WWW Https:// www.quettavoice.com/

JETTA VOICE

Email adderss: dquettavoice@gmail.com

> Saturday 25 March,2023

O W Quettavoice ABC Certified



Protesters block road against gas load shedding in Quetta



Hassan Khan Niazi, Imran's nephew handed over to Quetta police

Humiliating removal of 4 VCs in Balochistan

Syed Ali Shah Analysis

In a humiliating way, four vice-chancel-lors of public universities in Balochistan were removed by the Governor/Chancellor the other day. Although, violations of laws and rules are nothing new in Balochistan, the country's least-developed but resource-rich province.

Without any inquiry or investigation, the VCs of the University of Balochistan, Balochistan Univesity of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Loralai University, and Lasbella Science and Marines University were removed from their positions

Tenure of two VCs was about to expire

The sources within the Balochistan government cited the expiry of the tenure of the two VCs as the main reason behind the

the two VCs as the main reason behind the removal. However, the two VCs' tenure was scheduled to be expired in September and October this year.

What was the reason behind this haste? The answer is simple. We are still alien to rules and regulations and consider our mighty official, political and social positions above the law.ssss

As per the Balochistan Universities Act 2022, the Governor has no power to remove VCs in such a way

As per the Balochistan Universities Act 2022, the government can initiate an inves-tigation against any VC in the case of corruption/moral corruption or illegal use of power. The government can only remove the said VC if allegations are proven against him. The Act clearly says that the VC has to be given the opportunity to



defend himself against any allegations.

Whereas, Governor Malik Abdul Wali Kakar removed all with a stroke of a pen without any investigation

Undoubtedly, there have to be no prolonged tenures of the VCs like Dr. Farooq Ahmed Bazai remained the VC for 17 years of the BUITEMS. He had to be changed. We have only an objection over the humiliating way, he was removed. There had to be a dignified and respectable way for the removal of VC who is also a teacher. Yes, there were allegations of nepotism and favouritism against Mr. Bazai.

Question marks over the capacity/credibility of SBK for recruitment of teachers

No word from the government or Governor's house about the fate of VC Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's University. There were repeated allegations against the VC SBK. Nevertheless, the VC SBK managed to meet the Governor and brief him about her university.

The SBK has also been given the task to recruit 9000 teachers. Repeated complaints came in the process of recruitment by candidates about the SBK. Most of the candidates are skeptical about the credibility of the SBK and demand the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) conduct the recruitment process. National Party, a key Baloch nationalist party has also demanded of the government to conduct tests and interviews through BPSC

Teachers' posts should be given to the BPSCNo issue if agriculture posts are filled through departments or SBK. There has to be no compromise over the future of our children and the BPSC should be given the task to appoint teachers. Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo should also translate his words into action in this

Protesters block road against gas load shedding in Quetta

Staff Reporter

QUETTA Protesters blocked various roads of Quetta, the provincial capital against prolonged and unannounced gas load shedding on Friday. The protesters took to roads and burnt tires to vent their

anger against the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC). The residents of Qambrani road blocked the road and strongly criticized the SSGC for its failure to provide a gas supply to the consumers. "We are facing a lot of difficulties during this sacred month of Ramazan ul Mubarak", Muhammad Hashim, one of the aged protesters said. He said without any prior notice, the SSGC had stopped the gas supply to Qambrani road and other

Protester chanted slogans against SSGC

The protesters chanted slogans against the SSGC and the provincial government and demanded immediate restoration of gas supply during the holy month of Ramazan ul Mubarak.

The worst traffic jam was observed as a result of the protest staged by the residents of the area against the SSGC officials. Long queues of vehicles were witnessed as a result of the protest.

CM Balochistan takes notice of gas load shedding in Quetta



Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenio also took notice of the protes against low and no gas pressure in the city.

Babar Yousafzai, the Spokesman for the

CM Balochistan said that a message was
also conveyed to the SSGC high-ups.

Since it is a federal department, therefore, we can only lodge a protest and ask
them to restore the gas supply, Mr.

Yousafzai said.

Senior administration officials reached the spot

and reopened the road Senior administration officials reached the main Dr. Nashnas Chowk where the road was blocked. They held successful negotiations with the protesters and they

SBK will not ensure merit in appointment of teachers: NP

News Desk

QUETTA The Central Spokesman National Party (NP) on Thursday said that the Sardar Bahadur Khan (SBK) Women's university would not ensure merit in the appointment of teachers.

In a statement issued here, the Baloch nationalist party has reservations and apprehensions about the process of recruitment through the SBK in the education department. "Posts are being sold", the Spokesman claimed. There was no immediate response from the education department and the government of Balochistan in this regard.

Unknown company minting money from unemployed youth

The spokesman of the National Party said that a fee of 1500 rupees has been fixed for each post, while 400 rupees have to be paid to the TCS company. While Sardar Bahadur Khan University has given the responsibility of investigating the documents to an unknown non-governmental organization.



The party spokesman said that more than two and a half lakh unemployed youth will submit minimum applications for the posts of the education department, which clearly means that Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University will distribute billions of rupees to the unemployed youth with the collusion of the gov-

BPSC has to recruit teachers

The party spokesman demand that the institution of Balochistan Public Service Commission has been established for the purpose of the Balochistan Public Service Commission to fill the vacant posts of education on the basis of merit.

It was said in the statement that if an attempt is made

through Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, then they will go to court against it and will not allow any abuse to the youth of Balochistan.

One of them is Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University, which cannot conduct its examinations in a timely and transparent manner. Recruitment through such institutions is bribery. The aim is to push the unemployed youth towards despair by heating up the market, against which the National Party will raise its voice at every turn and conduct a movement through-out Balochistan.

Hassan Khan Niazi, Imran's nephew handed over to Quetta police

reopened the road for traffic.

QUETTA: Hassan Khan Niazi, the nephew of the Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI) Chief, Imran Khan was handed over to the Quetta Police on Friday. Mr. Niazi was handed over to the Quetta police after a judicial magistrate in Islamabad approved one-day transit remand of the latter Police had taken Hassan Khan Niazi outside the judicial complex in Islamabad a few days back. Police sources had said that Niazi was apprehended in G-11 near the Judicial Complex for his involvement in attacking law enforcement personnel and causing chaos in the federal capital. The arrest is part of an ongoing crackdown on PTI activists and supporters who police claim assaulted law enforcers while

they were performing their duties in Islamabad.
When contacted by the Daily Quetta Voice, senior police officials preferred not to share the details about Hassan Khan Niazi. Neither, they confirmed Niazi was in custody nor rejected the news.

Ziarat receives spring snowfall Balochistan bracing for more rains

Syed Muhammad Qaseem:

Ziarat, Pakistan's famous tourist destination received spring's snowfall on Thursday. However, Quetta and other parts of Balochistan received heavy rainfall.

Tourists from across Balochistan thronged towards Ziarat to enjoy spring's first snowfall and the weather turned cold in the lush green valley Balochistan's Secretary of Information, Hamza Shafqaat also took to the social media network Twitter and shared videos about the snowfall

and shared videos about the snowfall.

Ziarat hosts the world's second-largest juniper forest

Ziarat hosts the world's second-largest juniper forest.

Thousands of years old ancient juniper trees are now declared

a world asset by UNESCO In Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan province, the citizens faced power outages and low and no gas supply. The



continued prolonged and unannounced gas load shedding prompted the Spokesman of Chief Minister Balochistan, Babar Yousafzai to lodge a protest against the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC).

SSGC criticized for its failure to provide gas supply to Quetta

"The SSGC is not under our control, it is a federal department", Mr. Yousafzai said. Especially, most parts of the city plunged into

darkness after a heavy downpour.

The situation prompted the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to hold an emergency meeting to tackle the situation. The Director-General of the PDMA, Naseer Ahmed Nasar chaired the meeting and issued directives to the concerned authorities to prepare for the snowfall and rainfall.

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.

Well done, China

Chinese President Xi Jinping, during his signif-icant visit to Russia, had a three-hour long meeting with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin. In recent days, China has played a leading role in restoring diplomatic rela-tions between two staunchly opposed coun-tries, Saudi Arabia and Iran

For the last few decades, Saudi Arabia and Iran have been seen as two ideological poles in the Islamic world that are in tussle with each other on every front. In my view, the presence of the Chinese foreign minister as a guarantor is a testament to China's remarkable diplomatic success

Even before the visit of the Chinese president to Russia, there were speculations in the world media that China is now all set to ensure a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine. Some interna-tional analysts believe that the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine is in fact linked with the once cold war between the Soviet bloc and the Western bloc led by the United States in the previous century. Interestingly, Nato was established by Western countries to resist the expansionist ambitions of Soviet Union Ukraine's Was Reportedly, Ukraine's desire to join Nato was seen as a threat to Russia,

which ultimately resulted in declaring a full-fledged war against the former Soviet state

One year of the Ukraine war has passed, but neither is Russia in a position to claim complete victory over Ukraine, nor have Nati and Western countries come forward to save the war-torn country. In such circumstances, if any third country seems seri-ous about a ceasefire, it is China, which already has strong influence due to international trade and economic cooperation. Today, China's cordial ties with Russia and Ukraine make China an

acceptable mediator.

Before the Chinese president's visit to Moscow, a special column of Putin was published in the Chinese newspaper "People's Daily', in which he criticized the role of Nato in cized the role of Nato in the region and highlight-ed the importance of bilateral relations with China According to the Russian president, Russia and China are mutually combating the nefarious aims of some countries seeking hegemony and supremacy. Moreover, the Russian president in his article also indicated his readiness for serious negotiations on the

Ukraine issue. Similarly, Ukraine, in response to the Chinese president's visit to Moscow, has also formal-

ly demanded China play its role in establishing a ceasefire. According to the Ukraine government, Ukraine is ready for dialogue in accordance with the UN Charter and the latest resolution passed in the General Assembly to establish peace.

In my view, the main reason for China's grow-ing international influence is to promote economic cooperation as a topmost priority Chinese authorities declare Taiwan a rebel province but also issue special per-mits for Taiwanese citizens for trade purposes. China used to oppose the US on global issues but never allowed differences to affect bilateral trade. Although China is heavily investing in Pakistan under the CPEC mega project, India is still one of its biggest trade part. of its biggest trade part-

ners in the region.
Today, if Chinese involvement results in a new breakthrough by bringing a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine, it will reflect the fact that China is going to officially start its era as a new superpower of the 21st century. Unlike the superpowers of the past, China is winning this unique recognition not because of weapons or military power, but due to making peace efforts for arranging constructive and fruitful dialogue between countries with differences

History is witness that in the past only those world powers deserved a good name who ensured peace and influence posi-tively for the sake of the people. It should be hoped that the visit of the Chinese president to Moscow will pave the way for a Russia-Ukraine ceasefire on a permanent basis and world countries will understand the importance of resolving conflicts through dialogue Well done, China!

For the last few decades, Saudi Arabia and Iran have been seen as two ideological poles in the Islamic world that are in tussle with each other on every front. In my view, the presence of the Chinese foreign minister as a guarantor is a testament to China's remarkable diplomatic success.
Even before the visit of

the Chinese president to Russia, there were specu-lations in the world media that China is now all set to ensure a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine. Some international analysts believe that the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine is in fact linked with the once cold war between the Soviet bloc and the Western bloc led by the United States in the previous century. Interestingly, Nato was established by Western countries to resist the expansionist ambitions of

Soviet Union. Reportedly, Ukraine's desire to join Nato was seen as a threat to Russia, Ukraine's which ultimately resulted in declaring a full-fledged war against the former Soviet state.

By Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani

One year of the Ukraine war has passed, but neither is Russia in a position to claim complete victory over Ukraine, nor have Nati and Western countries come forward to save the war-torn country. In such circumstances, if any third country seems seri-ous about a ceasefire, it is China, which already has strong influence due to international trade and economic cooperation. Today, China's cordial ties with Russia and Ukraine make China an acceptable mediator.

acceptable mediator.

Before the Chinese president's visit to Moscow, a special column of Putin was published in the Chinese newspaper 'People's Daily', in which he criticized the role of Nato in the region and highlighted the importance of ed the importance of bilateral relations with China. According to the Russian president, Russia and China are mutually combating the nefarious aims of some countries seeking hegemony and supremacy. Moreover, the Russian president in his article also indicated his readiness for serious Ukraine issue.

Governance for local government: Part - IV

The rules of business have to be changed accordingly. It would be imperative that the chief executive officers of metropolitan corporations and large district councils are appointed from among Grade 21 and 22 officers of the Pakistan Administrative Service and the provincial execu-

and the provincial execu-tive services.

After all, the chief sec-retaries of the provinces are at present selected from this pool of officers. There is no reason why officers of the same cal-iber and status should not be utilized at the local be utilized at the local government level. We have to invert the pyramid of hierarchy between the three tiers of the gov-

The district govern-ments will have the exclusive powers to manage and operate primary and secondary education up to matriculation. Examination reforms have to be carried out to bring the standards of various boards at par Management and teach-ing cadres should be separated and the career paths for the two cadres would not discriminate against the teachers. Curriculum at all tiers from school to higher education should be developed at the national level jointly by the feder-al and the provincial gov-

ernments. To bring about coordi-nation and ensure unifor-mity in standards of public, private and not-forprofit schools, a District Education Board should be established in each district. The board will consist of people of note that enjoy a good reputa-tion in their communities and will have the district education officer as the secretary to the board. The board will be assisted by school management committees which will be empowered to oversee the school's functioning. Head teachers will enjoy more administrative authority in running the schools and disciplining teachers and arranging inspection of schools

To provide financing for talented students to pursue their studies at top institutions in the country, endowment funds at the provincial levels should be topped up every year out of the budget. Student vouchers or stipends should be available to meritorious children from poor famiiles to attend private schools of their choice. Private-public partner-ships in the form of 'Adopt a School' pro-grammes should be encouraged and given incentives. To promote increased female enroll-ment at primary schools, only women teachers are employed whenever pos-

periodically

Science, mathematics and computer literacy courses should be intro-duced right from the middle school level equipped with networks, internet

connectivity and labora-tories. To attract out-ofschool children, both modified formal schooling without age restrictions and vocational and technical training streams should be offered.

Most of the problems in healthcare delivery

arise not from financial constraints but due to poor management practices. The health management cadre should, therefore, be separated from teaching and service providers in each province and the federal government. Only those with aptitude should be recruited as health man-agers and trained at the national and provincial health academies. District, teaching and other specialized hospi-tals should have their own autonomous board of directors and should be autonomy administrative, financial, legal and human resource

Health manpower development, particularly in the nursing and para medical professions, allied health sciences require urgent attention for quality and volume increase. The health regu-latory framework should be made more afficial parabe made more effective and also set up at the provincial level. Drug regulatory authorities should fix the prices of the essential drugs according to the WHO list and allow markets to determine prices of the

have to focus on quality assurance and standards, consumer protection and avoidance of collusion. Pay scales for health professionals should be sepa-rated from the national basic pay scales. Monitoring committees that visit education and health facilities with the powers to resolve probems had proved success-

ful in the previous period and should be reconstitut-

ed and given full support

and resources.
There is almost a consensus that the law and order and security problems that have worsened in recent years have aris-en due to inefficiency, en due to inefficiency, corruption and politicization of the police force. The original Police Order 2002 had been compromised by amendments that weakened the functioning and accountability of the police. Legislative amendments and revised disciplinary rules are needed to allow rules are needed to allow police officers to perform their duties in accordance their duties in accordance with the police order and to remove the discretionary powers of politicians in postings and transfers, a powerful tool that has created the present state of indifference, inefficiency and unresponsiveness on the part of police officials.

The reversal to the Old Police Act after 2008 has,

Police Act after 2008 has, in fact, aggravated the situation as the police have become highly politi-cized. The police force should not fall under the By Ishrat Husain

purview of the Civil Servants Act (except those belonging to the Police Service of Pakistan) as it impedes internal accountability. Disciplinary rules should be framed under the Police Order. The provin-cial police office should be organized along func-tional lines and powers should be delegated to the

lower tiers. Urban police stations should be merged, upgraded and headed by a directly recruited officer of Grade 17 with full responsibility for Watch and Ward, Investigation and Operations. Training allowances, mobility mobility logistics support, lodging and boarding, medical facilities and welfare of the police force fall short of their requirements and create demoralization, too. These should be reviewed and strength-ened Traffic police in all large cities should be organized and operated the lines of the Police Motorway Police Forensic labs and digital-ized central databases should be established in each province.

Land records as maintained by the patwari are the single largest source of disputes and litigation in the country. Attempts to create a digital data-base of land records have remained halfhearted except in Punjab where some progress was made but reversed recently by reinstating the patwar

Perfect gridlock By Murtaza Solangi

akistan gives a look of a per-fect gridlock today. The 11m o n t h - o l d coalition government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the PTI led by sacked prime

minister Imran Khan continue to pull in the oppo-site directions, tearing apart all state institutions and leaving no middle ground. The usual arbiters, the judiciary and the estab-lishment, burdened by follies of their own past, are not able to mediate, put the fire out or suggest

any solutions. The media too has become a victim of this extreme polarization, many of them wearing the slants of the war-ring camps. It feels like two fast trains, with failed brakes, speeding from opposite directions on the same track. Will there be a collision or will some-thing happen at the last minute to avoid the colli-

It is clear that the remnants of Project Imran are very much there in the system, despite the forabortion of the project. The controversial decision of the Supreme Court on the interpreta-tion of Article 63A of the constitution created a snowball effect leading to the dismantling of the nascent Hamza Shehbaz government and the election of Pervez Elahi as the chief minister of Punjab

The controversial decision, termed as a rewriting of the constitution by many legal experts, paved the way for Imran Khan to force both the chief

ministers of Punjab as well as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a pres-sure lever to force Islamabat to go for early

elections.

With the IMF agreement still not inked, inflation touching the skies, interest rate at one of the highest levels ever, the economy slowing down, and unemployment and and unemployment and poverty skyrocketing, the coalition parties are unde-cided on how to go about early provincial elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakhtunkhwa.

More than the early polls, they are worried about the fact that if the PTI sweeps these two provinces – with 80 per cent of the electorate – the governments that will be formed there will be there for five years. Which would mean that, come October, they will have all the tools available at their disposal to rig the National Assembly elections in their favour, making it impossible for the Election Commission to hold free and fair elections as guaranteed under tution.Imran Khan has tried to influence and engage the security establishment all the while maligning it almost on a daily basis. His recent outburst blaming key security officials for his murder conspiracy and extending an olive branch to the army chief at the same time will not have gone well. Meanwhile, he is to appear in dozens of court cases at different tiers of the court system involving civil and crimi-

cessfully using his alleged murder plot to avoid the judicial process and avoid a conviction so as to make himself avail-able for the next elec-

tions.

Despite having enough legal, constitutional, economic and security reasons to delay the provin-cial elections in Punjab and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Islamabad government as well as the ECP have not advocated the case for holding all elections in October across Pakistan either in the courts or the courts of public opinion forcefully. The Islamabad government today is looking and acting like sleepwalkers, slowly walking towards elec-tions in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a

zombie-like state. It is crystal clear that amid an economic melt-down of biblical propor-tions, insurgency rising across Pakistan, the provincial elections and their results will act like a catalyst to ignite further political instability, affecting the upcoming instability, tions in October as well. This is a perfect gridlock created by decades-long flawed policies of the state and the miserable failure of Project Imran that was nurtured that was nurtured over more than a decade.

Regardless of who wins in the elections scheduled for the next month, the results will not be accepted by the losing party. The same goes for the elections due in October this year. No matter who wins the National Assembly

Subsidy gone wrong By Dr Sania Nishtar To pure of overhead

remaining drugs. They

The interim govern-ments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have recently launched a free atta (flour) initiative. Rs53 billion worth of free atta is meant to be provided through distribution points across Punjab, and Rs19.8 billion worth across KP. This initiative, which aims to give families some relief from unprecedented food inflation during Ramazan is seriously flawed in its

Not only has the programme been hastily put together with design details that remain hazy even to government offi-cials, it also raises serious concerns regarding the legality of caretaker governments approving bil-lions of rupees of new expenditure, stalling programmes that are already running with a legislative cover - the Ehsaas Rashan Riayat programme being a case in point.

designed targeted subsidy mechanism is exactly the need of the hour, given the country's history of mistargeted subsidies that are subject to elite capture, and mounting pres-sure from the IMF to rectify this. This is precisely why it is so surprising that instead of leveraging the infrastructure and technical expertise of the Ehsaas Rashan Riayat Programme, an existing, tried and tested targeted subsidy programme, the government chose to implement an entirely new, parallel programme, without due diligence and evidence-based design

The Ehsaas Rashan Riayat Programme was first launched by the federal government in January 2022. It was a first-of-its-kind, end-toend digitized programme that aimed to create a digital infrastructure through which subsidies could be targeted towards millions of deserving households through a network of 15,000+ mobile Point of Sale enabled Kiryana Stores (USC) Utility Corporations (USC) stores and CSD outlets. In this, 3700 USC stores were digitized, and equipped with the infrastructure to provide targeted subsidies, with the eventual goal of phasing out all of their previously fiscally inefficient untar-geted subsidies.

When this programme was abruptly defunded by the PDM government in June 2022, the system was rapidly re-deployed and adapted as a provincial programme in Punjab, with Rs100 billion being allocated to help up to eight million low-income families avail ghee/oil, flour, and families pulses at a discount at Ehsaas-enabled stores. Within its first quarter, the program reached 0.75 households, with another 5.0 million+ in cold storage, desper-ately awaiting release of funding, which has been withheld by the interim

government A successful targeted subsidy mechanism has three key pillars: To be citizen-friendly, transparent, and efficient. The Ramazan atta subsidy fails on all three counts.

District administra-tions have set up fixed government-run camps and trucking points to distribute a majority of the atta during Ramazan These distribution points have been over-run by crowds, who must wait for hours in the hope that they will be able to get their turn, only to repeat this exercise every ten days, since each family's entitlement of 30kg atta is to be broken into 10kg bags. There has been alarm-

ing news of people being treated like cattle, faint-ing, and even dying during the mayhem at distribution points. Dozens of videos have appeared, showing the chaos occurring, with bags of flour being thrown into the sea of people, police baton-charging at people who are desperately trying to claw their way onto atta trucks and people being taken away in ambu-lances after collapsing in

In contrast, the ERRP was designed to prioritize customers' dignity and to provide choice, with them being able to visit kiryanas in their neighbourhoods throughout the month, and to get any quantity of commodity they needed. With its open ecosystem, where any private merchant meeting rigorous pro-gram criteria could join, the ERRP ensured that beneficiaries had a well distributed network of stores to match demand. Each of these stores was geotagged, with location details available on a public dashboard.

In terms of transparency, the government keeps stressing that the programme will be closely monitored to prevent irregularities. However, given the lack of controls built into the programme design, there appears potential for widespread leakage and corruption.

In comparison, the ERRP used two-factor authentication to ensure the beneficiary's physical presence at the time of subsidy being disbursed. After the transaction, a digital receipt was sent the beneficiary via SMS, further reducing chances merchant malpractice. The Ramazan programme only requires a CNIC scan, with no proof that

a programme beneficiary. With billions of rupees of subsidies at stake, perverse incentives are mag-nified. It took months of fine-tuning fraud preven-tion rules in ERRP to be able to build an effective predictive fraud prevention mechanism that auto-matically limited the number of transactions per merchant, placed time-limits between transactions and helped flag suspicious merchants through data analytics. With the mechanism for the Ramazan programme having been developed and deployed within

the atta has been given to

speed. In addition, efficiency also appears to have been sacrificed in setting up the Ramazan atta programme. Province-wide distribution points will require hundreds of mil-

sacrificed in favour of

security has been

lion rupees of overhead costs on logistics, and thousands district government staff to implement. Moreover, all this expenditure is only being done for a four-week Ramazan programme. The government seems to have ignored the fact that inflation will continue to plague us after Eid and will require a longer-term solution. In contrast, had the

government considered directing the same fund-ing to the ERRP, the programme could have been scaled province-wide almost instantly, with no significant additional cost. The Punjab Social Protection Authority had a well-oiled machine running the programme successfully with just a handful of staff and a strong network of implementing partners that have months of experi-ence in running this pro-

beneficiaries only

With further news of a forthcoming targeted fuel to represent. subsidy for the poor, I fear that the federal gov-ernment will make the same mistake as provincial governments, in starting from scratch to design a brand-new programme within weeks. It would be unwise to disregard the immense potential to use the Ehsaas sub-sidy platform and to expand this to the nationwide network of fuel sta-tions. The system could seamlessly integrate with the points of sale at pumps with only minor technical development required, to provide sub-sidized fuel to eligible of life.

cusp of fulfilment

nal matters. Imran is suc-

A dream on the

hat we are witnessing in Pakistan these days has all the ingredients dreams are made of. Fortunate are those people who are beholding this happening in their lifetimes which may spiral a change stalled through decades by the beneficiary elite patronizing a sordid and decadent status-quo ritual which brought nothing but humiliation to but hu Pakistan.

When Imran Khan was removed from office some eleven months ago, no one realized that he would capture the imagi-nation of the people the way he has. There is not a soul which has not been stirred by the way things have crystalized to the current pinnacle where hundreds of thousands of people are willing to lay down their lives for the cause that Khan has come

This cause is firmly rooted in divorcing a past replete with instances of loot, plunder and surren-dering national sovereignty for promoting foreign-inspired agendas and, instead, fostering a free and self-respecting country exercising its inalienable right to take decisions which would suit its strategic and eco-nomic requirements and also facilitate welfare for the people who, deprived even of their basic rights, have struggled endlessly to survive on the fringes

At the other end, Khan's party has been

termed "a gang of miscre-ants trained by foreign organizations". This has been proclaimed by none other than the criminal concoction which has been vested with the power to run the country by their patrons and masters through a brazen and unashamed use of pelf and privilege. They are the very people who have sucked the blood of the country through their countless stints in power in the past. They have allegedly vowed to pro-ceed against the PTI by banning it as a political

party.
This yow to proscribe the PTI has been made at time when the brutal and draconian apparatus of the state has been let loose against Khan, his party, and his followers whose houses are being raided in midnight assaults and who are being arrested and incarcerated in blatant violation of the law. The interi-or minister's statement before the specially convened joint session of the parliament was a pack of absurdities to brand the PTI as a lawless party and exhort the Supreme Court (SC) that elections to the dissolved provincial assemblies be held simul-

taneously with those for the National Assembly. Though a blatant violation of the constitution and the adjudication of the SC, the Election Commission has oblig-ingly postponed the hold-ing of elections in Punjab till October 8. This breeds a constitutional crisis

By Raoof Hasan where institutions will be pitted against institutions. Obviously, this is going to have serious repercussions which may assume the form of violence-tinged protest spread throughout the country. For the SC, it is a test case for asserting its authority and restoring the sanctity of the consti-tution. It is hoped that no 'doctrine of necessity'

will impede its way.

Alongside the habitual transgressors of the constitution and the law, there is this sell-out tribe of 'intellectual' perverts who constantly attack the collective will and consciousness of the people. They believe that they are, unto themselves, wiser than the combined intelligence of the whole nation reflected in their choice of leaders and parties. They also contend that they alone are more important and relevant than the system based on the universally accepted principle of one-person-one-vote. Their singular desire is that the responsibility of running the country should be bequeathed entirely to them and their greater wisdom.It is a mocking charade which is being enacted routinely and promoted through a wide network of compromised individuals and organizations. Nothing could be more sinister than the presumption that this vile coterie of sell-outs reflects a group of wiz-ards 'more equal' than the rest of the people who have struggled.

IMF being used as a weapon against Pakistan: Murtaza

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said the IMF is being used as a weapon against Pakistan as the ever-increasing demands of the interna-tional institution have left

our government helpless.
In his press statement, the president of PEW Dr. Murtaza Mughal accused that IMF has been ruining Pakistan's economy by delaying the deal at the behest of some powers. He said that the govern-ment has taken strict measures without caring about its political capital, but the IMF is not satis-

fied with this which points towards a possible conspiracy. He said "It is an open secret that the IMF is a tool of imperialism that imposes neo-lib-eral policies on borrow-ing states resulting in poverty and inequality". He observed that the

lender work with other institutions to prevent poor and underdeveloped countries from making policies that can result in actual development. Ultimately their citizens have to suffer huge taxes and inflation. A major power wants to establish its foothold in Asia

through India, and if Pakistan moves away from China today or bows to India, the IMF will immediately restore the deal, he said. He said that even the

He said that even the friendly countries have left Pakistan alone at the behest of an influential country and this nexus is not hidden from anyone. He warned that if at this country and that if at the countries are the

this critical juncture, the politicians do not show their senses and continue to sacrifice the national interest for the sake of power then Pakistan will power, then Pakistan will be completely trapped by world powers INP

Time to focus on quality standards to boost seafood export: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Seafoo d industry is a highly profit-oriented and sus-tainable sector of the economy. Pakistan needs more high-tech quality test labs to export world-standard seafood prod-ucts. This will benefit the stakeholders and encourage the investors to establish this industry in Pakistan.

Talking to WealthPK about the export of quality seafood from Pakistan, Director Director Fisheries General Department Punjab (DFP) Dr. Sikandar Punjab Hayat "Internationally, quality assurance is a critical segment of seafood export. To meet international standards, the DFP has taken a step forward. We have established an extensively high-tech ISO-2025-certified laboratory. For quality assurance of seafood, almost all types of measures are executed here, i.e., monitoring of magnesium, calcium, and sodium levels, standard pelagic organism decline (POD) and COD tests, microbiological tests concerning bacteria, histamine and chloramphenicol analysis, etc. Histamine-type contamination mostly occurs in stale fish. Presence of heavy metals is also possible to test here. The most demanding and common standard in the European Union is that the seafood must be free of histamine, chloram-phenicol and heavy metals. Our lab meets all these parameters to export processed or value-added seafood to the Middle Eastern, European, and other markets. All the aforementioned contamina-

to any market. Continuing the discussion, he said whenever a country places an order for any type of seafood, they provide a list of all the required quality measures, and the quality of products may vary, but mostly these are of the same standards

tions are not acceptable

Dr. Sikandar Hayat said it was important to establish more high-tech quality test labs in Pakistan, which will encourage investors to develop this industry here. Around the globe, he said, the seafood

industry was a highly profit-oriented and sustainable economic sector. There is a need to focus on this sector. Establishment of this sector will open a new job market, increase GDP, and bring hand-some foreign exchange to the state coffers through seafood exports.

The global seafood market is expected to grow worth US\$605.46 billion at the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 8.29% by the year 2029 from worth US\$310.75 billion in 2021.

Pakistan must get its share by enhancing the export of value-added and quality seafood. The development of a quali-ty seafood industry in the country is also important to fulfill the need for nutritious food in future for the growing population.

To maintain the standard and quality of seafood, sophisticated labs are a necessary Public-private partnership is a must for it because no sector can flourish without the private sector's interest and involvement.INP



QUETTA: People offering 1st Friday prayer of Ramzan ul Mubarak.

SCCI, UET Peshawar sign MoU to strengthen industry-academia linkages

PESHAWAR: An endeavor to further improve industryacademia linkages, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Peshawar.

In this regard, a signing cere-mony was held at the chamber's house in which SCCI president Muhammad Ishaq and Director Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) UET Peshawar Dr Nasru Minallah signed on the MoU, said in a press release here on

Senior member of the SCCI Advisory Committee, Dr Khalid Khan, Manager University Industry Linkage, UET Peshawar Dr Tariq Khalil,

Office Manager of the university Dr Jawad Ali Shah and others were present on the occa-

Ishaq, while terming the signing MoU with UET Peshawar as a milestone step toward strengthening industryacademia linkages, said SCCI has started a series of MoUs with public and private sector universities. He elaborated that the MoU

aims at equipping graduates and young students technical skills besides the completion of their academic career so that it will enable them to get instant employment opportunities in markets. The chamber's president apprised the meeting that SCCI has recently inked a Memorandum of Corporation (MoC) with Khyber Khyber Technical

Education Authority (KP-under German TEVTA) under German Organisation - GIZ TEVTA

Support Program.
Under the GIZ TEVTA
Support Program, he said SCCI
and KPTEVTA will jointly conduct capacity building and on job training sessions to bring improvement in youths/graduates skills and ensure their job placement in the various trades organisations and industries.

Talking about the SCCI 2.0 program, Ishaq informed that the chamber is going to launch this program very shortly, which is the first ever initiative, being taken by SCCI in Pakistan under which the chamber will be put on modern line by converting to complete digitization and bring it up to modern standards.INP

Moreover, the Islamabad police said on Wednesday that it has arrested more than

300 PTI supporters, accusing

them of "incitement, arson, vandalism [and] attacks on police". As the PTI chief arrived in the FJC last week

to attend the Toshakhana hearing, at least 25 people

were injured, 30 automo-

biles, including motorbikes,

and a police chowki was set

on fire during hours-long clashes between the police and PTI workers. The large crowd that descended on the

no room of such terrorists in Pakistani politics."INP Gandapur flees after police raid his farmhouse in DI Khan

Imran Khan is

a biggest liar &

fraud: Nawaz **Sharif**

LONDON: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid and former three-time prime min-

ister Nawaz Sharif has said that Imran Khan was the biggest liar and fraud of the country. "He is a terrorist, not a politician," he

Talking to newsmen outside his residence in London, Nawaz Sharif said that the government had formed a joint investigation

team (JIT) to investigate the matter of PTI Chairman's vandalism. He

said the JIT will submit its report

over the serious allegations lev-elled by Imran Khan. He said now

it had come forward that Imran

Khan was not only a liar but he was also "the biggest terrorist of

the country".

Nawaz Sharif said that petrol bombs were hurled towards police so that, God forbids, they could've burnt. He said that the attitude and behaviour of the PTI chairman was

Nawaz Sharif further said that Imran Khan was a fraud and was involved in corrupt practices, which was known to the people. He added that the onslaught on police personnel was unforgivable

and any political party had done anything like that for the first time.

Nawaz Sharif declared "There is

intolerable and unacceptable.

declared

DI. KHAN: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Amin Gandapur fled to avoid arrest dur-ing a police raid at his farmhouse Hathala Al-Amin Farm in Dera Ismail Khan on Friday. The police raided the farmhouse to arrest Ali Amin Gandapur for inciting people against the state on

inciting people against the state on social media and threatening to occupy Islamabad in case of PTI chairman Imran Khan's arrest. His brothers, Dera Ismail Khan

Mayor Umar Amin Gandapur and Faisal Amin Gandapur, were pres-ent at the farmhouse during the

According to the official sources, Ali Amin Gandapur is on the run to avoid arrest by police, and he is constantly changing his location Meanwhile, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) issued a call-up notice to Ali Amin Gandapur for threatening the government and state institutions on

ATC grants bail to Amjad, 63 other PTI workers in Judicial Complex violence case

ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Friday granted bails to PTI chairman Imran Khan's aide, Amjad Khan Niazi, and 63 other party workers in a case pertaining to violence outside the Federal Judicial Complex on March 18 when the former prime minister. the former prime minister had appeared there for a court hearing.

ATC judge Raja Jawad Abbasi accepted the PTI leaders' request and instruct-ed them to submit surety bonds worth Rs50,000.

Hours-long clashes were reported between PTI workers and the capital police on Saturday after the former prime minister arrived at the FJC to attend a hearing in the Toshakhana case.

In the violent confrontation, a contingent of law enforcers and PTI supporters used anti-riot gear against each other with teargas used from both sides to push the opposing side back. The PTI used rocks against the police alongside petrol bombs to set their vehicles on fire.

According to the Islamabad police, dozens of officials were injured in the clashes a large number of vehicles were torched.
Subsequently, Imran and a
number of PTI leaders
including Amjad were
booked in terrorism cases.



OUETTA: MOM Provincial President Malik Imran Kaker addressing a press conference.

Punjab helping digitalization of GB: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD, :Lack of digital infrastructure has been a major hin-drance to efficiency and good governance in good governance in Gilgit-Baltistan. "Digitizing Gilgit-Baltistan Program" is a step in the right direction to realize this objective, said Komail Abbas, said Komail Abbas, Deputy Secretary Information Technology Department, Gilgit-Talking to WealthPK.

Komail shared information about the ongoing projects for digital con-

nectivity in the region.
"The government is working on e-procurement in its departments. For this purpose INP



MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES PAKISTAN COUNCIL OF RESEARCH IN WATER RESOURCES INVITATION FOR BID(S)

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

Construction of Check Structures/Gabions, Piezometers, Ditches, Recharge Wells and Conductivity, Temperature and Depth (CTD) Divers at District Pishin, Loralai, Kalat and Quetta

Water Resources Research Center (WRRC), Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Quetta invites bids from reputable firms, registered with PEC in category C-6 or above for the year 2022-23, Sales Tax and Income Tax department (FBR/BRA), for Construction of Check Structures/Gabions, Piezometers, Ditches, Recharge Wells and Conductivity, Temperature and Depth (CTD) Divers at District Pishin, Loralai, Kalat and Quetta. Tender document containing detailed specifications can be acquired from the office of the undersigned on payment of fee Rs.500/-. The tender document can also be downloaded from PCRWR website (www.pcrwr.gov.pk), subject to deposit of fee with the bid. Dully complete and sealed bids accompanied with earnest money at 2% of the total amount of bid in the form of demand draft/pay order in favor of the Regional Director, Research Center, Quetta should reach the office of the Regional Director, WRRC, Quetta on or before 02:00 pm April 12, 2023 at WRRC, PCRWR, BUITEMS, Baleli, Airport Road, Quetta, which will be opened on the same date and venue at 02:30 pm in the presence of bidders or their representatives who may like to attend. Any query may be made to the undersigned through mail or telephone. Bids without earnest money and conditional tenders shall not be considered. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at

> (Muhammad Kaleem) Regional Director, WRRC, PCRWR, BUITEMS, Baleli, Airport Road, Ouetta.

Ph: 081-2873112.

QUETTA: A man on the way during rain in provincial capital.

Covid claims three lives in as many days in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported another death from Covid-19, the third in as many days, as the infectivity rate and infections soared. The country reported 150 coronavirus cases during the last 24 hours, showed the statistics released by the National Institute of Health (NIH)

on Friday morning. According to the NIH data, the death toll in the country went up to 30,648 after adding another fatality whereas the number of total infections now shot up to 1,578,917 after up to 1,578,917 after adding the fresh 150 cases

During the last 24 hours (Thursday), 4,194 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio surged to 3.58%. The number of patients in critical care stood at 22.

Raccoon dog data sparks new debate about Covid

New evidence that raccoon dogs were at the Chinese market where

Covid is suspected to have first infected humans has reignited debate over the origin of the pandemic.

The researchers who unexpectedly stumbled over the genetic data say that it supports - but cannot definitively prove -- the theory that the virus originated in animals, possibly first jumping over to humans at the market in the city of Wuhan.

The issue has proved divisive for the scientific community and even dif-ferent US government agencies, with some maintaining that the virus likely leaked from a Wuhan lab a claim that China has angrily denied.

Maria Van Kerkhove, e World Health Organization's technical lead on Covid, said the new data "doesn't give us the answer of how the pandemic began, but it does provide more clues"

The data comes from swabs collected by a Chinese team in January and February 2020 at the Huanan Seafood Market, the site of one of the earliest Covid clusters, before it was shut down and cleared

of animals. International researchers Florence including Debarre, an evolutionary biologist at France's CNRS research agency, were surprised to come across the data on the GISAID global science database earlier

this month. They managed to download the data before it was removed from GISAID at the request of the Chinese researchers who first post-

Debarre and colleagues informed the WHO about their discovery last week, when some media outlets started reporting on the

data's existence. week researchers published a report, which has not been peer-reviewed, saying that DNA from the samples shows that raccoon dogs palm civets.INP

Boulangerite deposits in KP a window toward prosperity: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The Awireth and Sewakht val-leys in the Chitral district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa house a wealth of gold, silver and other precious minerals. A successful Green Field Exploration (GFE) can transform the socio-economic dilemma into a prospervision, sale Vaqoob Muhammad Muhammad Shah, Principal Geologist at the Global Mining Company Limited, Islamabad, while talking to WealthPK.

The mineral-rich valleys are located opposite each other along the almost 165Km Reshun Thrust Fault (RTF) at a linear distance of around 37 kilometres

These landmarks are rich in antimony, galena, gold, silver, copper and lead in a combined form in a rock called boulan-

Yaqoob Shah, who also served as GM Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC), said boulangerite is a unique monoclinic orthorhombic sulfosalt

group of minerals.
Normally, it is found in bluish, dark grey, and black hues mainly composed of antimony and lead, and commonly occurs with antimony and galena in low to mediumtemperature hydrothermal veins and stock works. Commonly, asso-ciated minerals with boulangerite are pyrite, arsenopyrite, sphalerite, quartz, and siderite.

Yaqoob recalled that during the mining of galena and antimony in 1974-75, boulangerite was found in the Chitral district. The USGS geologists investigated these ogists investigated these findings in 1980-81. The targeted area for

the said prospect was the Awireth and Sewakht valleys located opposite each other across the Luthko valley near the Shoghore village. There mineralization of boulangerite occurs as hydrothermal veins and lenticular bodies along Reshun Fault zones and corresponding

FOURTH TIME EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Sherry slams PTI for 'hiring' US lobbying firm to promote party's image ISLAMABAD: Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman has criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for signing an agreement with a private US consulting firm to promote party's image in the In a tweet, the Minister said the signing of the agreement has exposed PTI's double standards and hypocrisy. She said that many countries appoint lobbyists, and so do political parties, but this case was particularly bizarre because it came from a party that attempted to pose itself as a victim of the US

The Agriculture & Cooperative Department (Extension Wing) intends to rent out Date Processing Plant (2 Tons/hour) and Cold Storage (1000 M.Ton) along-with 3 Nos. Refrigerated Containers & 2 Nos. Standby Generators at Turbat for the period of Three (3) Years invites bids from the interested Firm/Company/ Entrepreneur. The firms/bidders offer their quotations for the complete package on yearly basis. The quotations/offers of the firms should reach by 06.04.2023 at 12 Noon Sharp. The bid shall be opened by the constituted committee on same day at 1:00 P.M in the presence of bidders/their representatives. The detail of available facilities is as

A. Date Processing Plant at Date Complex, Turbat (Capacity: Two Tons per Hour). Dates feeding unit with checking conveyor box filling station and control board. Vacuum Furnigating Chamber Semidry Dates Conditioning. Mechanical grading: Sorting for separating 4 classes of Dates with stainless steel rollers convyers a adjustable gap. Date washing, brushing, draining machine. Final cleaning and draining vibrating screen. Final drying unit. Carton boxes taping machine. Control Board. Thermoforming Machine

B. Cold Store at Date Complex, Turbat (Capacity: 1000 M. Tons) Four Chambers and One Blast Chiller along-with one Ante room Each Chamber has the capacity of 250 M. Ton, 2 number (Dorin Italy) condensing units along with 15 hp, matching evaporators humidifiers for maintaining 95 % humidity, Ethylene absorbers and racking facility. Blast Chiller Room with 2 number condensing units along-with matching evaporators (20 hp each Dorin from Italy). Ante Room having 2 number condensing units along-with matching evaporators (5 hp each Dorin Italy). Each chamber is constructed with 100 mm/thick panels to maintain chilling as per requirement The chilling units have been provided with gadgets to adjust room temperature according to product requirement. The temperature can be brought to zero centigrade meant for the storage of fruits and vegetables. Each Room has been provided with sliding doors which can facilitate the movement of folk lift otherwise racking facility is available for storage through manpower. The Ante Room has the facility of docking to maintain the cold chain to reefer/ refrigerated

C. Standby Generators: Two Nos. (200 and 150 KVA). D. Refrigerated Containers/Vans (Three Nos.). Three number

refrigerated containers are available at the site for the transportation of dates from Turbat to main national markets and bringing back fruits and vegetables back to Turbat. The refrigerated containers have the provision of minus 18-degree temperature to transport Ice Creams in case, other fruits and vegetable may not be available at that time. Terms & Conditions The vendor /contractor/ Entrepreneur will be having following responsibilities: The Firm/Company/ Entrepreneur should be directly related with Agriculture Marketing. The Firm/Company/ Entrepreneur should have minimum turnover of 20 million Rupees per annum. Preference shall be given to the Firm/Company/ Enterprise that has the experience of utilization/operation of such facilities. The Firm/Company/ Enterprise interested to have these facilities should have minimum requirement of Technical/non Technical staff and SOP's for utilizing/operating these facilities. The Firm/Company/Entrepreneur should have Active NTN, be registered to BRA with active GST number. Ph: 081-9211504

ECONOMICS & MARKETING BALOCHISTAN QUETTA PRQ No.3076/24-3-2023 💲 www.dpr.gob.pk. 📝 @dpr.gob 👩 dpr.gob 🗜 @dgpr.balochista

PID (I) No. 5886/22

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

Gwadar fisherman lauds China donated Solar Systems amid power failures

Islamabad:Gwadar Fisherman have lauded China donated Solar Systems amid power failures, according to Gwadar Pro.

"We no longer have a problem with power breakdowns as China's solar systems continue to provide service to the people of Gwadar," said Abdul Rashid, a fisherman and resident of the Gazarwaan area

near Masjid-e-Aqsa in Gwadar's old city.

Abdul Rashid is among the beneficiaries of a package of solar equipment that was donated by China in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

Last year, the initiative donated 4,000 sets of solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights. "Due to some technical issues a few days area there was a plectricity outcome." ago, there was an electricity outage in Gwadar for a week. In such a dire situation, my children were able to sleep peacefully for six nights because the solar set and battery donated by China provided 4 to 5 hours of power to keep the fan running," he added.

Speaking to Gwadar Pro, Abdul Rashid shared how his family's life has improved since their home was solarized with a donation from

China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy. He said, "Previously, during prolonged power outages, my sick mother used to suffer in the dark at night and was very uncomfortable. But for the past five months, thanks to solar power in our home, my mother has been cheerful and offering good wishes to China." He added that during the day, his wife can now use the washing machine and other electric appliances to do household chores thanks to solar power. When asked about the donation process, he said it was fair and transparent, except for one or two cases The he said it was fair and transparent, except for one or two cases. The solar system has also helped keep their electricity bill in check, even during the price hikes in Ramazan Regarding the verification process, he stated, "The authorities personally collected information and inquired with our neighbors to confirm our status as deserving recipients of the solar system." After the verification was completed, the authorities installed the solar system free of cost Rabaera Bulksh. authorities installed the solar system free of cost Raheem Buksh, a social worker, informed Gwadar Pro that Chinese solar donations were distributed to the deserving local residents.INP

Sardarzada Sami Langove injured, wife killed in Mangochar attack

Abdullah Lehri

KALAT:Unknown accused opened fire and injured Sardarzada Samiullah Langove and killed his wife in Balochistan's Mangochar area on

Levies sources said the armed accused opened fire at the vehicle of Sardarzada Samiullah Langove near Mangochar. Mr. Langove was injured in the attack. However, his wife was killed on the

spot.
The attackers escaped unhurt from the spot. Levies personnel reached the spot and shifted Samiullah Lanogve to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.



The dead body of his wife was also

shifted to the hospital.

The local administration launched an investigation into the incident. The motive behind the attack could not be



WASHINGTON DC: Ambassador Masood Khan Addressing a large gathering comprising dignitaries, ambassadors, diplomats, US government officials, foreign media representatives and Pakistani-American leaders, on the occasion of celebration of Pakistan Day here at Embassy of

Several PTI leaders come under anti-corruption scrutiny

ISLAMABAD: Several PTI leaders including former MNA Ghulam Bibi Bharwana, Farrukh Habib, Amir Dogar, former provincial education minister Murad Raas, Waris Aziz, and Ali Albatar base cores. Ali Akhtar have come on anti-corruption establishment's radar, it was

learnt on Friday.

According to details, the ACE detected a fraud in the possession of 50 acre government land in Chak 243 by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's formas member of National Assembly.

mer member of National Assembly Ghulam Bibi Bharwana. The ACE spokesperson said that Bharwana did not submit fee for the 50 acre government land to the nation-

He further revealed that PTI's for-mer federal minister Farrukh Habib has established an illegal car stand at a government land. INP

Heroin recovered from parcel booked for London

LONDON: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized 1 kg and 600 grams of cocaine at Bacha Khan International Airport from the trolley bag of a passenger coming from Doha to Peshawar.

Separately, ANF officials raided a local courier office in Karachi and recovered 1 kg and 20 grams of hero-in from a parcel booked for London.

The recovered heroin was tactfully hidden in the gloves meanwhile a Karachi resident was arrested.

Separate cases have been registered against accused. INP

Punjab CTD arrests five terrorists of banned outfit

LAHORE: The Punjab Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested five terrorists of a banned organisation during an operation on Friday

According to the CTD officials, the operation was carried out on a tip-off in Gujranwala and Dera Ghazi Khan.
The accused were identified as Abdul Muqeet, Abid Waheed, Gul

Zaman, Ramazan and Ikram Explosives, weapons and mate-rial for making suicide jackets were also recovered from them.

The arrest of the terrorists was made possible through interrogation from 33 suspects. As many as 66 suspected persons were arrested in 420 combing

operations during the ongoing week.
"No effort will be spared to take the miscreants involved in terrorism to their logical end," the Punjab CTD vowed INP

Four die in Karachi, Hafizabad road accidents

KARACHI, Hafizabad:Four people died while eight were injured in two different road accidents in

Karachi and Wazirabad on Friday In the first accident, a bus collid-ed with a trawler near Lucky Cement Factory on Super Highway in Karachi, killing two people and leaving seven others injured.

Rescue 1122 officials moved the injured to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medical assistance.

In the other accident, two people were killed while a kid was injured when two motorcycles and a car collided near Khivewali area of

Wazirabad. A woman and a man were among

the dead. Rescue 1122 transferred the deceased and injured to THQ Hospital Wazirabad, INP

Court reserves ruling on Imran's plea seeking cancellation of warrants

ISLAMABAD: A local sessions court in Islamabad on Friday reserved his judgement on the petition seeking cancellation of arrest warrants against former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan in a judge threat case

Additional Sessions Judge Faizan Haider Gilani heard the petition filed by the PTI chairman seeking annulment of his arrest warrants in the female judge threat case.

Earlier, the judge announced a break in the case hearing till 10:30am today when Imran's lawyers did not show up.

However, after the resumption of the hearing, the judge reserved his ruling on the petition.At the outset of the case

proceedings, prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi pleaded with the court to bind Imran to appear before the court during next hearing. Judge Rana Mujahid Raheem

issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Imran in the judge threat case. However, the PTI chief filed a

petition requesting the court to cancel warrants issued against him,INP

Banks to receive Hajj applications on Saturday, Sunday

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday announced that all designated bank branches will remain open on Saturday and Sunday (March 25 and 26) to facilitate intending pilgrims to deposit their applica-

The SBP announced to keep 14 banks open on Saturday and Sunday in order to accept Hajj

applications.

The announcement comes a day after the Ministry of Religious Affairs requested SBP to direct banks to remain open on Saturday and Sunday for Hajj

applications.

The last date for submitting Hajj applications is March 31. According to the religious ministry, as many as 26,000 applications were received under the regular Government

Hajj Scheme. applicants, the ministry for reli-gious affairs directed banks to collect fitness certificates from overseas Pakistanis, adding that the overseas Pakistani should make and submit the certificate

before taking a Hajj flight.

"Hajj applications can be submitted after receiving the first dose of one of the approved COVID vaccines," the ministry officials said.

The officials termed it manda-tory for the applicant to com-plete the dose of the COVID vaccines and submit the certifi-cate in the bank before depar-

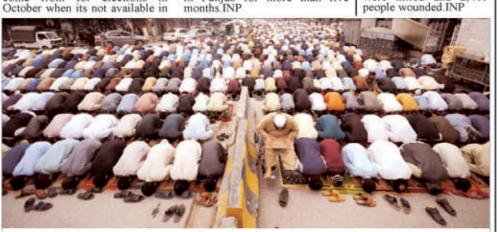
"Apart from NADRA, foreign vaccine certificate will also be acceptable," the ministry offi-cial said.INP

Rasheed seeks treason case against coalition govt over delay in polls

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Friday called for initiating treason case under Article 6 of the Constitution against the members of ruling coalition for delaying elections in Punjab. In a series of tweets, the former interior minister said the PTI had dissolved assemblies in PTI had dissolved assemblies in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so elections could be held in 90 "Article 6 should be imposed on the occupant group in a week otherwise, anything can happen in the country," he wrote. He hoped that there would be clarity on the constitutional crisis created by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) by Monday, adding that the PML-N was not interested in holding elections even in October as it was afraid of "Where will the money come from for elections in October when its not available in

April?" he questioned. "First, the country collapses economically and politically and then breaks apart," the AML chief warned. Lashing out at the "inexperi-enced" members of the govern-ment, he said the rulers had funds for their political luxuries but not for the elections. Mr Ahmed said he would meet PTI chief Imran Khan at his Zaman Park residence today.He said Imran Khan was being offered grand political dialogue but, at the same time, arrests were being made and hurdles cre-ated in PTI's gathering at Minare-Pakistan. Saying the IMF deal and poverty were not their priorities. he said the government was afraid of clean sweep by Imran Khan in coming elections. "A major legal battle is about to start," he said as the PTI decided to challenge the ECP move to postpone elections in Punjab for more than five

at the Lucky Cement fac-tory between a trailer and bus. The injured and a bus. The injured and bodies were moved to a nearby hospital. cause behind the horrific incident remained unknown as per the initial report. Pakistan has been reporting a number of accidents and it has been reported that at least 780 people lost their lives in Karachi traffic accidents 2022.The Foundation's spokesper-son said 780 died and 9,725 citizens were wounded in traffic accidents in 2022. Meanwhile, a total of 540 were killed and 2,465 people wounded.INP



PESHAWAR, People perform First Friday-day prayer of the ramadan ul mubarak in the Cantt.

Thundershowers hit many parts of country

ISLAMABAD: Rain soaked different cities of the country including Lahore turning weather pleasant on Friday. However, the heavy downpour is damaging the ready wheat crop grown in these

The rain poured down in many areas of the country including Lahore, Dunya Pur, Uch Sharif, Haroonabad, Shujabad, Ringpur and other cities.

As the downpour hit Dunya Pur, the electricity

was gone in the area creating problems for the citiwas gone in the area creating problems for the chi-zens. The low-lying areas were completely inun-dated in the city. Several MEPCO feeders also got tripped in Manchanabad. Due to incessant rain in Chak 170 in Layyah, a 40 feet breach occurred in Bhagal Minor. After the

breach, the water entered the fields where wheat crop was ready.
On getting information about the breach, the irri-

gation department teams reached there and started operation thus saving the standing ready crop from being destroyed.

Heavy downpour lashed Uch Sharif, Dhor Kot, Khairpur Dhaha, Trund Basharat, Heed Panjnand, Nabi Pur, Bait Bakhtiari, Mastoi, Tahir Wali and

According to agriculture experts, the recent rains are detrimental to the ready wheat crop. They fear shortage in the average wheat production due to torrential rains.

In Rangpur, the heavy rain coupled with thunder-storm has been continued for the last three hours. The rain is also damaging the ready wheat crop in

the area.

The electricity in both rural and urban areas of

PTI organizers

of Minar-e-

Pakistan public rally arrested

LAHORE: Punjab police arrested organisers

Insaf's Minar-e-Pakistan public rally in Lahore as

the crackdown against PTI leaders and activists continued in Punjab.

Punjab police raiding the houses of PTI leaders

and workers in Lahore before the Minar-e-Pakistan public gathering.

Malik Qaisar and Mian Nadeem, organizers of the Minar-e-Pakistan rally?

Shahid Hussain, who is a

British citizen of Pakistani descent and

ment?
The residence of Hafiz

Zeeshan Rasheed was also raided, and the fami-ly accused the police of

'misbehaving' with them during the raid. Rashid PP

against Maryam Nawaz in PP-149. The residence of

PTI leaders Hamad Niazi

and Bajash Niazi were also raided by Punjab

Insaf constituted a 10-

member legal team for the release of party workers -

who were arrested during

raids in Islamabad and Lahore The decision was

taken during a legal committee meeting chaired by PTI senior leader Dr Yasmin Rashid INP

2 killed, 7

injured in Karachi

Superhighway

accident

KARACHI: At least two people were killed and seven others were injured in a horrific road

crash between a passenger bus and trailer at Karachi Superhighway.

The accident occurred

is contesting

police. Pakistan

police leader

elections

Tehreek-e-

Furthermore, detained PTI

Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Rangpur has also been suspended due to rain. According to the metrological department report, there are chances of rain with strong winds/wind and thunder in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Punjab, North Balochistan, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan on Friday.

Meanwhile, hailstorm is also expected at few places and heavy rain is likely to pour in some areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and North Balochistan. Weather during last 24 hours in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh witnessed thundershowers at some places. Partly cloudy/cloudy conditions were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh witnessed thundershowers at some places. Partly cloudy/cloudy conditions were reported in other parts of the country. Highest Rainfall (mm): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Bacha Khan (Airport) 27, Peshawar City 26, Dir (Lower 23, Upper 13), Malam Jabba 23, Saidu Sharif, Mardan 17, Bunir 15, Charat 11, Bannu, Kakul 06, Kalam 02, DI Khan (Airport and City 02), Patan 01; Balochistan: Gwadar 25, Pasni 12, Ko Yata (Samingli 05), Sibi, Khuzdar 04, Chaman 02, Kalat, Da Labandin 01; Punjab: Leh (Karur) 15, Sargodha 12, Attock 10, Islamabad (Saidpur 09, Gofra 07, Bokra, Zero Point 06), Rawalpindi (Chaklala 08, Shamsabad 05, Kacheri 06), Jhelum 08, DG Khan (Zin Sangar Nullah) 07, Wahua 05, Mandi Bahauddin 08, Mangla 07, Kot Addu 05, Nurpur Thal, Joharabad 04, Gujarat 03, Murree, Chakwal 02, Bhakkar, Toba Tek Singh 01; Sindh: Karachi 04, Badin 01, mm of rain was recorded Maximum temperature recorded today: Mithi, Mirpur Khas, Chur, Tando Jam 34 degree Celsius and Shaheed Benazirabad, Khairpur, Raheemyar Khan, Skrand and Sukkur 33 degree Celsius.INP

Govt ready to hold comprehensive dialogue on all issues: Asif

ISLAMABAD:Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has stated that the government is ready to hold comprehensive dialogue for the sake of the country covering all the issues, but engaging in transactional dialogue will be a waste of time.

Briefing the foreign media along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb in Islamabad on Friday about prevailing political situation in the country, he said Imran Khan has not offered materially anything for negotiations with the coalition government.

The Minister said Imran Khan is a desperate man and believes in violence, which he demonstrated during the last week, which was never happened even in the history of Pakistan. He said during remained the focal person of the task force during Imran Khan's govern-

the past few days, the constitution was undermined and violated. He said we are handling the crisis precipitated by Imran Khan on daily basis. Khawaj Asif expressed the confidence that the government would come out of the prevailing situation successfully including from the economic front.

from the economic front.

Regarding allegations of Imran Khan being levelled on some personalities about killing him, the Defence Minister said these are baseless with no reality. Replying to another question, he said holding elections is sole responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan. However, the security situation in the country has deteriorated and the Finance Ministry has not enough funds to hold elections separately. So, the Election Commission decided INP



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Ramzan Package.

Only 13 Pakistani varsities make it to world university rankings

ISLAMABAD: At least 13 Pakistani universities have made it to the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World subject

rankings for 2023.

According to the latest QS ranking data, Quaid-i-Azam University was ranked between 151-200 in the subject of Statistics & Operational Research while LUMS was ranked between 301 350 in the subject of Law & Legal Studies In Engineering & Technology, the National University of Science and the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) was ranked at 160, COMSAT University Islamabad at 267, University of Engineering and Technology (UET) at 279, Quaidi-Azam University Islamabad at 348, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) between 401-450 and the University of Punjab was ranked among 501-530. In the subject of Computer Science and Information Systems, NUST was ranked at 148, COMSAT University Islamabad

between 251-300, LUMS, National University of Computer and Emerging University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, and Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad between 351-400, the UET between 401-450 and the University of Punjab among 451-500. Aga Khan University Karachi was ranked 391 in the subject of Life Sciences & Medicine while in the subject of Natural Sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad was ranked at 346, COMSAT University Islamabad and NUST were ranked between 451-500. Dow University was ranked 601-650 in Medicine in the QS World Ranking In Business & ranked 601-650 in Medicine in the QS World Ranking In Business & Management Studies, LUMS was ranked at 151-200, NUST between 251-300, Institute of Business Administration (IBA) between 301-350, COMSATS University between 401-450, University of the Punjab between 401-450. Quaid-i-Azam University 401-450, Quaid-i-Azam University between 451-500 and Iqra University between 551-580.INP

Need stressed to make EPZs more independent

ISLAMABAD:Export Processing Zones (EPZs) play a vital role in pro-moting trade activities as they help accelerate the pace of industrialisation in

In Pakistan, EPZs could be made more productive if they are allowed to issue Statutory Regulatory Orders

(SROs) for the export cargo instead of having the process done at the Karachi Export Processing Zone (KEPZ).

An SRO is the final stamp of goods verification, after which a cargo ship-

ment is allowed for export.

Discussing with WealthPK the issue of the SRO regulation, Tajamul Hussain Sachal, the public relation officer of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), said an EPZ should be allowed to operationalise SROs to make allowed to operationalise SROs to make the exporters comfortable in shipping out their products. However, he said exporters had to take their shipping con-signments to KEPZ for being issued an SRO. This was done at the great cost of paying more freight charges and sustaining other additional costs like direct and indirect labour, repackaging, warehouse

charges, etc. "Exporters are troubled a lot as all SROs and standing orders are issued only in the name of KEPZ rather than through an EPZ. The government should resolve this issue on a priority to facilitate trade and business activities." Tajamul Sachal said the other impor-

tant issue was the appointment of trained and experienced staff in EPZs, who could efficiently handle the inbound and outbound shipments. "The staff should have the proper knowledge and skills concerning export processing and cus-

Talking to WealthPK, Shabnam Asif, an exporter of leather shoes from Sialkot, said SCCI recommendations were needed to be considered for speedy processing of export shipments. "Taking an export consignment to Karachi for further processing is cumbersome and worrying for exporters. It also increases the exporters' expenses, and cargo handling becomes a problem in this way. During the last three to four months, most exporters missed the cargo ships because of the delay in goods processing at KEPZ due to the workload."INP