was genetically linked 27, which was genetically linked to a virus circulating in southern KP.INP

Around 60 migrants including 28 Pakistanis die in boat wreck off Italy

PARIS: Around 60 migrants including 28 Pakistanis died after their overloaded boat sank early on Sunday in stormy seas off Italy's southern Calabria region.

Pakistan's embassy in Italy con-firmed the death of 28 citizens and 12 bodies are still missing. For information regarding the incident, the Embassy of Pakistan can be contacted via WhatsApp at

Oliginal of the confirmed victims was 59," Vincenzo Voce, mayor of the coastal city of Crotone, told TV channel Sky TG-24 on Sunday afternoon.

Earlier, the coastguard service said "43 bodies" had been found along the coast and "80 people recovered alive, including some who managed to reach the shore

after the sinking".

The overloaded vessel broke up in violent waves off Crotone at

dawn, according to Italian media. AGI news agency quoted a rescue worker as saying an infant of just a few months old was among the victims.

Rescue workers told that the vessel was carrying "more than 200 people". Reportedly, around 40 Pakistanis were also included in the migrants and some of them have lost their lives."Dozens and dozens of people drowned, includ-ing children. Lots missing. Calabria is in mourning after this terrible tragedy," regional gover-nor Roberto Occhiuto said.Far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, the leader of the post-fas-cist Brothers of Italy party, won power in October vowing to stem the flow of migrants reaching Italian shores."The government is committed to preventing (migrant boat) departures and, with them, this type of tragedy," INP

Punjab, Sindh CMs discuss matters of mutual interest, inter-provincial coordination

LAHORE Punja Mohsin Punjab Chief Minister Naqvi Monday discussed matters of mutual interest and inter-provincial coordination with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

Mohsin Naqvi welcomed Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah upon his arrival at the Punjab CM office.

Both the CMs agreed to further promote inter-provincial coordination and harmony. They also discussed about the joint operation in the Kacha area of Punjab and Sindh.

The criminal elements in the Kacha area will be dealt with an iron hand. The operation will be brought to its logi-

"Pakistan consists of four lits, Gilgit-Baltistan and zad Kashmir Pakistan Azad belongs to all of us. Everyone should work together for the development and prosperity of the country," Mohsin Naqvi pointed out. "The need for unity and harmony is more than ever today. Pakistan will move forwith unity and consent,' he added."For the promotion of inter-provincial harmony, everyone has to forget differ-ences and be united," Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah said. He also expressed good wishes for Mohsin

cal end in the Kacha area," it was agreed during the meeting.

Minister Naqvi.INP

assailants during a demonstration.

The protesters were demanding reduction in the number of check posts, easier border trade, and a total end to deep-sea fish trawling in the sea next to Gwadar.

Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman was arrested last month by police on charges of inciting violence and other cases

A bench of the high court comprised of the Chief Justice and Justice Gul Hassan Tareen ruled over the petition.

The court observed that the rights' movement was turned into a violent campaign over inciting by the petitioner and a policeman was murdered. "The life of a police constable is as precious as of a political worker or leader," the bench observed.

"It seems the petitioner has been involved in the crime, so as he could not be granted concession of bail," the

court ruled. Hidayat-ur-Rehman and three other persons, including Naseeb Nosherwani and Hassan Murad, were taken into custody from the premises of the court. Police booked Haq Do Tehreek leader Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman on charges of murder, attempt to murder, inciting people for violence and other charges. The provincial government attempted to hold negotiations with the protesters, led by Haq Do Tehreek (HDT), but the situation turned violent in the last week of December after a policeman was shot dead by unidentified assailants during a demonstration. BUR

New wheat varieties: innovation, experience meet up at NARC: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: A new speed-breeding facility has been set up at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) to fast-track the development of more productive and climate-resilient wheat varieties,

reports WealthPK.

Despite contributing less than 1% to global green-house gas emissions, Pakistan is one of the most cli-

mate-vulnerable nations.

According to the information available with WealthPK, Pakistan's food security continues to suffer

because of climate change. Extreme weather events have seriously harmed the local crop output.

Every day, climate change poses more and more challenges. Given this serious threat, the future crops must be able to withstand this alarming situation by

utilizing new techniques and traits.

In order to meet the growing demand for food and mitigate the impact of global climate change on agriculture, the PARC is using new technologies to enhance crop yields and national food security.

Under the Wheat Productivity Enhancement project funded by the Public Sector Dayslopment Programme

funded by the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) has established its first speed breeding facility at the NARC Islamabad, to fast-track the develop-ment of more productive and climate-resilient wheat

By using this method, scientists can accelerate the development of wheat varieties that are more produc-

tive.

The protocols of this technology were published in

ANF recovers over 69 kg drugs; arrests

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in five operations managed to recover over 69 kg drugs and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that ANF conducted a raid near Islamabad Motorway and recovered 56.4 kg charras and 8.4 kg opium from the possession of four accused resident of Sialkot

In another raid, ANF seized over 2.1 kg Ice drug from the possession of a Doha-bound passen-ger resident of Khyber, arrested at Islamabad International Airport, going on flight no QR-633.

In third operation, ANF recovered two kg heroin from the possession of an accused resident of Nowshera intercepted intercepted near Motorway

informed that in fourth operation, ANF conducted a raid near Burhan Toll Plaza and managed to recover 500 grams Ice drug from the possession of two accused.

ANF and ASF in an operation at Bacha Khan operation at Bacha Khan International Airport recovered 123 grams charras from an Abu-Dhabi bound passenger going on flight no PK-217.

He said that separate cases have been regis-tered against the accused while further investigaprocess.INP

PTI MNAs challenge resignation acceptance in IHC

ISLAMABAD: Three MNAs of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have challenged the acceptance of their resig-

nation in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) The PTI MNAs, including former finance minis-ter Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz Awan and Khurram Shehzad filed a plea in the court. The plea was filed by Barrister Ali Zafar on behalf of PTI MNAs, challenging the acceptance of their resignations by NA speaker.The plea filed in the court urged to suspend the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECPs) and speaker national assembly's noti-fication. The federal government, speaker and sec-retary and speaker of the national assembly and ECP have been INP



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with graduating students and faculty during 10th Convocation ceremony at Air University.

ther exacerbated by the high cost of food imports due to flood damage, reports WealthPK.

Hence, wheat grows in two months under these cir-cumstances, giving five to six generations a year.INP Imran's claim of caretakers' partiality buried after Rajanpur bye elections: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that after the bye-elections in NA-193 Rajanpur, Imran Khan's claim of partiality of Punjab's caretaker government has been buried.

"Imran Khan's accusation that the caretaker government cannot conduct transparent and impartial elections was buried", she said using her Twitter handle.

The minister said it was a big success which Imran Khan has also elections PML-N had not fielded a candidate in NA-193 constituency. The minister said that yesterday, for the first time, 53,000 voters cast their votes for the PML-N in this constituency and thanked party

2018 by the University of Queensland, Australia and the PARC started working on it in 2019. In 2022, the PARC's speed breeding facility became fully operational at the NARC.

By using this facility, the plant breeders can speed up the breeding cycle, i.e., this facility enables 4-6 generations of wheat per year.

The primary goal is to develop high-yielding, toler-ant to climate change, and disease-resistant varieties. For example, heat, drought, and diseases don't affect

the varieties and output also increases.

As per the information available with WealthPK,

variety development is normally a continuous process

variety development is normally a continuous process. Once it is approved, the farmers get the certified seeds. "Usually, it takes 12 to 15 years to develop and register one wheat variety. Researchers must grow plants for eight generations in order to obtain superior crop varieties. After eight generations, the variety is chosen. Speed breeding expedites this by enabling the researchers to generate more generations each year. In speed breeding, a controlled environment such as controlled temperature and light is provided. For example, at the NARC facility, a photoperiod of 22 hours is provided instead of the typical 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness. Therefore, the plants

light and 12 hours of darkness. Therefore, the plants engage in photosynthesis for 22 hours a day. Temperatures at the facility range from 17 to 22 degrees Celsius and humidity levels are approximately 50 to 60%.

workers' participation.
Terming Imran a Toshakhana
thief, she said it was the habit of PTI they celebrate victory when they win but hold sit-ins outside Election Commission of Pakistan's office when they lose.

She asked if Imran would still keep on courts.INP pressurizing



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the first meeting of monitoring Committee to oversee the implementation of austerity measures, at Finance Division.

Jail Bharo Tehreek: PTI's show in Sargodha flops

SARGODHA: The 'Jail Bharo hreek' Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Tehreek' Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Monday failed in Sargodha too, as only 70 party activists surrendered themselves before the police. The PTI's key leadership of the Sargodha division like former MNA

Aamir Sultan Cheema and former provincial minister Muneeb Sultan Cheema remained reluctant to present themselves for arrest to the police.

The police continued to make announcements but the PTI leadership was not interested in the 'Jail Bharo Tehreek', and some of them had even disappeared after handing some PTI activists over to the police. The police are of the view that PTI 'Jail Bharo Tehreek' appeared to be losing steam as none of the party's leaders voluntarily surrendered themselves to the ily surrendered themselves to the police.

It is to be noted here that the PTI had started the drive on the instructions of its chairman Imran Khan.

The movement, however, received a cold response from the PTI workers,

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police. It is to be noted here that the PTI had started the drive on the instructions of its chairman Imran Khan.

The movement, however, received a cold response from the PTI workers, for a very small number of the workers

showed up to surrender to the police.INP

National Foods profit drops 51% in 1QFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: National Limited's revenue from sales decreased 4% to Rs5.6 billion in the first quarter of the ongoing financial year 2022-23 (1QFY23) from Rs5.8 billion in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. The gross profit of the company also decreased 4% to Rs1.9 billion in 1QFY23 from Rs2

billion recorded in 1QFY22.
The company posted a net profit of Rs268.4 million in 1QFY23 compared to a profit of Rs544.7 million over the corresponding period of FY22, showing a negative growth of 51% year-onyear. The first quarter of the fiscal year saw little improvement in the macroeconomic environment. Economic growth was slowed down by a protracted commodity supercycle, current account deficit, interest rates, and forex pressure. Despite a

slight decrease in the past months, inflation is still fairly high and is furcompany's gross sales soared to Rs26.8 billion from Rs23.1 billion in FY21, posting an increase of 16% year-on-year. The gross profit for FY22 stood at Rs8.97 billion, 27% up from Rs7 billion in FY21

During the fiscal year 2021-22, the

The profit-after-tax for the year went up by 55% to Rs1.96 billion from Rs1.26 billion in FY21. The earnings per share (EPS) of the

company have been on an increasing trend since 2017. In FY21, the EPS was Rs7.5, which increased to Rs10.4 in FY22. National Foods was incorporated in Pakistan on February 19, 1970, as a private limited company under the Companies Act 1913. It was subsequently converted into a public limited company under the Companies Ordinance, 1984 (now Companies Act 2017). The company is principally engaged in the manufacture and sale of convenience-based food products. The ultimate parent entity of the company is Holdings (Private) Limited INP