

QUETTA VOICE

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Former ombudsman Balochistan Wasey Tareen passes away



Justices Mansoor Shah, Jamal Mandokhail of SC call for revisiting CJP's 'one-man show' power

Court suspends termination of VC Lasbela University

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA The Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Monday suspended a notification issued by the chancellor/ Governor Balochistan about the dismissal of the Vice Chancellor Lasbela University.

The Governor/ Chancellor sacked four VCs of four public universities of Balochistan on March 21st.

Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch challenged the notification of Governor

A division bench of the BHC comprising Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and Mr. Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz Rana passed this order on a petition filed by Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch, the VC Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Science (LUAWMS).

The impugned notification is suspended till the decision of the petition, the bench ordered.

Petition admitted for regular hearing.

In view of the contention raised by the learned counsel of the petitioner, the petition is admitted for regular hearing.

Muhammad Akram Shah Advocate represented the VC Lasbela University during the



hearing. Mr. Shah pleaded that as per the Balochistan Universities Act 2022, the Chancellor cannot dismiss the VC prior to the expiry of his tenure without any inquiry. If any VC is found of any misconduct or corruption, the government can form an inquiry committee to probe into the allegations. Only then, if the allegations are proved against the VC, then, he/she can be sacked. Notices were issued to the Advocate General of

Balochistan and other concerned authorities regarding the case. The case was adjourned till April 11.

Governor removed 4 VCs through a notification

The VCs include Dr. Farooq

Ahmed Bazai of the Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Dr. Shafiq ur Rehman, the Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan, Mr. Maqsood, the VC of Lorailai University and Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch, the VC Lasbela Science and Marines University. Mr. Baloch challenged the Chancellor's decision and the court suspended the notification in this regard.

Water filtration plants non functional in Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail

QUETTA Most of the water filter plants are not functional in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan for the last few years. Water filtration plants installed near the Chief Minister's Secretariat and Governor's House are also not functional.

"We are deprived of clean drinking water", Muhammad Hashim, a citizen complained. He stated that most of the citizens were taking clean drinking water from a water filtration plant installed by the Saitani Welfare Trust near the civil hospital Quetta.

802 water filtration plants were installed in Balochistan

The Balochistan government had announced to the restoration of all 802 water filtration plants to provide clean drinking water to the masses. However, the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) is yet to make the out-of-order plants functional.



Saitani Welfare Water Filtration Plant said.

People are deprived of clean drinking water

In Quetta and most parts of Balochistan, people are deprived of clean drinking water. Despite repeated appeals, the provincial government is yet to make filtration plants functional. Despite repeated attempts, the Daily Quetta Voice was not able to get the official point of view. One of the senior officers of the PHED department said, "this is now an old project".

No chance of making water filtration plants functional: Official

He said the chances of making the filtration plants were bleak since the government had no resources to do so. He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the media. The water filtration plants were established during the late General (R) Pervez Musharraf government in Balochistan to provide clean drinking water to the people. Over 1000 people were also recruited for this purpose. The employees have been getting salaries since then but the plants are still non-functional.

Pages of lessons found reduced in Balochistan Textbook Board

News Desk

In the Balochistan Textbook Board, along with administrative incompetence, financial corruption has also been revealed, and the pages and lessons of the books of different subjects have been reduced, sources in the Balochistan Textbook Board said.

Each book is printed in millions and only ten pages if reduced, there is a difference of crores of pages which benefits the publisher and contractor while the Government of Balochistan pays the entire payment.

"There was only a mistake in the sequence of pages", Secretary of Education Balochistan

However, the officials say that there was only a mistake in the sequence of the pages. I have directed the concerned authorities to correct this", Rauf Baloch, the Secretary of Education Balochistan said. "I have called the officials of the textbook board tomorrow to my office", he said. It should be noted that every relevant firm that takes the contract for the publication of books cannot reduce even a single page of its own accord, nor can it reduce or increase the size of the paper, but this year, three lessons from the Urdu



book of Class V in the government schools of Balochistan have been taken out without any approval.

The volume of the book, which was 160 pages in 2022, has been reduced this year and has remained at 144 pages

The volume of the book, which was 160 pages in 2022, has been reduced this year and has remained at 144 pages, while according to the sources mentioned above, the approval of removing three copies and reducing 16 pages has not been taken from any relevant forum.

Only contractors and publishers can benefit from this act. It has been revealed that millions of pages have been reduced in one

article of only one party, while the fear is that the volume of paper in the books of other parties and other subjects is also reduced.

In terms of the number of pages, color and black and white as well as the size of the title cover, the firm has benefited by crores of rupees from the government treasury and to hide the same issues, the Balochistan Textbook Board has used delay tactics in the publication and delivery of books.

The public has demanded that a special committee should be formed and sent to different schools to find out the number of books distributed among the children and also check the volume and quality of the books and compare it with the advertised tender.

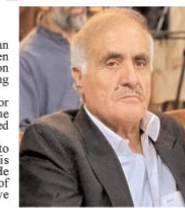
Former ombudsman Balochistan Wasey Tareen passes away

Staff Reporter

QUETTA Former Ombudsman Balochistan, Wasey Tareen Advocate breathed his last on Monday morning. He was suffering from a protracted illness.

Sajid Tareen, the Prosecutor General of Balochistan and the brother of Mr. Tareen confirmed the demise of Wasey Tareen.

Wasey Tareen was taken to Karachi from Quetta after his health condition deteriorated. He served as the ombudsman of Balochistan and was an active



member of the legal fraternity. **Wasey Tareen was politically associated with ANP**

Politically, Wasey Tareen was associated with the Awami National Party (ANP). People belonging to various walks of life have expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Wasey Tareen Advocate and prayed that may Allah rest the departed soul in peace.

Wasey Tareen would be laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard in Pishin district of Balochistan.

Justices Mansoor Shah, Jamal Mandokhail of SC call for revisiting CJP's 'one-man show' power

Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail of the Supreme Court have called for revisiting the power of the "one-man show" enjoyed by the chief justice, saying that the country's top court could not be dependent on the solitary decision of one man.

The two made the remarks in a detailed dissenting note — released on Monday hours after the SC took up the PTI's plea challenging the postponement of elections in Punjab — for the top court's March 1 verdict regarding holding



elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where the two provincial assemblies have been dissolved. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial on February 22

took suo motu notice of the polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was there appeared to be a "lack of clarity" on the matter. Justice Mansoor Shah constituted a nine-member bench — comprising himself, Justice Ijazul Ansuman, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneer Ahmad, Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah to hear the case. Web Desk.

After SC judges question 'one-man show', Maryam reiterates her 'bench-fixing' stance

In reaction to the questions raised by two Supreme Court judges regarding the powers of the chief justice earlier today, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz has said the judgement is reflective of her party's narrative regarding "bench-fixing".

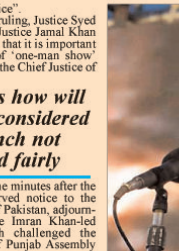
"If the constitution of the [Supreme Court] bench is not fair, then how will the decision be considered fair?" she said while presiding over a meeting of PML-N spokespersons Monday.

In an unusual development in the top court, two judges from the five-member liberal bench — hearing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's petition over the postponement of elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa — raised questions over the powers of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP), saying the apex court "cannot be dependent on the solitary decision of

one man, the Chief Justice". In a 27-page detailed ruling, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail pointed out that it is important "to revisit the power of 'one-man show' enjoyed by the office of the Chief Justice of Pakistan".

Maryam asks how will decisions be considered fair, if bench not constituted fairly

The development came minutes after the country's top court served notice to the Election Commission of Pakistan, adjourning the hearing on the Intran-Khanderi party's petition which challenged the ECP's orders to put off Punjab Assembly



elections till October 8. Maryam, the scion of the Sharif family's political dynasty, asked her party's members to expose Intran Khan's facilitators in the judiciary with full force.

Her directives were endorsed in the party's statement which read: "Unfair, vindictive decisions and testimonies against Nawaz Sharif decided to be brought before the public." Comparing the judiciary's treatment of PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif to that of the PTI chairman, Maryam said: "Violation of the Constitution and law will be exposed in Nawaz Sharif's case. Evidence of injustice with Nawaz Sharif is now surfacing." Intran Khan wants to divert public attention from his corruption cases", she said, highlighting that there are irrefutable pieces of evidence against Khan in various cases including those involving foreign funding, Toshakhana, and his alleged daughter Tyrion White Web Desk.

Climate change: Pakistan takes an

Editor Asim Khan

Muhammad Jehangir Kakhar

Flaws in the Balochistan census

Flaws have been witnessed in the seventh census underway in Pakistan's Balochistan province. The census is underway amid reservations and apprehensions expressed by the Baloch and Pashtoon nationalist political parties.

The census staff is yet to reach the people living in urban parts of the province. What to speak about the remote areas of the province which are less than half of the country in terms of area and houses only 6% population of entire Pakistan.

Census staff is yet to reach the population in Balochistan. Specific law and order situations, rugged mountains, long distances, plains, and administrative issues make it very difficult to make sure proper and accurate counting of all individuals in Balochistan.

As per the 2017 national census, Balochistan makes hardly 6% population of the entire country. Indeed, this is equal to salt in the flour. It is ironic fate if this meager population is not counted properly during the census of 2023.

Census also a sensitive topic in Balochistan. Like in some cities of Pakistan, census/enumeration is also considered to be one of the sensitive topics in Balochistan. Almost all political parties are skeptical about the process of the current enumeration/census.

The Baloch nationalist parties are concerned about the inclusion of Afghan refugees in the census process and fear that this would bring a demographic change in Balochistan. Similarly, the Pashtoon nationalist parties fear that their (ethnic Pashtuns) population should not be ignored under the garb of Afghan refugees.

Balochistan makes up only 6% population of the entire country. The resource-rich province of Balochistan has a nominal representation in the parliament with only 19 members of the national assembly out of a total of 342.

Its province has been in the frame of the federal government and its policies but development funds under the federal public sector development program (PSPD). Even its (Balochistan) meager share of 6% percent in services is swallowed by Islamabad through fake domiciles.

Balochistan is lagging behind all other provinces in terms of key social indicators including education, health and clean drinking water supply. Nevertheless, its own funds are not utilized in a transparent way because of the worst governance.

To be precise, all political parties should put their heads together and bury the hatchet and come up with one point agenda that a fair and transparent census should be conducted before it is already late.

are environmental protection agencies that look after the conformity of environmental regulations in various sectors contributing to certain types of pollution. These provincial agencies act as regulators and with a stick they enforce the environmental laws which can cater for only a limited version or a spec of what forms the big idea of climate change. At the provincial level like at the national level, there is no agency that is technically sound, comprehensive, professional and equipped with such facilities as to counter the grand horns of climate change.

No climate change data being collected at the provincial level. As for the data and statistics, there is a significant disconnect and silos-approach as much it is in the inter-governmental coordination, much more the question is not of the dearth of amplex of data, even if it is that data is most meaningful. Not at any provincial level one

could ensure that any climate-oriented data is being collected. The conformity of environmental agencies only ensure the quality of air by recording the various gaseous emissions in the ambient air. The Pakistan Meteorological Centers throughout the country pick up conventional weather data by various means but hardly translated into making a meaningful statement on where we stand on climate change. As for policies, laws, rules and regulations, we are more affluent than the developed nations. When it comes to drafting policies, we are working to our expertise but when given to see them on the ground implementation, only darkened eulogies are symphonized at the provincial level. The laws are being multiplied each day and have become as wretched as the number of laws on one single sector.

The National Climate Change Policy 2012 remains a document

of the past being pushed to nullify through it. The document that elevated the Division of Climate Change to a Ministry level yet the promising implementation never has come off until this date. Though a devolved subject yet the NCCP grants the legitimacy to the Ministry of Climate Change to wreathe all the provinces together in one garland of beautiful working and legal integration to manage the national issue of climate change.

The Climate Change Act 2017 was another move towards climate consolidation. It promised to establish the Pakistan Climate Change Authority, Climate Change Council, and Climate Change Fund all of which have not been seen in 2017 when the said Act was passed.

The vision 2030 remains a distant vision thus far. Ministry of Climate Change must take it as the organization at the federal level entirely responsible for

catering for climate change affairs. The integration of such a central body with the provinces would be the next challenge given to over politicization of everything. Climate is something which should not be made political though globally working and legally something which has become an element of political decision-making as in the Biden-Trump thwack. Nature and nurture along with the potential of the provinces and reach are to be integrated and enhanced fully at the federal and provincial levels with the climate change organizations so that the data and statistics need to be enhanced and made up to the mark. The data must be internationally acceptable with proper transparency and accountability. A lot must be done to keep the generalists away from making decisions and calling the shots and the professionals are given the entry who have the capacity and the legitimacy.

Gaming out a default

Ammar Habib Khan

Pakistan has been in a precipice of default for the last few months. It desperately seeking external help, enacting draconian policies, while refusing to mitigate any structural reforms.

About nine months back, when the global commodity cycle was easing out, and interest rates were increasing globally, ample warnings were given for a course correction. An expected increase in interest rates globally was making it difficult to rollover existing debt, or raise fresh debt in the form of global macroeconomic instability.

The warnings that we had seen in the first half of 2022 went unheeded, and the fiscal profligacy of the government continued with any thought of potential unintended consequences. The sovereign continued with its irresponsible ways, while the central bank continued to encourage the government to engage in stimulative monetary actions, even though the situation called for an immediate reduction in fiscal deficits, and to put the house in order.

The government refused to expand the taxation base, and when someone tried to do the same, they were quickly

Government borrowing remained almost 70 per cent of the country's banking assets. Over the years, the government has completely crowded out private-sector credit, and as it borrowed to plug perennial fiscal deficits, the government borrowed through various modes, whether directly, or indirectly is more than Rs22 trillion. The government through its inefficient commodity procurement programmes has also accumulated significant debt support prices – the cost of which is also borne by the taxpayer.

As interest rates increase, so will the cost of borrowing, and interest on the accrued debt, the government will continue to print more money to pay interest on the accrued debt, and the process. It is estimated that if interest rates increase more and the government does not plug its deficit, all or a potential haircut (reduction in the amount of debt that is payable to different debt holders.

Such a rapid growth in debt servicing requirements leaves no room for development expenditure. As inflation is expected to rise to 70 per cent, there will be a pressure to increase government wages, and pensions. This will increase the expenditure side, and lead to further deficits. In the absence of any plan to reduce fiscal deficit, the ability of the sovereign to keep plugging the deficit with debt is unlikely to remain sustainable, the next best option is a move towards restructing the debt, often referred to as default. A scenario which is already in play in countries like Sri Lanka, Ghana, and Zambia. The common thread between all is a complete economic disaster.

If debt becomes unsustainable, a potential restructuring is in order, and that would be either deferral of interest payment that the government has to make on its debt, or a potential haircut (reduction in the amount of debt that is payable to different debt holders.

A perpetual war

By Maheeq Shafeeq

The predications made at the onset of the Ukraine war were impulsive. Many intelligence reports assumed that Ukraine would fall and Russia was headed for a dark and decisive victory.

Unfortunately, these predictions were flawed. Fluid than the goals of the war. One year later, the war is still ongoing, and coeuvre is pouring in Ukraine while Russian defence production complexes are working round the clock to support the continuation of the war. The control of Kyiv, Donbas and southern Ukraine and coeuvre is pouring in from the West and Nato has not been fulfilled. Many analysts believe that Russia is over-exhausting the enemy to win the war. At the same time, they are confident that Ukraine has outdone itself by fighting back with military aid pouring in strong will to defend the nation.

Analysts feel that it seems as if Russia and Ukraine will fight for as long as necessary and are unwilling to continue the war, no matter the cost. However, both these nations have a different conception. Both Russia and Ukraine cannot afford to stop the war. Ukraine and Russia quickly latched on to this idea, propelling a political scenario that the Ukraine crisis realized in February 2023. Although the war has followed a lukewarm reaction from the West

due to the trust deficit, the warning signs asked for more details. The Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, while the Russian foreign ministry disclosed that any attempts to transform the conflict into a peaceful process deserved consideration.

This month, a three-day state visit to Russia by the president of China was observed as a bold endeavour to end frictions in Europe after a diplomatic triumph in the Middle East. The joint statement issued after the visit shows Russia is committing to peace talks with China, the US, Russia and Ukraine. Pakistan has fully supported the UN resolution on territorial integrity, sovereignty and neutrality to support the peace process since the outbreak of the war. Pakistan's neutrality is very different from before. Before the war, Pakistan has consistently pushed for an immediate peaceful resolution. India, however, has opted for a positive outcome, and the war continued. Many Western nations believe that the war would have a nasty end, which, given the current attention of the war, has merits.

Experts at Cambridge University have stated that peace settlements remains "very unlikely" in the near future. Under the current circumstances, solid peace proposals or steps towards a peaceful settlement by the international community are more in sight. The end of the war could be possible through a political settlement, including the negotiation of an armistice agreement that would cease the disclosure of hostilities between the two sides.

A peace process would also need the presence of the US and the West as they have shown dissatisfaction over the Chinese proposed solution. Neutral countries such as Pakistan, China, India and the African states must chip in to support ending the war. India has stated that it will not support the US, while Pakistan maintains healthy relations with China, the US, Russia and Ukraine.

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The technocratic takeover

By Fozia Sadiq Khan

The whims for the technocratic setup have decreased a little while it is an idea that needs to be strongly debunked as it raises its ugly head every few years.

Why are such short-term stop-gap technocratic measures such as installing a technocratic setup bad? This has to do with the accountability. Given the fact that Pakistan has all kinds of rent-seeking and corrupt elite, it is only democracy that ensures some form of accountability of the political class through elections every five years. The non-political technocratic elite is not accountable to anyone.

Democracy has a "feedback loop" built into the system. The political class has to take into account the public aspirations since it has to seek votes to come to and remain in power. Any technocratic setup has no such compulsions. Therefore, a government without accountability is a non-starter. The poor in the country are highly disempowered. The bureaucratic, legal, judicial, socio-political, and economic system works against them and is mostly alien to them. The poor only have the power to vote but they can leverage to get a pittance of favourable terms for themselves. Every time an idea for technocratic setup is equivalent to snatching the last vest of empowerment of the poor from them. The much-condemned political patronage sys-

tem is sometimes the only refuge the poor have to negotiate their way with state institutions. Social science literature has shown that the poor use their power of vote and politics to elect patronage and "other gatekeepers" and "other government institutions. Any technocratic setup will inevitably hurt the poor as the democracy does.

It is true that though democracy largely delivers for the people, it should not be so populist that it becomes the slave of anti-rational socio-political and economic policies. The technocratic elite is not accountable to anyone. Democracy has a "feedback loop" built into the system. The political class has to take into account the public aspirations since it has to seek votes to come to and remain in power. Any technocratic setup has no such compulsions. Therefore, a government without accountability is a non-starter. The poor in the country are highly disempowered. The bureaucratic, legal, judicial, socio-political, and economic system works against them and is mostly alien to them. The poor only have the power to vote but they can leverage to get a pittance of favourable terms for themselves. Every time an idea for technocratic setup is equivalent to snatching the last vest of empowerment of the poor from them. The much-condemned political patronage sys-

tematically undermined under the time and when we present a technocratic setup as a panacea. The Pakistani elite has largely survived in the last 70 plus years by earning the trust of the regime from rental powers and coercive rents from inside the country. Now that the government is replacing a dined up and the ability of the internal system to pay coercive rents has diminished due to adverse economic conditions, the squabbling over the limited resources has lowered. Some voices call for the reversal of the 18th Amendment and the 17th NFC Award. Some argue that the Benazir Income Transfer Program (BISP) should be scrapped – things we heard before the 2018 general election. The system is being replaced by a private voucher scheme or insurance.

It is true that the private voucher scheme is largely more efficient than the public education system. It is written about it in these pages in the past. It is also true that the private voucher system does not have its presence in cities only, it also prevalent in rural areas. Such counter-productive patronage spending will be reduced for a long time if there is an autonomous system that distributes provincial resources to the poorest tier of the element just as the 7th NFC Award gives it to provinces. Education comes third in terms of government

A controversial postponement

By Malik Muhammad Ashtar

and that corrupt practices are guarded by the Election Commission.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), while monitoring the current security situation and the non-availability of security personnel for deployment at polling stations across the province. The ECP says that due to these reasons it is not possible to organize elections in a free, fair and peaceful manner, and in accordance with the constitution and law. The ECP explains that it has taken this decision by Section 8(c) of the ECP Act, 2017. It further states that the current security situation and the non-availability of security personnel for deployment at polling stations across the province.

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Khan secures protective bail in 7 cases

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court on Monday granted protective bail to the chairman Imran Khan in seven cases registered against him following dismissal of the Federal Judicial Complex (FJC) on March 16. The petitions filed by the IHC today, the PTI chief sought interim bail in the cases registered against him at Gola, Bara Kahu, Ramna, Kamna, and CID police stations. The cases are related to violence outside the Federal Judicial

Complex on March 18 when Imran had appeared in the Foshakhana case. A two-member IHC division bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mianqul Hasan Aurangzeb, heard the former premier's petition. At the outset of the hearing, the IHC chief sought interim bail in the cases registered against him at Gola, Bara Kahu, Ramna, Kamna, and CID police stations. The cases are related to violence outside the Federal Judicial

(LHC) after which they arrived at the judicial complex but they weren't allowed to move further. "More FIRs against Imran Khan were lodged that day," he added. At this, IHC CJ asked the lawyer to clarify why they bypassed a forum to reach IHC. Imran Khan's lawyer said attacks on two former prime ministers have taken place, my client has also serious lengthy threats to add. To this, CJ IHC remarked that the government has done wrong. IHP



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits Free Atta distribution points established under PM's Ramadan Package for deserving families.

Alvi expresses displeasure over CDA's discriminatory act of non-allotment of a residential quarter to woman employee

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has expressed displeasure over the Capital Development Authority (CDA)'s discriminatory and misogynist act of non-allotment of a residential quarter to a woman employee. The CDA had taken the plea that quarters could only be allotted to adult male working dhobis (washer men) as per past practice.

President Alvi said that CDA had discriminated against the woman employee, and upheld the court's orders directing CDA to allot the quarter to the female employee. He said that the CDA's representation against the order of the Waqaf, Mohtasib, the President, and the most unfortunate part of the CDA's defence was that allotment could only be made to a male and could not be made to a female for the same services. "This is highly discriminatory. CDA is directed to improve its rules that are ensuring such misogynist practices and send the report to Waqaf Mohtasib of the same in 60 days," he said. The president underscored that Pakistan could not progress if its female equal members of the society were discriminated against in such a manner. He said that it was against the spirit of the founders of Pakistan, the fair practices of Islam, and also the Constitution. He directed CDA to comply with the Mohtasib's orders and redress the grievance of the complainant and, if so required, seek the approval of a competent authority/forum without further loss of time.

Shahnaz Begum (the complainant) had alleged that her late husband was an ex-washer man attached with CDA, and he had applied for allotment of a quarter. She joined CDA as a washer-woman, after the death of her husband, and made a request for the allotment of a quarter, but CDA issued the same to another employee who was junior to her in the seniority list. Feeling aggrieved, she approached Waqaf Mohtasib who passed the order that maladministration on the part of CDA was evident as it had discriminated against the complainant and was recommended to issue allotment orders for the quarter in question to the complainant and submit a compliance report within 30 days. IHP

CM KP directs to improve mechanism of provision of free flour

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister Khayber Pakhtunkhwa has directed the concerned authorities to improve the mechanism of provision of free flour to the deserving and needy people in the province. In a statement issued in Peshawar on Monday, he asked the District Administration officials to ensure their presence on ground during distribution of free flour across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Muhammad Azam Khan stressed the need for proper monitoring of the free flour distribution so that the needy and poor families can get the flour. The Chief Minister also directed for appropriate and effective planning to avoid any untoward incident. IHP

Efficient use, storage to help ease energy crisis in Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Efficient use of energy resources is hampered by several barriers, including policy constraints and lack of awareness and information on energy-efficient practices and technologies. There is a strong need to reduce energy consumption by introducing conservation techniques and practices. Talking to WealthPK, eminent energy expert Syed Akhtar Ali said, "Pakistan has been among energy-deficient countries for a couple of decades. Owing to the strained efforts of the government, power generation has increased significantly but the demand is constantly rising, especially during the peak summer season. The rise in energy demand is driven by a continuous increase in the number of consumers, specifically household consumers. To meet the peak energy demand, we must improve our energy storage capacity. Pakistan expects to generate over 30,000MW renewable capacity (including hydro) by 2030. This will undoubtedly need battery and pumped storage."

However, the integration of renewable energy into the national grid can be challenging without adequate energy storage systems. Energy storage systems can help mitigate the impact of intermittent power generation by storing excess energy during periods of high generation and releasing it during low generation or high demand periods," said Akhtar Ali. Shedding light on different storage technologies, he said, "The cheapest and most efficient method of storing energy is pumped hydro, and it is not a new energy source. It supplies energy, particularly during the peak hours when the energy is more expensive, thus compensating for the energy loss. In addition to improving the grid stability and reliability, energy storage systems can also reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and imported oil, which can help save foreign exchange and reduce greenhouse gas emissions," he added. Akhtar Ali said the building sector, including pumps, industrial systems, and household electrical equipment

were a few areas which, if prioritized, could lead to some achievement in the conservation and efficiency agenda. "In the energy efficiency business, consumer awareness is a major issue. Ordinary citizens are the main actors in most items. Split ACs are being widely used, as they are generally more efficient than window ACs. The former is being used for both cooling and heating purposes. He said, "Using ACs as heaters is much more efficient than using classical resistive heaters. Unfortunately, in this area, only the rich have switched, while the poor either do not have the house or the money to benefit from it. Home electrical appliances are more efficient today, but still there is a room for improvement. "With our increasing reliance on non-renewable energy, it's more necessary than ever to sustain our way of life. The ratio of output to input has doubled over time. We all know that non-renewable resources, as fossil fuels are depleting rapidly," said Akhtar Ali. IHP

PPP writes letter to ECP for Mayor, Deputy Mayor's election

KARACHI: Following the culmination of LG polls in Sindh, the provincial government has urged the Election Commission of Pakistan for the immediate election of mayors and deputy mayors. In a letter penned to the Election Commission of Pakistan, the PPP-led Sindh government has said that the process of the LG elections in the province has been completed. "Sindh goes into immediate election of mayors and deputy mayors. The ECP has been urged to take steps in this regard under Article 140A, the letter added. In the letter, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) released the party position after re-poll results in 15 districts of Sindh during LG polls. According to the first and second rounds of local bodies' elections was stopped in various districts of Sindh. The party in the remaining constituencies, the ECP on Monday issued a party position. According to the ECP, the Pakistan People's Party has the upper hand in 7 out of 11 seats of the district member while the PPP has won 10 out of 16 seats of the chairman and vice chairman. Similarly, PPP candidates have grabbed 22 of the 32 seats of the General Members. In the re-poll, the GDA won one seat, the district member while the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf won one seat of the chair-

man and vice chairman. In a letter penned to the Election Commission of Pakistan, the PPP-led Sindh government has said that the process of the LG elections in the province has been completed. "Sindh goes into immediate election of mayors and deputy mayors. The ECP has been urged to take steps in this regard under Article 140A, the letter added. Earlier in the day, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) released the party position after re-poll results in 15 districts of Sindh during LG polls. The polling in the first and second rounds of local bodies' elections was stopped in various districts of Sindh. After re-poll in the remaining 11

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Railway Minister announces 10 to 15pc reduction in train fares

LAHORE: Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique has announced 10 to 15 percent reduction in the fares of freight trains. He said Pakistan Railways land will be used for commercial purposes. He said Pakistan Railways has made a plan to convert its offices and stations to solar energy. Talking about PIA, he said the airline will soon launch direct flights for England and Europe. IHP

CM Naqvi reviews arrangements regarding supply of free flour

LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to the Model Bazar Thokar Niaz Baig in Lahore on Monday. On the occasion, he reviewed the arrangements regarding the supply of free flour. He also listened to the complaints of the citizens and issued directives on the spot to resolve them. Mohsin Naqvi said the citizens are getting relief from the hardship. He said zero tolerance policy of the federal and Punjab government. He said supply of flour to the citizens should be ensured with dignity. He said sale of essential commodities should be ensured at a fair price. He said zero tolerance policy should be adopted against illegal profiteers and hoarders. IHP

Met office forecast more rainfall in country from tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: Met Office has forecast entry of a westerly wave in western parts of the country from Tuesday (tomorrow). This weather system likely to grip upper and central parts of country on 29th (Wednesday) and likely to persist in upper parts till 31st March. This weather system likely to bring rainfall with gusty winds and hailstorm in western parts of country from Tuesday to Friday. The westerly wave will likely persist in upper parts of Pakistan for next three days, according to the Met Office. Several parts of the country will receive rainfall. Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan will likely receive a spell of rain and snowfall from April 1st. Rain, wind or thunder-

storm with isolated heavy falls and hailstorm will fall several areas of Balochistan including Nokkundi, Dalbandin, Quetta, Zhoob, Barkhan, Pakpattan, Qila Saifullah, Qilla Abdullah, Chaman, Pishin, Sibbi, Lorali, Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbella, Awaran, Keoh from 28th to 31st March. Sukkur, Larkana, Jacobabad, Shaheed B e n a z i r a b a d, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Bhakkar, Layyah, Multan, Sahawal, Okara, Pakpattan, Khanewal, Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan in southern Punjab will receive rainfall on March 29-30. Another westerly wave is expected to enter western and upper parts of the country on 01st April and likely to persist over the country till 03rd April. Strong wind and hailstorm may cause damage to infrastructure and standing crops (particularly wheat) in the country. Heavy rains may cause flash floods in Quetta, Chaman, Pishin, Barkhan, Musakhel, Jaffarabad, Kohlu, Zhoob, Lorali and hill torrents of D.G Khan on 28th and 29th March while in Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Nowshera, Marwat, Waziristan, Bajur, Islamabad/Rawalpindi and adjoining areas in Punjab, flooding in Peshawar, Islamabad/Rawalpindi and Lahore from 29th to 31st March. IHP

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ANF recovers over 74 kg drugs; arrests five

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered over 74 kg drugs while conducting seven operations across the country and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that ANF conducted an operation at Islamabad International Airport recovered over two kg of drugs from the possession of a Qatar-bound passenger, resident of Swabi. In another operation, 131 hero-in-film capsules were recovered from the possession of a Dubai-bound passenger, resident of Khyber Agency netted at Islamabad International Airport. In third operation at Lahore International Airport, 30 hero-in-film capsules were recovered from the possession of a Bangkok-bound passenger, resident of Pakpattan. The spokesman informed that ANF in an operation in Faisalabad managed to recover 4.8 kg opium and rounded up two accused, residents of Faisalabad. ANF and FC in two different operations in Khyber recovered 43 kg khat. He informed that ANF foiled a bid to smuggle drugs from Afghanistan to Balochistan and recovered 25 kg crystal heroin from Chaghi area. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway, he said. IHP

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ISLAMABAD: People wait to break their fast at road outside PIMS hospital on the Holy Month of Ramadan in Federal Capital.

China's rising economic growth offers opportunity for Pakistan: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: China's steady economic recovery is likely to create new avenues for cooperation with Pakistan, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, and infrastructure development, said Dr Hassan Daud Butt, associate professor and former project director of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while talking to WealthPK. "China's emergence as a global economic power has led to realignment of global economic forces and relations. China has become the largest exporter and the second-

largest economy in the world. The rising volume of exports from China to Pakistan, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, and infrastructure development, has created a strong impetus for cooperation with Pakistan, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, and infrastructure development," said Dr Hassan Daud Butt, associate professor and former project director of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while talking to WealthPK. "China's emergence as a global economic power has led to realignment of global economic forces and relations. China has become the largest exporter and the second-

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Robbers kill two in jewellery heist bid, three suspects captured

MULTAN: Robbers shot dead a jeweller and a student during an unsuccessful heist at a jewellery shop in Gulistan area on Monday. Eyewitnesses told police that six robbers entered a shop and tried to loot cash and gold ornaments at gunpoint. They opened fire after facing resistance from the shop owner and his employees. The firing left two persons, one of them a student, dead and three other people injured. The firing incident triggered panic among local traders and visitors who managed to capture three suspects while three others managed to flee. A large number of people including students gathered at the crime scene and raised slogans against police for their failure to curb growing lawlessness. Rescue 1122 ambulances and policemen reached the spot and shifted the dead and the injured to a nearby hospital. IHP

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China's economy seeing a strong rebound, IMF forecast its GDP growth 5.2 percent

ISLAMABAD: "China's economy is seeing a strong rebound, and the IMF's January forecast puts its GDP growth in 2023 at 5.2 percent this year—a sizeable increase from a 3.2 percent increase in 2022," said IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva. According to a China Economic Net (CEN) on Monday, China's strong rebound means China is set to account for around one third of global growth in 2023—giving a welcome lift to the world economy, she said during the China Development Forum 2023. Beyond the direct context to global growth, Georgieva said IMF's analysis shows that a 1 percentage point increase in GDP growth in China leads to 0.3 percentage point increase in growth in other Asian economies, on average. For the world economy, however, spring is yet to come. "We expect 2023 to be another challenging year, as global growth slowing to below 3% as scarring from the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and monetary tightening weigh on economic activity. Even with a better outlook for 2024, global growth will remain well below its historic average of 3.8%," she said. "The world's weak global economy," said policy makers had acted decisively in response to financial and policy uncertainty, adding that IMF will continue to monitor developments and will use attention to the most vulnerable countries, in particular, low-income countries with high levels of

debt. In addition, Georgieva highlighted two opportunities for policymakers to boost their growth: first, to green reactivity and second, to green away from investment and towards more consumption-driven growth. She said zero tolerance policy of the federal and Punjab government. He said supply of flour to the citizens should be ensured with dignity. He said sale of essential commodities should be ensured at a fair price. He said zero tolerance policy should be adopted against illegal profiteers and hoarders. IHP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposal for selection of Consultancy service invited on Electronic Procurement System (EPS) from well reputed national/international firms (N) / service provider meeting with eligibility criteria, viz having registration with FBR for Income Tax and BRB and who are Active Taxpayers List (ATL), and are not black listed in any procuring agency or authority for participation of Bidding in "Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms" for the following listed as below: Bid Security: 2% of the estimated value of the contract. No physical bid is required. Detail as under:

S.No.	Description	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT BOYS DEGREE	1,555,812/-
2	COLLEGE TOBAKAKARI TSE-22303282194	
3	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT GIRLS DEGREE	1,555,812/-
4	COLLEGE BARSHORE TSE-22303282244	
5	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT GIRLS DEGREE	1,555,812/-
6	COLLEGE KILLI WARIAROOD MULLAZAI TSE-22303282249	

Proposals must be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Province in Active Tax Payer List. Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity: Turn over at least 1,50,00,000 PKR amount in 3 Subsequent Previous Years BRB Registration Certificate. Procedure of Proposal: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. THE FINANCIAL PROPOSALS shall be opened of those consultants whose technical proposal is considered and approved. The Selection of Consultants shall be made as per Evaluation Criteria method as mentioned in the Data Sheet of this "Request for Proposal" document. The incomplete request for proposal or proposal submitted after due date mentioned above will not be considered. The RFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPRA Website (www.bppra.gov.pk). Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 AM, 2023 till 12:00 PM Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at P.O. Address: Office of the Superintending Engineer: Buildings CAMP/RD Department, Choke Quetta, C&W Complex Jaffer Khan Jawahar Road Quetta. Phone No: 0826420530 Fax No: Email: cwp@peshin222@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BUILDING
CWP/RD DEPARTMENT
CHOKI QUETTA PESHAWAR

PRD No. 090/27-3-2023
For more details visit our website: www.bppra.gov.pk

Govt making hectic efforts to provide relief to common man: NA informed

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly, which met at Parliament House in Islamabad on Monday with Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in the chair, was informed that the government is making hectic efforts to provide relief to the common man keeping in view the current inflationary trend in the country.

Responding to the queries of the members during Question Hour in the House today, Minister of State for Finance Aisha Ghous Pasha said she has enhanced the stipends under Benazir Income Support Program to support the deserving families.

She said, Ramadan package has also been given to provide essential commodities to the people at reduced rates.

She said the government is also planning to provide targeted subsidy on petroleum products.

The Minister of State said it is our effort to bring down the inflation which has both domestic and international factors. She said we need the cooperation of the provinces to check the price hike.

Aisha Ghous Pasha said the government is also giving priority to the rationalization of the view of the current economic challenges and to reduce deficits. She said a committee has been formed to expedite tax cases pending in different courts.

Responding to a question, the Minister of State said the government is committed to an interest-free economy. She said a committee has been constituted and deliberations are underway to prepare a trans-

formational plan in this regard.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi told the House that National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has received data of the houses destroyed in recent floods from the three provinces, while data from two federating units is still awaited.

He said minimum compensation for fully damaged houses has been revised up to five hundred thousand rupees and for partially damaged houses, it has been fixed at two hundred fifty thousand rupees.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notice, Minister of State for Interior Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju said the police is taking steps with the cooperation of international organizations.

He said the capacity building of the relevant departments is also being done to deal with this menace.

Meanwhile, the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Amendment Bill, 2023 and the Press, Newspapers, News Agencies and Books Registration Amendment Bill, 2023 were also laid before the House.

These were laid by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi.

At the outset, newly elected MNA Muhammad Mohsin Leghari took oath of his office.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf administered the oath of him IN.



ISLAMABAD: CEO of Barrick Reko Diq Mining Company, Mark Bristow along with a delegation call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Fruits, vegetables prices hit record high during Ramazan

ISLAMABAD: The prices of fruits and vegetables have skyrocketed on Monday, getting out of reach of the common citizens just after the beginning of the Ramazan month.

According to the Survey, the price of all vegetables including potatoes, onion, tomatoes, ginger, garlic, green chilies, mint, lemon and coriander has increased from Rs 50 to Rs 300 per kg violating price lists issued by the federal government price control committee.

On the other hand, the price of fruits including apples, guavas, cherries, Bananas, Oranges, and Watermelon has been raised from Rs 200 to Rs 600, respectively.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released the data according to which the inflation was recorded by 1.80 per cent in the first week of Ramazan, while the weekly inflation rate reached 48.35 per cent.

From Rs 10 to 24, such as 26 commodities, prices have been increased, while the prices of 12 commodities decreased and the prices of 13 goods remained stable INP.

Railways minister announces reduction in train fares

LAHORE: Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique on Monday announced reduction in 10 to 15 per cent reduction in the fares of freight trains.

Addressing a press conference here, the federal minister said that Pakistan Railway has formulated a 100-day plan to improve the network of cargo trains will run between Peshawar and Karachi.

"We are planning to run cargo train having a capacity of transporting 12,500 tonnes of cargo," he said, hoping that branding initiative would help earn handsome amount of revenue.

Khawaja Saad Rafique further said that Karakoram Express and Karachi Express will be upgraded by June 30 this year. "These trains would be upgraded to Green train pattern," he said, adding that the upgrade would provide good traveling options to passengers.

He said that special Eid trains would also be operated, adding that seasonal trains would be run during summers, which include

National Productivity Framework helping boost industrial competitiveness: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Development of skilled human resources and advancement of technology know-how has been the primary strategy of the government, said Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Productivity Organisation (NPO) Mohammad Alamgir Chaudhry.

Talking to WealthPK, he said that his organisation, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Industries and Production, was playing a pivotal role in making key sectors of the country more productive to compete with their international counterparts.

"The efficient use of inputs in any industry, human capital and production quality, all come under the umbrella of productivity, and any loophole or weakness in any of these components adversely affects the competitiveness of that industry," the NPO chief stated.

He said the National Productivity Framework had four stages, including awareness campaigns, ways and means to achieve sustainable national productivity, design and development, and review of the implementation plan. "Right now, we are in the initial stage of creating awareness among the youth and industrial community about productivity. For the purpose, walks, seminars and programmes are being organised in schools and colleges to sensitise the youth on the importance of productivity. The programme also includes training of some 400 industrial workers about the latest and new techniques in the industrial units."

Alamgir Chaudhry said that with the cooperation of international organizations, they had also engaged Malaysian experts to impart training to NPO staff, who then shared this knowledge with people in the field.

He said that by instituting such frameworks, countries like South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore had transformed their economies into developed ones, and it was all due to their focused approach towards keeping their industrial sector relevant to the world market.

"Acquisition of latest technology coupled with availability of technical expertise can keep our industrial sector relevant to the international market," Alamgir Chaudhry said, adding that the focus should be on the establishment of state-of-the-art, vocational training centres across the country to provide skilled manpower to the industry. "To remain relevant and competitive in the international market, we need to focus on the technical behaviour of consumers, which means that we should keep on adopting the techniques and technologies to meet the changing demands and trends in the market," he said. He further said NPO was also encouraging the industrial and other sectors to focus on export of finished goods as currently, Pakistan was exporting raw or semi-processed goods INP.

Workshop on conflict management at Murree's Convent School

MURREE: A one-day workshop was organized at Presentation Convent School, Murree, on the topics of Conflict Harmony, Ethics for Dispute Disagreement and Conflict Management on Monday.

In the workshop, the participants highlighted the issues related to stress, confusion and its causes.

The University of Haripur Associate Professor Dr M Rizwan also participated and contributed their knowledge to others.

In the workshop, 40 teachers, coordinators and principals of Presentation Convent School, Murree, also participated and contributed their knowledge to others.

During the workshop, Dr M Rizwan shed light on the causes of stress, confusion and its causes while Dr Rose explained the causes of violence and extremism in the society.

Christopher Sharaf highlighted the importance of the role of religious minorities in the construction and prosperity of Pakistan while the narrative of Peshawar was also shared in the workshop INP.

PDMA Punjab develops 'SANS' app for smog-related complaints

LAHORE: Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has developed a special application 'SANS' for smog-related complaints from public institutes and the masses.

The PDMA has started the test run of the SANS app after the preparation of its dashboard.

The PDMA has also started the process of providing training to relevant institutions on the use of the 'SANS' app.

A special meeting under the Chairmanship of Director Coordination on smog prevention and launching of the 'SANS' app was held in Lahore on Monday.

In the meeting, officers of traffic police, transport, Municipal Corporation Lahore (MCL) and other relevant institutions participated.

The meeting was informed that the passwords of the SANS app were being made to make the concerned institutions to log into the app.

The PDMA director informed the participants of the meeting that the complaints will be received by the PDMA control room through the 'SANS' application and then forwarded to the concerned authorities.

The PDMA has started the test run of the 'SANS' app after the preparation of its dashboard.

The PDMA has also started the process of providing training to relevant institutions on the use of the 'SANS' app INP.

Four held in crackdown on illegal kidney transplantation in Taxila

TAXILA: Taxila police on Monday arrested four suspects in a crackdown on illegal kidney transplantation.

According to the police, Dr Fawad, lady doctor, and two nurses, including Dr. Saad and Dr. Farah, were among those who had been arrested.

The police said that the process of illegally removing one person's kidney and transplanting it to another person was going on, police said.

"The police have shifted the donor and the receiver to the hospital. Instruments used in the surgery were also recovered from the possession of the accused," they added.

"After interrogation from the accused, their accomplices and facilities, all were arrested," they stated INP.

Lahore Board fixes registration fee of Rs1,000 for 9th class session 2023-25

LAHORE: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Lahore has released the schedule for the Class IX session 2023 to 2025.

The board registration fee for the 9th class has been fixed at Rs1000 for the session 2023-25.

The Lahore Board has also fixed the processing fee for admission of students at Rs30.

As per the announcement of the BISE Lahore, registration for the class 9th could be submitted from April 01, 2023, to April 30, 2023.

And, from May 16 to May 30, admission will be charged with a late fee of Rs600.

The Lahore Board will also charge a fine of Rs 600 per day to the students who will deposit the registration fee after the scheduled date.

The board registration fee for the 9th class has been fixed at Rs1000 for the session 2023-25.

The Lahore Board has also fixed the processing fee for admission of students at Rs530. As per the announcement of the BISE Lahore, registration for the class 9th could be submitted from April 01, 2023, to May 15, 2023 INP.



LAHORE: A large number of people stand in a queue to collect free wheat flour bags from Ramadan Package at Egerston Road, in Provincial Capital.

PPP writes letter to ECP for mayor, deputy mayors' election

KARACHI: Following the culmination of LG polls in Sindh, the provincial government has urged the Election Commission of Pakistan for the immediate election of mayors and deputy mayors in a letter penned to the Election Commission of Pakistan, the PPP-led Sindh government has said that the process of the LG elections in the province has been completed. "Sindh govt wants immediate election of mayors and deputy mayors. The ECP has not taken any steps in this regard under Article 140A, the letter added. Earlier in the day, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) released the results of the polls in 7 out of 11 seats of the district member while the PPP has won 10 out of 16 seats of the chairman and vice chairman. Similarly, the government has grabbed 22 of the 32 seats of the General Members. In the re-poll, the PPP won one seat for the district member while the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf won one seat of the chairman and vice chairman INP.

Imran Khan heaves a sigh of relief as IHC approves interim bail in seven cases

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and deposed premier Imran Khan's interim bail till April 6 in seven cases registered against him following clashes at the Federal Judicial Complex (FJC).

A two-member IHC division comprising IHC Chief Justice Ameer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, heard the petition.

At the outset of the hearing, the IHC Justice asked Imran's lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar about the objections raised by the court's registrar or PTI chief's biometric issue on filed pleas and remarked that "Now, biometric has become a cinch even EasyPaisa has enabled that system."

Justice Ameer asked the lawyer "why did not you approach the Anti-Terrorism Court?" Barrister Safdar responded that they attempted to file a petition at the ATC on March 18, but were not allowed entry after waiting at the gate for 45 minutes.

Justice Ameer remarked that, by bypassing the ATC, you [PTI] were seeking relief from the court. He further remarked that if there had been a disruption of security outside the ATC, it was the PTI's responsibility to ensure law and order.

The IHC CJ went on to add that Imran Khan, the chief of one of the largest parties in the country, had a responsibility to look after the situation.

"Why he had not gone to the trial court first when that was ultimately where he had to go," added Justice Ameer.

In response, Lawyer maintaining that he would present Supreme Court's judgements in this regard INP.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi says in favour of 'elections within 90 days'

ISLAMABAD: The former prime minister (PM) and PMJ-N leader on Monday said that he is in favour of 'elections within 90 days'.

In an interview with private TV news channel, the PMJ-N leader said that he still stands by his stance to hold elections within 90 days. He said that the ECP's responsibility. The constitution also asks the state institutions to assist the ECP in holding elections, he added.

The former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said "Now the supreme court will see this matter as the ECP had said they cannot hold elections."

He further said that if any political party violates the constitution, the state takes action against it but he is not in favour of baseless allegations against political parties.

He said that he does not believe in the president of the party's chief organizer and Shehbaz Sharif is the president of the party. He added that he will tell how Shehbaz Sharif became the Prime Minister INP.

Elections Delay Case: SC seeks assurances from government, PTI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) on Monday sought assurances from the federal government and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the election delay case.

As per details, the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) announced to delay of the Punjab by-elections which were scheduled to be held on April 30.

The ECP withdrew the Punjab Election Program notification issued on March 8 and decided to postpone the Punjab election and announced October 08 as the new date for elections in Punjab. As per details, the Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial said that it is unfortunate that all the respondents are in confrontation with each other. The federal government and PTI have to assure that they want a transparent election or not.

He said that the election date has been extended. Does Article 254 allow this? The court has one other case of Article 254. He added that the President's duty for the election is also not within 90 days.

Furthermore, CJP said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is just a constitutional institute. He issued notice to the ECP too.

SS Oil Mills revenue, profit decrease in 1QFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: SS Oil Mills Limited (SSOM) revenue decreased 22% to Rs1.7 billion in the first quarter of the ongoing financial year 2022-23 from Rs2.24 billion over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Profitability of the company's gross profit decreased 11.73% to Rs148 million in 1QFY23 from Rs168 million in 1QFY22.

Likewise, the operating profit decreased 12% to Rs135 million in 1QFY23 from Rs154 million in 1QFY22.

The profit-before-taxation decreased 63% to Rs35 million in 1QFY23 from Rs98 million in 1QFY22.

Similarly, the company sustained a net loss of Rs1.94 million 1QFY23 compared to Rs70 million profit in 1QFY22, posting a decrease of 102%, reports WealthPK.

Earnings Per Share
The earnings per share of the company in 2019 stood at Rs2.32, which increased to Rs5.06 in 2020. The EPS took a big leap and reached Rs5.06 in 2021, showing a growth of 98.14%. However, the EPS dropped to 38.87 in 2022.

Profitability
The company's gross profit margin stood at 5.9% in 2019. After deducting taxes, the net profit margin stood at just 0.34%. The gross profit and net profit margins in 2020 stood at 6.36% and 0.57%, respectively. However, the gross profit margin climbed to 7.97% and the net profit margin to 3.88% in 2021. The gross profit margin dropped to 6.86% and the net profit margin to 2.88% in 2022.

Compared to 2019, when the gross profit and operating profit were low, profitability remained higher in 2020. The operational profit and gross profit both rose in 2021. In 2022, profitability remained low INP.

QUETTA: A view of rush on bazaar due to iftar shopping.